



ROTARY NEWS

RCCSP Weekly Bulletin October 22nd, 2026
Volume Number 72, Issue No.13

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Videographer: Steve Mason
Sgt@Arms: Jim Fitzowich



Welcome to the October 22nd meeting of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park. My name is Larry Kennedy, and I am honoured to be your President for 2026/2027.

Please join me in the singing of O Canada and Rotary Grace.

Head Table (L-R) : Vince Vavrek, Joe Connelly, Jim Fitzowich, John Fitzsimmons, Sean Libin, Larry Kennedy



Presentation:
The Field of
Crosses

November 5th
Ryan Copithorne

Next Week:
October 29th
Halloween

Click [HERE](#) to register for upcoming meetings.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the meeting video

Today's Meeting: **David Field** introduced our guests, followed by the welcome song...

Past President **Gordon Weicker** came up to talk to us about the club election process. More information on the following pages.



Assistant District Governor Vince Vavrek recognized our club for its financial support of Rotary's PolioPlus program for the 2025–2026 Rotary year. President **Larry** accepted a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the club, acknowledging its contribution to Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio. In recognition of World Polio Day on October 24, clubs are encouraged to register any related events on ClubRunner and the appropriate Rotary website to ensure their efforts are acknowledged and celebrated.



Brad Brewster presented an interim cheque of \$100,000 to **President Larry** on behalf of the Stampede Lotteries Committee and the Calgary Stampede, with the remaining funds expected before the end of the year. He thanked all the volunteers whose time and efforts helped make this contribution possible.



Lisa van Hemert reminded members that the deadline for Community Grants applications is October 30 at 5:00 p.m. Applications for the Stella and Brawn Family Foundation grants will remain open until the end of November. Charitable organizations seeking funding for capital projects are encouraged to apply. **Lisa** also noted a vacancy on the community grants committee, which meets every Monday through the end of November at the North Hill Curling Club. Anyone interested in joining, please contact **Lisa**.



Pat Neuman reminded members that next week's luncheon will feature a Halloween theme. Members are encouraged to come dressed in costume and participate in the planned costume parade, games, and other fun activities. Everyone is encouraged to join in!



Yaseen Idris delivered his classification talk, introducing himself to fellow Rotarians and sharing his personal background, education, professional experience, hobbies, and reasons for joining Rotary. He spoke about his interest in community service and his enthusiasm for becoming involved in the club and contributing to its work. I encourage everyone to watch the meeting video linked on page 1 to hear his classification talk!



Jim Fitzowich officially launched the club's annual Season of Remembrance, recognizing the club's strong connection to veterans. Many of the club's founding members in 1955 served in the Second World War, and the club's honour roll includes 50 names. Jim encouraged members to attend the annual Rotary Remembers event on November 11 at the Carriage House, held in partnership with 10 other Rotary clubs. Doors open at 10:00 a.m., and tickets are \$55 per person. Click [HERE](#) to register. Rotarians, family members, friends, and guests are welcome.

Proceeds and donations will support the Veterans Food Bank. Personal donations are also welcome, with tax receipts issued automatically for electronic donations. Jim, along with committee chair **Doug Hood and Greg Smyth**, is available to answer questions about the event.

In his role as Sergeant-at-Arms, **Jim** also announced that members who register for Rotary Remembers will receive amnesty from fines for the week. Those unable to attend are encouraged to contribute their fine as a donation to the Veterans Food Bank.



John Fitzsimmons welcomed Sean Libin, a longtime friend of the club, and reflected on their longstanding friendship and shared interests, including aviation, the Calgary Stampede, and volunteering. Sean was recognized for his ongoing commitment to community service, with further details about his recent efforts to follow.



Sean Libin, Chair of the Board for Calgary's Field of Crosses, shared the history, mission, and ongoing work of this important community remembrance project. Having served with the Calgary Highlanders in his younger years, Sean explained how his involvement in honouring fallen Canadian soldiers deepened through his work with the Portraits of Honour project, which travelled across Canada to commemorate the 158 Canadian service members who died in Afghanistan.

