

ROTARY CLUB OF NANAIMO

“C O G S”

Volume 96, Number 13

4,648th Meeting

Friday, September 19, 2014

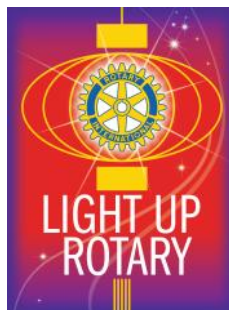


Our newest Rotarians gave their Classification Talks: [from the left] Eric Brand, Derek Lewis, President Bob, and Moe Lessan.
Photo by Ian Williams

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

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Immediate Past President Douglas Anderson



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

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 405, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5L3 — Web: <http://rotarynanaimo.org>

Meeting Notes from Sept. 12th

By Charles Ramos

President **Bob Wilson** began the meeting today and led off with the anthem. **Kathy Smith** gave an invocation which asked each member to recognize the people helping us through life. **Lila Tanner** had the honour of introducing guests and visiting Rotarians; there were no guests, but we were pleased to have **Honorary Rotarians Rudi Steinmetz** and **Bill Horman** joining us today.



President **Bob Wilson** announced that the last week has been busy with Rotary projects, including the wood staining at the *Nanaimo Hospice* last Saturday, in which many members spent hours

working. In particular, he recognized **Diane Salem** for her great efforts.

The President mentioned that a host family will be needed for our Rotary exchange student **Bas Bakker** from Christmas through March, hopefully in the Dover Secondary School catchment. Also, nominations for a District Governor are being accepted.

Bob Fenty reiterated the President's request for a host family. A monthly stipend of \$350 will be provided to the family, as well as a monthly payment of \$150 to the student for living expenses.



Susie Walker had to endure the club's singing of Happy Birthday as Friday was the date of her birth—but she wasn't telling which one.

CAR RALLYE CANCELLED

Due to the required logistics, donations from local providers and my own limited personal time the Rallye has been cancelled until next year [?] due to lack of interest from the Rotary clubs of Nanaimo.

—Richard Finnegan



Susan Gerrand reminded the club that the *Travellers Lodge* lunch is on the 17th at 11:45 a.m., and all volunteers are welcome.

Brenda Grice reminded

us that the *District Great Management Seminar* will be held on October 18th from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at VIU Campus.



Sgt-at-Arms Lila Tanner started by fining everyone at **Bill Horman's** table for the honour of having Bill join them today. She then moved around the room fining tables for various offences, and finished by

fining everyone who had not participated in last Saturday's *Hospice House* wood staining.

Sgt Lila then asked for happy and sad dollars. **Charles Ramos** gave happy and sad bucks to mention he was looking forward to a trip to the Chilcotin to finish out his leave of absence, and that he would be restarting work next week.



Douglas Anderson gave a story buck to relate a neighbour's house fire occurring just as he and Brenda were on their way to a ferry reservation. Next time Douglas, call the fire department after

leaving the driveway to avoid being blocked in by the responders!

Keith McFarlane gave a response buck to explain that **President Bob** has been using the same 'hair-washing' joke for 38 years now and it's getting a little old. Keith also mentioned something about envying what you don't have.



Bob Wilson responded that he will stop using the hair joke, and also gave



Kathy Smith paid a happy buck to recognize Janeane's efforts in organizing the fence painting at Hospice House

apology bucks for ribbing the Sergeant.

The table stakes were won by **Douglas Anderson** and **Eric Brand** won the chance to draw for the Ace but was not successful.



President Bob delivered a couple of anecdotes about public speaking relating to feet in the mouth, and in relation to one of the speaker's stories, mentioned that as marriage goes, he himself is "a good catch, but not a keeper".

Classification Talks:

Eric Brand, Derek Lewis and Moe Lessan

by Joyce Smith

Douglas Anderson introduced the speakers—the topic commonly called "Baby Talks", I personally was expecting someone to talk about Prenatal Care. However, this was an opportunity to learn about some of our most recent members. All three of our most recent members to the club spoke about varied and very colorful lives often involving living and working half way around the world in far more difficult lifestyles than we have here in Nanaimo.



Eric Brand was our first speaker. Eric is 26 years old and was born in Medicine Hat. He went to boarding school from grade 7 to 12 and to University of Alberta to start a degree in

Psychology. He left school to join the army and he was stationed in Afghanistan. Eric left the army on medical leave and on his return from his tour of duty started drinking heavily and ran into trouble and ended up in Edgewood.

Eric said on July 25, 2012 his life really began when he was discharged from Edgewood and began his road to recovery.

Eric owns his own medical support company—Tactical Medical Services, providing tactical medical services and private paramedics overseas. Eric met Ashley on January, 2013 and this summer he bought a 27 foot sail boat. He has worked as a healthcare administrator for St. John Ambulance and volunteered for the BC summer games, and worked on setting up members for Canada games among many other volunteer activities. Both he and Ashley are planning on joining the Marine Search and Rescue.



Derek Lewis's life was also influenced by the Military. Derek's dad grew up on a dairy farm in Nova Scotia and ended up joining the armed forces and was stationed in Comox where he met

Derek's mother. Derek was born in 1970 and when he was 3½ months his family moved to PEI. As he was growing up his family was stationed at eight different armed forces bases from one end of Canada to the other. In Cold Lake Alberta, Derek can remember going to school accompanied by armed security since it was during the Cold war. Derek graduated from high school in Comox. In 1990 he went to UBC to start a Science degree and ended up in BCIT in Financial Management. Derek has always been interested in construction—it is his passion currently he is working on tearing out his bathroom. When he was 26 years old he renovated

a condo in Kitsilano, Vancouver extensively—living with the whole house on stilts at one point in time and improving the value from \$400,000 to \$1 million dollars.

