

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Bella Vita Restaurant

President: Libby Nelson Phone: 604-314-6749
 Secretary: Deborah Hyslop Phone: 778-387-0429
 Editor: Peter Boekhorst Phone: 604-465-3392

[E-mail the President](#)
[E-mail the Secretary](#)
[E-mail the Editor](#)



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Today (Jan 9): RI Vice President **Dean Rohrs**

Next Week (Jan 16):

| Happy Birthday | Happy Anniversary |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Jan. 13: Matt DeBruyn | |

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT EVENTS:

| Date | Time | Event | Venue |
|-------------|-----------|---|--|
| Tue. Jan. 9 | 12-1:30pm | Speaker is RI Vice President Dean Rohrs | Meadow Gardens Golf Club, Pitt Meadows |
| Feb. 9-11 | | Presidential Peace Building Conference https://environmentandpeace.com | Hyatt Regency Vancouver |

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In Rotary, our diversity is our strength. This idea dates back to the earliest years of our organization, when the classification system was first proposed. The idea behind it was simple: that a club with members who had a wide variety of backgrounds and abilities would be capable of better service than one without.

In the years since, the idea of diversity in Rotary has come to be defined more broadly. We have discovered that a club that truly represents its community is far better able to serve that community effectively. Looking ahead, it is clear how essential diversity will remain in Rotary: not only to strong service today, but to a strong organization in the future.

One of the most pressing aspects of diversity to address in our membership is the age of our members. When you look around at almost any Rotary event, it becomes immediately obvious that the age range in the room does not promise a sustainable future for our organization. Our membership is near a record high, and we are bringing in new members all the time – yet only a small minority of those members are young enough to have decades of Rotary service ahead of them. To ensure a strong and capable Rotary leadership tomorrow, we need to bring in young and capable members today.

We also cannot discuss diversity in Rotary without addressing the issue of gender. It is difficult to imagine that just three decades ago, women could not join Rotary. Although we have come a long way since then, the legacy of that misguided policy is still with us. Far too many people continue to think of Rotary as an organization only for men, and that idea has had a detrimental effect on both our public image and our membership growth. Today, women make up just over 21 percent of Rotary's membership. While this is certainly a great improvement, we have a long way to go to meet what should be the goal of every club: a gender balance that matches the balance of our world, with as many women in Rotary as men.

Whatever brought each of us to Rotary, we stay because we find value in Rotary membership and believe that our service has value to the world. By building clubs that reflect that world in all its diversity, we will build even more enduring value in *Rotary: Making a Difference*.

IAN H.S. RISELEY
PRESIDENT 2017-18



At this first meeting of a new year the number of our members in attendance were “down in the dumps”, but the spirits of the 12 of us who were in attendance were certainly not. Given the snowy conditions which some of our fellow Canadians are suffering at the moment, our **President Libby** warned that “if you cross a snowman with a vampire you may end up with a frostbite”.

Happys (as noted above, there were no Sads today)

Dave Rempel is happy that his brother John was able to come home from the hospital, and that his other brother Henry was able to visit him.

President Libby enjoyed being “home alone” for the holidays in what she called “PJ Days”.

Ineke Boekhorst enjoyed part of her holidays with her grandchildren in Disneyland and managed to travel to Kelowna to visit her daughter and family (*despite having to turn back once because of freezing rain*).

Deborah Hyslop advised that one of her three cats has gone to feline heaven (okay, so there was one sad dollar).

Eric Mollema said that all of his wives (did he say that?) and children (except one who is currently in Dubai) were home for the holidays.

Sharon Kyle said (at least I think she did) that she has a niece in Dubai (if so, maybe she met up with Eric’s son in the sun).

Walter Volpatti enjoyed part of his holiday break visiting his mother.

Today’s meeting was our delayed Christmas party.

(It was delayed a week or so because of the scheduled speaker from the University of the Fraser Valley who presented a program to us at the last meeting prior to Christmas.)

Ineke started off our party by giving us a word puzzle which was not only fun to do but started the year off right by honing our intellectual skills. For example, what expression does “OHOLENE” or “ALL/MYSELF” or “THIRIGHTNGS” stand for? (If you can figure that out, then it may mean that you are a lucky golfer with an inflated sense of self-importance who is caught trying to do several jobs at once.)

Ineke pulled our names “out of a hat” and the person whose name was called could either choose a gift from the pile or steal the gift of someone who already had taken one, which resulted in a few laughs.

As **President Libby** had pointed out prior to Christmas, we could, as part of our gift exchange at the party, help out our environment, not to mention our pocketbook, by “re-gifting” items that we may have received this year and which we may not be reluctant to part with.

Dave (mischievous Santa-elf that he sometimes is) took our President seriously and included in his re-gifted Christmas package a scratch-and-win ticket, and was even kind enough to have already scratched it so the lucky recipient could see how much he had won without having to go to all the time and trouble of doing so by scratching himself. The lucky recipient (who happened to be **Eric**) was disappointed (and no doubt very surprised) to learn that he had not won any money, and had to console himself with the fact that at least he had a useful item that could be used as a bookmark when reading Scrooge to his wives and children on the night before next Christmas.

Our next meeting will be held at the Meadow Gardens Golf Club, on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, where we will be privileged to have **Vice President of Rotary International, Dean Rohrs**, talk to us. This meeting will start at noon as usual but be extended to 1:30 pm to give us some extra time to meet with and hear this interesting speaker (who was a nurse on Dr. Christiaan Barnard’s historic heart transplant team in South Africa).

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night, and here is to a happy and peaceful 2018!

Quote from Dr. Christiaan Barnard:

For a dying man it is not a difficult decision [to agree to become the world's first heart transplant] ...

because he knows he is at the end.

If a lion chases you to the bank of a river filled with crocodiles, you will leap into the water convinced you have a chance to swim to the other side. But you would not accept such odds if there were no lion.

Submitted by Laurie Anderson