

### ZOOM Meeting Minutes

May 18th, 2021

Scribe: Paul Gaudet

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President Rob opened our meeting at 12:04 by welcoming everyone and introducing a wonderful video of O Canada, which we had heard previously but was very much worth another playing, by the Tenors. We had 36 participants on ZOOM today including two guests: Frederick Richter, a former exchange student (who we will hear from later in the meeting), and Karen Murray who is a regular visitor representing Inclusion Alberta.



Rob noted that **today's scribe** would be Paul Gaudet, and then thanked Stephen and Anne for all their work preparing and distributing our e-Arch each Tuesday.

Rob called for our **Sunshine Report** and asked for any info on the health of our Club. As there were no volunteers, he noted that our report was "nice and sunny".



Rob called on Tammy Truman to announce her "**Just Because**" Award for May, and she was delighted to award President Rob himself with this distinction. She noted that Rob joined Chinook in December of 2014, and in the short time until today, he has many amazing accomplishments. From his early days as 'Pool Boy', and his decision to raise funds by cutting off his hair, to the very successful fund raiser starring Lindsey Ell, the RibFest and the Drive In Movie at McMahon Stadium last summer, he has led in so many ways. We are also fortunate for his leadership through COVID, with his knowledge and command of ZOOM. He has guided our Club through a very challenging year, and was key to our Club being chosen for the Glen Peacock Award by DG Mary Turner.

Rob then introduced our program for the day as an **Assembly**, albeit a virtual one, by which we would have the opportunity to hear from our Directors about what is happening in their areas of interest.

Dean White was first, speaking as **Director of Youth Services**. He noted that our youth activity was "thin" this year due to COVID. As an example, RYLA was cancelled entirely, our Interact Clubs and Mentorship programs

*cont'd on page 2 ...*

#### 2020-2021 Officers and Directors

Rob Wolfson, President  
President Elect, George Van Schaick  
Paul Gaudet, Past President  
Dale Perret, Secretary  
Al Holt, Treasurer

Bev Tonkinson, International Service  
Dean White, Youth Service  
George Van Schaick, Community Service  
Michael Spears, Club Service  
Bill Stemp, Club Operations  
Bob Gentles, Club Financial

RI President Holger Knaack  
Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany  
  
District 5360 Governor Mary Turner  
Rotary Club of Olds

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were idle by school policy. We did see our Bursary Program achieve most of their goals (thanks to Dale). Roots2STEM has been working with several community agencies to provide virtual programs to youth and they have been well received. Rotary's new initiative, Next Generation Youth Exchange, is working with Roots2STEM to produce a similar

STEM program in Brazil. Rob highlighted our new STEM training program which partners our Society and Roots2STEM to provide training for underprivileged children in our community. Anthony noted his recent visits to their new premises, and how much more room they have for training, and the large amount of equipment evident throughout. He suggested that our members should look them up on google or check their website to get a better idea of their Academy. Rob added that we look forward to having an onsite meeting at their Academy as soon as possible.

Rob introduced **Club Financial** by asking Bev to update us on the **Calgary Rotary Clubs Foundation**. She advised that our Club has three members who are making monthly donations to this Foundation, and she suggested we all consider participating in this way. Other members are donating by cheque through her which she is happy to accommodate. Chinook's capital account is currently \$190,284 with this foundation, from which this year's distribution is expected to be \$11,003.



Peter next reported on the **Rotary Foundation**. He told us that for each dollar donated to the TRF, 92 cents subsequently goes out to various programs, a very efficient operation. Our target for donations this year was \$10,000, and we are currently at \$9,184, doing well. Last year we had 46% of members contribute which is

quite good but we can do better. We have 17% membership participation as benefactors, those who add Rotary in their wills. Our recent Multi-District Gala successfully raised \$183,000 for this Foundation, and we had more than a few Chinook members participating.

