

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”



Volume 97, Number 01

4,731st Meeting

Friday, July 8, 2016



Your 2016-17 Rotary Executive—Back row: Secretary Bob Janes; Directors Wayne Anderson, Norm Myden, Charles Ramos, Moe Lessan and Henry Jiang. Front row: Treasurer Lynne Pankratz, Past President Lila Tanner, Director Susie Stephens, President Debbie Narver, Vice President Carey McIver and President-Elect Jane Currie.
—Cover Photo by Ian Williams

**Club Meeting Friday at 12:00 p.m.
at the Coast Bastion Inn**

CLUB OFFICERS 2016-2017

President ----- Debbie Narver
Vice President ----- Carey McIver
Secretary ----- Bob Janes
Treasurer ----- Lynne Pankratz
President Elect ----- Jane Currie
Immediate Past President ----- Lila Tanner



**Serving Our Community Since
May 1, 1920 - Charter Number 43**

DIRECTORS

Henry Jiang Susie Stephens Moe Lessan
Norm Myden Wayne Anderson Charles Ramos

President Rotary International

John F. Germ, Rotary Club of Chattanooga, Tenn., USA

District Governor

Joanne Croghan
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Assistant Governor

Bev Hilton
Nanaimo Oceanside

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Meeting Notes from June 24th, 2016

By John Shillabeer

For the last time in her presidential year **Lila Tanner** opened the meeting and we sang O Canada. **Wendy Pratt** gave the invocation expressing gratitude for the benefits of living in beautiful Nanaimo and for the opportunities to be of service through Rotary.

Introductions

Dave Connolly called for the introduction of visiting Rotarians and guests. **Norm Myden** introduced visiting Rotarians **Joseph, Senyo** and **Rose** from Ghana. **Donna Hais** introduced **Ken Hammer** from Nanaimo Daybreak Club. **Faye Laing** introduced her friend **Emma VanAcken** who is interested in the book sale, **Bob Wilson** introduced **Laura Beck** of the Errington Therapeutic Riding Association and **President Lila** introduced her friend **Gloria** from bridge and **Denise Wittkofski**, a prospective member.

Brent Barootes introduced his daughter **Brooklyn** who had just finished grade five. As it was Brooklyn's birthday the next day, we did not miss the opportunity to sing Happy Birthday Brooklyn. Later in the proceedings **Bob Wilson** divulged that it was "old timer" **Laura Beck's** birthday and the gang again exercised its lungs with a record setting raucous rendition of *Happy Birthday Laura*. This rendition disproved the long held belief that **Doug Cowling's** voice was essential for a truly awful Happy Birthday.

Announcements

Bob Wilson presented a cheque for \$500 on behalf of the Club to **Laura Beck** for the *Therapeutic Riding Association*. Laura responded with a short talk about the scope and effectiveness of the Association and presented us with a certificate of appreciation.



Kathy Smith spoke of her recent experience visiting the Correctional Centre for *Aboriginal Day*. Kathy, Lila, Wendy and Christine enjoyed a superb meal, traditional cooking, interaction with inmates and traditional dancing.

Dave Hammond reported on the *Centennial Project*. He distributed drawings of the current city planning ideas for Maffeo Sutton Park and described the area designated for Rotary's project. It is now time for the Centennial Committee to flesh out our site with specific ideas for the project.



New Member Proposal

Unless written objection is received by the Secretary within the mandatory seven (7) days, the following applicant will be invited to join the Rotary Club of Nanaimo:

DENISE WOTTKOFSKI
Communications Consultant
Proposed by: Lila Tanner



Sergeant-at-Arms

Sgt Wayne Anderson caught **Charles Ramos** (missing in action as greeter); **John Heisterman** for envying Donna Hais's shoes (!) and **Lila** for leaving it until this point in the meeting to introduce her guests. Wayne then caught the majority of members for neglecting to wear a Rotary pin.

Happy and Sad Bucks

Brent Stetar was happy that his daughter is moving on to High School.

Dave Hammond was happy to have recently presented two Rotary Scholarships to graduating students.

John Salem was happy to congratulate Lila for a great year as president.

Charles Ramos was both happy and sad as his daughter had just passed her driving test.

Egon Holzwarth was happy to have recently celebrated his fifty-third wedding anniversary and recounted that Senyo was a guest at the fiftieth anniversary.

Wayne Anderson was happy about the recent end-of-season bridge evening at the Heisterman's where **Dave Hammond** brought off the amazing feat of winning both the season's highest and lowest scores.

The Draw

Emma VanAcken won the table stakes and donated her winnings to the club. **Bob Janes** won the card draw, but only managed to select the three of spades. Close but no cigar for Bob and so the pot will continue to grow or another week.



Report from Ghana Rotarian Rotarians

By Kathy Smith

At our meeting today, we had **Senyo, Rose** and **Joseph** from Sunyani, Ghana. Our speaker was Joseph the founding president of the Sunyani East Rotary Club that was chartered in 2013. He has a BSc degree in Geotechnical engineering and currently works as a GIS consultant and coordinates land access for oil and gas projects. After being introduced by **Norm Myden**, Joseph commented that it is good to be black as no one can see you blush!

The topic of today's speech was: *Our gift to the World is serving Humanity above Ourselves*. Joseph has felt honoured to spend the last week in Nanaimo and is very appreciative of the support from the 5 clubs in Nanaimo for all the projects



All meeting photos were taken by Bob Janes with us trusty phone

in Sunyani over the past ten years. He loves Nanaimo but was dismayed when he went to a City Council meeting on Monday night at saw that at 7 pm the streets were empty. Sounds like Joseph likes to party!

