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Al Holt, Treasurer

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Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal India

District 5360 Governor Martin Parnell
Rotary Club of Cochrane

Evening Meeting at Dixon's Pub

March 24th, 2022

Scribe: Paul Gaudet



Rob convened our meeting at 6:10pm in the upstairs room of Dixon's Pub. The attendees had arrived after 5:30 and ordered a drink and dinner if desired. Most were from Chinook, but we also had a member from Calgary Fish Creek, and another from Calgary Sarcee.

Rob introduced the subject of how we were doing in this period of exiting COVID 19, and asked each attendee to explain their own situation. As one might expect, there were a variety of situations, from those who are still unconvinced and remained vigilant with masks and avoiding crowds, to those who have basically accepted that the virus is on its way out and are comfortable getting on with normal behaviour, no masks, large groups and more travel. For example, Tammy advised that she has been to Scottsdale twice recently and has found Arizona to be wide open, no masks to be seen. Nonetheless she still keeps an eye on the new COVID variety. It was good to see that everyone respected the opinion of others, no matter where they were personally.

Tax Preparation Assistance Services

Michael Spears

Rob introduced Michael Spears who spoke about his background and his experience in helping clients (individual, not corporate) prepare their income tax forms for filing. He joined H&R Block about 15 years ago, and received training in how to prepare tax returns. He didn't stay long and was soon working with his wife in a bookkeeping business. He now is employed elsewhere (Drop In Centre) but continues to help out a number of long time clients and a few new ones. These include people who have rental properties and also private contractors.

He spoke about the various deductions accessible to individuals who work out of their home. Given the number of people who worked from home during COVID, their employers will provide appropriate forms to be included with your filing.

Rob thanked Michael for his advice.

Rob went on to tell us about his own situation during this COVID transition period. He is now working 3 days a week from home and 2 days downtown, and he plans on maintaining this schedule for the foreseeable future. Angela's woodworking and workshop business (Rusty Petal) is busy and seeking new clients. Rob advised that their daughter Kaiya is participating in the 5 Pin Bowling Nationals being held in Calgary this weekend. We wish her the very best.

Rob noted that he has been speaking with Al Pettigrew who has had some health challenges recently, however is recovering slowly. Harry was at the meeting and told us that Verna is still hospitalized, but they expect she will be

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released to her daughter Karen's home where she can get close care pending further diagnostic testing.

Rob introduced "Chase the Ace" and as he had won the last draw but was not in attendance, he asked Paul to shuffle and count out the cards. Unfortunately (for Rob), he picked the six of Diamonds. He then asked Barb Larson (Fish Creek) to select a ticket for today's meeting and Al Holt's name was chosen. As Al was not in attendance, Rob will contact him for his card selection.

Rob wrapped up the meeting by advising that our next meeting would be at noon on Tuesday, April 5th at the Carriage House.

He thanked those who attended and wished everyone a fun weekend.

June 16 & 17 Casino



Our major fundraising event is coming up
June 16 & 17, Thursday and Friday.

Please consider signing up for this very important program.

If you are able to sign up for both days/nights, we would be most appreciative. If you have friends or family able to help, please encourage their participation.

I have sent a volunteer application form to all members via ClubRunner. Kindly fill it out and deliver it to Joe Hooper, as I will be away for the month of April. AGLC requires these forms by April 16.

Yours in Rotary, Bruce Bohnet

The e-Arch Needs Scribes !!



Please help!!

The minutes help out those who don't make it to the meetings, and also help provide a historical record of our club.

Contact Paul Gaudet to volunteer.

Fairview School Mentoring

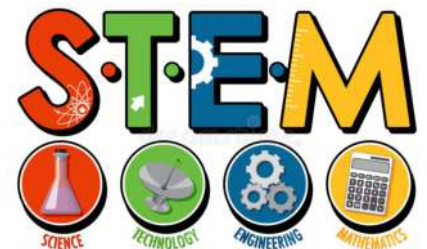
Come and volunteer 2 1/2 hours of your time between 1:30pm and 4:00pm on one or more of the

Fridays April 1st, 8th, and 22nd and May 6th, and 27th in support of our Mentoring Program with the Fairview Junior High School.

