



**Friends of the Klamath County Library  
Quarterly Membership Meeting Minutes  
20 March 2024  
in person at library and via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order by Fran McDermott, Vice President, at 14:00. About 2 dozen guests including several FOL board members made up the audience at the library. Others joined *via* Zoom.

Fran introduced the Outreach Coordinator from Waste Management, Rhianne Janovich, who made her presentation from her office in Bothell, Washington. Ms. Janovich's talk, entitled "Recycle Right in Klamath Falls", focused on why recycling matters and what items are recyclable in Klamath Falls. Part of her presentation showed what goes on at a recycling operation.

Recycling matters, Ms. Janovich noted, because all products we use were made from material on planet Earth and pose an end-of-life dilemma – how to dispose of the item in the best manner for the planet. Recycling matters because it saves energy as well as raw materials. It also reduces pollution from collecting/mining and transporting raw materials and manufacturing using raw materials. Landfill space is conserved reducing the need for new landfills. Recycling matters because it creates jobs – 9 times more jobs than landfilling does. Don't waste our waste – it's a useful commodity.

Ms. Janovich then began discussion of what can and cannot be recycled. She noted that households in the Waste Management district for Klamath Falls have been provided with a pamphlet showing recyclable items and that graphic is available online at the Waste Management website. She detailed the many products that come from recycled plastics, metal, cardboard, paper etc.

Keeping recycling simple is a watchword; three rules simplify the process: (1) recycle dry bottles, cans, paper and cardboard (glass not included as not every place recycles glass); (2) no food or liquid on/in recycled items (80% clean); (3) no plastic or plastic bags in your recycling.

In Klamath Falls, refer to the pamphlet available from Waste Management or their website. Note: no styrofoam; shiny, metallic wrapping papers; paper towels or tissue; window glass or drinking glasses. Remove lids from plastic bottles as they're so small and cause trouble at recycle centers. No straws.

Operations at recycling centers automatically separate the item types with some help from workers. Big magnets collect the metallic items, fans blow the lightweight aluminum cans into a sort area, paper is blown out of the stream as well.

Ms. Janovich suggested three Recycle Resolutions for Earth Day and beyond: (1) Please call or check pamphlet before recycling an item you're unsure about; (2) Refuse, reduce, reuse and finally recycle; (3) Set yourself a zero-waste challenge period to see if you can eliminate all garbage.

The audience was invited to ask questions – there were several around what items are not recyclable. Plastic clam-shell containers, which aren't recyclable, came up frequently; just don't buy! Receipts from purchases are not recyclable; no lids from yogurt or cottage cheese type containers. No electronics. If a person's recycle container contains garbage items, the truck driver leaves an "Oops" note explaining why the container wasn't emptied and Waste Management contacts the household directly. If there isn't too much garbage in container, it will be emptied and items sorted at the recycle center.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 14:45**

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine Deutschman, Secretary, Friends of the Klamath County Library