

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 27, 2020 Edition: 53. 32 Reporter: Judy Cochran Editor: David Williams

The meeting held via Zoom had 45 members in attendance. Always good to see the familiar faces from our club.

President Gerry acted as our greeter, welcoming members with his infectious smile as they joined the call.

Chris Davis joined us from flooded Fort MacLeod.

Tech assistants are from Team 1, **Don Vokey** and **Lorenda Carlsen**, Thank you both.

The meeting began at 12:02 pm. Lunch was whatever you made.

Bill Fitzsimmons laid out the ground rules for participating: either raise your hand or chat. President Gerry acknowledged all the work Bill has done and continues to do to get our Zoom meetings up and running on a weekly basis.

Don Edie gave the inspirational thought, "Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm. As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." (Sam Levenson, American author)

President Gerry reminded us that April 24-April 30 is World Immunization Week and all the good Rotary's End Polio Now campaign has done in the world.

Stampede has been cancelled for the first time in its history. This is not a surprising decision, but certainly a disappointing one for the city and our Club. Gerry acknowledged all the hard work done to date by the committee: **Terry Felton, Bill Quinney, Gord Cox, Bill Dowhaluk, and Mike French**, noting



they will be back next year bigger and stronger. Some ticket holders are kindly donating their ticket purchases to the Food Bank.

President Gerry introduced **Gail Williams**, who is our current International Services Committee (ISC) chair. Gail is a past president of our club and has held various positions at the District level, including her current one as Reports Monitor Committee chair. She is a great resource of knowledge to our club on anything grant-related, understanding the leveraging and the complexities. President Gerry encouraged us to talk to her to have your grant questions answered.

Gail told us it is a rough time to be looking at grants with what we are currently facing. In the past, there were more funds, but those have all been spent. Today, we very much see a lack of funding and the pandemic has brought its own set of deterrents. There will be a tomorrow! She took us through an extensive list of international projects we have supported in the past.

The ISC discretionary budget this year was \$10,000, which was quickly spent on three projects. Sometimes we partner with another club and sometimes our club is the champion. Some members have done their own fundraising, including:

- **Ben Kormos** supporting a Clean Energy Training project in Brazil, which should be underway in the near future.
- **Duncan Stanners** raised some up front funds for a hydrological study required by TRF for a water project in Honduras.
- Some projects were cancelled, including Homes of Hope after 15 successful years of home building in Mexico.
- A water project in Honduras.
- The Cambodia WASH project championed by **Kurt Kowalchuk** from the Downtown Club.

What about tomorrow, you ask? Fundraising will be key. What will that look like? Only you limit the possibilities. If you have an idea, bring it forward to **Ken Montgomery**, Fund Development Director. **Claude Massé** will be the ISC chair next year, so call him or Gail if you would like to be involved as a committee member. We have to have funds in order to give to our projects. Ideally, if you brought forward your ideas for both funding and your grant, that could expedite your project moving forward.

The types of grants for International projects include District Project Grants, District Designated Funds (DDF), matching from the government of Canada through The Rotary Foundation of Canada (TRFC) and, finally, The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Each granting body has its own set of guidelines and its own matching criteria. Gail urges you to first read the guidelines carefully and ask questions. It can be accomplished. Your scribe has written three Global Grants with various matching grants along the way to maximize leveraging for Microcredit projects in Honduras – it is so rewarding to see the good it does in the world.



What has been the impact of COVID-19 on the grants we know? Some new ones have been added and some guidelines on existing ones have been relaxed. Gail's slides provide the summary details.

Gail closed with suggestions to bring forward a balanced budget on a project that is sustainable. We can have a Global Grant helping us here if there is an International sponsoring club. Local Community Services (LCS) is looking at this with a COVID-19 box project which protects emergency hospital workers from the spread of infectious droplets. LCS is also going to repurpose funds and a District grant to the Leftovers Foundation. This organization is the recipient of the funding from Art from the Heart.

The questions and answers brought some lively discussion on potential fundraisers.

- Don Edie brought up bingos, Bill Fitzsimmons asked about a virtual auction.
- **Dan Doherty** is looking at virtual concerts by the musicians who performed at DISCON last year. If successful, he would like to take it across Canada. He would also like to see corporate sponsorships working alongside club donations.
- **Marlene Doherty** will be the champion for our Cherry campaign this year – maybe expand it to include the sale of cherry pies and our club's famous meat pies. If you have ever had the opportunity to taste one – yummy! Watch for more news on this.

All fundraising ideas will go through a due diligence process before being put in place. There is an immediate need for funding, but the need is also there for future projects once the curve has been flattened and we begin our forward path.

Happy Thoughts

- Chris Davis' father turned 94 and is now in an Alzheimer's facility.
- **David Williams** celebrated the 55th anniversary of his 21st birthday on April 25. Congrats!
- **Judy Cochran's** 86-year-old brother-in-law will be leaving hospital soon after a small, slow bleed was discovered that is being treated with drugs, not surgery.

Care and Concern Thoughts

Bill Lawless relayed that **Christine Mihailedes** from Heritage Park is caring for her husband who has Covid-19. We will keep those who may be struggling in our thoughts and prayers.

Save the Date

May 9 will see our first (but maybe not our last) RCCW talent show in lieu of the Horse Races at the Kings which had to be cancelled.

In closing, next week's presenter will be **Margot Robins**, our exchange student from Belgium. She will be "zooming" in from Belgium, despite the time difference, to give us a recap on her year here in Canada.



President Gerry's closing thought: "The first time that you settle for good is the last time that you will see excellence."

Coming Events

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!
13	TBA
20	TBA
27	TBA