

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

January 4, 2021 Edition: 54.23 Reporter: Sa'adat Keshavjee Editor: David Williams

Happy New Year to all!

On this hazy January Monday, a cheerful and large turnout of 54 members were welcomed to our meeting by **Gord Cox**.

President Bill Fitzsimmons called the Zoom meeting to order at noon and welcomed us all to another great weekly session. In the interests of accommodating our speaker, who needed to be able to leave early, he asked for this part of the program to commence.

Guest Speaker

Tazim Asaria introduced our guest speaker, **Paul Harrington**, a recipient of our "It's Never Too Late" program, to speak about his experience through this scholarship. Through our vocation services team, headed up by Tazim (**Gail Williams** and **Marlene Doherty**), we support this program, where our club contributes \$1,000 towards a candidate completing their grades to enhance their careers.

Speaking from the heart, Paul related his experience:

- He was a high school dropout, who, due to circumstances, was forced to enter the labour market and struggled through it till he realized that a high school certification could enhance his career opportunities.
- He found this opportunity through a colleague, decided to leave the construction industry and pursue his education. He is now working towards a new career in disability studies.
- He learned that such a career gives him the opportunity to help others as well as have time for an injury-free job where he could get more time for family pursuits.

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- Some of his challenges included the first step of deciding that this is what he was going to do; deciding on how he would support himself and his young wife (he is now almost thirty); make the application and enter the school circuit.
- Relate to other students, many of whom were much younger than he; relating to good study habits; developing his confidence and working with the instructors.
- He commended his counsellors (from the Catholic Family Services) and his instructors who were very forthcoming, “open” and encouraging.
- He was grateful to Rotary for providing this opportunity which has empowered him to grow into a new and more meaningful future.

Paul was well-spoken, sincere and willing to answer any questions. He explained his background, his high school career impediments, and where he is now headed thanks to this program and opportunity.

Loana Valdez from the Catholic Family Services thanked Rotary for their contributions, and recognized the work of some of our members with their “parking lot” graduation ceremony last summer. This event was sponsored by members of this club. This opportunity is available again next year.

Marlene Doherty thanked Paul, congratulated him on his accomplishments, and wished him a successful future. She then showed us some graduation pictures of this event.

And back to the meeting...

Inspirational moment was presented by PP Des DeFreitas, who shared his story about the sportsman spirit demonstrated by several partly developmentally challenged athletes at a recent sporting event.

Vocational Services report presented by Chair Tazim Asaria highlighted their year:

- Two scholarships to “It’s never too late”
- One scholarship to Motive Action where we help an individual to develop their skills toward a meaningful job mostly in the automotive industry
- Assistance to Ugandan refugees in Ethiopia, mostly high school students with textbooks and school supplies
- One scholarship of \$2,500 annually to a student of arts and design at MRU in the name of **Connie Rhymes**, set up by PP **John Rhymes** and administered by our club
- One scholarship at SAIT, Colonel Macleod scholarship of \$1,000 annually, in honour of a past member **Swanny Swanson**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Club-to-club friendship exchange to Kentville NS, sometime this year. **Rod McMahon** (originally from that club) has agreed to set this up where members and spouses visit with Rotarians in another district (Kentville, NS in this case) and return the invitation at some point in the future. If travel permits, this may happen in the fall of this year. **Please contact Rod.**
- NSTEP veggie and hanging plant sale where you can order your plants to be delivered in early spring. Deadline for orders is February 5th. **Please contact Marlene Doherty** with your orders or refer to the recent e-mail broadcast.
- The Interact clubs are raising funds by selling a pin for \$7.00 each. Proceeds go to the Foothills Hospital and Polio Plus. **Please contact Marie Rickard.**
- Huron Carole at Christmas was partly funded by our **Marlene and Dan Doherty**. The event raised over \$5,000 for two programs: I Can for Kids and Community Kitchens.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER. **Robyn Braley** announced that **Patricia Morgan** will speak on "Understanding Loneliness". Patricia is a well-known writer and keynote speaker. Please feel free to invite others to this very interesting and timely program.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Coming Events

2021 – IT'S A BRAND NEW YEAR!	
January: Vocation Service Month	
4	Club Engagement: VSC: Review of Scholarships and Initiatives
11	Understanding Loneliness: Patricia Morgan
18	Club Engagement: Team Meeting
25	Brian Lee: Healthcare - United States, Canada - China?
28	Evening Meeting: Past Presidents #3
February: World Understanding Month	
1	Membership, Initiatives and Recommendations
8	Brandon Anderson: CEO NorthRiver Midstream - Current State of Oil and Gas in Canada
15	No Meeting. Family Day
18	Evening Meeting. Megan Bailey: Climate Change Economics
22	Ron Barmby Sunlight: Climate Change presentation with a different perspective
March: Literacy Month	
1	Club Engagement
8	TBD
15	Club Engagement: Presentation and Proposals for DDF: Pre-approvals
22	TBD
25	Evening Meeting. Past President Series #4
29	TBD



April: Maternal and Child Care Month	
5	No Meeting. Easter Monday
8	Evening Meeting. Green Shirt Day
12	Club Engagement: Sprint Assembly
19	TBD
26	Club Engagement: Developing Projects and Discussion
May: Youth Service Month	
3	ISC: Project Reviews and Updates
10	TBD
17	TBD
24	TBD
27	Evening Meeting. TBD
31	TBD
June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
7	Youth
14	RYLA and YEX
21	Gavel Handover
24	President Evening celebrating Bill Fitzsimmons' Rotary Year – Date timing tentative
28	TBD
July Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month	
5	TBD
12	TBD
19	TBD
26	TBD