



Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Caroline DeWitt, President

October 6, 2020 Editor: Don Butler
Online meeting

Program: Jennie Lewis, Regional Chapter Chair, Environmental Sustainable Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

Meeting Begins:

After some socializing **President Caroline DeWitt** rang the bell at 12:33 for our 14th meeting of the Rotary year and 25th on-line. She then reflected a bit on the advent of Fall with the colour and the falling leaves and then, scene set, we heard our national anthem sung as a virtual choir by the Ottawa Bach Choir.

Toastmaster

Ron Doll told us of an article in *the Rotarian* on the Rotary annual photo contest. He has entered this contest from time to time and done well. The judging of the contest provides good lessons on how to take great shots (see <https://www.rotary.org/en/winners-2020-rotarian-magazine-photo-contest>) We toasted the Rotary magazine photo contest.

Invocation:

Jen Soucy called on us to give thanks for those who struggle against disease, who advance science, and the arts and fight for justice and all those who strive to better our world.

Guests:

President Caroline then announced our guests: Jennie Lewis our speaker, Tom Burpee and welcome again to Mostafa Noury, President of RC Sodic West in Egypt.

Birthdays:

Club best wishes to **PP Pardeep Ahluwalia**, Oct 10 and **Alan Bowles** Oct 11.

President's Announcements:

1: Club received Rotary International (RI) Citation for performance. **PP Pardeep** added that we had achieved the goals we had set in connecting to the world

2: Congratulations to **D.G. Hadi Mortada** whose givings to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) had passed the US\$1000 mark and thus earned him his 4th Paul Harris Fellowship (PHF).

3: Showed photos from **Jim Maxwell** of the two carved giraffes given to the Club via **Bea Osome** by Madzuu Primary School in western Kenya in thanks for our contribution to building a well there

4: Adventure in High Tech- Club is looking for two students to participate; see RC Nepean Kanata website. Contacts Ron Doll or Jill Yarnell by Oct 9.

5: October 24 is World Polio Day. WHO advises that wild cases only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Donate.

6: District Conference Oct 16-18 will be online. Register now and choose break-out sessions. Participation is free but still wanted are items for online auction and sponsorships

NOTE See <https://www.rotary7040.com/> for info on End Polio Variety Benefit Oct 24 and for DisCon 2020 promos

7: Fundraisers Mums for Thanksgiving, Cash Calendar and Music for Humanity will be back in 2021.

8: Succession planning: A chair for the 2021 Mums committee and a treasurer to take over July 1 2021 are still being sought.

9: Meeting fee amounts: Remember to donate to Rotary, Food Banks and other charities.

10: **DG Hadi** sends us a message from TRF. What is a Rotary Foundation Benefactor? A Rotary Foundation Benefactor is a person who has notified The Rotary Foundation that they have made provisions in their final estate plans to Rotary for US\$1,000 or more, or who has made an outright gift of US\$1,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation's Endowment. This earns the donor recognition as a TRF Benefactor with a certificate and insignia to be worn with Rotary or PHF pins. Benefactors are listed in the Benefactor Report and identified in the Club Recognition Summary. There are over 100,000 TRF Benefactors world-wide. "Will you join them by making a gift of at least \$1,000 to Rotary's Endowment or by leaving that amount to TRF Endowment in your estate? (**President Caroline** subsequently asked that we add "Clubs with 100% member support of Rotary's Endowment are eligible to request a Rotary's Promise Club electronic certificate".)

NOTE Benefactor recognition is different from a Paul Harris Fellowship which is earned by donations to TRF Program Fund, End Polio and/or contributions to TRF Grants.

Presentation: Jennie Lewis on ESRAG

President Caroline introduced Jennie Lewis telling us that she joined the Rotary family in 2002 when she accepted an Ambassadorial Scholarship to study in England. After her time in the UK, she moved to NYC and joined the newly formed Rotary Club of Wall Street as a charter member in 2010. She served on the club's Board of Directors for eight years, and as Club President in 2016-17. Paul Harris Fellow Jennie is a past Alternate Representative of Rotary at the United Nations \.

Today Jennie is a member of the Rotary Club of Metro NYC and the Chair of the Eastern North America Regional Chapter of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG).

