



**SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES**

ROTARY CLUB OF FONTHILL

WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA

September 22nd, 2021

Zoom Meeting

ZOOMING Dave Schulz, Ann Harrison, Bob Eamer, Frank Adamson, Leo Nupolo Johnson, Mike Taylor, Hugh Graham, Lindsay Hendricks, Sandi Chard, Lisa-Marie Smith, Lance Wiebe, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Paul Snack, Meghan McNaughton, Kris McEvoy, Keith McConkey.

1. **Welcome Guests:** Lindsay Hendricks (interested in joining us), Sandi Chard (St Catharines Lakeshore, District Foundation Committee Chair) Leo Nupolo Johnson (Guest Speaker), Lisa-Marie Smith (Empowerment Squared.)
2. **Land Acknowledgement - Annie**
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: Paul**
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: Paul**
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: Meghan**
With our friends beside us, and no person beneath us,
With the bonds of Rotary between us, and our worries behind us,
With our goals before us, and no task beyond us,
With a thirst for knowledge, and a dream for a polio-free world,
We are thankful for our Rotary friends.

6. President's Report/Correspondence/Announcements:

MCC update. Next week we'll still be virtual.

Budget. Ann will be sharing the board budget with the club. Kris is ready to do invoices and cheques once a month. If we can get receipts in by the middle of the month, cheques will be out at the end of the month.

Peddle for Polio. October 2. There's an ad asking for support.
Paul Harris Award evening is being set up for end of November.

7. Guest Speaker

Leo Nupolo- Johnson – An Update on the Literacy Project in Liberia

Ann's Intro of Leo is in this link –

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/477bcde4-8f9e-4c96-a9f1-80d4a460bb7e/1/>

Leo Nupolo- Johnson

Here is the link for the presentation – great photos!

[file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/SEP%202021%20Rotary%20PRESENTATION%20DECK%20-%20Liberia%20Trip%202021_compressed%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/SEP%202021%20Rotary%20PRESENTATION%20DECK%20-%20Liberia%20Trip%202021_compressed%20(1).pdf)

Please see the website with details about the project and ways people can support

<https://empowermentsquared.org/project-overview/>

Leo. I presented this Liberian Library Project to you two years ago. Good to be back. I was just in Liberia for the last month. The Learning Library is the project but we're planting seeds in the community as well. It will be a dedicated Children's Library. There are no playgrounds or parks in Liberia. We have two active Rotary Clubs supporting us – Hamilton and Monrovia.

A small business incubation centre is part of it. Sometimes the inventory for product sellers is \$50/day of goods. One example of good practice is that one woman has sent all her five children to school on that daily inventory. The Library Learning Centre is giving them help to add to their present skill level. Funding has come from Breaking New Ground, Empowerment Squared and McCallum Sather. Two years ago this was the concept.

The Centre can respond to Covid needs. We spoke to 40 families every week about things they were struggling with – access to internet, food security, educational support. We need town meetings. We'll need 4-5 years to cover all communities to be sure if it was reflective of what they needed. At the 2019 groundbreaking, the Vice President of Liberia was there along with a large Rotarian presence. The population of Liberia is young so they're not having the same Covid impact there. The greatest impact is economic. Multiple schools are represented through their students.

Wonderful things are incorporated into the building. Passive ventilation – when cool you can open up for fresh air. It then closes when warmer. There's a reduced carbon footprint, solar panels, a water collection system of pure rain water, extended protected spaces for people to hang out. The design of the building is very transparent. It's soundproof but you can see everywhere.

The HOPE Development Program Community Launch. The Master Card Foundation has made a \$100,000 donation. We've recruited 75 young people, teaching them financial literacy, technology, mobile phone messaging – each young person has her or his own mentor. After the 1st 6 months participants have

\$200 in their hands. Shipping Container for the Library included drinking water, face masks for program and community, hand sanitizer and of course, snacks!

We're excited to have Liberian based construction. City Hall, a building in disrepair, is part of the program to also upgrade. Water supply management is temporary and will be turned into something empowering community to fix things down the road. It will be done locally with expertise.

