

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: Tim Anderson **President-Elect:** Gerry Meek **Past President:** Ben Kormos

Secretary: Chris Davis **Treasurer:** Judy Cochran

Directors: Debbie Barry, Robyn Braley, Don Campbell, Bill Fitzsimmons, Gustavo Jimenez,
Les Morgan, Alex McFadden, Orlin McMillan, Melody Warman

District Governor: Dan Doherty

Together We Are People of Action - Building Community

March 18, 2019 Edition: 52.29 Reporter: Altus Editor: David Williams

Spring appears to have arrived. On this warm, 11 degree sunny Monday, our club meeting at The Grey Eagle Hotel was called to order by President-in-training **Gerry Meek**, with approximately 60 members and guests present. With the new format, we start by eating first and the meeting follows.

The head table included President elect Gerry Meek, **Drew Turnbull, Bill Tapuska, Bill Faulkner and Bill's companion, Armstrong.**

Lunch today was a buffet style chicken noodle soup, salad, sandwiches and a fresh fruit tray.

Visitors and Guests: Six guests were introduced by **Gail Williams.**

Sergeant at Arms Duncan Stanners quizzed us on Rotary information and other matters, and encouraged all to participate in the District Conference this year in Olds. Most of the club was fined for one reason or another. He informed us that six of our club members hold District offices; and the District Governor this year, Dan Doherty, is from our club. Duncan enlightened us on the club's vision statement, mission statement and guiding principles. He mentioned that the March 30th fundraiser dinner has been cancelled due to lack of support.

The 50-50 draw of \$31.00 was won by **Dan Pigeon.**

Announcements:

- **Stampede Parade Breakfast in July is one of our main fundraisers. Chief Hub Ken Montgomery** reminded us all that this event netted over \$100K in the past two years, feeds 1,500 breakfasts, needs about 100 volunteers and is happening again this year. Sign-up sheets for department heads and volunteers were circulated. Please ensure

May 3 - 5, 2019: District Conference, Olds

June 1 - 5, 2019: Rotary International Conference, Hamburg

you, your friends and your family can volunteer at this major event on Friday, July 5th. The event tickets are on sale at \$55 per person.

- **Carla Tureski** has just delivered a baby boy, Reid. Congratulations Carla! A baby shower is being organized by **Debbie McMillan**.
- **Business Cards.** **Robyn Braley** needs to know if anyone needs Rotary “join me for lunch” business cards.
- **THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE: To be held in Olds, Alberta.** 200 people have registered thus far. Time is running out to register for the District 5360 Conference which will be held May 3 – 5th at the Olds College in Olds, Alberta. There will be lots to do and see. Some of the highlights are a rodeo and BBQ on Friday night. Entertainment after in the Crossing (Alumni centre). Saturday, we have the opening plenary followed by five great streams of Rotary learning, including programs on mental health, indigenous reconciliation, local and international projects, and project funding. At lunch we have **Craig Kielburger** as our keynote speaker. Saturday night is truly special with a cowboy family dinner, and then a country concert with performances by **George Canyon**, **Doc Walker**, and **Charlie Major**. On Sunday, we will wrap up with a pancake breakfast and AGM, followed by a dedication ceremony at the Olds Rotary Athletic Park. The best part, you get all this for only \$350 as a single, or \$500 for a couple. For accommodation choices, we have the Olds dorms, starting at \$65 per night, the Olds townhomes (for rooms with common living area), starting at \$260 per night, or the Pomeroy Hotel at \$159 per night. RV sites are available at the Lions campground or on the college property.

OUR SPEAKER TODAY, BILL FAULKNER. ... “He is my four legged soulmate.”

Gerry Meek introduced Bill Faulkner. Bill is a former member of this club who left us about 20 years ago as his eyesight started deteriorating. Bill is now functionally (clinically?) blind and has a companion seeing-eye dog called Armstrong. He does a great deal of school visits and community work and travels extensively, including air travel with Armstrong. He is married to Martha, daughter of past president of our club, DG Don Novinger. Bill talked about his experiences with Armstrong. his guide dog companion.

Bill highlighted his experience in trying to locate a guide dog and the process involved. He mentioned that “Guide Dogs for the Blind” is an American organization that provides dogs free, even to Canadians, and is centred in Boring (yes, that’s the name), Oregon.



He talked about the boot camp he attended; the bonding experiences; the wonderful synergy between him and Armstrong; how helpful and easy it has made his life, and what work he does around the community, the 115 commercial flights they have taken together; some of their experiences with the community, at schools, baseball games, with his neighbours and with the public at large.

Bill has a tremendous sense of humour and has the ability to engage a crowd with ease. He answered some questions, and even showed us how Armstrong helps him navigate through difficult passages by walking with him around the room.



Drew Turnbull thanked Bill and Armstrong, and presented Bill with our world-famous Boltman.

THE NEXT MEETING is a team meeting. It will be most important for members of this club to understand the team dynamics and where the club is heading.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.20 pm.

Coming Events

March: Literacy Month	
4	LCS Community Project – Monica Ercolessi – Sonshine Community
11	Literacy Program - Krista Poole, CEO Can Learn
18	Armstrong the Guide Dog with Bill Faulkner
25	Noon Assembly and Team Meeting
28	Thursday Evening: Rotary West at the Joyce

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April: Maternal and Child-Care Month	
1	Homes of Hope, 15th Anniversary - Dan and Marlene Doherty
8	Gary Mar: CEO of PSAC (Petroleum Services Association of Canada). Former Alberta rep in Asia and Washington.
15	Dr John Rook. His background is with the Homeless Foundation, Mustard Seed and Salvation Army.
22	No Meeting: Easter Monday
25	Thursday Evening: Rotary West at the Joyce
29	Dr. Marie-Claire Arrieta, U of C – Microbiome and Child Immunity
May: Youth Service Month	
6	Meals on Wheels – A Calgary West Project
13	Rotary West – In House “Fun and Fellowship” Program
20	No Meeting: Statutory Holiday
23	Thursday Evening: Rotary West at the Joyce
27	Laura Pipolo – Youth Exchange – Adventures in Citizenship – RYLA
June: Rotary Fellowship Month	
3	Manning Innovation Awards (Tentative)
10	Dr Phil Langill: U of C Professor, Astronomy and Astrophysics
17	Gavel Turnover, Anderson To Meek. Team Meeting
24	Special Red and White Canada Day Programme
27	Thursday Evening: Rotary West at the Joyce
July: Stampede Parade and OK Cherries Month	
1	No Meeting: Canada Day
8	Stampede Yahoo
15	TBA
22	TBA
29	TBA
August: Membership and New Club Development Month	
5	No Meeting: Statutory Holiday
12	TBA
19	TBA
26	
September: Basic Education and Literacy Month	
2	No Meeting: Labour Day