

Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

[Happy Birthday](#)

[Happy Anniversary](#)

Upcoming Speakers:

Jan. 06	Jan. 13	Jan. 20 Rachel Tan Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley
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RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



More than job training

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.

This is what Rotary's Vocational Service Month celebrates each January — the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn't just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.

The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn't be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a non-profit offering counselling and support services alongside vocational training.

That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world's children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity.

The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support.

But support doesn't mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary's values creates lasting change. The question isn't whether you have something to offer, it's how you'll use your skills to serve.

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.

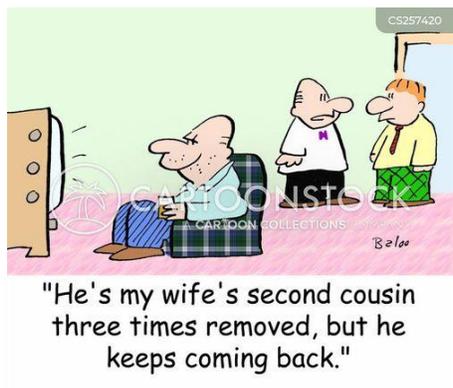
Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Alex Pope** presided.

Guest

Annan Dunbar,
Alex's second cousin (but not yet even 'once removed').



The following is ChatGPT's version of our special post-Christmas Rotary meeting:

The meeting opened with a spirited, slightly improvised rendition of O Canada, followed by a light-hearted scramble over who would deliver the invocation, but Mark Forster (who didn't know that he had been tagged for the job) agreed to deliver the invocation extemporaneously. His message focused on gratitude for family and friends at this time of year, and compassion for those less fortunate, especially amid troubling world events and recent floods affecting fellow Rotarians and neighbours. The hope was expressed that the coming year would bring improvement and healing.

Next came introductions, including a special guest from the Dunbar area, cheerfully described as a cousin—possibly second, possibly not, depending on whose version you believe. There were no cheque presentations, but upcoming celebrations were noted, including Sharon and Ron's anniversary on January 4th - 22 years, earning enthusiastic applause and a few "wow's".

The highlight of the meeting was a Christmas-New-Year trivia challenge hosted by Susan Pynn. Phones were strictly forbidden, no AI allowed, and prizes were promised (though not revealed, adding to the suspense). Participants were assured this was an individual competition—news that caused mild panic and negotiation at the tables. An extra bonus question, worth five points and omitted from the printed sheet, was dramatically announced to further raise the stakes; the question was: "How many pairs of Fluevog shoes does Susan own (or at least own up to)?"



Papers and pens were distributed amid jokes, confusion, and requests for reading glasses. The questions were delightfully random, prompting laughter, disbelief, and plenty of second-guessing. Time limits were loose, encouragement plentiful and competitive spirit strong. Before officially starting, the room checked in on Christmas celebrations, confirming that most had a good holiday—even if a few couldn't quite remember the details.

Overall, the meeting blended reflection, camaraderie, and cheerful chaos, ending with trivia, laughter, and the promise of prizes—exactly as a Rotary gathering should.

Happy and Sad Dollars

Libby Nelson has the keys to her new place and will soon be moving to Vancouver. She is very happy that Alex volunteered to Chair the Duck Race Committee for the 2026 Duck Race, including organizing the Zoom links for the Committee meetings; but sad about the fact that her dishwasher decided to break down Christmas Day, and she is therefore still catching up on finishing cleaning the dishes!

Lynda Lawrence is sad to hear the news of Rotarian Dan Gallant's passing, after a very tragic fall in his garage, just before Christmas. Dan was a member of the Port Moody Club for many years and initiated the "Rotary World Help" organization (in Districts 5050 and 5040). Dan presented many years ago at our Club regarding this fantastic organization.

Yvonne Berrisford is also very sad to hear about Dan's passing. (Yvonne & Andy were members of the Port Moody Club for about seven years and know Dan very well.) She is also happy that the South African Club in George Town has now reached its fundraising goal, and is therefore now able to apply for their Global Grant. (Our Club is donating \$1,000 towards it.)

[Note: **Rotarian Dan Gallant** is often highlighted for his significant contributions, including his work with Rotary World Help organization where he served as Warehouse Manager and for his dedication to various community initiatives.]



Susan Pynn went to the "Christmas with Johnny Reid" show on December 21, 2025, and said the show was fabulous!

Walter Volpatti was Happy to let everyone know that our gaming grant application was approved for \$45,000.

Ineke Boekhorst was very happy to have gone to a Pink Floyd concert/video show, a celebration the 50th anniversary of the "Dark Side of the Moon" (a Christmas gift from son), and said it was an awesome show.

Mark Forster had cataract surgery following which he experienced very high eye pressure. Luckily, the pressure was down by the time he saw his eye doctor.....all is well!

Laurie Anderson is just happy to be a Rotarian (most of his friends are Rotarians).

Sharon is happy that her tree is down and all decorations cleaned away! Her "family tradition" is that you can only have a Christmas tree in the house ONCE per year. Therefore, all has to be cleaned up BEFORE New Years Day. (Sharon didn't say if that was Ron's tradition, or her own!)



(By the way, Sharon and Ron's 22nd anniversary is on Jan. 4, 2026.)

President's Closing Quote



Santa keeps track of who is naughty and nice all year in order to decide who gets the best presents for Christmas. The New Year doesn't start until January 1, so that leaves six days between Christmas and New Year's that are undocumented and nothing you can do can be held against you.

President's Bonus Quote

Christmas time is a great because you can shout "DON'T COME IN HERE!", and people think you are wrapping presents... when you just want to drink wine in peace and not share your chocolates with anyone.

Festive Christmas Puns



1. "Right as rein(deer)."
2. "There's Noel time like the present."
3. "May you get everything you want this year, and myrrh!"
4. "Happy holly-days," said the wreath to the garland.
5. "You sleigh me."
6. "Your presents is requested."
7. "But wait—there's myrrh."
8. "Yule be sorry."
9. "I have the final sleigh."
10. "The Ghost of Christmas Presents is my favourite Christmas ghost."



Submitted by Laurie Anderson