

# The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3  
Grey Eagle Hotel, 3777 Grey Eagle Drive (Corner of 37 St SW and Glenmore Drive)  
Mondays 12.10 pm - 1.30 pm

**President:** Bill Fitzsimmons **President-Elect:** Marlene Doherty **Past President:** Gerry Meek  
**Secretary:** Gail Williams **Treasurer:** Dan Pigeon  
**Directors:** Judy Cochran, Gord Cox, Darren Grierson, Barb Hames,  
Ken Montgomery, Drew Turnbull

## **Together We Are People of Action - Building Community**

August 10, 2020 Edition: 54.5 Reporter: Les Morgan Editor: David Williams

**Reporter's note:** Regrettably this reporter was unable to adequately track and record all the data, description and financial detail in the profusion of slides presented during today's meeting. Thus some of the detail has, of necessity, been dumbed down. My apologies. Should you wish to see the detail, please watch the meeting recording.

**President Bill Fitzsimmons** began the meeting at noon with 28 participants online. Ultimately, the attendance peaked at 34.

Bill's opening quote, from Dieter Uchtdorf, was, *"As we lose ourselves in the service of others, we discover our own lives and our own happiness"*.

Definitely a Rotarian theme!



Bill announced the unfortunate passing of our long-standing member, **Ted Valentine**. There are no details available yet. Bill will schedule time at next week's meeting to pay tribute to Ted, and he requests anyone who may wish to contribute a thought or memory to please contact him.

**Marlene Doherty** announced that Rotary Roses are now available for purchase. Details are available on the club website. The **deadline** for ordering is **September 9** for delivery on October 9 (Thanksgiving weekend). Time is short, so please spread the word to your families, friends and contacts as soon as possible.

The Come Spin with Us Cycle event is on. Join Marlene and others on Saturday at 09:30 for a pleasant 16km loop.

The Weekly Westerner

August 10, 2020

With increased business demands on his time, **Dan Pigeon** has had to relinquish his position of treasurer on the club board. **Judy Cochran** will temporarily cover the essential duties while a nominating committee seeks a replacement for Dan.

President Bill presented a rapid overview, via several slides and from several perspectives, on the availability of club funds this year, and their actual, or, in some cases tentative, allocation (and this is where my ability to follow, track and write everything down fails, so please bear with me).

The Community account contains \$45K, \$13K of which is allocated to Vocational programmes, \$900 to Youth, \$10.7K to Community, \$7.5K to International, leaving a balance of \$10K unassigned.

The Casino account holds \$47K, with \$5K allocated to Youth initiatives and \$7.5K to International, leaving a balance of \$35K.

The board has some thoughts with respect to the allocation of the remaining funds.

Overall, Vocational is receiving 14% of the allocations. Youth receives 6.5%, local community receives 39% and international receives 38%, leaving a few contingency dollars.

A poll of the **33** participants online, and with a 90% response suggested:

- The participants understood the numbers to a greater or lesser degree
- There was general support for the allocations identified
- If more funds became available, there is a slight preference to hold them to see where new needs might appear (with assignment to local needs the second choice).

**Marvin Pawlivsky**, who was online, was thanked for his initiatives as head of the LCS prior to his relocation, and **Bill Quinney** was thanked for taking over from Marvin.

**Drew Turnbull** presided over the balance of the meeting agenda.

Drew noted that guidelines and application forms for any member who wishes to present a project for consideration by the LCS are available on the club website. The committee is always looking for new and fresh ideas. The scope of the local community services projects over the past five years was summarized by **Bill Lawless**, past chair of the committee.

- The Disadvantaged has received \$225K
- Youth has received \$30K
- Seniors has received \$100K (largely attributed to the Bethany Atrium)
- Addictions, Health, Literacy and Education have also been supported
- Community has received \$190K (think Rotary Matamay Greenway)

In total, our expenditure on local community initiatives over the past five years has been \$614K

The Weekly Westerner

August 10, 2020

Bill Quinney suggested there are project opportunities requiring leadership, or financial support, or hands-on labour. He invited anyone interested to sit in on a committee meeting or two and get a better sense of what transpires there. The committee could also use additional members.

Three projects currently proposed to or by the committee were presented.

- Bill Lawless is asking for \$5K for Community Kitchens support to boost their Good Food box programme. The need for this service has skyrocketed with the spread of Covid-19 precautions.
- **Dan Doherty** is requesting \$15K to kick off what could be a major signature project for RCCW in providing critical support and services to the local South Sudanese community. There are approximately 16,000 S Sudanese in Calgary and area. They are refugees from their homeland, with 90% of them living in poverty and in grossly overcrowded housing. Many of them are employed in the local meat packing businesses, afraid to go to work, afraid to not go to work and with over 1,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19. Many have little or no English. They are truly marginalized and are perhaps the community most in need in the Calgary area for life resources (think food, for example), education, support, training and guidance.
- The KamKan African Institute is developing a S Sudanese Covid-19 Response Strategy, supported by Woods Homes, Community Hubs, Rotary clubs and others, to construct a core leadership group and organize a volunteer network to get out there into the community; to tie the people into the necessary resources and supports, and to break through the multitude of systemic issues and barriers. **Vivian Jones** and **John Bossuyt** are keenly interested in moving these initiatives forward.

Marlene is asking for \$4.5K for the NStep – Woods Homes pilot collaboration for developing students' food literacy. The programme initially entails introducing students ( two groups of 15 over seven two-hour sessions) to food literacy, safety, recipe and meal skills preparation. Students will also receive gift cards to purchase food supplies to prepare bag lunches.

A poll of meeting participants suggested:

- 83% are in favour of providing \$5K to Community Kitchen
- 90% are in favour of RCCW assuming a leadership role with respect to the S Sudanese initiative

There were several opinions on the amount of money that should initially be committed to the S Sudanese.

97% support giving \$4.5K to NStep

Bill Fitzsimmons thanked the presenters, and especially Drew, for their work.

Bill also talked about hands-on initiatives that provide fellowship and service for club members.

The Weekly Westerner

August 10, 2020

Several suggestions were made and a poll suggested 64% are in favour of engaging in Fish Creek Park maintenance or improvement. 74% would be in favour of other (undefined) hands-on activities, and perhaps 36% have some ideas for this. How frequently such activities might be undertaken varied greatly.

Marlene advised that Grace Church has been approved as a satellite location for the Food Bank, operating on Thursdays between 3 and 6 pm. Contact Marlene for more information.

John Bossuyt and his wife focus their food distribution endeavours mostly on Thursdays. With more helpers they could consider also operating on Tuesdays. Contact John for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm, with a reminder from President Bill that if anyone wishes to contribute to the tribute to Ted Valentine next Monday, please let him know as soon as possible.

### Coming Events

<b>August: Membership and New Club Development Month</b>	
3	No Meeting Civic Holiday - August Long Weekend
5	Evening Zoom Past President's Reflections Series #1
10	Club Engagement <b>F &amp; F Committee update; New Club Developments</b>
17	Water and Sanitation Tal Woolsey - CAWST
24	Club Engagement <b>Updates and Discussions, New Initiatives</b>
31	Club Engagement Updates and Discussions, New Initiatives