

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

October 19, 2020 Edition: 54. 13 Reporter: Debbie McMillan Editor: David Williams

Calgary Rotary West Club's Meeting October 19th, 2020

President Bill Fitzsimmons opened the meeting by welcoming members attending by Zoom, as well as the members present for lunch at the Grey Eagle Hotel.

Bill introduced Rotarians attending from the RC Northampton Becket from District 1070, RIBI. who greeted us from England, noting that their Rotary club meets for breakfast, but, due to Covid restrictions, they have been unable to meet in person since March. They also have a long tradition of once per month "attending scatter clubs" throughout the world instead of their usual breakfast meeting. This tradition makes them feel connected to Rotarians around the globe. And today they were pleased to attend our meeting via Zoom, and noted that they were well-represented with each one of them having been a past-President of their club in North Hampton. They expressed their well-wishes to our members.

According to ADG John Fortunka, the attendees - Nick Mabey, Robert Martell, David Sparrow, Bob Dick and Doug - were all very impressed with the hybrid zoom/face to face meeting and really enjoyed being a part of it

President Bill thanked them for joining our meeting and would be making arrangements to exchange club banners with theirs confirming their visit.

President Bill welcomed **Jakob Hettinga**, our Youth Exchange presenter from Brussels, Belgium, via Zoom. Attending today via Zoom, are **Margo Robbins**, and **Emma Raleigh-Smith**, past YEX participants. David Mills was also welcomed on the Zoom call today. (Note: David Mills is not associated with YEX.)

And visiting our club, in-house today, Bill introduced **Melanie Todd**, past-president of Rotary's Millennium Club, Calgary.

Bill then introduced **Natalija Reljic**, to share her inspirational moment.

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Natalija shared moments from her own life experience, leaving her homeland and emigrating to Canada without knowing English, and noting some of the momentous changes she faced on her journey. As we face our new Covid reality, Natalija shared a quote from Google on "Adapting to Change."

President Bill asked **Marlene Doherty** to present a RI Foundation update, followed by two announcements.

Marlene presented a **Summary of the "Come Spin with us Challenge**, and **Polio Updates** as well as **District Contributions**, year to date.

She broke the **Spin with us Challenge into the 5-W's**, noting that all Rotarians in District 5360 were included; the Rotary Club of Sylvan Lake initiated the challenge to other clubs to cycle 5,360 km, and raise \$1 per km; It was launched in the summer and is ending October 24 with World Polio Day: 14 clubs joined the challenge, and the theme is **A WIN AGAINST POLIO IS A WIN FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**.

Our participants are: Terry Felton, Ken Montgomery, Don Edie, Vivian Jones, Les Morgan, Natalija Reljic, Nketti Johnston-Taylor, Joe Klassen, Dan and Marlene Doherty, Bill and Yvette Tapuska.

Current kilometre total for our club: \$2,760.

Our sponsors are: Our club challenge was to raise \$50 per team member. Thanks to all club members who have contributed to RI's Polio Plus. **For Matching Purposes:** Please let Marlene know the donation amount (it will remain confidential).

Marlene reported the **Good News about Polio**; including Rotary's annual goal of \$50 million US, and this is matched 2:1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Marlene shared Next Steps going forward, as well as a wrap-up breaking down the percentage of Rotarians contributing to Polio Plus.

Marlene shared her personal experience of participating in two national immunization days in Ethiopia being the reason why she is a Rotarian. Marlene's passion for this cause came from experiencing the joy and gratitude of the children's parents "knowing their child will never suffer the crippling reality of polio." **Marlene challenged us as "People of Action - to reach our goal and the promise we made to the children, to grow up in a world free from polio."**

Marlene then extended an invitation to all members:

To attend this Saturday night: **AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE WORLD POLIO DAY !**

You're invited to join Rob Wolfson, president of the Chinook Rotary Club, and myself for an evening of polio conversation and fellowship

- The event will begin with some great polio update videos followed by our virtual bingo games

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- The cost is **\$26.50** for 2 Bingo cards – with the option of additional donations
- The event will be held via Zoom on Saturday October 24th from 7:00 - 8:30pm..
- All proceeds will go to Polio Plus and by registering you will receive a tax receipt for your donation
- Registration is required and you can find the link in the weekly:
- Under the G-53 and the G-60 Weekly Events Digest email.
- Sign up before October 22nd and then you will receive the Zoom meeting link with your Bingo cards

Hope you'll join us to celebrate World Polio Day !

Marlene then announced our club's **Strategic Planning Process.**

As president-elect, Marlene's responsibility is to develop a new strategic plan.

- A strategic plan is used to provide: **Focus, Direction and Action** – In order to move the organization from where they are now to where they want to go
- The 3 key elements for a successful club plan are:
 1. Involve all members in the club planning process
 2. Set time aside for the process
 3. Set Key goals by avenues of service

The first survey we'll receive today is on Community Service. Please complete and return by Friday October 30. If you have any problems, please contact Marlene. There will be opportunities for conversation in zoom format and in-person. Marlene stressed the importance of every members' participation.