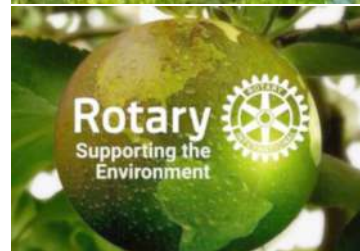
You will see first hand the great work Dean White is doing in providing STEM education at his new facility. 16 students are bused to the facility where they carry out a STEM project under the guidance of Dean. We are there to lend a helping hand and take an interest in what the students are doing. **No special skill is required.** We would like to see 5 to 8 volunteers. We had 7 for the first two sessions but are shy for the remainder because of prior commitments. Please take a look at your calendar and contact me if you think you can help at:

403-807-8831 or jacharrett@gmail.com

John Charrett Mentoring Committee Chair



5360 DisCon 2022



THE DETAILS

- Date: Saturday, May 14th, 2022
- Location: Alliance Church, Cochrane, AB
- Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm, registration open at 8:00am
- Social: MacKay's Ice Cream following conference
- Cost: Rotarians \$100, Guests \$100, Youth \$20
- Charity of Choice: ShelterBox

SPEAKERS' CORNER



OUR SPEAKERS WILL BE FOCUSING ON THE FOUR ELEMENTS: LAND, WATER, AIR AND FIRE AS WE EXPLORE WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT.

Register at www.discon5360.ca



We have heard from a number of our members who are already collecting bags from neighbours, friends and families. It's a great time of year to clean out and renew your home, which inevitably means there are some items that no longer fit in. Bag them and donate to our collection!

We are now three weeks away from our delivery date (April 27th) and we hope you are in the process of completing your collection of "gently used" items for delivery or pick up.

- As a reminder, we are collecting a varied group of items:
- soft goods (which include clothing, bedding, shoes)
 - small houseware items
 - furniture
 - sports equipment
 - toys
 - books

They have also asked that, approximately two weeks out from our delivery date, we provide our best estimate of the number of bags and boxes we will be delivering. This will allow them to be

prepared at the store. As a result, next week we will be asking you to provide this estimate so please give it some thought. If you already know this number, please let me know.

I visited the Value Village that we will be delivering to and it is easily found at the corner of Southland Trail and Macleod Trail, on the north west corner behind the Esso station, in the shopping mall area. You may know the building as a Safeway store, as that what it was until recently. They have a driving lane specifically for donors.

On the **27th of April, at or near 1:30 pm**, you can drive through and drop off your bags and boxes. Advise the attendant that your bags are part of the Fundrive. We'll have volunteers on site to ensure your bags go to our collection.

Their staff will categorize our donations into the proper groups for weighing, we only need to show up with our bags and boxes. We do not have to categorize our own donations.

we have two drop off sites, at my home in Parkland and at Bob Montgomery's home (for those who will not be able to deliver their bags on the 27th). Please call ahead to ensure we are at home prior to dropping by. If you wish us to pick up your bags please contact Paul at gaudetco@shaw.ca or call at 403 278 1029.

We have decided to donate the funds raised to Ukraine Family Relief so this is another motivator to get involved.

We are still looking for volunteers to collect bags for others at their own home, to use their vehicle to help deliver bags for others, and finally to attend the Value Village for an hour or two on the 27th to help us organize the actual delivery. Please advise Paul if you can help with any of these tasks.

Nature Park News

The cairns at our Nature Park have been refinished !!



Letter of Thanks



Rotary Club of High River, Box 5152, High River, AB, T1V 1M4

January 24, 2022

Dear Rob

Our members very much enjoyed hearing the talk you gave to the Rotary Club of High River on January 20, 2022, on behalf of the Learning and Development Committee. As you illustrated in your presentation, the Learning Centre has much to offer to both new and longtime members, so that they may enrich their knowledge as to the many spheres in which Rotary is involved. I am certain that your talk will have encouraged those of our members, who do not at present have a myRotary account, to obtain one.

Again, I wish to extend our appreciation to you for speaking to us.

Sincerely,

Ken Martell
President

Maternal and Child Health Month

April 19th
April 27th

Mike Moore, VP of the Calgary Roughnecks and Calgary Hitmen
FunDrive Fundraising Project delivery date — collect gently used clothing, books and other household items!

Rotary Fellowship Month

June 16th & 17th

Casino Fundraiser at the Elbow River Casino — please help!
contact Bruce Bohnet for info and forms



Rotary's Network Enables Rapid Relief for Ukrainian Refugees

The war in Ukraine is having devastating consequences on civilians as families flee their homes. According to the United Nations, more than 3.5 million people, most of them women and children, have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and across Europe, while about 7 million more people have been displaced within Ukraine.

Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Europe and around the world have taken swift action and are working with members nearby to provide food, water, medical equipment, and shelter for refugees.

Below are some of the latest projects as of 1 April

Clubs in Rotary District 2231 (Poland) are using a \$50,000 disaster response grant to provide transportation, accommodations, food, and medical assistance for refugees who crossed the border from Ukraine.

Rotary District 2240 in the Czech Republic is purchasing \$50,000 worth of sleeping bags, medicine, food, and defibrillators, EKGs, and oxygen concentrators to victims.

District governors in Germany created a national task force to coordinate member initiatives and relief efforts on an online platform. A liaison office for government agencies and non-governmental organizations has been established in Berlin.

Rotary clubs throughout France have mobilized to collect and distribute necessities to refugees. District Governors are coordinating donations from French clubs to help Rotary clubs in Ukraine, as well as to assist refugees travelling through Poland and Romania, or taking refuge in those countries. The needs are determined by the France-Ukraine, France-Poland, and France-Romania-Moldova inter-country committees.

District 1910 in Austria is using a \$25,000 disaster response grant to provide accommodations, baby supplies, medicine, hygiene materials, psychological care, food, and appliances to Ukrainian refugees in Austria.

Rotaract Europe

The European Rotaract Information Centre, a multi-district information organization that serves Rotaractors all over Europe, created a United for Peace site that compiles information for refugees and volunteers.

The site offers information about free rail, bus, and air transportation available to refugees and lists details about what's needed and how to help at specific national borders.

It also has fundraising details for hospitals in the western Ukraine city of Lviv, as well as for clubs that are helping in various places and for other organizations in the region.

The site lets Rotaractors coordinate shelter for refugees stranded at the border. Volunteer hosts can sign up through an online form and specify how many people they can house and for how long. Begun as an initiative to help fellow Rotary members leaving Ukraine, it's now being used by Rotaract and Rotary members all over Europe to offer help.

A tool on the site links a demand for goods with available

supplies. It was created within 48 hours after a team of 60 members from 10 countries met by video conference about how to meet the most urgent needs.

Ukraine

Ukraine has 62 Rotary clubs and six satellite clubs with about 1,100 members, and 24 Rotaract clubs with more than 300 members.

District 2232 (Ukraine and Belarus) formed a committee to help people affected by the crisis. It has launched an appeal to Rotary members worldwide for funds to provide basic necessities.

The city of Lviv has had an influx of people displaced from other cities around Ukraine. The Rotary Club of Lviv International, working with local authorities and major hospitals, created an online spreadsheet of relief items that can be accessed by people who want to help. Members arrange for the donated items to be delivered to hospitals and coordinate storage with local warehouses.

Poland

Poland has taken in more than a million refugees, and Rotary clubs all over the country created a central account for contributions.

The Rotary Club of Olsztyn is collecting and managing donations for more than 150 Ukrainians who are staying at Ostróda Camp, a conference and recreation center. Most of the occupants are unaccompanied children whose parents stayed in Ukraine. Four cars full of supplies including food, clothes, toiletries, and toys were donated hours after the center began accepting refugees.

Members of the Rotary Club of Zamosc worked with a member of the Rotary Club of Wolsztyn, who owns a medical supply distribution company, to coordinate a partnership with other organizations to collect supplies and equipment.

The Rotary Club of Gdansk Centrum is providing accommodations for four refugee families, and members who own businesses are offering them work.

Other countries that border Ukraine

The Rotary Club of Kisvárda, Hungary, is coordinating contributions and mobilizing members to donate necessities and deliver the items to where they're needed.

Rotary members in Romania and Moldova have created a central fund for contributions and set up WhatsApp groups that organize food donations and coordinate shelter for refugees.

In Slovakia and the Czech Republic, clubs have partnered with a railway and cargo company to offer transportation to nearly 2,300 refugees.

Follow updates on how Rotary members are providing humanitarian relief on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Check back for updates on Rotary.org and My Rotary. The Rotary Foundation has created a channel for direct humanitarian support in the Ukraine region.

Kim Widlicki and Claudia Brunner contributed to this article on the Rotary International website.