While he was in Vancouver, he began working at the Edelweiss Credit Union, drawn by the pay he advanced through the banking system and 12 years later he was still there. In 1995, he met his future wife Kim and ten years later he proposed to her after a vacation to Cuba. Derek had everyone laughing when he described his trials with conceiving his first child. His daughter was born in St. Paul's and his son was born in 2012. For Derek having kids and a family has been a life-changer for the better. He currently works at Coastal Community Credit Union as a Senior Business Relationship Manager. He has



interest in hockey, softball, golf, tennis, travel and wood-working.

Last but not least, our newest member to Rotary, **Moe Lesson.**

Moe you will have to excuse me if I got your life all jumbled up—the things that stuck in my mind are—you swallowed a frog, drank camel pee and that you are a "good catch but not a keeper". The rest is a blur but I will do my best.

Moe was born on April 10, 1968 in Tiran. He has one sister. His father was an accountant and after the 1978 revolution he went into business for himself. Moe remembers at age 5 learning about Cost Accounting from his father.

To avoid the army, he left Tiran through a human smuggling chain it took him 13 days of travel involving many modes of transportation including walking and camel to final arrive at Pakistan. During his trip he went 1½ days without water but finally ended up at a town by the Indian Ocean where he ended up in jail for a brief time. A year later he found another smuggler who could get him to either Canada or the US with false passports. He arrived in September, 1998 and in Nanaimo on September, 2006. In Canada he went to UBC and SFU and specialized in languages. Almost finished his studies he had to go back to Iran, it took him almost a year to get back. When he came back he went into business selling businesses and also doing accounting and tax consulting. In 1987 he became a realtor and later obtained his mortgage broker's license. His focus is as a broker for businesses and he loves it. He currently works for DTZ Nanaimo. Moe has been married four times—hence the term, "a good catch but not a keeper".



President Bob presented the coveted Rotary pens to all speakers.

ATTENDANCE

By Bob Janes

Attendance for Sept. 12th was **67%**

We missed these Rotarians

Blackmore, Borisenko, Coutu, Cowling, L & Y Gosselin, Hais, Hewitt, Knutsson, Myden, Narver, Patrick, Pratt, Ryan, A. Smith, Welch

Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: None

Make ups: W. Anderson, S. Walker,

S. Gerrand, D. Hammond

Birthdays: None to report

Spouse Birthdays: None to report

Anniversaries:

Douglas Anderson & Brenda Grice, 17 years, September 20th

John and Diane Salem, 40 years, September 20th

Jane & John Currie, 38 yrs, Sept 25th

Club Anniversaries:

Wayne Anderson, 10 yrs, Sept 24th

**District 5020
Conference
June 19 - 21**



Vancouver Island Conference Centre
NANAIMO, B.C.

WEEKLY CLUB PROGRAMS

Friday, September 19th

GREETERS	Barbara Blinston, John Salem, Gord Hubley
CASHIERS	John Shillabeer
SGT-AT-ARMS	John Heisterman
INVOCATION	Doug Cowling
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Charles Ramos, Mike Herold, Douglas Anderson, Barbara Blinston, John Salem, Gord Hubley
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Susie Walker
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	Mike Herold
PROGRAM	SAILING ADVENTURES <i>Charles Ramos</i>
THANK SPEAKER	Douglas Anderson

Friday, September 26th

GREETERS	Ed Borisenko, Bruce Samson, Bob Janes
CASHIERS	John Shillabeer
SGT-AT-ARMS	Joan Ryan
INVOCATION	Bob Fenty
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Rebecca Kirk, Alan Smith, Lila Tanner, Ed Borisenko, Bob Janes, John Shillabeer, Bruce Samson
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Sharon Welch
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	Alan Smith
PROGRAM	LITERACY: PROGRAM SUCCESS <i>Rebecca Kirk</i>
THANK SPEAKER	Lila Tanner

Friday, October 3rd

GREETERS	John Shillabeer, Charles Ramos, Bill King
CASHIERS	Eric Brand
SGT-AT-ARMS	Bruce Samson
INVOCATION	Richard Finnegan
HEAD TABLE	Pres Bob, Erin Lee, Debbie Narver, Lila Tanner, Kathy Smith, Bill King, Charles Ramos, John Shillabeer
INTRODUCE GUESTS	Ross White
INTRODUCE SPEAKER	Debbie Narver
PROGRAM	ROTARACT: Our Youth At Work <i>Erin Lee</i>
THANK SPEAKER	Kathy Smith

Rotary Committees at Work

Often committees meet following our regular meeting as well as during the week to discuss their respective projects. Following last week's meeting the Membership (top) and Book Committees (bottom) met.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 17 to 26—Rotary Fall Book Sale at Nanaimo North Town Centre. *We are in need of Quality Used Pocket Books.*

Oct 18—Rotary District Foundation/Grant Management Seminar, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. VIU Campus, Nanaimo. More info on website at www.rotary5020.org

June 19-21, 2015—Rotary District 5020 Conference, Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Nanaimo, BC



Winner of
District 5020
Best Bulletin
Awards

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