



Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce 70th Annual Awards Dinner & Meeting of the Membership

2024 Female First Citizen Introduction

*Presented by Jami Seal, 2025 RACC Chair of the Board of Directors
At RACC's April Membership Meeting Lunch*

Today, I have the privilege to tell you a little about the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce's 2024 female First Citizen.

For those of you unfamiliar with the chamber's annual first citizen recognitions, here's a bit of history. We have been presenting this award since 1954. The chamber's website has a complete list of all past first citizen honorees and I encourage you to check out the list of these incredible past and current community volunteers.

Criteria for First Citizen recognition is that the individual has been "for a period of years and, is currently engaged in volunteer activity and service in more than one area of community involvement." Such "volunteer service and contributions are to be performed outside of the individual's business, profession or chosen vocation." First citizens must "possess a high degree of cooperation in community and civic enterprises, and have demonstrated volunteer leadership by inspiration and example in their community-minded activities."

Today's honoree clearly possesses the characteristics of what it means to be a first citizen . . . commitment to Roseburg and Douglas County through volunteerism and active involvement, and the generous giving of her time and talents to make our community better. She has been doing just that for nearly 20 years.

Our first citizen leads with a steady calmness that in no way diminishes her enthusiasm and passion for whatever the undertaking, project, committee or board service she takes on. Our first citizen has no problem being front-and-center leading the mission, but doesn't need to be. She is just as comfortable and committed to service behind the scenes . . . always possessing a high degree of cooperation. Leading by example in her volunteerism is her super power and is what makes her an inspiration to others.



Her passion for volunteering in our community has led to involvement with Roseburg Rotary, including as chair of the board; serving on the Festival of Lights Committee for a number of years and chairing that annual event as well. She serves on the Greater Douglas United Way board of directors, has served on the Dave Johnson memorial golf tournament committee, served as a CASA advocate and helped with other organizations and events, too numerous to mention.

Our first citizen's volunteer activity is not limited to Roseburg. She is a member of Sutherlin's Parks Advisory Committee, was a founding member of Supporters of Sutherlin Skate Park and serves on the Music Off Central board of directors.

She is a Roseburg Chamber Project Leadership graduate and presenter, and a current member of the board of directors.

Our first citizen was once quoted as saying her proudest personal moments come from her kids; that she feels proud when they want to volunteer, or give their things to people in need or feed the homeless. She has also said that professionally, what makes her proud is when recognition comes from her involvement in the community.

Well, today, feel proud, as we all are, to recognize you, Tabbitha Layman, as our 2024 First Citizen.