



THE STANDARD

JANUARY 16, 2026

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PRESIDENT
LYNDA CAMPBELL

REPORTER
DEB DUNCANSON

EDITOR
ASHA PAUL



MEETING NOTES

Once again walking past the vintage vehicles in gasoline alley was a real treat as was Tracey Vavrek's warm smile and cheery "welcome to rotary". Sheila rang the bell at 7:00 sharp and delivered the Treaty 7 territory land acknowledgement. She then welcomed our guests including Dani Galindo, Jeremy Rizzo, Dave Tait, Olivia Tait, District Governor Manon Mitchell, Fargaja Habiyakare and Deb Hymers. Tracey then celebrated our trio of birthdays; Linda Craig Jan 11, Art Sumner Jan 12, and Jessie Zuk Jan 16 and thoughtfully reminded us that rotary was built on how we treat one another, peace starts with us and kindness is the simplest way to change the world. Harold Aitkenhead then delivered an amazingly touching message of thanks. Then off to breakfast.

PROGRAM

Phil Hochhausen introduced our outbound exchange student – Olivia Tait from Henry Wisewood, and welcomed our guest speaker Daniela Rizzo who was an outbound student 2012-2013 to talk about the impact of exchange program. Dani took the podium wearing a bright red blazer covered in pins and went on to deliver an incredibly enthusiastic and thought-provoking speech. She talked about how she thought the exchange would be a chapter in her life but it turned out that it changed her life. When she got on that plane her world started expanding – and it's never shrank back. She went through learning experiences that were well outside of her comfort zone but she learned to be uncomfortable and just stay in it. She quickly realized that opposing feelings can be felt at the same time and that's okay. She learned to advocate for herself, communicate in ways she hadn't before, say yes to many opportunities as that's where the fun happens, family can be expanded, love can jump over any border, how to listen, trust herself to problem solve out of any situation, community doesn't just happen – it is built. The impact of the exchange program might not be visible in the moment, but it is lasting. Dani's current role is to provide strategic support to community organizations where she leverages the foundations learned through the exchange program.

Judy Cochran - Huge thank you to Dani for her heartfelt and passionate praise for RYE.

Judy talked about the Youth Services committee; it's members and their goal to empower young people to be the best they can be. She chose not to focus on the Rotary sponsored programs but the other programs:

GW Skene, a high needs elementary school, we provide necessary aids to help the students with their growth and development

Seeds Connections which is a credited Alberta education program with a focus on diversity, leadership, environmental sustainability and energy literacy. YS sponsors a student from Jack James High School to attend a weekend camp after which they go back to school and come up with project to involve whole school to "Be the Change"

St Francis Interact Club – a mini rotary club where students fundraise and promote projects of their choosing.

Readers and Leaders – young students experience reading in fun ways delivered by Calgary police officers

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



MOTIONS

International Service - Janet Blahun

RCCHP donate \$700 Cdn to Mariposa Jardin Magico for display cases for butterflies. Second: Judy Cochran Motion carried.

RCCHP provide \$2,800 Cdn for a District supporting grant towards a Global Grant led by Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown to supply rehabilitation equipment to a specialized rehabilitation hospital in Western Ukraine that treats wounded soldiers and civilians from all over Ukraine Funds are contingent upon Global Grant approval. Second: Bill Skinner Motion carried.

RCCHP move accrued funds of \$5,600 from the 2023 fiscal year into the 2026 fiscal year for International Service to use. This was approved in 2023 fiscal year for the Water for Education in Nigeria project, but we just found out late in 2025 that the Global Grant did not go through so funds were not used at that time. Second: Bob Cove Motion carried.

Vocational Service – Bob Cove

RCCHP support Woods Homes Youth Culinary Arts Program (YCAP) to replace their commercial dishwasher at a total cost of \$7,000.

Second: Harold Aitkenhead Motion carried.

Youth Services – Judy Cochran

RCCHP provide \$3,000 to Embrace International Foundation to help fund a sensory room or sensory equipment in a higher needs Calgary area school. See the attachment for more information. Second: Bob Clark Motion carried.

RCCHP sponsors one student to attend RYLA May 7th-10, 2026.

Registration is \$650 and payment is due by April 15, 2026..Second:

Linda Craig . Motion carried.

RCCHP pay \$1,000 to Rotary District 5360 for their invoice related to Rotary Youth Exchange. The invoice is for outgoing student Olivia Tait's performance bond. The performance bond is paid by the exchange student's family but is fully refundable to them when Olivia successfully completes her exchange responsibilities in the summer of 2027. We will not make this payment to District 5360 until the funds are received from Olivia's family. Although the payment will not ultimately be released back to the family, by RCCHP, until summer 2027 it is included in the Youth Services budget for 2025-26. Second: Bob Clark Motion carried.

4. RCCHP provide payment of up to \$500 to Rotary District 5360 for RCCHP Outbound Councillor training/orientation. Invoice has not yet been received and is expected to be around \$400.

Second: Janet Blahun . Motion carried.

MINUTES

Marlene Doherty and Linda Craig, donning beautiful summer hats, talked about the NStep/Rotary **Veggie/Plant fundraiser**. Order your plants by January 31 and pick them up in the middle of May. There's something for everyone, baskets and planters for sunny or shady areas, herbs, and cherry tomatoes that'll keep you in tomatoes all summer.

Peter Harding: Reminder to join us on Thursday Feb 19 at the TiNi Vietnamese restaurant to celebrate the **lunar new year and our 26th anniversary**, and the year of the horse. Cost is \$50 and you can register online.

Bill Skinner: Talked about the **second chance art sale** - \$38000 raised last year. You are welcome to come every Friday after rotary at 9:00, Jan 30 – April 10 to the Magic of Christmas warehouse Bay 32, 4216 54 Ave SE to work on pricing art. We typically assess 200-300 pieces of art every Friday. No skill required.

John Radermacher: We need drivers to pick up art from Coop to warehouse – weekly or short notice basis. Please contact John if you're interested.

HAPPY BUCKS

There were numerous happy bucks.

50/50

\$340 in the pot. Olivia had the winning ticket – drew Queen

CLOSING REMARKS

An evening of operatic and classical music – Feb 7
Cardell place – Ukrainian opera singers and musicians in support of Ukraine – more info to come.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

JANET BLAHUN.....JAN 18

JACKIE KINLEY.....JAN 19

ANNIVERSARIES

JIM & NORMA SAWERS (50YRS).....JAN 17

DUTY ROSTER

JANUARY 23, 2025

GREETER & SUNSHINE.....BRAD WELLCOME

DOOR SALES & 50/50.....WALTER ZUK

INTRO & THANK.....TBD

REPORTER.....EVE ROBERTSON

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