

# 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  
**President-Elect-Nominee:** Linda Anderson  
**Secretary:** Gail Williams **Treasurer:** Don Edie  
**Directors:** Judy Cochran, Gord Cox, Darren Grierson, Barb Hames,  
Ken Montgomery, Drew Turnbull

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

December 14, 2020 Edition: 54.21 Reporter: Marie Rickard Editor: David Williams

**President-Elect Marlene Doherty** welcomed all Rotarians and opened the meeting. She announced that Rotarian Kent Fraser from the Fish Creek Rotary Club, who was to attend and present today for the Shelterbox project, was not available due to a family emergency and would be represented by **Allison Kingston**.

**Garfield Gagnon** presented his inspirational moment. It was all about happiness and he wished us a Merry Christmas.

Some festive fun followed. Marlene, wearing a Santa hat, dispatched some Christmas trivia. For example: Where did St. Nicholas live? Answer: Turkey. (Who Knew?) And what was Elvis Presley's favorite Christmas song? Blue Christmas. (Not much guessing there!)

Marlene passed over the introduction of the program today to **Drew Turnbull**, Director for International Service. Drew wished everyone a Merry Christmas and quickly turned the program over to **Claude Massé**, the Club International Service Chairman.

**Claude** announced the committee members and thanked them for their hard work so far this year. International Services has specific dates for a review of projects submitted to the committee. In cycle 1, there were two projects submitted and considered by October 31. The cycle 2 deadline for submission is January 12, 2021. There will be two projects presented today which have been accepted for funding by the International Services Committee. Claude encourages members to make submissions for projects. Claude introduced Allison Kingston to speak about Shelterbox.

Allison, a representative on behalf of Shelterbox, speaking from Toronto, started with the vast need for the disaster relief service that they provide. Currently there are 104 million people

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that have no permanent shelter due to disaster. Shelterbox is the right tool to recover and rebuild. It is much more than a roof over that person's head. It is helping families with tools to recover and rebuild. For example, in Malawi in the flooding of 2015, a 21-year-old blind and epileptic woman called **Eliza** lost the roof and one wall of her house. This is the home of her everyday existence which she knows by touch and feel. Instead of a tent, Shelterbox helped her repair her home and re-establish stability considering her disabilities. After the disaster, the tents and other items can be re-inspired for shops or storage. Rotarians are very involved with Shelterbox.

During COVID responses, Shelterbox supplies tents, soap, and water basins. Health care is already compromised in refugee camps. In Cameroon, there is a camp built for 35,000 people which is now home to over 69,000 people. Shelterbox was able to go into the camp with homes and supplies and information to deal with the COVID pandemic. In the Philippines, they have set up a permanent office due the number of natural disasters they experience. Shelterbox provides admission and triage areas. Super typhoon Goni affected 1.7 million people in the Philippines. Shelterbox was able to deploy quickly and helped about 25,000 people to rebuild with shelter kits.

Honduras in November experienced storm surges due to two hurricanes Eta and Iota. Shelterbox was able to deploy their help there. About 3 million people have been affected.

Questions: What does a kit provide? Answer: Shelterbox deploys kits containing water carriers, solar lights and tents, tarps, toolkits, and kitchen sets. Do political issues affect deployments? Answer: Yes. For example, Ethiopia does not want international organizations to come. Yet, in Central America, Shelterbox was deployed and helped 5000 families.

What are the challenges for Shelterbox in deploying aid? Often the first challenge for delivering kits is getting through the border. Rotarians often help make contacts with governments. Travel and destroyed or damaged infrastructure also are big problems creating washed out and damaged roads as part of the after effects of the disaster. Helicopters and boats may need to be sourced to deploy aid to an area. Governments must declare an emergency to kick start the aid.

Claude announced our second speaker of the day. This project is using repurposed funds originally requested for the Mexico Homes of Hope Project. **Nketti Johnson-Taylor** is a member of Calgary West and is the champion for a project through the group ACED-Action for Community Empowerment and Development. The project name is "Hope For Those Left Behind" in Northern Uganda. This is emergency intervention for those negatively impacted by COVID 19 and resulting food insecurity. The CEO of ACED, **Victoria Awori**, was also on the Zoom call along with **Howard Awori**, and **Sarah** from this implementing organization.

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The aim of the project is to deliver necessary supplies to prevent and manage COVID. Also, they would like to reduce food security challenges for the target group. The restriction of movement during the pandemic has negatively affected vulnerable populations. This target group consists of 40 vulnerable families in Anang Village in Alooi Sub county Alebtong District. Masks, hand washing detergents, mosquito nets and food supply for consumption will be provided. Seed distribution, oxen and ox ploughs will be purchased for cultivation. The agency plans to meet immediate, mid-term and long-term goals providing food security with this project.

