

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

## **Together We Are People of Action - Building Community**

September 21, 2020 Edition: 54.10 Reporter: Les Morgan Editor: David Williams

With a commitment delaying the arrival of **President Bill Fitzsimmons**, **PP Gerry Meek** opened the meeting. Gerry welcomed all attendees and extended an especially warm greeting to **District 5360 Governor, Mary Turner**.

**Bill Quinney** had a three announcements:

- **Garfield Ganong** has stepped forward to take on the role of our club's liaison with Rotary Challenger Park.
- **Clarence Buckley** has agreed to lead the highway cleanup project.
- On the weekend four members, **Bill Lawless**, **Tim and Linda Anderson** and **Will Mitchell** have signed on to help the Loughheed House with their casino. Thank you to all.

**Mike Carlin** announced, on behalf of The Rotary Foundation Committee, that 12 clubs have undertaken to raise money (via cycling) for helping the eradication of polio. **Marlene Doherty** is our club's principal liaison. Each of our teams is challenged to endeavour to raise a minimum of \$50 per team member. There will be matching grants totalling a factor of 6 to 1. Team captains will be reaching out to their members. Marlene reminded members of the online event, Shifting Gears, next Tuesday that will provide inspiration to all.

**Darren Grierson** welcomed new members **Rod McMahon** and **Pat Fitzsimmons** to the club.

We have been assigned the dates of October 19 and 20 for our casino. **Orlin Mcmillan** will send out communications.

Tim Anderson advised that, on October 5 our guest speaker will be the former general manager of the Westin Hotel, now managing The Ritz Carlton in St. Thomas, tuning in via Zoom from the Virgin Islands.

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**Guest Speaker**

**Steve Rickard** introduced our guest speaker, DG Mary Turner, providing a brief bio. With sound issues, we unfortunately missed much of what Steve had to say and the task was passed to **Marie Rickard**.

Marie described her experiences of the dedication, energy and enthusiasm of Mary.

Mary began by expressing the honour and appreciation she felt at being given the opportunity to fulfil the role of our DG, and acknowledged the Treaty 7 nations on whose traditional lands we meet.

Virtual media were not how Mary anticipated beginning her role as DG. Such was the mandate provided to all DGs, however, by the then incoming **RI President, Holger Knaack**, in order to keep members, their families and their coworkers safe. It is her sincere hope that she will be able to meet many of us in person as soon as possible.

All incoming DGs meet for one week before assuming their tenures. In 2020, the meeting took place in San Diego, with the opportunity to meet and spend time with both the RI President and his wife and DGs from around the globe. Holger is passionate about youth and he and his family have hosted 43 youth exchange students over his Rotary career. Mary brought greetings from Holger, and described his enthusiasm for all aspects of our Rotary arms. Holger also stated we need to be revolutionary and we need to try new models from time to time, knowing there is no wrong age to join Rotary. We must grow Rotary organically and sustain our growth via good “fits” with club expectations and not just “fills”.

Our alliance with Toastmasters International is developing well and generating new Rotarians. Clubs are encouraged to invite toastmasters to speak at their meetings. Soon, there will be an announcement better defining our relationship.

RI has added environmental issues to its areas of focus. Keep this in mind when looking for additional service opportunities.

RI also encourages more women to be Rotarians. Britain took this issue seriously and the female membership there has grown from 19% to 33%. Congratulations to our current female population, and a challenge to the males to perhaps encourage the women in our lives to join the club. Our own **Jennifer Jones**, of the Rotary Club of Windsor has been nominated for the RI President for 2022 -2023.

RI would also like to see younger District governors. All of us are encouraged to seriously consider throwing our names into the hat.

RI President asked Mary to bring us four messages:

- Consider new clubs and club formats. E-clubs, passport clubs, satellite clubs or cause-based clubs are excellent examples.
- Have one strategic meeting each year, asking where we wish to be in five years time, and what each of us can contribute.
- Select club members carefully, and then nurture them and their development as Rotarians.

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- Continue efforts in the eradication of polio. Pakistan and Afghanistan still present cases.

At the District level, the 2019 Strategic Plan was reviewed and areas of focus and objectives with dates were assigned to District board members.