Paul G reported on behalf of our **Fundraising Committee**. He began by noting that we have two distinct committees in this area: Rob's RibFest Committee and the regular fundraising committee. The former was responsible (partnering with Centennial) for our first RibFest event held in 2019 which basically broke even. We felt there was potential for better future



results, so planned for a second event in 2020. COVID caused this event to be postponed, so we pivoted to a 'Drive In Movie' event in late July, 2020 which raised \$3,500, and supported Rotary's brand in the community. We are currently planning for a "RibFest Drive Through" event at McMahon Stadium during the four day August long weekend this summer, from July 30th to August 2nd. We have begun the organization for this event, this time partnering with both Centennial and Calgary East, and will be asking for volunteers in the near future.

Our Fundraising Committee got a late start this year, however decided to set up a project to say 'thank you' to the teachers and support staff of four schools with which our Rotary Club has an existing relationship. We believe that COVID-19 has created a great deal of stress and anxiety within the school family, and we would like to say thanks for all they are doing to help get our children and grandchildren through this pandemic. We planned on providing an opportunity for the parents of these schools, as well as Rotarians and other interested parties, to participate by making a donation to Chinook Rotary to assist in paying the project costs, and potentially raising funds for community support. After contacting the various School Administrations and Parent Councils (special thanks to Ron May for his help in this area), we were finally in as position to get the project off the ground when the third wave of COVID hit the city and many schools. After further consultation, we decided to postpone the project until the fall (October/November) when 'in person' contact should be possible, and our school Interact Clubs and Mentorship Program should be active once again. We look forward to announcing the 'kick off' of this project in a few months, and we hope all our members will join us in this worthwhile endeavour.

The next to report was **International Service** with Bev as Director. She turned the floor over to Graham Boone (Chair of the International Committee) to provide the details of our International projects this year. He told us about 9 different projects which our Club was involved with during the current Rotary year:



- A. Guatemala Literacy Project which involved 190 Clubs raising \$507,692 to bring life-changing educational programs to 7,000 students and teachers in Guatemala
- B. Shelterbox Canada ... we donated \$1,000 which will provide two family sized tents for use in a disaster site
- C. APU Teachers' housing duplex in Malawi ... we partnered with the Rotary Club of Lethbridge to assist in the project
- D. 5th unit ... we donated \$5,000 plus a \$7,500 District Grant
- E. Medical Mercy Canada ... we donated \$2,500 plus a \$7,500 District Grant to assist with building improvements for their TB clinic in Ukraine.
- F. Breaking the Silence Global Project in Uganda ... we provided \$9,000, including a District Grant, to help fund a Vocational Training Team and locally sourced Days for Girls kits
- G. Hearing Assessment and Rehabilitation Global Project in Islamabad, Pakistan is still being negotiated with the Rotary Foundation and we await their decision ... this project has been created by our member, Syed Ahmed
- H. Rancho de Los Ninos Orphanage in Mazatlan, Mexico ... this project was designed to install solar panels to provide a much less expensive source of power. While on page 3 ...



declined the application (as they felt it did not reduce community poverty), the principals were able to find private donations to see that the project would be completed. Our member, Sandy Swan, helped facilitate our involvement in this very worthwhile project.

I. Rachel Servers for Guatemala ... this project involves the installation of 49 servers over a three year period to assist in educational information for children. We received a \$5,000 District Grant to assist in funding this large project.

J. Lastly, we agreed to provide \$2,600 to support the drilling of a borehole close to a school in Zambia, supplying clean water for 872 students and staff. This project is being led by a Rotary Club in England (the Club which Sally and Pat Wierzbka joined).



Next up was George Van Schaick to report on **Community Service**. He began by noting that COVID had made our efforts much more difficult from two aspects; firstly many of the charities at which we volunteered our services were closed to volunteers for health reasons, and secondly, most of our members are seniors, many with underlying conditions, who had to limit their community

activity from their own health viewpoint. That said, George thanked Jim Thompson for his work on our Nature Park, Bob Montgomery as chair of Community Service, and Dale for her work as chair of our Local Donations Committee. Some of our members have been able to volunteer at Community Kitchens, and five members have formed a team and taken on a delivery route for Meals on Wheels on Fridays. These members have stepped forward in challenging times and we thank them for their commitment to helping others.

Re our Nature Park, George advised that we are in the last year of our second ten year agreement with the Fish Creek Park Authority and are working with them in hopes of arranging a third 10 year term. It comes due in May, 2022 so we have a year to get it done. He noted also that the Park is currently engaged in a bridge widening project which affects access to our Nature Park and we are not sure how long it will be affected.

