



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Happy Birthday

Jan 18: Raj Talasi

Happy Anniversary

Upcoming Speakers:

Jan 14: Elaine Yong B.C. Transplant	Jan 21: Wendy Mehat RCMP Superintendent	Jan 28: Leslie Norman Curator at the Pitt Meadows Museum
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I always walk into meetings at my home club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, with a smile on my face.

A few years ago, someone arrived late. Instead of scolding the person, we cheered. Since then, we've made it a tradition to applaud all members when they arrive for meetings. It's tough not to smile with a greeting like that.

There's nothing more powerful for engaging and retaining members than a club that's vibrant, welcoming, and - yes - fun.

Think back to what drew you to Rotary. Chances are, it wasn't just the service projects or professional networking. It was the people — the friendships, the shared laughter, and the joy of working toward a common purpose. That's what keeps us coming back.

If you're looking for that sense of joy in your meetings, don't be afraid to ask yourself and your fellow members some tough questions. If you were a prospective member, would you join your current club? It's a powerful question but don't stop there.

Do members of your club feel that they belong? Are your meetings fun? If not, what can you do about it together?

At your next meeting or event, try something new to bring out a few extra smiles. It's the simple things that create lasting bonds and make clubs simply irresistible.

Here's one example of a club moving in the right direction. The Rotary Club of Fukushima, Japan, has been combining environmental responsibility with community fun since 2021. In Japan, people have made picking up trash into a sport known as SpoGomi, and every year the club hosts a game.

This year, more than 400 participants cheered each other on while they came together to improve their community.

This event is an excellent example of how Rotary clubs can have fun, make a difference, and raise awareness for broader global challenges all at the same time. And the inclusive, family-friendly format allows people of all ages to participate.

When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our clubs strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

Retention and culture go hand in hand. The healthier our club culture, the more likely members are to stay. *Rotary* magazine is an outstanding resource for inspiration on how to enhance our club culture and deepen member engagement. I encourage you to explore the stories and strategies in these pages, drawing from other clubs' successes to find ideas that work for you.

Together, we can create a more engaged, enjoyable, and inclusive Rotary that every member can feel proud to be part of. Let's continue with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, living *The Magic of Rotary*.

Stephanie A. Urchick

RI President 2024-25

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Laurie Anderson presided.

There was no speaker at today's meeting due to illness of the presenter, so we enjoyed socializing together, taking turns talking about how we spent the Christmas holidays.

It was **Sharon and Ron's** anniversary on January 4, and will be **Matt's** birthday on January 13. Best wishes to you all from your Rotary family.

Club Announcements

The Club Rotary meetings on January 21 and January 28 will be held at La Trattoria Restaurant.

ALL members are encouraged (no, urged!) to attend so that all members can have an informed opinion about moving our meetings to that location.

(Matt is the only one with an excuse for not attending!)

We will have great speakers on those two dates.

On January 21, we will hear **Wendy Mehat**, who served as the Officer-in-Charge of the Maple Ridge RCMP Detachment for the past four years.

On January 28, our speaker will be **Leslie Norman**, who is the curator of the Pitt Meadows Museum. She will give us an interesting talk on the history of Pitt Meadows. Leslie has been the Curator at the Pitt Meadows Museum and Archives since late 1995. During that time, the Museum has grown from a few rooms in an old ranch style house to two heritage buildings on Harris Road.

Today's Quotes:

