

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: Gerry Meek **President-Elect:** Bill Fitzsimmons **Past President:** Tim Anderson
Secretary: Karl Herzog **Treasurer:** Judy Cochran
Directors: Marlene Doherty, Darren Grierson, Ken Montgomery, Alex McFadden

Together We Are People of Action - Building Community

April 20, 2020 Edition: 53. 31 Reporter: Mike Carlin Editor: David Williams

Zoom Meeting arranged by **Bill Fitzsimmons**. 34 members in attendance at the start and 47 at the conclusion.

President Gerry Meek called the meeting to order at 12:00. No national anthem today, but he did ask us all to take a moment and extend a thought and prayer for the families of all those who died in the Nova Scotia massacre.

There was also some indication that today's scribe dropped off a Portuguese newspaper in President Gerry's backyard. Perhaps the sergeant-at-arms will note the implication for some later penalty. [**Publisher's Note:** So noted!]

The Inspirational Moment provided by **David Watson**. David acknowledged we are living in difficult times in history and many are doing remarkable things to combat COVID 19. None are more inspirational than Captain Thomas Moore. What began as a 99-year-old Army veteran walking laps of his garden for charity has evolved into a story that has captured the hearts of the world desperate for positive news during the corona virus pandemic. Captain Tom Moore's initial hopes of raising £1,000 by lapping his Bedfordshire garden 100 times before his 100th birthday (April 30th) seem like a distant memory, with the total now surpassing a staggering £25m.

Bill Lawless introduced **Marvin Pawlivsky** as the incoming 2020/21 chair of the Local Community Services committee.

Marvin started off by thanking Bill and his team for his past service leading the club's Local Community Service. He then proceeded to provide an excellent presentation of where he thinks the future might lead despite many **challenges facing our club in 2020/21 which include:**

May 1 - 3, 2020: District Conference, Calgary
June 6 - 10, 2020: Rotary International Conference, Honolulu



- Funding uncertainty – no money in the pickle jar
- We could be restricted in what we can do going forward
- Do we need to cancel or postpone current obligations?
- What are we going to do with new requests for projects?
- How do we engage our club in projects?
- How can we collaborate with other clubs in the District?
- How do we assess and understand the needs in our community?

Goals for the upcoming year – Theme “Opening the Door to true Community Engagement”

- Create a needs list for our community
- From the list, determine what our priorities are now and use the 4-Way Test to evaluate
- How can we better engage our club in bringing community projects forward?
- Use our teams to champion those needs and determine how best to address those needs
- Think more collaboratively going forward – i.e. other Rotary clubs and community organizations

Resources

People of Action

- Marvin encouraged us to look at the District web site - www.peopleofaction.ca
- District Initiative to help with identifying trends, needs, opportunities
- Foster club collaboration within the District and leverage off of successes.

Community Hubs

- Opening the door to community engagement
- United Way, City of Calgary, Rotary
- Identify “needs” specific to the community

COVID Opportunities

District Grants

- The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is now allowing District Project Grant funding to be used for COVID-19 disaster relief
- All other District Grants terms and conditions remain in place. For example, funds cannot be provided to a third-party agency’s general fund, the funds must be used for purchase of specific goods and services and invoices must be available.

Global Grants

- The exciting new development is the dropping of the TRF rule that 30% of the Global Grant funding must come from a foreign source
- We are also considering allowing clubs to replace applications for non- COVID-19 related Global Grant projects with COVID-19 related projects with no penalty

Disaster Response Fund and Grants

- Disaster Response Grants are a recently announced grant type by TRF.
- These grants need to be applied for by the District where the disaster has occurred. These grants are intended to be used for immediate disaster relief or aid
- TRF will provide a \$25,000 US grant that does not require the District or clubs to contribute

Have a project in mind or want to be part of the Local Community Service Team?

- Please speak to Marvin or one of the other members of the Community Service Team: **Bill Lawless, Tazim Asaria, Bill Quinney, Kurt Schurer, Linda Anderson, Gord Cox, Dan Pigeon, Natalija Reljic, Drew Turnbull**

Marvin concluded by asking us to get engaged and then proceeded to introduce our next two presenters.