Inspired by a similar memorial in Georgia, philanthropist Murray McCann established the Field of Crosses in Calgary in 2009. What began with approximately 300 names has grown into a memorial featuring thousands of individually named crosses honouring fallen Canadian service members. Sean emphasized that each cross represents a unique life and story of sacrifice.

The Field of Crosses hosts remembrance ceremonies leading up to Remembrance Day, including the moving Night of Lights ceremony on November 10. The site is open 24 hours a day, allowing visitors to pay their respects privately. The annual Remembrance Day ceremony attracts thousands of attendees and is broadcast on Global Television.

Sean also highlighted the Classroom at the Crosses program, developed with Valour Canada, which educates schoolchildren about Canadian military history and the individuals behind the crosses. Students research service members' biographies, helping preserve their stories for future generations.

The project relies on significant community support, with thousands of volunteer hours contributing to its operations. Volunteers assist with preparing crosses, organizing ceremonies, reading the names of the fallen, and educating students. Sean encouraged members to visit fieldofcrosses.com to learn more, volunteer, donate, or attend one of the ceremonies.

To conclude, Sean presented President Larry with a Field of Crosses challenge coin, symbolizing recognition and camaraderie among service members.

Joe Connelly thanked Sean Libin for his informative presentation on the Field of Crosses and the importance of remembering Calgary's and Canada's history. He highlighted the value of learning about initiatives such as Portraits of Honour and the Classroom at the Crosses program, noting that Sean's presentation and final slide clearly demonstrated the significant impact and results of the organization's work.

Joe Connelly thanked Sean Libin and announced that we will be making a \$100 donation to CRCF in his name.



Click [HERE](#) for the photo gallery

Announcements

When sending an e-transfer, whether for membership dues or a charitable donation, please include your name and the purpose of the transfer in the comments section. This helps us identify who the payment is from and ensure the funds are allocated to the correct account or designated charity fund. Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate!

Cleven Award and Nomination Form

[Cleven Award](#) nominations are open until November 6th.
[Nomination Form](#) Please send nominations to Carol Rosdobutko at rcarol@telus.net

The Poppy Fund is desperate for volunteers, as they only have about 10 days available for sales.

If you can spare 3 or 4 hours to help out, the veterans would be most appreciative...(as would I!)

Shifts start right after Halloween and are at major malls and grocery stores.

To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Kristen @ (403) 561 -7832.



Applications for the KAH charities selection committee close on October 30, 2026.
Click [HERE](#) for application.



Health & Wellness

Don Bacon is at home now, recovering.

Lorna Hamm is doing wonderfully well; phone calls are welcome.

Announcements



ROTARY REMEMBERS

— LEST WE FORGET —



WHEN : NOV 11TH, 2025

Doors Open: 10:00 am

Program & Lunch: 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

**ROTARIANS
AND GUESTS
WELCOME**

WHERE : CARRIAGE HOUSE INN

9030 Macleod Trail, Calgary, AB T2H 0M4

SPEAKER : MAJOR GENERAL (Ret.)

BARRY ASHTON

REGISTER: [Click HERE!](#)

Donations can be made to the Poppy Fund at registration.

Registration Deadline: Thursday, Oct 30th

TICKETS \$55



It Is Election Time!!!

Past President Gordon Weicker
Speaking Notes for Club Election Process
October 2026

According to the bylaws of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, the election process for President-Elect Nominee and Directors is declared open today, October 08, 2026. Secretary Gail Williams is in her 2nd year of her 2-year term and as such, the position of Secretary is also open for Nomination.

For the newer members, on the first day of an election, the Chair of the Nomination Committee must inform the Club of the nomination process. So here we go:

- The nomination process will be open for candidates from the club membership from today, closing at 12:00 pm on Thursday October 29, 2026. At that time, acceptance of additional nominations will cease.
- Nominations from Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park members can be submitted for each of the following positions: President-Elect Nominee, Secretary, and four (4) Director positions.
- Nomination forms for all positions will be posted in the weekly bulletin and are posted on our Club website. Members are requested to prepare a nomination form for each nominated candidate, and the form must be signed by the nominee showing their willingness to serve, if elected.

