

WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2021 – (Zoom 45)

Zooming. Hugh Graham, Ann Harrison, Gail Levay, Dave Schulz, Andy Glavac, Kalyne Nguyen, Mike Taylor, Bob Eamer, Jason Thompson, Annie Holtby, DGN Lisa Bishop, Keith McConkey, Mel Groom, Paul Snack, Heather Scott, Kevin Vallier, Carolyn Mullin, Frank Adamson, and Lance Wiebe.

1. **Welcome everyone** – Welcome Kalyne Nguyen, Rotaract Niagara our guest speaker. Dave will do an introduction later. Also welcome to Jason Thompson who has been approved as a new member. Welcome Jason.

2. **Land Acknowledgement: Ann**

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

3. **Toast: Hugh**

To the Queen and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International

4. **4-WAY TEST: Lance**

Of the things we think, say, or do
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build good will and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

5. **Invocation: Dave**

"May those assembled here today enjoy the many offerings of Rotary.
May we abide by the rules we have established, those of trust, fellowship and ethics,
and may we place service above self, in our daily endeavors.
May we always test ourselves and our efforts to be sure they are the truth, good for all
concerned, of benefit to mankind, providing peace and understanding."

6. **President's Report/Correspondence/Announcements:**

Spring Auction Garage Sale. Annie. We had our first large item delivery on Friday. This Thursday we're going in to catch up with this load. Mel is joining us. Great! Hoping the following week we'll be able to schedule times for individuals to bring in their items. I'll send out confirmation of those days. Many thanks, everyone for everything you've found.

Finances. Hugh has reached out to Randy about report for May, He replied right away and will report on our own budgeting and in another meeting, report on the Arches. Covid has made a busier year than usual.

Rotary Rotary Opens Opportunities

Coins. We've had a generous donation from Honorary Member Lyle Walker – Clearing up he's found stashes of coins at home and wants to donate to Rotary but won't be separating. Asking for a volunteer! Keith McConkey volunteered himself and the little McConkeys to take on this task. Thanks, Keith!

June 30 meeting. Our final meeting is June 30, a Wednesday evening meeting where we can celebrate our year and turn over the gavel and bell to Ann for her year, 2021-22. It'll be a good club wrap up for Frank too! His official ceremony is the week before.

7. **Speaker: Kalyne Nguyen – Rotaract Niagara**

Introduction: **Ann**

Our guest speaker today is Kalyne Nguyen, a student at Niagara College who is taking this semester off for a 'Big Adventure' including lots of maple syrup. Kalyne believes in the magic of kindness. She is presently the VO of Rotaract Club of Niagara, a community based Rotaract club as opposed to a post-secondary one, and she was President of of St Catharines Collegiate Interact Club. Ann says she can't wait to turn it over to Kalyne!

Kalyne. Honoured to be here today. An international student in Canada, Kalyne is from a Village (Hue) in central Vietnam. Her father is a fish & shrimp farmer. I want to tell you a small story. There was a tiny frog living in a well. A bird came along and picked him up then dropped him outside. There was so much there! That was Kalyne. Canada is her second home. Coming to Canada, Kalyne looked for opportunities to bring kindness. She joined the St Catharines Collegiate Interact Club. 'I'm so grateful to Rotary – I've been given so many opportunities. When I joined Interact, they were doing a project for community care. I felt it was a duty. We distributed food for the homeless. For community care in Niagara – it was one big international family and I felt at home. It was an opportunity to meet friends and mentors, an opportunity to bring the word to others, a desire to help others. I connected to the community, I connected to me, I connected with people around the globe. Being in Rotary, I was inspired to be a better me. As of last week, I am also a Rotarian. I'm still a Rotaractor. Every day. Everywhere, Rotary is doing something. Service Above Self. I love this motto.' **Frank.** I'm curious about your life in Vietnam. **Kalyne.** My family lives in Hue, My dad is a farmer in fish and shrimp, I lived with my grandmother. **Ann.** A great start to our day – all that energy is wonderful. **Dave.** We need ideas from people like you how we can work more with Youth. **Kalyne.** Youth have some problem with commitment. I saw that when I was asking people to join Rotaract. They need to see it as a platform for themselves, to do 'good' in society. **Mike.** Rotaract went to a low point in Covid. Kalyne brought life back to it and they have a few new members.