Marlene's ask of the Membership is to:

- **Think BIG** where do we want to be in 3 years and what will that look like?
- **Diversity of Thought** – your thoughts matter and need to be shared- this is your opportunity to speak up
- **Risk** – uncertain times – crystal ball might be murky – what will our new normal be/look like ?
- **Reminder** – this will be a living document and we will have the flexibility to revise as needed
- **As always - Remain true to our core values- Fellowship, Integrity, Diversity. Service and Leadership and 4 way test**

Barbie Hames was disappointed to announce that the October 30th social has been cancelled. due to the necessity of plating the appetizers instead of offering buffet service, and health issues around the use of playing cards, it was decided to postpone this event until a later date.

Steve Strang announced our service event of **Feed The Hungry, November 1st.** This year, the food will be packaged into bags and only requires 10 volunteers instead of 80. Before Steve sat down, seven

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persons volunteered to meet at St. Mary's Hall at 9:00 a.m. to bag the meals. Please contact Steve to add your name to the volunteer list.

Bill Quinney thanked and recognized members who had donated to the diaper fund-raiser for Connaught Home. An anonymous donor gave \$600 towards the cause. Many thanks to all who helped make the project successful.

Karl Herzog announced program changes in the production of our Boltman gift for speakers. Unfortunately, Motive Action is no longer able to produce the Boltmans due to current circumstances. Karl acknowledged that there is considerable amount of time involved in producing the Boltman and that the board is considering alternatives at this time.

Karl also announced that Motive Action's casino is **December 14th, and 15th**, and he's requesting volunteers to help. Please let Karl know if you'll be able to support Motive Action's casino.

President Bill then turned the meeting over to **Judy Cochran**.

Judy welcomed the Fisk Creek Club and former Yexers: Emma, Margot and Laura.

Guest Speaker

Judy first met **Jakob Hettinga** at RYLA and when she noticed his name come up for YEX she thought that he would be amazing. Jakob left for exchange in the summer of 2019 with sponsorship from Fish Creek and Calgary West clubs to experience his year abroad in Belgium after graduating from Western Canada High School. Now Jakob is back in Belgium studying chemistry at the University of Brussels after his return to Calgary over the summer. Today Jakob will present a short synopsis of his year abroad in Belgium.

Jakob Hettinga presented from Brussels, Belgium, at 8:30 p.m., and shared his connection with Calgary West by working on Homes of Hope in Mexico, attending RRYLA, and was excited about doing a Gap Year in Belgium. after graduating and before starting university. He shared slides from his new life in a new country, slides with his host families, and many of their excursions. He talked about differences between schools in Canada compared to schools in Belgium and different teaching styles. Notably, one difference is the significant division in Belgium, where it is divided between Dutch and French populations. You know you are on the Dutch side in restaurants right away because of the language spoken.

Jakob shared some adventures with food, mussels and fries being one. Jakob highlighted adventures with his host family to Paris; mushroom hunting in the forest; special Christmas lights and Christmas markets. He also was able to visit London, England, for more Christmas markets.

The new year began with a change in host family where now he was right across the street from school, so no bussing! He celebrated Carnival, fireworks and "flying oranges." He travelled to sites from WW2, and his eyes were opened to how WW2 impacted Europe. There was a huge Climate Change Rally (he's

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passionate about this) and he met **Greta Thunberg**, and was surprised at how small she was, almost child-like.

He met with other international YEX students and was impressed by one of Rotary club's French lessons. Rotary connections definitely helped him assimilate into the country. Unfortunately his exchange ended abruptly due to Covid restrictions and planes being cancelled everywhere. (He shared a slide showing all the cancelled flights.) Jakob flew back to Calgary at the end of March.

Jakob is extremely grateful to Calgary West for this huge opportunity that has definitely changed his life. He's now back in Brussels studying chemical engineering.

Judy thanked Jakob, stating that he showed us his love for Belgium and the impact YEX has made on his life. Judy said, "You are an excellent ambassador for Rotary, for your community and Canada. You have taken on quite a challenge going to university in Belgium and learning a foreign language. Wishing you the best in the future!"

Judy then gave an overview of what is going on with our Youth Programs this year. Our Youth Committee includes: Steve Strang, YEX Chair, **Marie Rickard**, YPO, Natalija Reljic, Interact Chair, along with **Dilpriya Mangat** and **Ketti Johnson-Taylor**. **Rick Istead** has kindly given me permission to use this slide deck. Sadly, due to Covid many programs have had to be cancelled. The Committee is looking for other ways to serve Youth in the community.