The Foundation is now being constructed. The Foundation will have Engineers' inspection and then the walls will be going up. Wrap-up- Working with team to make earth compressed brick from the soil. Bricks keep temperature for up to 8 hours. They already access electric, etc.

There's a Global Grant for Solar piece. Niagara Clubs have made contributions. Once the building is up, we can get Global Program for fundraising.

Question asked about cost of the Library. We're looking at \$200,000 – it's now real! Thank you for having me speak. There's a huge event in November and you'll get an invite. The goal of sustainability is throughout.

Dave. Can you provide us with your presentation and also the link for contribution? Lise-Marie. Yes, I'll send it.

Bob. What's the total? **Leo.** \$200,000 to raise, to get up and enclosed - \$600,000 for the building. Getting it up will open us to more funding.

Frank. Congratulations. It's great to be a small part of this endeavour.

8. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies – Annie

Rotary Moment. I'm cheating today and using Leo's Project as a true Rotary Moment. So many contributing to such a worthy project bringing peace, knowledge, wisdom to name a few things that are making such a huge present and future for community – children, youth, adult.

Bob. Leo, I'm impressed with the broad approach. Locally, my granddaughters are back to the school at the highest Covid rate – Oakridge in St Catharines. Everything seems to be fine.

Ann. Thanks again, Leo. Inspiring! We've been enjoying hiking and being out of doors.

Frank. Happy Announcement about where the governor's trophy is landing. Past President Hugh Graham has the highest of the vetting points for his year. Club met almost every single criterion. Congrats.

Leo. Traveling from here to Liberian gave me lots of time to think the difference between here where we have access to health care compared to so many places where there is no access.

Hugh. It is everybody who earned us the Governor's Trophy, the Citation, the Lighthouse and the Governor's Trophy. Thanks to all. 2 weeks ago we went to Horseshoe Resort with Sandy's sister and brother-in-law, a 3 day get away. At home it's been fun to check our outdoor camera footage. 3 foxes run around in our back yard. Foxes are there now – for the last 10 minutes, two young foxes have been playing. We're happy with our life.

Paul. 6th anniversary of move to Pelham! Lori has been searching out old friends from Welland. Paul was showing a home to someone who brought his wife who turned out to be the 'old friend.' Paul is very popular right now.

Mike. Crazy busy year. Nancie and Mike were happy to bring parents down for a week. There was a memorial for his dad's brother in Hamilton and he saw lots of old friends. At the end of next week, heading up to Algonquin Park to fish with YE committee friends for a week.

Sandi. I came today because I was on grants approval for Leo's grant proposal and I'd never seen results of a decision so came here today to see. We just came back from Gaspé – beautiful but found my French was not great. And the lobsters were gone!

Lance. Kids were here for 12 days – we all out on 10 pounds! (One is a chef!) Today at 430 we're walking the Steve Bauer Trail from Merritt Street to the Bandshell to make sure trees aren't taken down along the trail. Please join us if you can.

Carolyn Where on earth was I when Leo first came to speak? The update is amazingly exciting! All the layers of Rotary! It's McHappy Day today and proceeds from coffees are going to McDonald House where I spent the first 9 months of Alex' life.

Meghan. I echo Carolyn. I didn't know everything when the grant was first applied for – loved hearing about the infrastructure. Alex and I went to a wedding for 12 hours – It was Declan's first time with his grandma!

Dave. So much going on! My photos of people travelling are a sign of hope. Ann joining us from the Gaspé – beautiful!

Lindsey. I'm thankful for the rain. Still getting veggies!

Kris. Just finished 2nd session of RLI – awesome program and I highly recommend it!

Keith. Leo's gone but every time I hear about other projects, I'm happy to be in Rotary!

Meghan. I just got photos from Facebook from last year this time when Rotary teams were here for painting and getting ready for Declan. It was a great time.

Ann. Let's keep Kevin in our thoughts. He's in Sarnia with his two daughters.

Stay in tune to see if we can get into MCC for a face to face meeting.

Carolyn is our pod leader for October.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

There are no birthdays, or anniversaries in September listed in Club Runner. Maria joined the club in September of 2017

Next Meeting <https://empowermentsquared.org/project-overview/>:

September 29th – Marcel Morgenstern