Again, these forms must be dated and submitted to the Club Secretary, Gail Williams no later than 12:00 noon on October 29, 2026.

- In the event we have more nominations submitted than there are positions to fill, we will then have an election. Ballots will be electronically mailed to Club Members with a response requested within two (2) days. Ballots must be sent to the attention of myself (PP Gordon Weicker).
- All candidates involved in the election process will have a short profile published in the bulletin prior to the election.

Here are the qualifications for the open positions:

1) The **President-Elect Nominee** must meet all the following criteria:

- (a) Has been a Member of the Club for at least five (5) years and a Rotarian for at least nine (9) years,
- (b) Has served on the Board of Directors for at least one term,
- (c) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to the objects of Rotary throughout their tenure in the Club,
- (d) Is a "Member" in good standing of the Club having maintained 70% attendance in the previous two (2) years prior to his or her nomination and,
- (e) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to all Club expectations for involvement in Club activities such as committee work and fund-raising activities and in particular, completion of Dream Home shifts as required by the Club.

2) A **Director Nominee** must meet all the following criteria:

- (a) Has been a Member of the Club for at least three (3) years,
- (b) May not have served on the Board in the previous three (3) years in any position,
- (c) Must have demonstrated a strong commitment to the objects of Rotary throughout their tenure in the Club,
- (d) Is a “Member” in good standing in the Club having maintained seventy (70) % attendance in the previous two (2) years prior to his or her nomination and,
- (e) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to all Club expectations for involvement in Club activities such as committee work and fund-raising activities and in particular, completion of Dream Home shifts as required by the Club.

3) A **Club Secretary Nominee** must meet all the following criteria:

- (a) Has been a Member of this Club for at least five (5) years.
- (b) Must have demonstrated a strong commitment to the objects of Rotary throughout their tenure in the Club,
- (c) Is a “Member” in good standing in the Club having maintained 70% attendance in the previous two (2) years prior to his or her nomination and,
- (d) Has demonstrated a strong commitment to all Club expectations for involvement in Club activities such as committee work and fund-raising activities and in particular, completion of Dream Home shifts as required by the Club.
- (e) Should have an understanding of Board governance.

The current Club Vacancies are as follows:

President-Elect Nominee
Four (4) Directors
Club Secretary

The Club Secretary and Four (4) Directors will serve for a two-year term commencing on July 1, 2027 until June 30, 2029.

The President-Elect Nominee will serve in that capacity until July 1, 2027. At that time; they will assume the role of President-Elect and serve for one year from July 1st 2027 to June 30, 2028. On July 1, 2028 until June 30, 2029 they will serve their term as President of our Rotary club.

As Chair of the Nominations committee, I have convened a meeting of the Past Presidents of our Club, Wednesday afternoon - October 14, 2026.

It is the custom of the Club that Past Presidents select their own candidate for **President-Elect Nominee**.

Once a President Elect Nominee has been confirmed by the Past Presidents, I will report same back to the Club.

As well, following our Club's bylaws, the "President-Elect" is entitled to nominate from the Membership, their candidates who meet the stated criteria for the positions of **Secretary and Director**.

Our current President-Elect Jim Hutchens has advised that he will submit his nominees for Club Secretary, and the vacancies of Club Directors prior to the October 29 th deadline.

As a reminder, any announced nominees are not intended to exclude any nominations from the general membership. Our Club bylaws provide for an open election wherever there are more nominations than vacancies to fill. Each

week until October 29th, I will announce the names of any additional nominees that are put forward from the general membership.

So, if you want to find out what happens in a Past Presidents meeting, here is the journey you must take. First, you must become a "Director", next you need to be President. One you have completed your term as President, then you are a shoo-in for the Past President club. So now is that opportunity or what!

