**MEETING NOTES**

REGULAR MEETING:   **January 7, 2025**

**Meeting Chair:  Odell Olson**

The Chair for this meeting called the meeting to order at 8:00am with a welcome to members and guests. We continued our opening traditions with the singing of *O Canada* and a land acknowledgement.

**Announcements/Updates:**

1. **Rotary Cares 2025**

We are winding up sales of Rotary Cares tickets for 2025 with about 15 tickets left to go. If you have not purchased your ticket yet please contact Lou at (780) 678-5135 to get one.

1. **Member satisfaction survey**

You will recall that last spring when we embarked on the pilot project to operate as one Rotary Camrose group we promised to evaluate the success of the revised structure after several months. You will be receiving a survey later this month asking for your feedback on the changes. We hope to get valuable feedback of how you see the benefits and drawbacks of the meeting schedule and joint operations.

**Guest Presentation – Rotary Youth Exchange student Jan Nestler:  My Home Country, Germany**

Jan gave interesting presentation about his home in Germany, his family and what his interests are.  Jan was born May 12, 2009, in Karlsruhe in SW Germany near the Rhine River.  The city was founded in 1715 by Margrave Karl Wilhelm.  All the streets radiate out from the castle.  Karlsruhe is noted for its marketplace and a large concert hall.  It is one the main judicial centres. The climate is relatively mild, not so much snow as Alberta.  Jan’s family home is about 30 minutes from the City Centre.

Jan’s mother is a teacher at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and his father also works there as a researcher. His brother was a Rotary Youth Exchange student to Ottawa last year.  Jan also has 2 younger sisters.  His school, Bismark Gymnasium was founded in 1586.  Jan loves animals and has 2 rabbits as pets at home.  His interests include volleyball, gymnastics, windsurfing and drama.  His family has a beach house on the North Sea and Jan loves hanging out at the beach.  Jan’s grandmother also lives with them.

**Happy Bucks**

Our members are grateful for many good things in their lives including:

* Trip to Vancouver Island
* Many people related stories about Christmas gatherings and holiday events
* Re-opening of Battle River Beer Company
* The snow has been great for the skiers!
* Olivia is now with a new host family in Mexico where she feels more comfortable

**Foundation Moment**

Rob shared the District Foundation Moment about Major Donors.  Rotarians who donate over $10,000 US are recognized by the Rotary Foundation as Major Donors.  They receive a crystal recognition piece and a special lapel pin or pendant. Rotary Camrose is proud to say that we have several Major Donors in our Club—they are quite modest, so names were not mentioned at the meeting.

**Next meeting** – Next Monday, Jan 13 at the Days Inn Salon A at 11:45. Zoom will start at 12:15.  The program for the meeting will be information about the Little Free Libraries Program and a hands-on activity of labelling books to be distributed. Bring any books you may have collected for the Libraries, especially children’s books.

 The meeting closed with the singing of the **4-Way Test**.

*Sincere thanks to Odell Olson for chairing this meeting, Morris Henderson for looking after Zoom and Alan Fielding for taking notes at the meeting.*

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