The Sunyani East Rotary Club consists of 35 members with an average age of 33. It was Senyo who kept pushing for young professionals to come together to start this new club. They have strength in their youthful nature and take a simple approach to their sustainable projects. Their main goal is to have fun.

With the support of the Parksville AM Rotary Club, the Sunyani East club worked on the Wawasua Basic School Project. Previously, the children at the school had to carry their desks to and from school on a daily basis! In collaboration with the warden at the prison, which is located just behind the school, the Rotary Club had 110 desks made behind the walls. They paid the prisoners as part of a vocational training initiative. With the media present, the handing over of the furniture became a big celebration with prisoners being proud of all they had done and the students and parents thrilled at their new furniture. Each desk holds 2 students and so now 220 students can attend school and not have to walk miles carrying the furniture.

The warden of the prison just happens to be a member of the Sunyani East club. They have expanded the inmate empowerment program with several significant programs. The Rotarians financial support prisoners who are ready to write their school exams; they run a justice for all program as many inmates were not guilty of crimes but could not afford legal support; and the prisoners are learning skills such as carpentry, tailoring and shoe making. In a prison built for 250, there are now 900 prisoners. Health education and screening have become another critical piece of the puzzle. Quarterly fumigations result in better health, dental screening and dental education – along with the distribution of tooth brushes and tooth paste – are conducted by members of the club. The club is working hard on breaking the cycle of crime and providing livelihoods for ex convicts to prevent them from returning to jail.

Within the community, the club is also involved in Maternal and Child health initiatives. They have provided mosquito nets, immunizations, seminars on family planning and nutrition, as well as other services in maternal health education.

This is not all this small club has been doing. For many children, doing homework is not a possibility as there is no light once the sun goes down. So, 25 solar lamps, 5 com-

puters and 16 whiteboards have been supplied to another school in order to allow the students to be better prepared for their year-end exams. It is difficult for rural school students to match the knowledge and skills of students in the big cities who have access to more resources.

Joseph invited us to come on board and let us join hands to serve humanity! While here, the Ghanans have learned about some of the clubs various fundraising projects and so when they return home, they hope to implement some of these ideas. *Medasse (thank you)*



Ghana team with the coveted Rotary Pen.

Carey McIver, who has been to Ghana, thanked Joseph. She remembers on her first visit 10 years ago that seeds were planted and it is nice to hear how those seeds have grown over time. Carey presented each member of the



Ken Hammer, from the Daybreak Club, called all three guests up and presented them with a parting gift – artwork by local Rotarian **Derek Rickwood**.

Joseph also presented **President Lila** with a banner from his club.

ATTENDANCE

By Bob Janes

Attendance for June 24th was **53%**

We missed the following Rotarians

Ali, D. Anderson, Blinston, Cowling, Currie, Gerrand, L & Y Gosselin, Grice, Jiang, King, Knutson, Lessan, Lewis, Parsons, Raedler, Ryan, Samson, J. Smith, Tessier, Williams, Woodward, Woychuk, Zhang

Visiting Rotarians: Joseph Addai, Senyo Agvedra, Rose Donkor, Ken Hammer

Guests: Gloria Jorg, Laura Beck, Denise Wittkofski, Emma Van Ached, Brooklyn Barootes

Makeups: Wendy Pratt, Brent Stetar, Susie Stephens, Doug Cowling

Birthdays:

Bob Patrick, July 8th
Ross White, July 8th

Club Anniversaries:

John Marlow, 39 years on July 8th

DATES TO REMEMBER

Supper Club—coming in the Fall

Kitchen Party—starting in September

Theatre Night—November 24th

Family Christmas Breakfast— December 11th

Rotary Christmas Dinner— `December 15th

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS & MEMBER DUTIES

| MEETING DATE | July 8th, 2016 | July 15th, 2016 | July 22nd, 2016 |
|---------------|---|--|--|
| GREETERS | Wayne Anderson, Charles Ramos, Brenda Grice | Brent Barootes, Ellen Ross, Donna Hais | Wayne Anderson, Charles Ramos, Brenda Grice |
| CASHIER | Lila Tanner | Lila Tanner | Lila Tanner |
| SGT-AT-ARMS | John Heisterman | Bruce Samson | Brent Barootes |
| INVOCATION | Nattalie Tessier | Ross White | Ian Williams |
| HEAD TABLE | President Debbie, David Woodward, Omar Karim, Douglas Anderson, Bob Patrick, Ross White | President Debbie and Club Directors, Brent Barootes, Ellen Ross, Donna Hais, Norm Myden, Dave Connolly | Pres Debbie, DG Joanne Croghan, Charles Ramos, Brenda Grice, Wendy Pratt, Dave Hammond |
| INTRO GUESTS | Moe Lessan | Derek Lewis | Keith McFarlane |
| INTRO SPEAKER | Douglas Anderson | — | President Debbie |
| PROGRAM | VIU Masters' Competition <i>David Woodward & Omar Karim</i> | Club Communication Meeting <i>President Debbie and Club</i> | DISTRICT GOVERNOR VISIT <i>DG Joanne Croghan</i> |
| THANK SPEAKER | Wendy Pratt | — | Past President Lila |