I know this is a lot to take in and I thank you for your attention today. All this information is outlined in our RCCSP Bylaws and of course you can reference them again if you wish.

Now lastly, I offer a sincere thank you to any members who are willing to allow their name to stand for any position...Thank you, and have a great Rotary Day.



Announcements

Rotary Casino 2026

Please consider being a volunteer for the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park
Last year our 2 day take away was over \$ 82,000.00

Dates:

Thursday, December 17th

Friday, December 18th

Place: cowboys Casino @ Stampede Park

Shift Times Available:

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM (cash cage & chip runner)

6:30 PM to 3:30 AM (cash cage & chip runner)

11:00 PM to 3:30 AM (count room)

5 volunteers are required per shift

30 shifts are required in total

Contact: **Lynn Grant** @ 403 819 8786 or Lynngrant3927@gmail.com
Please respond ASAP as I have to admit names to ALGC

Rotary Calgary East Youth and Vocational Service



D5360 Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program pairs a **Rotarian** mentor with a **Rotaract** mentee to provide opportunities to learn and grow both ways!



**ARE YOU READY TO SERVE THROUGH
YOUR VOCATION?**

FOR ROTARIANS — *MENTORS*

- Share your career & life experience
- Connect with the next generation of leaders and see fresh perspectives!
- Build relationships across the Rotary family

FOR ROTARACTORS — *MENTEES*

- Explore careers and possibilities
- Gain guidance from real-world experience
- Build confidence & meaningful connections



SMALL TIME COMMITMENT BIG IMPACT!

ONE CONNECTION CAN OPEN A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



EXPOSURE

See careers and pathways
they may not have known
existed

GUIDANCE

Learn from someone who
has already navigated the
path

CONFIDENCE

Ask questions, explore
interests & recognize
their potential

OPPORTUNITY

Build skills, networks &
access to new
experiences

**APPLY to the
mentorship program
using this QR Code:**



OR EMAIL:

rotaract5360mentorship@gmail.com

Interested in Youth and Vocational Service?



... Join the Youth and Vocational Service Committee!

**Contact Rhea Graham for further details:
rheagrahamd@gmail.com**

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

Jim Gibson has been proposed for active membership in the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, as sponsored by **Jim Smith** and seconded by **Jim Burns**, with a proposed classification of Educator / Teacher Recruitment

If any Member objects to **Jim Gibson** joining our Club or to his proposed classification, an objection must be filed in writing with the Club Secretary, **Gail Williams**: secretary@rotarycs.org prior to **November 5th**.



Closing:

Next week: October 29th - Halloween

The week following: November 5th - Ryan Copithorne

Rotary is a place where strangers quickly become friends, and friends become teammates in service. For all you guys do thank you for your service.

Social Media Links



[Facebook](#)

[Linkedin](#)

[Instagram](#)

Calendar

OCTOBER

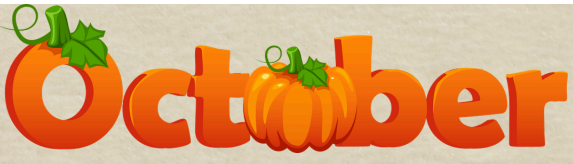
October 1st - Kids At Heart Charity Presentation

October 8th - The Palmer Institute

October 15th - Dr. Debbie Thompson, President
and CEO of Olds College

October 22nd - The Field of the Crosses

October 29th - Halloween



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

November 5th - Ryan Copithorne

November 11th - Rotary Remembers

November 12th - No Meeting

November 19th - TBD

November 26th - TBD



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 24th - Oktoberfest at the Austrian Canadian Club

October 29th - Halloween Lunch at Rotary House

November 6th - International dinner

November 11th - Rotary Remembers at Carriage House

December 3rd - Club "Old Tyme Christmas" party at Heritage Park

December 17th - Club Social - Grandstand

January 10th - Brunch at Stage West