

# Norwegian Commercial Club of Seattle



From our meeting on September 22nd, 2016



## Almost Live's Bob Stainton & Honoring Our Lifetime Members

Our club's new Vice-President Monica Langfeldt introduced our speaker Bill Stainton.

Some of you know Bill from his work on KING-TV's Almost Live! Some of you know him from his column in Seattle Business magazine.

For 15 years, Bill Stainton was the Executive Producer of Seattle's legendary comedy TV show, Almost Live! During that time, Bill won 29 Emmy Awards...thus shattering his dream of winning THIRTY Emmy Awards. At the same time, he led his team to 10 straight years of #1 ratings, as well as over 100 Emmy Awards of their own. And along the way, Bill worked with people far more

famous than him, including Jerry Seinfeld, Ellen DeGeneres, Jay Leno, and Bill Nye the Science Guy.

During those 15 years, Bill learned a thing or two about leadership and creativity—even when things didn't go right!

Bill showed us a funny video--The Ballard Driving Academy--as an example of how to win so many Emmy Awards. He shared with us how for 15 years this was the best job in the world.

Seattle was not known before the 90s, so it was hard to get a good guest. The best day of the show was January 10, 1987 when Johnny Depp was supposed to be the main guest, because he was in Vancouver filming "21 Jump Street", but cancelled that day because the filming went late. After trying for several local possibilities, the "lowest paid writer" on the staff, Bill Nye, stepped up and said he could do something with liquid nitrogen. What they did that day gave the show something creative they never would have had and gave Bill his Take Away Number One-Seek input from outsiders

January 21, 1995 was not a good day. At the end of the show when the lights fade to black, the 175 guests are still there on the set. During the question time, there was a thud and everyone gasped, Tracey Conway was on the floor turning blue. She died for 12 minutes, but 2 fire fighters brought her back and kept her alive. Bill went to her office to find something to find a list of medicines or something that might help, and found a post it note he had written to Tracey a while before that she kept on her bulletin board that she looked at before she went to the studio before every show. It said, "Hey Tracey, Great Job, Really Nailed it, Bill".

Take Away Number Two-Show appreciation to your team members (invest in a packet of post its and a pen)

Among guests was Ellen DeGeneres-her second TV appearance, Jerry Seinfeld was on 4 times.

Jerry did a routine about how a washing machine was like a night club for your

clothes. It was better than he had seen it before. Bill asked if he had changed it, and he said he had. He had video taped himself and watched it wondering if there was anything more he could do to make it better.

Top of his game comedian and was still trying to make it better.

Take Away Number Three- Never stop raising your game

Make it better today than it was yesterday and better tomorrow than it was today.

A funny day on the show was April 1, 1989 when they “knocked over the Space Needle”

When asked, Nancy Guppy said what she missed most about working on the show “was waking up every morning knowing that I get to go spend my entire day to playing with my best friends”.

He closed with the Last Take Away- whatever you have in your life that you love, don't take it for granted. “Whatever it is for you, a TV show, the dream job, time with your kids, time with your parents -enjoy it while you can, because nothing is forever.”

Free Dinner Winner was Robert (Bob) Svendsen

Membership Cash Drawing was JoAnne Eriksen (donated it back to the scholarship fund)

Blue Ticket Raffle winner-Kristie Lunde

- No minutes to approve      No initiation of new members

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If you have not paid your dues for this year, feel free to print out this form and

bring it with you to our next meeting. You should have seen a renewal form in the mail. Do visit our website and make sure all of your information is correct in the roster. Just go to [www.norwegiancommercialclub.com](http://www.norwegiancommercialclub.com), click on the MEMBERS tab, then MEMBER ROSTER, click OK and then enter ncc2016.

Thanks!

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And for our next meeting.....

Oct. 13th - LEIF ERIKSON NIGHT

SPEAKER: Molly Dore, Director of Marketing & Business Development at Riddell Williams law firm, will share her perspectives on networking and business development.

MENU: **Kumla** w/ salted lamb, Norwegian sausage, mashed rutabagas, Salad & dessert!

Members \$25 (if you pre-register)

\$30 for drop in members

\$30 for guests or non-paid members

\$10 for students (with valid ID)

\$12 for students (with fake ID)

Reservations are recommended. Call the office by the Wednesday before the meeting and leave a message to guarantee your spot: (206) 783-1274

Hope to see you there!

PS Be sure and join us for our October 27th meeting when our featured speaker will be former KING 5 anchor, Dennis Bounds !

Thanks!

Monica Langfeldt  
Vice-President  
Norwegian Commercial Club/Seattle

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