The importance of a number of club goals was reiterated:

- Build vibrancy within the club by investing in youth, new members and strengthening club relationships. (Find out one new thing about every club member.)
- Have a club purpose with all members involved. This is critical for the first two years of membership.
- Establish a current plan.
- Engage in collaboration between clubs and organizations.
- Start new clubs, ensuring a good fit for new members.

Covid-19 has thrown new opportunities our way to try new ways of thinking and working. Invite potential members to virtual meetings. Look for new ways of fundraising. Remember that the Calgary Foundation can be very helpful. Covid-19 has generated many conversations about club finances – consider making Rotary your charity of choice. Debate what new great initiative might follow the global eradication of polio.

The District 5360 Conference will be held in Drumheller on May 14–16. Registration will be opening soon. Please plan to attend. Should conditions dictate that the conference must be held virtually, fees paid will be refunded.

Mary provided a personal insight into her own transformation into a Rotarian. Manifesting as a life-changing experience for Mary, the great need and opportunity described by a close friend led to her and her club's hugely successful work in bringing schools, supplies and finances into a district in Kenya.

The Los Amigos project, donating and delivering surplus service vehicles to Mazatlan, is a great example of clubs pulling together to serve a need. The jaws of life, included in a recent delivery, found immediate need on-site at a vehicle crash and were instrumental in saving three lives. Regrettably, Covid-19 travel restrictions have put the annual convoy on hold for this year.

Despite the inevitable Covid-19 constraints, however, we are urged to find alternative ways to attain our dreams and goals.

Mary concluded her presentation with the hope that, during her tenure as DG, she will have the opportunity to actually meet many of us "in the flesh" and become friends.

Mary was warmly thanked by **PDG Dan Doherty** for her service, energy, commitment, dedication and enthusiasm in all things Rotary, and her presentation to us today. Dan emphasized that the slogan "Rotary Responds" dictates that we really need to start thinking out of the box, moving and growing forward.

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Bill Fitzsimmons advised we have ordered 50 Rotary Covid masks, while 52 have been requested. If you want one and haven't ordered one yet, you might be too late. If you have ordered one and haven't yet paid, **Judy Cochran** wants to hear from you. **Bernie Ward** is the ordering contact.

**Barbie Hames** is scheduling a Games and Fun Night at the Calgary Golf and Country Club on October 30. Save the date. More information will follow. The allowable capacity will be 50 people.

Marlene expressed her thanks for all the support for the purchase of roses, and for the success of the cherry sales.

Our next virtual meeting will be a club assembly.

October 5 is currently the date for our first live get together at The Grey Eagle. **Gord Cox** will keep us informed.

### Coming Events

<b>July: Stampede Parade and OK Cherries Month</b>	
6	Jennifer McCue, President and CEO of Bethany: Bethany's journey through the pandemic
13	Diversity and Rotary: Rotarian Anila Lee Yen
20	Five Avenues of Rotary: President Bill Fitzsimmons' program for the club.
27	India Sherrett: Olympian
<b>August: Membership and New Club Development Month</b>	
3	No Meeting Civic Holiday - August Long Weekend
5	Evening Zoom Past President's Reflections Series #1
10	Club Engagement F & F Committee update; New Club Developments
17	Water and Sanitation Tal Woolsey - CAWST
24	Club Engagement Updates and Discussions, New Initiatives
31	Ben Kormos: Brazil Global Grant Partnership
<b>September: Basic Education and Literacy Month</b>	
7	<b>No Meeting.</b> Labour Day
10`	<b>Evening Zoom Meeting:</b> Social Media - Facebook use for Rotary format
14	Club Engagement: Service and Social Roundup
21	District Governor Mary Turner
28	<b>Club Assembly</b>
<b>October: Economic and Community Development Month</b>	
5	Arjun Channa: immediate past general manager of the Calgary Westin. Presently at the Ritz-Carleton, St Thomas, Virgin Islands
12	<b>No Meeting: Thanksgiving</b>
15	<b>Evening Zoom Meeting:</b> Past President's Reflections
19	TBA
26	TBA