THE STANDARD

PRESIDENT JOE KLASSEN

REPORTER DEB DUNCANSON

EDITOR ASHA PAUL

NOVEMBER 6, 2026 VOLUME 28 ISSUE 18

MEETING NOTES

Our first meeting since Nov 1st when we didn't fall back to Mountain Standard Time. It's Alberta Time (ABT) from here on in. I was greeted warmly by Graham Kennelly and got a cheery good morning from both Sheila and John behind the desk.

President Joe kicked things off sharply at 7:00. After the national anthem Sheila introduced our guests including Eric Bennett, Vanessa Brown, Cole Gee, Ken Murray, Natalie Valle, Edmund Vargus, Sam Al-Fakih, Adam, guest speaker Danielle Ladouceur, and our exchange student Stan Heeringa.

President Joe reminded us that the meetings are recorded and photos are taken and then posted to our website and social media. Please like and share. He advised that November 6th is National Team Manager Day and National Stress Awareness Day reminding us of the importance of mental health, resilience and supporting each other. As Remembrance Day approaches next week, we pause to honor those who served and sacrificed.

Graham delivered the sunshine report and then shared a meaningful reflection on his journey in lieu of a joke.

PROGRAM

Judy Cochran then introduced our guest speaker Danielle Ladouceur, CEO of Children's Cottage since 2022. She has a psychology degree from Concordia and a master's degree in social work from McGill. She has been working in child and family support for over thirty years.

Rotary Club has been a friend to Children's Cottage for 40 years. We have served over 80,000 children and their families. What started as a small bungalow with six beds has grown to a 35000 square foot facility that opened two years ago. Since opening the new facility, we've served 8600 children and their families. The vast majority of the $26 million cost to build the facility came from the community. We have over 60 agencies that come into our facility to offer programs which allows more customization than we could provide on our own. One third of the families we serve are Indigenous. We have a ceremony room, healing and wellness ceremonies and rituals. The first floor has day programing, large and small spaces for parents and children to attend playgroups and classes, and community events. Our crisis nursery has capacity of 20 beds per night, and we provide up to 72 hours of care for newborns and children up to 9 years old when families are in times of crisis and need a safe haven for their kids. Our sensory room helps children in a calming space when their emotions are too much for them to handle. We worked with partner Gems for Gems to build Hope's Cradle, a safe space where babies can be surrendered. It's the only one in Calgary. Family Wellness Hub was founded in 2025 providing a bridge to mental health support.

HAPPY BUCKS

Jamie: welcome new members

Mark: Thank the group that came to Puerto Vallarta trip – they were a great bunch

Linda: Thanks to Mark for his leadership in Puerto Vallarta

Sheila: Welcome to our two new members, reinforced the success of Puerto Vallarta and asked people to consider going

Ted: Has acquired a dog for his daughter attending vet school

Lynda: Welcome to new members and thanks for the cookies

Doug: Email coming about Inclusion Alberta Breakfast. Will be having a Rotary Employment partnership event in about 10/12 days– come and suggest who you know that could potentially employ a person who is developmentally challenged.

Minutes

Bill Skinner: there is an article about our club in the latest Rotary magazine. What came out wasn't what was submitted. Intended to promote the art sale.

Brad Wellicome: Promote wearing team jersey at next meeting.

President Joe: Suggest you change your password for Club Runner and agree when asked if you want two factor verification.

Motions

Brad wellicome presented an amendment to a previous motion. "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I move that RCCHP adopt the 2026/2027 budget as circulated and amended to $7000 for Rotary Youth Exchange." Seconded by Vince Vavrek. Motion carried. It used to be $14000 to fund 2 students (inbound and outbound) for youth exchange. We are now sharing with Calgary North, so our share is $7000.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Thampi Thomas .....Nov 13
Lynda Campbell .....Nov 13
Richard Broadwith .....Nov 15
Debra McArthur .....Nov 17

Rotary Anniversary

Phil Hochhausen(18yrs).....Nov 20
Brad Wellicome (14yrs).....Nov 23
Harold Aitkenhead (18yrs).....Nov 28

Duty Roster

November 13,2026

Greeter & Sunshine.....Phil Hochhausen
Door Sales & 50/50.....Bill Hope
Intro & Thank.....
Reporter.....Linda Craig

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

New Member Induction

Vanessa Brown and Sami Al Fakih were inducted and asked to talk about what led them to Rotary

Vanessa, now a chartered professional accountant, was born in Saskatoon to two loving community minded parents. There wasn't a lot of money but always room at the table for one more and time to help a neighbour. It is from them that Vanessa learned that service starts at home. Over the years she has given 10% of her time and income to charitable causes mostly through church and has never regretted the community investment. Service above self was not new, it was how she was raised. New to Calgary, a walk along a rotary sponsored pathway inspired her as she thought of the people who came together to get it built. Vanessa explained she baked candy cane cookies for each of us following a family tradition.

Sami is from Yemen where he spent twenty years working in humanitarian and community development in the areas of childrens' rights, child protection and supporting vulnerable communities. His journey has not always been easy. There were moments when he thought the end had come. One of these moments left him deeply sad at the prospect of this being the end of his life and his wife's life but he was also comforted by the fact they were together. He learned how precious life is and how important our loved ones are. An opportunity to move to Canada meant rebuilding many aspects of his life, adapting to a new society and finding new ways to contribute. But what he didn't want to leave behind was his commitment to help others. Even small acts of kindness can make a difference, and this is what he sees in Rotary. He welcomes the opportunity to stand alongside people with similar values, learn from their experiences and to contribute whatever he can offer. His mission continues to be to stand with those who need support and give a voice to those who are not always heard.