Interact is a "mini" Rotary club. Students, and hold meetings usually 2x a month to plan fundraisers and give back to the community – locally and internationally. Again this year we are trying to start a new Interact club – this time at Ernest Manning High. Natalija's son, **Lucas**, attends school there. We had an initial consult with **Kamil Kanji**, District Interact Chair, which was informative. If you saw the recent Zoom presentation "Youth in Rotary" all four panellists who started their path with Interact; are now in Rotaract and involved at the District level. As we have heard in the news, there is much going on in the school system with Covid. EM has recently sent 100 students home to quarantine due to a case in the school. We will be monitoring closely. We have a number of members on the committee excited, passionate, and willing to help. Interact and other youth programs are receiving more recognition, credence at District and Zone levels. It starts small as you see here with an All-President's forum and then grows.

RAYEC is a similar concept to junior achievement- a week-long camp in the fall for students to learn about business and entrepreneurship. This program was cancelled for 2020, but organizers are hopeful it will be a go in 2021. Stay tuned for more updates. We usually send one student.

RYLA is a leadership program of excellent calibre and one of my personal passions – along with Interact. I have attended the 4-day conference for the last four years. The conference was cancelled in last May. Fingers crossed, it will be a go for May, 2021. We usually sponsor five students. **Cory Tretiak** raised funds on his own to send 2two more. Pictures are of current counsellors who all started as delegates.

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You may recognize **Sa'adat's** son **Khalid** who also started as a delegate and now sits as District Chair and is a Rotarian.

RYPEN is another fall camp that was cancelled for 2020. This program is geared to students on the "edge" and need a bit more guidance and coaching to reach their full potential to become leaders. The club sends two students each year.

RYE We just heard from Jakob on how YEX has impacted his life. In our Jubilee year, former RYE students were contacted and the theme throughout was how YEX impacted their decisions; their lives. They are where they are today because of YEX. It also has profound impacts on the host families who are still in contact with many of the students.

We know RYE was cancelled for the current year. Just last week we heard from **Linda Morris** that due to the many complications from Covid the program for 2021-22 has been cancelled. I would like to thank the RYE committee for all their passion and work. Once we are on the other side of the pandemic we will come back stronger!

Rotex is the youth exchange alumni offering support in many ways to both the committee and IB and OB students. With some of our former YEXers here today you see the relationships last well beyond their year of YEX.

Youth Grants Calgary West has applied for this grant every year for the past four years. However, unspent funds will have to be returned to District if unused within two years.

"I love this slide" Why Youth? Youth is our future. Many of you know Christine from the FC Club and her many accomplishments both inside and outside the Rotary world. The Rotary youth programs provided a strong foundation for her, and of course other students. Note, now that RI has lifted the upper age limit, Rotaract clubs stand alone, only needing a helping hand from time to time from their Rotary sponsors.

There are many ways to get involved with youth. Contact myself or any committee member if you're interested.

President Bill thanked Judy for her passionate presentation.

Bill announced that **Bernie Ward** is handling the Rotary masks. Judy commented that if you have ordered a mask and haven't paid for it do so on-line, or mail her a cheque to her home address.

Bill announced that **Ken Keeler** of Calgary Co-op would be the guest speaker at our Zoom meeting on October 26th.

Marlene Doherty won the door prize.

Meeting adjourned.

Coming Events

October: Economic and Community Development Month	
5	Arjun Channa: immediate past general manager of the Calgary Westin. Presently at the Ritz-Carleton, St Thomas, Virgin Islands
12	No Meeting: Thanksgiving
15	Evening Zoom Meeting: Past President's Reflections #2 Carlen/Ganong/Felton
19	Youth and YEX- Jakob Hettinga
26	Karl Ward from Caffe Monte
November: Foundation Month	
2	LCS Presentation of Grants and Projects
9	Phil Levson – Wills -Estates and Rotary Foundation
16	ISC Presentation of Grants and Projects Vote
23	CFL Commissioner – Future of the CFL at this time? (Tentative)
26	Evening Meeting. TBD
30	Days of Giving / Board Election
December: Disease Treatment and Prevention Month	
7	Brian Lee: Healthcare Canada and USA (Tentative)
14	Christmas Lunch - Carols led by a noted member – To Confirm re In-Person/COVID/Zoom??
21	No Meeting – Christmas and New Year Holiday
28	No Meeting – Christmas and New Year Holiday
2021 – IT'S A BRAND NEW YEAR!	
January: Vocation Service Month	
4	VSC
11	Review of Scholarships and Initiatives
18	LCS
25	Hands on Service Opportunities
28	Evening Meeting: Past Presidents #3
February: World Understanding Month	
1	Membership, Initiatives and Recommendations
8	TBD
15	No Meeting. Family Day
18	Evening Meeting. TBD
22	TBD
March: Literacy Month	
1	ISC
8	Presentation and Proposals for DDF: Pre-approvals
15	LCS
22	Review and Updates: New Proposals
25	Evening Meeting. TBD
29	TBD
April: Maternal and Child Care Month	
5	No Meeting. Easter Monday



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8	Evening Meeting. Possible Spring Assembly
12	TBD
19	Projects
26	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