



SpinoFF

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Caroline DeWitt, President

July 7, 2020 Editor: Roy Miller

Program: "The RCWO Year Ahead 2020-21"

Intro:

As we start our first meeting of a new Rotary Year and our 13th online meeting, we formally welcome our new President, **Caroline DeWitt**.

Pres Caroline started the meeting at 12:39pm ringing the actual bell which **Robert Shaw-Wood** had retrieved from the St Elias Centre where we usually meet. **Pres Caroline** thanked all members who made comments regarding the silent rendition of our national anthem which, unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, none of the rest of us heard or saw.

Pres Caroline's Moment of Reflection acknowledged the courage and hard work of the front line workers.

President's Announcements:

Pres Caroline reiterated that members are strongly encouraged to donate their meeting fee to Rotary and/or a charity of their choosing.

Wilmer Pulido has become an associate member and is the first new member of this Rotary year.

There were two birthdays this week: **Chris Wanna** 10 July and **Graeme Fraser** 13 July.

Pres Caroline invited them to share with the Club what they had planned for their special days. **Chris** will be social distancing in his backyard with some wine but **Graeme** declined to share his plans.

Pres Caroline reminded all members that it was time again to pay our Rotary dues. See the message from **Linda Flynn**.

There were no further announcements

Presentation: RCWO- Rotary 2020-21, the year ahead.

Pres Caroline started by introducing the RCWO 2020-2021 Board members:

Pardeep Ahluwalia, Past President,

Chris Wanna President Elect 2021-22 ,

Graeme Fraser President Nominee 2022-23,

Directors: **Linda Flynn**, **Dave Morton**, **Robert Shaw-Wood** **Henry Akanko** and **Larry Chop**

She then told us that, after reading responses from members to her PE Questionnaire, the Board determined that it was imperative that the club retain 3 fund-raising activities important to members: Cash Calendar, Mums for Thanksgiving, and Music for Humanity. The committees for these initiatives will be reconstituted and prepare for activities in calendar 2021.

Membership has declined somewhat with COVID-19 and RCWO meetings moving to a digital platform. As of June 30 RCWO, lost 12 members and gained 6 new members. RCWO should also focus on attracting the younger generation more awareness of its priorities such as the environment on which she spoke a bit about the Rotary environment focused ESRA (see. <https://www.esrag.org/>) We need speakers who uplift our collective spirits. She challenged us to remember the spark that brought us to Rotary. At the 2020 RI Convention in Honolulu Rotarians learned about the 'Aloha Spirit' which means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth and caring with no expectation of anything in return. **President Caroline** called on RCWO to remember the Aloha spirit as we consider

our way forward and concluded by reminding us that as Rotarians we are stronger together. We can adapt and learn in this new virtual environment

At **President Caroline's** call for questions and ideas **Ron Doll** suggested that RCWO should connect with Ottawa Riverkeeper to expand RCWO environmental initiatives (e.g. cleaning shores), **Ron Doll** asked **Hadi Mortada** that this should also be at the District level. **Ron Doll** then mentioned that RCWO should interact with Toastmasters for Club members to see their skills. We could even have them as a speaker at one of our meetings. Possibly RCWO could arrange a workshop with Toastmasters, perhaps at the District level. **Andrew Young** inquired about the image of the ESRAAG web site **Pres Caroline** used in her presentation. He was interested because the bricks in the image reminded him of the sewage system in Venice.

Fred Christie wanted clarification whether RCWO was doing the Cash Calendar this Rotary year since the calendar will require large and small advertisers. **Pres Caroline** reiterated that there will be no Cash Calendar nor Mums for Thanksgiving this calendar year but RCWO will resume these initiatives in 2021. Afterwards, she thanked **Robert Shaw Wood** for retrieving the bell from the hall.

Bill Rolph suggested that since most of the club was of a senior age that it would be beneficial to have some one as a speaker talk about death and dying. (**Bill** volunteers for a hospice.) However due to the present climate of COVID-19 and the Club being forced to use a virtual platform for the meetings, quite a few of the members voiced that they did not need any more negative information thrust upon them. **Ron Doll** stated that these meetings are not supposed to be grief counseling sessions **Graeme Fraser** suggested that if members are interested in this topic that they can participate in a separate meeting.

Linda Flynn challenged members to show off their gardening skills and display their garden virtually.

Chris Wanna thanked **Pres Caroline** for a great presentation and she responded by inviting **Chris** to be a speaker and share his experience of being member of Shriners and RCWO. **Pres Caroline's** entire presentation is available on request

Happy Dollars:

Pres Caroline invited all to pledge **Happy Dollars** while reminding people to keep track of their pledges to be paid when we get together again

Roy Miller donated \$25 in honour of **Pres Caroline's** first meeting as president.

Susan Dienes practiced social distancing while spending time with her grandchildren

Dave Morton will be spending 3 days at Algonquin Park to celebrate his lady's 65th birthday

Ken Murray looked forward to seeing the names of his buyers in the hopefully soon to be published list of Cash Calendar winners

Brett Booking said the Cash Calendar list was being finalized and the cheques would soon be sent

Conclusion:

Pres Caroline assured us she is listening to what Club members are saying and would be guided accordingly

She ended the meeting by reminding us that Ottawa Public Health encourages us to be COVID Wise as we enter the COVID Phase 2 and to go about our daily activities protecting ourselves and others. There will be many people and communities in need of our help; we will need to be strong to provide support. We are People of Action! And we are proud of the difference we can, do and will make!

Cash Calendar:

Brett Brooking is doing the finishing touches and the winners will be announced soon.

Tuesday, 14 July 2020 12:30pm

Dr Peg Herbert: *COVID-19 pivoting on-a-dime in rural Africa*

Intro: **Gaye Moffett**

Thanks **Larry Chop**

Chair: President **Caroline DeWitt**

Editor: **Don Butler**

Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906?pwd=aFNZdnpGRUN3VW9ZNkFidzdLM2JyZz09>

See **President Caroline** message of July 12 for log-in details