Veronica Lawrence

Veronica started off by thanking us again for our \$5,000 donation to construct a fence around one of their homes. Construction is to start as soon as weather permits. Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter was established in 1974 and has served over 200,000 Calgarians on their journeys towards lives free of domestic abuse. They are taking every possible precaution to protect their clients, residents and staff from COVID19. The good news is so there have been **NO** cases reported.

Essential services are being maintained, however some programs had to be reconfigured. Volume of violence is up 10% year to date and the shelter is at full capacity. The good news is the number of men contacting the shelter for their abuse and direction for help has spiked. Their crisis line is open 24/7 and they have added a text and email service as well. This was necessary as it is not always possible for a woman to contact the shelter via phone when the husband is in the house due to COVID isolation.

The shelter provides essential items such as clothing, underwear and toiletries for women and children who often need to flee quickly and do not have time to prepare and pack. Due to COVID health concerns, essential items are not being accepted at this time. Financial contributions are preferred as it allows items to be purchased in bulk and buy exactly what is needed. As children are no longer in school they are in need of laptop computers and access to



other devices to assist with schooling. 50 laptops or iPads are required, if you have any please contact Veronica at veronical@calgarywomensshelter.com

Calgary Food Bank – Leah Johnson-Clark

About Us

The Food Bank is Calgary's main charitable food hub and first-line support for anyone facing a food emergency. An initial interview is done to determine the needs of the applicant and then food is provided and then they are referred to other agencies as required.

Response to COVID 19

- They have implemented a drive-through model for hamper pick-up. This is critical to ensure safe distances for the client, the staff and volunteers, and stop the spread of this virus.
- Anyone over the age of 65 is not allowed to volunteer as seniors are considered one of the most susceptible to contacting the virus. Seniors will be allowed back once Alberta Health Authority guidelines are in place.
- Shifts have been reduced to allow ample spacing for social distancing. Volunteer shifts went from 343 per day to 124 and volunteers are now only allowed to work one shift per week.
- Food sourcing during COVID 19 has changed. Donors are now asked to drop off food donations to their local grocery store and drivers will pick up and deliver to the food bank.

How you can help

- Donate through your grocery store or make a donation on line. One dollar can be leveraged five times.
- Host your own event. Arrange with your neighbours or office to donate food to a central place and they will come and pick up.
- The Federal government has agreed to provide assistance through Canada Food Banks and the amount is yet to be determined.

Marvin and President Gerry gave their thanks to both speakers. We appreciate the passion, enthusiasm, knowledge and insight displayed. There were numerous "chat messages" and responses from the guest speakers.

Happy News

David Watson filled the hole that the squirrel got into his attic. Did he get the squirrel out?



Marlene Doherty expressed her thanks to those who provided “two words”. Stay tuned for Friday.

Ken Montgomery shared an opportunity to learn a new skill - the bagpipe!

Tim Anderson thought the Zoom presentations are outstanding.

Gerry Meek asked each team to provide one volunteer to help Bill Fitzsimmons with Zoom

Vivian Jones: We are used to be paying \$25 per meeting and I think we could pay \$20 per week and raise \$48K per year for charity.

Dan Doherty suggested we make a donation to the club and then direct the funds to a specific charity.

Barbie Hames: Happy birthday to all those having a birthday in April. The song was somewhat disjointed. We can do better!

Dan Doherty: Check out www.peopleofaction.ca for meetings around the world.

President Gerry closed the meeting with: *“It’s easy to miss something you were not looking for.”*

Coming Events

April: Maternal and Child Care Month	
6	First Zoom meeting
13	No Meeting - Easter Monday
20	LCS Committee Presentation. Via Zoom.
23	Evening meeting at the Joyce
27	George Brookman?
May: Youth Service Month	
4	YEX Program: Margot Robins and Friends. Via Zoom.
11	Todd Hirsch: Economist - ATB Financial. Via Zoom.
18	No Meeting - Statutory Holiday
21	Evening Meeting
25	Michael Chiasson: Motivate, Challenge, Inspire - Every Student Matters. Via Zoom?
June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
1	Calgary's National Music Centre
8	Mark Neufeld, Calgary Police Chief
15	Can Learn Presentation
22	Gerry Meek Day. Programme TBA.
29	Canada Day Special - Immigration and New Canadians: Peter Veress
July Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month	
3	Parade Breakfast
6	Stampede Yahoo!

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Calgary
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