Kalyne. I took Business Accounting at Niagara College. I'm going to take a Master's Degree in Business in the future. Real Estate is my dream but you need to be Canadian to get a license and that takes 7 years to get the citizenship first. **Frank.** There are a lot of business people in the club who could be mentors. **Gail.** Welcome Kalyne. **Lisa.** You're very articulate, lots to give.

Kalyne. There is no Rotary Club in Vietnam. Maybe I'll start one. **Frank.** Tell us about your experience with SlapShot. **Kalyne.** It was a weekend at Canterbury Hill in Hamilton. We were divided into different houses. Lots of activities, games- physical- and sitting down and sharing ideas- thoughtful. Someone there had messaged Kalyne just yesterday – lovely chat – great connections made.

Hugh thanked Kalyne and told her of the donation made in presenters' names to the Pelham Library for Literacy.

8. **Birthdays:** Roy (April 6); Frank (April 30)
Rotary Anniversaries: None

9. **Rotary Moment: Bob**

Years ago I worked with a small consulting group. There were 4 of us and 3 were women. After 6 months, one mentioned she'd been a Rotary Scholar and went to study in France. She still thought of Rotarians as old men. She moved to Vancouver and I told her Rotary would be a great way to meet people and the community. She is now President of her Rotary Club.

10. **Happy Loonies: Bob**

Dave picked up his bike from Guelph. He's very excited about it. He's been for a ride already. Or two.

Kalynne is happy to join the meeting today. Can you send zoom link to Rotaract? So we could join?

Ann. Very happy to be here for Kalynne's presentation. Great energy!

Andy. Thanks for joining us today, Kalynne. It inspires me so much. I'd be happy to be a mentor.

Mike. So much vision, transparency – join us whenever you can and bring the others.

Lisa. Kalynne is part of RLI. Can't wait to see where you are in 10 years.

Paul S. Club Assembly is May 15th. It's all online. I encourage everyone, new members especially – it's good training that you can apply elsewhere as well as in Rotary.

Mel. You've filled us up with sunshine, Kalynne. Son Colin started his paramedic training which continues to August 1 next year.

Lance. I have 3 'picker uppers' on my porch for loan. Use and return. Lance's family is going out this weekend for 'clean up.'

Frank. Thanks for today, for resuscitating Rotaract. Nassen is also taking RLI.

Carolyn. Yay Niagara College. Yay Rotaract. Yay Kalynne. PS Students completed last assignments on Saturday. They've completed undergrad and don't know what comes next. Kalynne has showed us possibilities.

Keith. Thanks, Kalynne, for reminding us about getting out of the well. He and his wife got their vaccines. Kids woke him up on Earth Day to go out and clean up with them. I was happy they did that.

Jason. Great to hear Kalynne's presentation! A great way to start the day. Looking to becoming more familiar with the club. Happy to be here.

Heather. I was housemother at SlapShot when I was in the Welland Club. Kalynne is a wonderful example of a SlapShot grad. Heather's son is in the same electrical program as his dad, Glen.

Hugh. It's gratifying to be with such great people. When he was asked why he'd joined Rotary, he'd answer that it was their way (his and Sandy's) of saying Thank You. Looking around and seeing how we connect – today with Kalynne, Lisa, Jason, all of us - wonderful.

Happy Birthday, Frank!

Next Week: Sandi Chard from the St Catharines Club and District Chair of Annual Fund and End Polio Now and spokesperson for the Foundation Gala.