

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

January 27, 2020 Edition: 53.24 Reporter: Duncan Stanners Editor: David Williams

The meeting's work was done by **Steve Strang** on the cash box, **Dalbir Rattan** on the credit cards, **Vivian Jones** selling 50/50 tickets, **Marlene Doherty** selling fellowship events, **Claude Massé** and **Bill Quinney** greeting, **David Williams** setting up, and **David Impey** and **Ken Montgomery** on AV.

President Gerry Meek led us in a very fast-paced version of the national anthem.

President Gerry awarded **Tim Anderson** a "Meeker Award" for service to the club, especially noting Tim's ongoing initiative with the Thursday evening meetings.



Guests

- **Wendy McDonald**, our guest speaker and guest of **Bill Dowhaluk**
- **Carla Hamarsness** and **Katlyn McLaughlin** from Inclusion Alberta and guests of Bill

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Dowhaluk

- **Andreina Moss** and **Linda Strang**, guests of Steve Strang.
- **George Brookman** from the Downtown Club and a guest of President Gerry
- **Elaine Moses**, guest of **Clarence Buckley**
- **Eileen DeFreitas**, Des's charming bride
- **Will Mitchell**, guest of Bill Quinney
- **Don Edie**, visitor
- **Hans Tiedemann**, Rotarian from downtown at Stampede Park

George Brookman wanted to make a presentation, but sadly President Gerry told him there was no time. He later sang us a funny George Burns song before leaving early. **[Editor's Note:** George thought he had been booked in as the speaker for this meeting. He was very gracious when President Gerry told him that there had been a mistake.]



Bill Fitzsimmons was our **sergeant-at-arms**, and focused on "happy bucks" applied to all our members.

Announcements

- President Gerry praised the latest Thursday evening meeting and the youth exchange dinner event last week to raise funds for Shelter Box.
- He also commented on a CBC program that featured our own **Ted Valentine** for his 60 years of business in Calgary:
<https://www.facebook.com/cbccalgary/posts/10158184869268000>.
- We all got word from **Debbie McMillan** that **Orlin** is doing well after his lung transplant surgery.
- **Larry Doyle** is coping with chemotherapy and would appreciate hearing from his friends.
- Welcome back to **Clare Bildfell**!

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Marlene Doherty

- Gave a shout out to **Barbie Hames** for organizing a bowling event.
- Mentioned upcoming events such as the distillery tour and Stage West.
- Plants for the NStep fundraiser may still be ordered.

Marvin Pawlivsky told us all to book our calendars for March 17, 7-10pm, for an evening of fun at an Irish pub night at Doherty Hall at the Stampede. All proceeds to go to The Doorway (www.TheDoorway.ca).

Barbie Hames read out the members with birthdays and anniversaries for January.

Guest speaker

Bill Dowhaluk introduced our speaker, Wendy McDonald, the COO of Inclusion Alberta. "Inclusion Alberta is a family-based non-profit federation that advocates on behalf of children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Together, we share a dream of meaningful family life and community inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities. As an advocacy organization we support families and individuals in their desire to be fully included in community life."

After attending an RI conference in 2000 in Buenos Aires, Wendy was inspired to do something to help people with developmental disabilities to find meaningful employment and become contributing members of society. The key driver for her efforts is that her son **Kyle** has a developmental disability.

Wendy is a Rotarian from Edmonton. She established the District 5370 Rotary Employment Partnership with Inclusion Alberta (40 organizations) and the Alberta Government. District 5360 followed, and there are now 35 Rotary clubs in Alberta that are actively participating. She noted there are now efforts in New Zealand and Australia, and the Cayman Islands are due to start this March.

So why is finding employment for those with developmental disabilities important? Jobs bring identity, purpose, belonging and self value. These people can, and want to, work. Her son Kyle dreams to have a career, earn income and make a contribution and become a valued community member. Kyle is realising this dream working for WestJet. 80% of people with developmental disabilities are unemployed, and they need a hand up.

Thus far, 570 jobs have been created in Alberta, 75 in Calgary.

What's in it for the employers? These people are committed, long term employees which results in less turnover. 87% of clients prefer to deal with businesses that hire disabled employees. Further, ongoing support is provided by Inclusion Alberta to deal with any issues with the employees.

To bring it close to home, Wendy called Bill Dowhaluk back to the podium. Bill told us the story of his son **Mitch**. Because of the program, Mitch now is an employee at Price Waterhouse Cooper. He

thanked Rotary for their participation, and indeed this is the main reason for him joining our Rotary club.

Wendy noted that our Premier has hired a receptionist through the program.

We were then treated to a couple of short videos that showed interviews with employers and employees, illustrating the value of hiring someone with developmental disabilities.

Wendy said she needs us to:

- Introduce the concept to your network
- Have our club set a commitment with a target for new jobs
- Consider it for your own business
- Make donations of clothing and household items

Alex McFadden, who, along with Bill, is the club contact for the Partnership, presented Wendy with a Boltman - noting that the information on the base could use a little work!



David Wartman won the \$34 50/50 prize, and promptly donated it to the Partnership.

President Gerry told us next week would be presentations by our International Service Committee and Paul Harris awards. As is his custom, Gerry provided a thought for the day: "Make good or make room, but don't just make excuses!"

[click for photos from the Thursday Evening meeting](#)

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Coming Events

February: World Understanding Month	
3	ICS International Service Presentation
10	Bonnie Johnson: Human Trafficking "Not in My City"
17	Family Day: No Meeting
20	Evening Meeting
24	Court Ellingson: Calgary Economic Development
March: Literacy Month	
2	Town Hall/Teams Meeting
9	Cameron Diggon: Homes for Heroes
16	Mark Milke: Author, Columnist, Keynote Speaker
23	Meeting cancelled in favour of March 26 Assembly
26	Evening Assembly (Tentative)
30	Jim Donihee: National Energy Board COO, RCAF Wing Commander
April: Maternal and Child Care Month	
6	"NStep" (Tentative)
13	No Meeting - Easter Monday
20	LCS Committee Presentation
23	Evening meeting at the Joyce
27	Prof Jon Fennell: Alberta Watershed Water Management
May: Youth Service Month	
4	YEX Program: Margot Robins and Friends
11	Todd Hirsch: Economist
18	No Meeting - Statutory Holiday
21	Evening Meeting
25	TBA
June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
1	TBA
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

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