George then outlined the local donations approved by Dale and her committee:

1. \$3,000 to the Acadia Food Pantry
2. \$2,000 to the Calgary Seniors Resource Society
3. \$5,000 to the Women's Emergency Shelter
4. \$2,000 to the Calgary Veterans' Service Society
5. \$2,000 to the Salvation Army Kettles

George pointed out that this committee had a \$10,000 budget which was increased to \$13,900 through discussions with our International Committee (thanks to Dale, Bev and Graham for getting this done). Jim T felt it should be a round number and donated the extra \$100 to reach \$14,000. Dale will be providing a more detailed report on these donations shortly.

Our next area covered was **Club Operations** by Director Bill Stemp. He opened by thanking Rob for his leadership, thanking Dean White for his efforts in keeping our website updated, and then thanking both Moe and Rhea for their efforts as co-chairs of our



attract different categories of members

- Effective use of Social Media to communicate with our community
- Ways to attract younger members
- Conduct classification talks from existing members as well as new ones
- Recommends involvement in Rotary's Youth Exchange Program

Maureen thanked the committee members and added a number of comments about new membership efforts this year:

- She has met with membership chairs from other clubs and exchanged ideas
- We participated in the membership webinar hosted by our District where new ideas were presented
- COVID is definitely hurting our efforts to attract new members
- We contacted former members and prior Rotex members
- We are considering contacting some of our former speakers
- We are considering asking the spouses of former members to join our Club and also the potential of a family membership category. Would lower dues make a difference to attracting younger candidates or family members?

We need to ask ourselves why would younger members join our Club?



members and, lastly, we do need to grow our social media presence in our community.

Our final report was **Club Operations** with Michael Spears as Director. Unfortunately Michael was not in attendance due to work responsibilities. Rob thanked Michael for his work in arranging new speakers for our ZOOM meetings. Karen Murray from Inclusion Alberta told us about having 36 active jobs for people with intellectual challenges,

Membership Committee. Bill highlighted that all members share responsibility for seeking new members and then outlined a number of issues currently being considered by the Membership Committee:

- Using classifications as a basis to discover new membership leads
- Considering new dues levels to

Maureen Tynan



and noted that some of these jobs have been affected by COVID. They did have a new start last week and have another potential at Parks Canada. She is available to any of our members who would like to discuss such job opportunities.

It was then time for our **Chase the Ace** draw and it was Janet Popoff who was our weekly winner (earning \$84). She chose the 7th card which turned out to be the 7 of Hearts. Be sure to send your \$30 (there will be 3 picks in June) to AI (only 34 cards left) before the end of May, so you can participate for June. The Jackpot is now up to \$1,148!

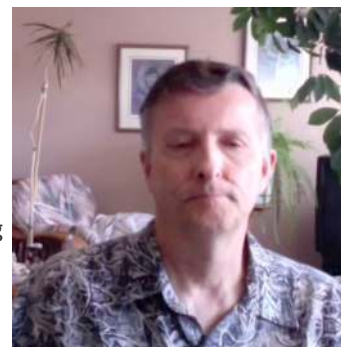


Bev reminded us about Rotary's annual **Peace Park "Reach Across the Border"** tradition which is being planned for September 17th to 19th this year. We will be receiving more info on this celebration at a later date.

Bev then introduced **Frederick Richter**, whom they hosted as an **exchange student** 25 years ago, when he was 17. Frederick is now in his early 40s, married with two children and living happily in Germany (or perhaps Luxembourg?). He loves e-bikes and helping young entrepreneurs with funding their start ups. It was great to hear how well he is doing, and that he credits his year in Calgary with playing a role in building his self-confidence and developing his command of English. Anthony thanked him for hosting he and Bev when they visited his family in Europe.



George updated us with regard to our upcoming **committee selection process**. He advised that we would soon be circulating a list of committees, and asking each member to select a committee or two, or three, to participate in during the upcoming Rotary year.



