



THE STANDARD

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**PRESIDENT
BILL SKINNER**

**REPORTER
DEB DUNCANSON**

**EDITOR
ASHA PAUL**



MEETING NOTES

The barn was abuzz with excitement this morning as we welcomed the largest crowd we've had in months. Walter greeted everyone with a warm smile and handshake and the occasional joke. Velma kicked off the meeting promptly and described her experience with several Mi'Kmaq communities located in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia where she grew up. Mi'Kmaq is the largest of the First Nations peoples traditionally occupying what are now Canada's eastern Maritime provinces and parts of Maine and Massachusetts. Velma then welcomed our guests including Zen Bereznicki, Dan Doherty, Jordan GanChev, Katie Hope, Katie Paulsen, Vish Shenoy, Ivan Smith, Tan Nedeem, Leslie AGD (?) and Dr. Brooks Decillia. She then called on Katie and Jordan to shine plates. It was then a free for all getting to the buffet as every table had a guest or two

PROGRAM

Wynne Bjorgan then introduced the guest speaker Dr. Brooks Decillia, an assistant professor in Mount Royal University's School of Communication Studies. He is a longtime journalist and public broadcaster. Dr. Decillia started by describing his feelings while delivering a class on investigative techniques to journalists on the day of Trump's inauguration. He wrestled with feelings of "why even bother" and indeed continues to have doubts today whether journalism can mount a challenge to the militia of misinformation out there today particularly given Trump's superpower against fact checking. However, there is evidence from social studies that suggests that fact checking does reduce disbelief, combats misinformation, and has a significantly positive overall influence on political beliefs and people's understanding of facts. We need to reframe how we think about misinformation. We should no longer see the world as left and right but rather people who are either pro-system or anti-system. Pro-system people tend to trust institutions, journalism and government however when anti-system people hear the system is corrupt, they believe it, so they feel everything is corrupt and therefore distrust institutions, legal system, finance, medicine, education, government. They don't trust or care about facts. Fake news is part of our vocabulary now. However, fact checking does work. When politicians know they will be fact checked they're more inclined to tell the truth. Service institutions such as Rotary help build trust in organizations and build social capital, connect people and promote goodwill and cooperation. We need to engage critical thinking, listen to others including those who don't vote like you. Journalists can't do it alone. We all need to be engaged.

MOTIONS

On behalf of **International Services**: RCCHP provide CDN\$1900 in addition to the CDN\$1000 previously approved by the club on March 28, for the global grant #2570516. These total funds will be used as the matching amount required to make a Supporting Club DDF application for US\$5000. RC Annapolis Maryland is the International Club and RC Lake Atitlan is the Host club. This application will be ranked #2. Club funds will be contributed regardless of DDF approval. Seconded by: Bob Clark. All in favour.

FRIDAYS 7 AM. GUNN'S DAIRY BARN, HERITAGE PARK, 1900 HERITAGE DRIVE SW, CALGARY



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Richard Broadwith, Lynda Campbell and Bob Clark welcomed two new members

Katie Hope

Born and raised in Calgary, Katie spent 5 years working and travelling across Europe, Asia, Australia & China and 2 years teaching English in China before pursuing further education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Master of Arts in International Relations, and Graduate Diploma in International Security Studies. Katie has worked for the public sector, non-profits and post-secondary institutions and is currently Director of Government Relations with the Red Cross.

Jordan Ganchev

Also born and raised in Calgary, Jordan has spent over 20 years immersed in the pageantry arts as a past member of the Calgary Round-Up, Stetson and Stampede Showband. After his time as an active performer, Jordan spent the next 10 years in instructional roles with these groups and others. Jordan has become a licensed real estate agent and has worked in residential real estate all over the city and surrounding areas for the last 3 years and is also a certified condominium specialist.

Welcome to both Katie and Jordan.



DUTY ROSTER

MAY 2, 2025

GREETERJANET BLAHUN
DOOR SALES.....RICHARD BROADWITH
INTRODUCE & THANK.....BRUCE BYFORD
REPORTER.....PETER LEIGH

**If you are unable to fulfil your duties please
find your own replacement.**

MINUTES

Kate Paulsen, Rotary Employment Partnership Coordinator with Inclusion Alberta asked us to keep an eye out for employment opportunities for people with intellectual capacity challenges. Previous placements have included golf courses, day care and shipping and receiving. Kate can be reached at kpaulsen@inclusionAlberta.org or 403-805-8362.

Steve Dunk and Linda Craig shared great news about the Second Chance Art Sale. Numbers haven't been finalized yet but it looks like we made just under \$35,000 from the sale of approx. 2400 pieces of art (last year was 2000 pieces). Not as many sales in the \$100+ however a lot of volume in the art \$10 and under.

Tracey Vavrek let us know that we have to date 15,385 paid participants for the Rotary International conference including 38 people from RCCHP. There are more people registered who are awaiting visas etc. To learn more talk to people who have attended conferences in the past and you can also visit the official website for maps, info on schedules and speakers. You will be given badges that give you access to free transportation. Look for Tracey's email for more information.

Phil Hochhausen reminded us that we have a booth at the House of Friendship. Be sure to show your support.

MOTIONS (CONTD)

On behalf of **Community Service** (Indigenous Relations sub-Committee): RCCHP support a Blanket Exercise for up to \$700, open to all District 5360 Rotarians, family and friends, and members of Grace Church, who is providing the facility. Seconded by: Bob Clark. All in favour.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY

DON & DEBRA MCARTHUR (39 YRS).....MAY 2
GRAHAM & HOLLY DRAKE (43YRS).....MAY 8
GINNY & BARRY MURPHY (32YRS).....MAY 8