



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon, Virtual Meeting

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AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Happy Birthday

Sep 3: Dave Rempel
Sep 4: Doris Gagel

Happy Anniversary

Sep 2: Debbie & Fraser MacRae

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Aug 31: Max Weselowski
InnerVisions and Hannah House – Recovery houses in Maple Ridge and Coquitlam

Sep 7: Dr. Baker
Treating Addictions

Sep 14: John Mikulik
The South Pole

OUR CLUB LAST WEEK'S MEETING:

President **Patrick Dobbyn** presided.

Guests:

Alan Stjerngaard
Ron Langley
Adam Knipsel

Speaker: Christopher Thompson - Youth Exchange



Speaking to us via Zoom all the way from Johannesburg, South Africa (9:10 pm their time) was **Christopher Thompson** in Rotary District 9400. Chris was a member of the Rotary club which Adrienne Dale joined in South Africa, and he spoke to us on the subject of youth exchange. He was actively involved in the youth exchange program for over 20 years, taking many students into his

home. Rotary District 9400 encompasses three countries in addition to South Africa, namely, Botswana, Swaziland, and Mozambique, which presents its own challenges. Chris observed that as a result of the COVID pandemic clubs have got used to the technology of the Internet, and that some clubs have gained members as a result because it allows persons who might not otherwise be able to attend meetings to do so through Zoom.

Chris gave us a brief history of the youth exchange program. The first recorded youth exchange was done in 1927 in Denmark. It was a short exchange of about two weeks during school holidays and was a one-to-one exchange (one family to one family) within the country. By 1958 it had become a serious program, where, in the USA, it had grown to a long-term exchange of one year between different countries, but with the outgoing student

staying with the family of the incoming student and vice versa. Australia was heavily involved in the second world war in the fight with Japan, and bad feelings still ran high with many Australians. Rotarians in Australia felt they could “mend fences” and make a difference by having Rotary exchange students between the two countries. By 1972 Rotary International decided it was time to formalize the exchange student program and recognize it as an educational program where high school students (young people between the ages of 15 and 18) could go if they felt they could make a difference in the world.

While it became a formalized program within Rotary International with a Chairman of the program in each District, the success of the program falls upon the individual clubs. Most of the cost is paid for by the family whose child is outgoing, including the airplane flights, cost of insurance, etc. Because the parents pay for the program, it is open to any child whether or not their parents are Rotarians. The individual clubs may also provide some funds. It is no longer an exchange of family to family, as the outgoing and incoming students may be from different countries. It is a difficult program because it requires lots of planning.

Chris became involved in the Student Exchange Program in the 1990s, and the program grew there, where up to 100 students were leaving from South Africa per year. Because of safety concerns in South Africa, parents of the incoming students were concerned about their safety, but the Rotarian families who looked after them assured them they would be Safe. Incoming students often had problems adjusting because the schools in South Africa were strict in discipline, did not allow long hair, required school uniforms, and had strict rules including home work being done on time. But incoming students adjusted. Chris stated that host families in South Africa learned a lot from the students who asked a lot of questions about the host family's country, resulting in a learning curve for the hosts.

The average age of members of Rotary clubs in South Africa has increased and it has become harder to find host families with teenage children, and older Rotarians aren't so keen on having teenage students in their home that they have to look after. The program has evolved so that exchange students now stay with more than one family, and it is the responsibility of the outgoing family to find a host family or families for their child to stay with. In about the year 2000, Rotary International added as its fifth avenue of service "New Generations" which encompasses RYLA, Interact, Rotaract and Youth Exchange, and introduced the requirement that each District have stricter rules, and made sure that every person who served as a host family would have to be screened for clearance as suitable candidates.

Chris also advised us of some of their club's projects, including the Lego Foundation (which provides Lego blocks as a teaching tool in poor townships), the running of robotic clubs in schools, and the establishment of soccer leagues in townships where they now get up to 300 children participating in the program with Rotary supplying nutritious food to the players.

Happy and Sad dollars

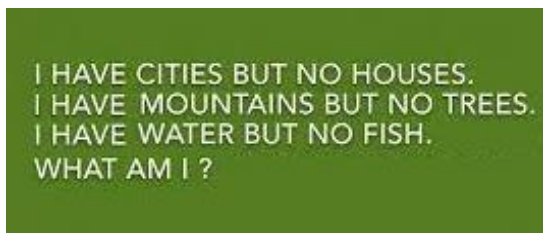
Eric - who has acted as a host family.

Libby - thankful for the great job our treasurer Walter does for us.

Sharon - who happily attended the 100th birthday of an aunt in Prince George, but was saddened to see the devastation caused by the forest fire destruction and landslides along the way.

Adrienne - was one of the prize winners of the community foundation raffle.

Fine Master Deborah extracted a dollar from everyone who did not know the answer to the following riddle:



The answer: a map.

Ron Langley donated a cheque in the amount of \$575 to the Starfish Pack Program.

Announcements:

Al Sterngaard reminded us that Rotarians, as upstanding citizens, are expected to comply with all of the COVID rules and restrictions including wearing masks when they come to in-person meetings, and to only attend in person meetings if you have received both vaccinations. [If you cannot comply or Zoom in on your meetings, then, like the guy in the image below, stay put.]



Shelter BOX :

Members willing to donate to the cost of purchasing a Shelter Box should contact President Patrick as soon as possible.



Today's Quote:



Submitted by Laurie Anderson