



# Spinofff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA  
Caroline DeWitt, President

**November 3, 2020 Editor: Don Butler**  
*Online meeting*

**Program: Alessia Achihaei and Arine Karapetyan: on attending Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

**Meeting video** at <https://youtu.be/rEzO-dotVXU>

## We Start

**President Caroline DeWitt** welcomed us to the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rotary year and 29<sup>th</sup> online. After noting that November reminds us that it was the ninth month in the Roman calendar and commenting on an Anglo-Saxon name for the month, she ran a video of Canadian scenes accompanied by O Canada played by the Band of the Ceremonial Guard of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The **Invocation** written by **Bill Rolph** was read by **Graeme Fraser**. It called on us to recognize and remember front line health workers, those working with the homeless and those who have lost loved ones to disease.

**Toastmaster Norm Thomas** recalled that when he was 7 his watch would stop after a few minutes on his wrist **Norm's** grandfather had the same problem with watches but could find water by dowsing We don't know if either fixed their watch problem, but **Norm** regrets not being able to dowse. Let's toast dowsing.

**President Caroline** welcomed **guests** Alessia Achihaei and Arine Karapetyan, today's speakers; Trish Buller and Susan Dalati to be inducted today as Club members; Keith Nixon, guest of **DG Hadi Mortada**; Rotarian Anna Van Adrichem Rochon and Anna Bevilacqua here with Susan Dalati

## Announcements

**President Caroline** noted that November is Rotary Foundation Month (TRF) and reminded us of **DG Hadi's** challenge to "round" a \$20.20 donation up to \$25 to TRF's End Polio where it will be matched with \$50 from the Gates Foundation. These donations can also be in memoriam.

- For Remembrance Day this year the Club will donate the cost of a wreath to the Bells Corners Legion. Many poppy themed items are available at [poppystore.ca](http://poppystore.ca). [Warmuseum.ca /boutique/](http://Warmuseum.ca/boutique/) also has appropriate items.
- The Orleans RC Can-a-Day challenge to accumulate 30 cans of food for a Food Bank runs all this month and drivers will be organized to pick up and deliver the cans early December..
- Remember to donate meeting fees to Rotary funds and/or other charities of our choice.
- A reminder again that our three main fundraisers- Mums for Thanksgiving, Cash Calendar, and Music for Humanity- will be back in 2021. Why the repeated reminders? PPs are 'nagging' **President Caroline** to do this.

## Attending Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Event

**Jill Yarnell** took the floor to introduce our two speakers, participants in the last RYLA event. Arine Karapetyan is at Woodroffe HS, speaks Armenian, Russian, English and is learning other languages. She is involved in several youth activities including Junior Achievement and now RYLA. Alessia Achihaei, daughter of members **Eugen** and **Luana**, speaks Romanian, English and French and studies at Lycée Claudel. She hopes to study law and possibly have a career in international relations.

Arine and Alessia spoke alternately to the slide presentation. RYLA started in 1971 and is organized locally by Rotary Clubs around the world. Its purpose is to encourage interaction by learning and working together and learning leadership and good citizenship and the ideals of Rotary service. In previous years the participants would assemble in Kingston, be addressed by senior officials and other speakers visit a museum, have a French-Canadian dinner, put on a talent show and finish with a dance party. In 2020 they were addressed by two young leaders and by Sunjay Nath, an award winning speaker on motivation and life strategies. From these they learned the importance of teamwork, evaluating situations for themselves and making their own decisions. In online group work often with case studies they learned from their peers and better identified their own strengths and weaknesses. Although their talent show was online, they still enjoyed doing it with the other participants. At the end they were organized into groups and asked to develop an idea or product useful in dealing with Covid. Arine and Alessia's group decided to challenge young persons anywhere to show they are unstoppable with video showing their skills and thus boost morale. Each group received \$200 to realize their project or donate to charity

The girls said they had learned about giving back, event planning and were now in contact with peers in many parts of Canada and the USA. They also learned the value of seizing opportunities that present themselves. Take chances.

They then summarized how RYLA is organized and paid for and thanked all those making RYLA happen. They look forward to future Rotary activities.

**PP Pardeep Ahluwalia** thanked our speakers noting that their description of the event helped us see its value. He invited questions

Answering **Ron Doll** on case studies, Narine said that all the groups had come up with different answers to the same story and Alessia had enjoyed working with other people. To **Bob Harrison** Narine answered that she had not yet decided on a career while Alessia confirmed she was thinking of international relations. **Susan Diening** was told that participants were not only from Ontario and Quebec but also other parts of Canada. **Jen Ahde** and **PP Pardeep** suggested that the two consider student exchanges abroad. **PP Pardeep** then thanked them again

### **Happy Dollars**

**Josh Gray** agreed to collect.

**Alan Bowles** started with greetings from former member Navin Parek. Navin was joining a Toronto RC.

**PP Pardeep** was happy that the Polio benefit concert was still live and that he had prepared a list of proposed officers for 2021-22 which he would present at the next meeting.

**Frank Cranton** told us the Rotary International would have its first woman president in 2022-23: Jennifer Jones of RC Windsor-Roseland, Ontario

**Bill Rolph's** computer had been hacked and it was not fun having to adjust financial records etc.

**DG Hadi** had spoken to ex- member Joseph Redhead who was recovering from a health challenge and sends thanks for the get-well card from the club. He then asked how much money had been collected by the End Polio concert.

**Graeme Fraser** said it was hard to know exactly but the concert raised over \$5000.

**DG Hadi** then answered **Ron Doll** on the help-Beirut project, RC Cornwall Sunrise had replaced RCWO as the international partner (**Hadi** could not say why) and \$10,000 had been collected on the way to the US\$ 18,000.

**Girija Dube** was impressed by today's speakers on RYLA and would enquire more about their 'show unstoppable' project.

**Ron Doll** was happy to be in Canada on the USA election day.

**Fred Christie** in Pennsylvania agreed it was "a learning experience"

### **New member induction**

**President Caroline** said she had met Susan Dalati a few months ago. Susan had been a senior federal official and had achieved a lot in the Toastmasters organization. Susan, like Caroline, sees considerable benefits from closer cooperation between Rotary and Toastmasters.

**Jem Ahde** told us she and Trish Buller were both from Sault Ste Marie. Trish has managed power projects in Ontario, an airport in Peru and is working on Ottawa's LRT.

**Graeme Fraser** reviewed what Rotary expects of its new members. **Trish Buller** had been assigned the classification of Construction Management and would join the Community Service and International Service Committees. **Jen Ahde** would be her mentor. **Susan Dalati** would be assigned the Government Affairs classification and join the Community Service, Membership and New Directions Committees. **Linda Flynn** would be her mentor. We applauded in welcome to the two new members.

### **We end**

**President Caroline** thanked those involved in making the meeting possible and closed with the video 'Breaking of the Sword' in preparation for Remembrance Day

**Tuesday, 10 November October 2020 12:30pm**

Remembrance Day Program

Chair **Frank Cranton**

**Dr Merv Letts: "Peacekeeping"**

Intro and Thanks: **Andrew Young**

Editor: **Rob Shaw Wood**

Toastmaster: **Frank Cranton** Invocation: **Caroline DeWitt**

Meeting at Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82444180906>

See **President Caroline** message Nov 8 for log-in details

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