



THE STANDARD

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

VOLUME 28

ISSUE 11

**PRESIDENT
JOE KLASSEN**

**REPORTER
STEVE DUNK**

**EDITOR
ASHA PAUL**



MEETING NOTES

More than 40 Rotarians and guests gathered at the Barn on a beautiful autumn morning. They were warmly greeted by Jen Aitken. It took a few attempts for President Joe to quiet the multiple conversations, but he managed to call the meeting to order promptly at 7 AM.

The National Anthem, ably led as usual by maestro Stan, started off in multiple keys, but after the first few lines, the club settled into an agreeable key for a strong finish.

After the Land Acknowledgment, President Joe noted that this day was National Respect Day, Women's Friendship Week, and Civic Engagement Week, reminding us that dignity is the foundation of service, celebration of mentorship and networks (a theme reinforced by our speaker) and our responsibility to participate in community life.

Guests at this meeting were our speaker Desiree Bombenon, Dave and Sandy Tait (parents of outgoing exchange student Olivia), Vanessa Brown, Sami Alfakis, Dan Koska, Michael Ngalots and Bill Jen. Other guests were prospective member Dawn Byford, and our exchange student Stan Heeringa. Rotarian Mike Mammel from the Millenium Club also joined us

After guest introductions, President Joe appointed Past President Lynda as our plate shiner and we broke for our delicious breakfast.

PROGRAM

Saskia Knight introduced our speaker, Desiree Bombenon.

Desiree is a long-time negotiator and entrepreneur, whose businesses have always included giving back to the community and are designed to uplift, lead and inspire by investing in women to build stronger community.

Desiree's latest venture is as Founder and CEO of aspiHer Women's Club. The purpose of the Club is to Empower, Lead and Inspire. The Club, located at the former La Chaumiere restaurant on 17 Ave., offers opportunities for women to build meaningful connections with leaders, mentors, investors and collaborators. Women are under-represented in senior management and boardrooms. The gap is not talent, it is infrastructure. The Club offers networking opportunities, workshops, scrum sessions, keynote speakers and mentorship. The most valuable support that can be offered is not advice, but access. The Club provides a forum for that access. Just as the golf club is not about golf and the men's lunch club is not about lunch, this space is about creating meaningful connections.

The Club has multiple spaces, including a boardroom, event space, outdoor patio, lounge and the Bungalow Club Restaurant and Bar. Membership costs and tiers, starting at \$100/month are outlined on the website.

Saskia thanked our speaker and presented her with a certificate for the polio vaccination of 20 children.

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



MINUTES

Exchange student Stan Heeringa gave a short presentation on himself and his home in the Netherlands. Stan's interests are family, music, biking, film, photography and writing and he is considering a career in journalism. He lives in a part of the Netherlands that is on reclaimed land, which is ideally located between the beach on one side and beautiful forest on the other. The area is easy to get around by bike and Stan cycled every day to school. It is also very well serviced by rail, so that he would take day and weekend trips to other parts of the Netherlands.

Lorne Kelly showed us the beautiful wooden trophy that will be presented to the winners of the Backyard Rodeo on Saturday, September 26 at 4 PM. Tickets are still available. He also noted that the Woods Homes Culinary arts Program, which we supported in January, is hosting a luncheon to support the program.

Doug McDonald asked folks to register for the free event on September 30 for an evening of storytelling reflection and learning, featuring the Stardale Women's Group film "The Road" Doors open at 6:30 at the Dalhousie Community Association.

He also noted that we are looking to revitalize our relationship with Inclusion Alberta and our Rotary Employment Partnership program. Because of Alberta Government funding cuts, Inclusion Alberta has lost 50% of their funding and several staff, including our Rotary liaison. He would like RCCHP to use their contact network to provide at least 20 introductions to potential employees. Doug noted that the Rotarian only needs to provide a contact person and Inclusion Alberta will make the contact.

50/50

Draw was won by guest Dave Tait. Unfortunately, Dave did not draw the Joker.

DUTY ROSTER

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

GREETER & SUNSHINE.....JEN AIKEN
DOOR SALES & 50/50.....HAROLD AIKENHEAD
INTRO & THANK.....AMRITA BASU
REPORTER.....PETER LEIGH

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

MOTION

On behalf of Indigenous Relations (as part of Community Services), we move that RCCHP support the Rotary Club of Moh'Kinstiss Urban Indigenous by providing \$500 towards establishing their Club. Moved by Doug McDonald, seconded by Brad Sewall – Motion passed

On behalf of Indigenous Relations (as part of Community Services), we move that RCCHP provide an honorarium of \$500 to USAY (Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth) for hosting September 19 event for our club at their facility. Moved by Doug McDonald, seconded by Bill Skinner – Motion passed

HAPPY BUCKS

Steve Dunk is playing Beetlejuice at Heritage Park Ghoul's Night Out on October 22-25.

Don McArthur has an XL Rotary jacket for any club member who it will fit

Phil H noted that the Volcanes school has a new funding model that will allow for better oversight and tracking

Vanessa Brown has submitted her application for membership

Ted Wood asked everyone to vote in the referendum

CLOSING REMARKS

Respect, empowerment and civic engagement are daily practices. Today's message reinforces that when we invest in people and create spaces where women lead boldly, we multiply the impact of every act of service. Let us continue to show up, lift others and create lasting impact

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

ALIISA PAIVALAINEN.....SEPT 20
 BRAD WELLCOME.....SEPT 21
 BOB COVE.....SEPT 24
 BARBARA SKINNER.....SEPT 21
 SHEILA LEIGH.....SEPT 23

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES

JUDY COCHRAN (12YRS).....SEPT 26
 ALISSA PAIVALAINEN (12YRS).....SEPT 26