

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:** Don Edie
Directors: Judy Cochran, Gord Cox, Darren Grierson, Barb Hames,
Ken Montgomery, Drew Turnbull

Together We Are People of Action - Building Community

December 7, 2020 Edition: 54.20 Reporter: Sa'adat Keshavjee Editor: David Williams

On this cloudy 12 degree afternoon, a festive pre-Christmas meeting was chaired by **President-elect Marlene Doherty**, while **President Bill Fitzsimons and Pat** are away in Regina for the duration of this month.

Greeters: **Tim Anderson** and **Ken Montgomery** were in attendance, ushering 49 members (Including **Chris Davis**, who has been missing for quite a while) into the meeting.

Moment of inspiration: Dan Pigeon shared a moment of inspirations highlighting the spirit of Christmas with the members. *"He who does not have Christmas in your heart will not find it on your Christmas tree."*

Remembrance: Larry Doyle.

In recognition of Larry, who passed away peacefully last Friday morning, we had three presenters: **Orlin McMillan**, Tim Anderson and **Steve Rickard** remembered him. Larry was a chartered accountant, who had a military background, worked in Calgary for many years with major CA firms and with the Trizec Corporation and was active for years as the club highway cleanup chief.

Larry had a wonderful command of the English language and produced beautiful limericks. He was a bulletin reporter, a sergeant-at-arms and an all-around great fellow. Larry will be missed



Bethany Riverview (BR), and our Christmas giving project. **Bill Quinney** announced that we successfully provided 210 poinsettias and 210 gift bags to the occupants at BR, the centre where we initiated the building of a million dollar atrium, funded by Rotary. He highlighted the phenomenal tradition of giving and recognized

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major donors, **Evelyn and Clarence Buckley** and **Marlene and Dan Doherty** for helping to make this successful project happen. Marlene, **Judy Cochran**, **Bob Pearson** and **Barbie Hames** received special mention for all their efforts in organizing this. **Diane Kaszuba** from BR thanked the club for our generosity and highlighted how impactful this project was on the spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing of their residents, sixty percent of whom suffer from cognitive decline.

Announcements

- Alpha House socks and mittens; Thank you **Linda and Tim Anderson** for providing a large contribution of items to Alpha House. This project has been with us since the days of **Joe Johanson**. Let's keep it going. It is very meaningful.
- **Bill Lawless** thanked our club and three others in Calgary for funding a truck (\$48,000) for leftover food and items called the Leftover Foundation. Some of the funds were provide from the "Art from the Heart" auction in which we participated last year.
- **Gail Williams** reminded us that on December 21st we are all invited to a joint meeting with Lethbridge, where we can listen to our own **Jennifer Jones**, the incoming and first female president of Rotary International (22-23). This is a proud moment for all Canadians, particularly for our District.
- Dan Doherty announced a Huron Carole evening with **Tom Jackson** on zoom. Tickets \$20. This will give you a zoom pass to the show. We have 250 tickets and the funds collected will support "I Can for Kids" and "Community Kitchens". Please join us for an evening of socializing pre-show with Barbie and team.

Guest Speaker

Bryden Horwood introduced today's program featuring **Earl Thiessen** from Oxford House, a centre for assisting people in states of addiction from alcohol and other substances.

Highlights of the presentation included the following:

- Earl was an addict who was homeless, on the streets for many years, and resident at Alpha House before he entered Oxford House (OH) and then found his way over eleven years, out of his situation, and into main stream life. Now he is the executive director at OH, and someone who is always willing to assist others in this predicament.
- OH has 19 homes in Calgary, 18 in Edmonton, three in Drumheller; and is in the process of developing pre-treatment centres to assist in the acceleration of treatment preparation for addicts. Their homes are rehab centres for those working their way out of addiction.
- OH has an indigenous program that works with spiritualist, smudging, powwow and healing circle treatments for those from the first nations that seek alternate healing methods.

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- Some homes have been dedicated to the mission of women of our society who needed this assistance and perished as a result of not receiving the help.
- The pre-treatment centres provide detox and mandatory meeting with agencies in advance of going into treatment centres.
- Alcohol is by far the biggest contributor to addiction because it is legal and accessible.
- The decriminalisation of drugs is not, in his opinion, the solution. More treatment centres would provide greater impact to this problem.
- Addiction is a family disease because it impacts the whole family. There is a great deal of shame and guilt attached to addiction and it needs special treatment. AA is a complement to what they do at OH
- Funding is 70% self-sustained by the residents and 30% from other sources.

Thanks: Steve Rickard provided the thanks of the club.

PE Marlene, thanked team 2 for their great efforts today.

PE Marlene's closing thought: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the lives of others."

The meeting adjourned at about 1.25 pm.

Coming Events

| December: Disease Treatment and Prevention Month | |
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| 7 | Earl Thiessen , Executive Director of Oxford House (addictions recovery centre) |
| 14 | ISC Presentation of Grants and Projects Vote. |
| 21 | President Jennifer Jones Rotary International - FIRST Canadian President - Rotary International |
| 28 | No Meeting – Christmas and New Year Holiday |