Professionally, Jennie is a strategist focused on customer experience research for Airship, the marketing communications company. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking and training animals.

Jennie walked us through the genesis of ESRAG starting with the creation by then RI President Paolo V.C. Costa in 1991 of the Preserve Planet Earth subcommittee. Support for environmental sustainability grew and continued through the formation of ESRAG in 2017 to the adoption by RI of Environment as a seventh area of focus in 2019. ESRAG's mandate is to empower Rotarians to act to sustain the environment. It advocates and assists clubs and individuals and provides information. A good summary can be found at <https://www.esrag.org/welcome-esrag>. ESRAG is not part of RI but works with it and adheres to its policies and principles. ESRAG is organized into 12 regions worldwide. In Jennie's Eastern North American Region 48 districts are represented in ESRAG and Jennie would like to see 80. She works to encourage more clubs to have environmental committees, districts to have district committees and encourage further cooperation among groups.

Jennie gave us some examples of environmental project ideas such as setting a challenge for each month (e.g. no organic waste for a month) or an eco-challenge calendar.

In the USA ESRAG is working with Tradewater to collect FREON and other CFCs for destruction by Tradewater and it is hoped to expand this cooperation to other countries.

ESRAG is also working on 'Drawdown' a campaign to reach the point where greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to decline. Projects for this include encouraging car pooling, composting etc.

In some places satellite Eco Clubs are set up separate from but cooperating with Rotary clubs to support environmental sustainment, Satellites do not need a charter and can include non-Rotarians. They are 'cause-based' and as such may attract members who might then join Rotary.

DG Hadi Mortada at this point commented on how he liked what had been hearing and called for questions.

President Caroline and Jennie discussed unofficial partnerships between ESRAG and other groups, Answering **Graeme Fraser** Jennie undertook to find out what happened to solar panels when their useful life was over. **Jim Maxwell** on Rotary environmental partnership with governments was told that in the Caribbean there were beach clean up partnerships. **Jim** recalled the NGO partnerships with governments in the early to mid 20th century to rehabilitate the prairies and the marshes in the Maritimes. There is now less of this which might leave an opening for for ESRAG. **DG Hadi** thanked our speaker noting we had learned a lot and hoped that this ESRAG region might soon grow to cover 80 districts and made the usual donation to End Polio to recognize Jennie's virtual visit.

Happy Dollars:

DG Hadi was happy we were close to the District Conference and urged us to register. He also wished **PP Pardeep** and **Alan Bowles** the best for their birthdays

PP Pardeep Thanked for the birthday wishes and showed us a picture of the 'all-terrain walker' his son said he would give him.

Ken Murray says **Bill Morris**, now living at the Courtyards in Kanata, is reported by son Mike to be doing well and would welcome phone calls

Nigel Lever urged us to support our restaurants hard hit by Covid

Bea Osome, through **Jim Maxwell's** phone, thanked **Jim** and **Brett Brooking** for their help with the video on the Madzoo school well project

Carol Bell Thompson also advocated support to restaurants and recommended Chances Are (in mall Baseline and Woodroffe), Milestones (locations near Ikea and in Kanata) and Brew Table (Moodie and Robertson)

Close

President Caroline told us that at next meeting, Oct 13, **DG Hadi** would speak to the Club and sketch out the goals for this Rotary year whose achievement might earn us another RI Citation She then reminded us that Rotarians are people of action. We should recall the spark that led us to join Rotary and perhaps strike it with a friend by inviting them to sit in on a meeting. Adjournment bell at 1:36.

After the bell **Fred Christie**, Jennie, **DG Hadi** and **President Caroline** exchanged comments on several environment related matters. Jennie commented that it would be good to get more clubs cooperating on support for environmental sustainability particularly if they were already active as this could lay the groundwork for a project eligible for a Global Grant

Tuesday, 13 October 2020 12:30pm

District Governor Hadi Mortada: Plans for this Rotary year and updates on key areas of activity for Rotary Clubs

Intro: **Caroline DeWitt** Thanks: **Chris Wanna**

Editor: **Rich Fisher**

Toastmaster: **Doreen Ide.** Invocation: **Frank Cranton**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906>
See **President Caroline** message Oct 11 for log-in details