The project has been submitted and \$5,000 is approved by the International Service Committee of our club. The total project is \$15,000 Canadian. Nketti was able to show us the budget with the items intended to be purchased with the funds.

These presentations can be viewed on Zoom which reside in our archives online and I encourage you to do that to experience the full presentation.

**Judy Cochran** thanked the presenters today. Judy noted that these projects are both deserving of our support and wished these champions good luck.

President-Elect Marlene also thanked the presenters and Claude and committee for their contributions.

### **Announcements**

President-Elect Marlene called for announcements

The obituary for **Larry Doyle** was in the Calgary Herald and you can find the link at [www.choicememorial.com](http://www.choicememorial.com)

Happy Holiday Zoom social by District Governor Mary Turner. See the email link and join in.

**Gail Williams:** Next Monday's Special Zoom Conversation with Jennifer Jones, President-Elect for Rotary International - We have all received an invitation to join the Rotary Club of Lethbridge in this special online meeting on Monday, December 21, at noon. Jennifer Jones will be the first woman president for Rotary International in 115 years of Rotary history. However, women were only admitted for membership for the last 34 years. Jennifer Jones is a member of the Windsor Rotary Club. She is a media consultant and has many Rotary accomplishments to warrant her rise to President-Elect of Rotary International. Please go to the link provided and register for the webinar to join the Lethbridge Rotary Club meeting and hear Jennifer Jones' message.

Additional Announcement – Gail Williams was able to tell Nketti and others that their project “Hope For Those Left Behind” in Northern Uganda has received District approval as well, noting

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that she is only awaiting Foundation approval. This is not a Global Grant project so Global Grant approval is not required but Foundation approval is still required for the repurposed use of District funds. There is a significant difference between the two sources of funding.

Milestones to Celebrate **Barb Hames** announced the following birthdays and anniversaries for members.

**Birthdays:**

Judy Cochran

**Ronald A. Staughton** - Honourary Member (he lives in Ontario now)

**Cory Tretiak**

**Anniversaries - Date Joined Rotary:**

- Mike French** 34 Years of service - Dec. 01,1986
- Sa'adat Keshavjee** 34 Years of service - Dec. 01, 1986
- Bernie Ward** 29 Years of service - Dec. 01, 1991
- David Wartman** 36 Years of service - Dec. 01, 1984
- Cha-Cha Chansiri** 6 Years of service - Dec. 04, 2014
- Alex McFadden** 8 Years of service - Dec. 14, 2012
- Donald Vokey** 4 Years of service - Dec. 23, 2016
- Tim Anderson** 23 Years of service - Dec. 21, 1997

**Calgary West Christmas Tradition**

**David Williams** does a masterful job of reading the much loved and enjoyed Clement Clarke Moore poem, "Twas The Night Before Christmas".

President-Elect Marlene thanked team 3, plus all the presenters and all the folks in the background who made our successful meeting happen. Marlene ended our meeting on a solemn note remembering that the worldwide COVID pandemic has challenged all of us. She recited the 4 Way Test. Her parting message: "May we all celebrate and enjoy the New year with HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE in our daily lives! May we all have love to share, health to spare, and friends that care!"

Members were asked to stay on and join in some Christmas Trivia following this meeting!

**Dan Doherty** provided a quick reminder to make sure that members join the Rotary Christmas fun on Friday, December 18. Barb Hames has organized a Zoom Calgary West social prior to the Huron Carole. We were encouraged to go to the link for **Tom Jackson's**, Huron Carole, which will be presented for Rotary Club of Calgary West, Calgary Olympic, Calgary Heritage Park and Calgary Clubs as our Rotary Christmas Celebration. Cost is only \$20 per household.

**Coming Events**

	<b>December: Disease Treatment and Prevention Month</b>
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District Conference  
 Rotary International Conference



7	<b>Earl Thiessen</b> , Executive Director of Oxford House (addictions recovery centre)
14	<b>ISC Presentation</b> of Grants and Projects Vote.
21	<b>President Jennifer Jones</b> Rotary International - FIRST Canadian President - Rotary International
28	No Meeting – Christmas and New Year Holiday
	<b>2021 – IT’S A BRAND NEW YEAR!</b>
	<b>January: Vocation Service Month</b>
4	VSC
11	Review of Scholarships and Initiatives
18	LCS
25	Hands on Service Opportunities
28	<b>Evening Meeting:</b> Past Presidents #3
	<b>February: World Understanding Month</b>
1	Membership, Initiatives and Recommendations
8	TBD
15	<b>No Meeting. Family Day</b>
18	<b>Evening Meeting. TBD</b>
22	TBD