Rob reminded us of the upcoming **"House of Friendship" Virtual Project Fair** at 6:30pm on June 9th. They have 17 presenters and each Rotarian selects four to participate in when they sign up. One of the presenters is our own Roots2STEM. Contact Rob if you have any questions. Rob noted Justine Wilde's collection of children's books for her summer education project, and asked our members to see if they have any books (appropriate for 14 years and younger) which they would be willing to donate? Please pass them to Bev as she will collect and deliver them. We are also planning on our second bottle collection event on June 30th so please keep collecting.

Our **next meeting will be on Thursday evening, May 27th** at 7pm with a speaker on the subject of the financial education of our youth. Our **next noon meeting will be on June 1st** with a speaker from Samaritan's Purse. A reminder to everyone with a birthday or anniversary during June to send photos to Bev for inclusion in our regular celebration.

Rob wrapped our meeting by thanking all in attendance and wishing everyone a great Rotary Week. He reminded everyone that we have done well during a challenging year. Our meeting adjourned at 1:24pm.



## International Service Projects

<b>Guatemalan Literacy Project</b> 	<b>SHELTERBOX ARRIVES ON SITE</b> 	<b>SHELTERBOX TENTS</b> 	<b>APU TEACHERS HOUSING DUPLEX</b> 	<b>MEDICAL MERCY CLINIC IN KOVEL</b> 
<b>RANCHO DE LOS NINOS SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION</b> 	<b>RACHEL SERVER</b> 	<b>GUATEMALAN STUDENTS ACCESSING RACHEL</b> 	<b>ZAMBIA BOREHOLE PROJECT</b> 	<b>Countries Supported</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malawi</li> <li>• Dominican Republic</li> <li>• Haiti</li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Columbia</li> <li>• Guatemala</li> <li>• Zambia</li> <li>• Myanmar</li> <li>• Vietnam</li> <li>• Cambodia</li> <li>• Ukraine</li> <li>• Uganda</li> <li>• South Africa</li> <li>• Honduras</li> </ul>



I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.

Still haven't decided where to go for Easter ----- The Living Room or The Bedroom.

Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.

My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.



## Youth Service Month May 27th

Dixon's Evening Networking Meeting — via ZOOM @ 7pm  
Guest Speaker: Bruce Groberman, Director of Financial Education at North Point Financial Academy  
"Boys inBusiness Program"

## Rotary Fellowships Month June 1st

ZOOM meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!  
Guest Speaker: Randy MacDonald, Regional Manager  
Donor Ministries — Samaritan's Purse  
"House of Friendship" Virtual Project Fair — @ 6:30pm  
2021 Virtual Rotary International Convention — details coming soon!  
ZOOM meeting @ noon ... be sure to join in!  
Guest Speaker: Kirby England — Beavers in Fish Creek Park  
Dixon's Evening Networking Meeting — via ZOOM @ 7pm  
Guest Speaker: TBD  
Pass the Gavel — Social Event (potentially at McKenzie Meadows if we can do outdoors safely)  
and .... 'Skip the Depot' Fundraiser bottle/can drop-off at Tonkinsons'



## New Rotary Year Begins July 30th to August 2nd

RibFest Drive Through Event @ McMahon Stadium — volunteers needed, details to come

## Basic Education and Literacy Month September 17th - 19th

Annual Peace Park "Reach Across the Border" — watch for details

## May Is Youth Service Month



TAKE ACTION: Engage Rotary, Change Lives



## 'Skip the Depot' Fundraiser #2

**Hold on to your empties!!**

We have arranged for "Skip the Depot" to pick up all the bottles/cans we can collect in Tonkinsons' driveway for the pick-up date, **Wednesday June 30th**.

**Members and Friends, drop off your bottles/cans in their driveway on Tuesday June 29th !!**

The address is **12119 Lake Louise Way SE**, in the community of Lake Bonavista. (phone # 403 271 4026)

Please put your bottles in plastic bags ... the bigger the better!  
Consider reaching out to family, friends and neighbours to increase your collection!

If you have bottles but not the means to deliver them, please contact Paul G and we will try to arrange pick up. Any members who can help pick up bottles for delivery to Tonkinsons' driveway, please advise Paul.

**Special thanks to Bev and Anthony for once again hosting the pick up site at their home.**



**FUNDRAISING**