

April 18, 2013

Posted by Larry Kanters

A full house was in attendance as President Bryn opened the meeting. Grace was said by Gary Severtson giving thanks for the food and fellowship and praying for more spring-like weather. President Bryn introduced our myriad of guests and returning snowbird members. A warm welcome was given to Carolyn Lloyd, guest of hubby Barry, Dave Hogarth and Greg McIntire of the Olds Rotary Club, Sam Esopenko and Richard Black from the Innisfail Legion, Mev our Turkish exchange student and Paul Grigaitis from the Innisfail Province who was hoping to attend another full meeting of the RC of Innisfail and to land a news scoop or two.

President Bryn thanked John Newsham for organizing the previous week's visit to Red Deer College which was uniformly enjoyed by all the participants. Friendship Dinner co-chair Curtis Bachur then presented an update on the April 24<sup>th</sup> event featuring comedian Paul Sveen (where have I seen that name before?). Curtis said a meeting was to be held at Palliser Chev Olds Monday night at 6 pm to organize the tickets and a meeting at 12 noon to 1 pm or so on Wednesday was to be held at the Legion to set up the hall for the evening festivities. Curtis said there were still 8 to 10 tickets left unsold and he encouraged members to make their best efforts to make the event a sell-out.

Clarence Stewart was asked to give an update on the historical Village Shelter Project. Clarence said he was going to ask RC of Innisfail members do some work on the site after the meeting today but said it was cancelled since the ground is not in great shape due to the poor weather. He said Darryl Thompson had been at the site April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and was digging some holes and cementing some poles. Also an inmate work crew had been doing some work over 6 days and had made some improvements to the shelter. Clarence said Mark Jejina was looking to get a RC of Innisfail work group together to do some work on the site in the near future. Clarence also mentioned the Big Grand Opening of the Historical Village Shelter is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> and will feature a pancake breakfast and will be held in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Innisfail car show with an expected 40 to 50 vintage cars to be displayed. RC of Innisfail volunteers are requested to help with the pancake breakfast cooking and serving and perhaps with the other events of the day. President-to-be Rod Bradshaw then reminded the members of the April 30<sup>th</sup> evening Strategic Planning Session starting at 5:00 pm at the Legion. Rod said food would be available to provide sustenance for the expected intense cerebral activities.

One of our guest speaker groups, Dave Hogarth and Greg McIntire was introduced to talk about the upcoming Rotary Ride for Ronald September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Dave said the trek will be a ride of motorcycle enthusiasts who will be asking for sponsorships for the event with the proceeds to go to the Ronald McDonald House in Calgary. The Ronald McDonald House in Calgary is a facility adjacent to the Children's Hospital which provides a home away from home for out of town families receiving medical attention in a Calgary Hospital. Dave said last year the ride was from Olds to Drumheller and the final destination was the Last Chance Saloon just outside of town/city of Drumheller where a live band was enjoyed by the 35 participants. Dave said the amount raised was about \$30,000.00. This year they are hoping to increase the participation and raise about \$150,000.00 for the Ronald McDonald House cause. Dave said the event organizers are looking for suggestions as to the Ride for McDonald tour layout and

final destination. The website for more information on the ride can be found at [rotaryrideforronald.com](http://rotaryrideforronald.com). Dave said his vision in the future is to have 1,000 riders from all over the province raising funds for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Calgary and Edmonton. President Bryn thanked Dave and Greg for their presentation.

President Bryn asked Barry Lloyd to give a bit of a background on the community services project of upgrading the sound system in the main hall of the Legion. Barry said he had worked with Lyle Duncalfe in doing the behind the scenes work to make the upgrade arrangements possible and was happy to say he was pleased with the result. President Bryn presented Barry with a Rotary Community Services pin in recognition of the efforts done by Barry and Lyle on the project. Sam Esopenko and Richard Black as our second guest speaker group were introduced. Richard said he was a shy kind of guy so Sam came up to front on his own to say a few words. Sam said there was a very good response from the users of the Legion sound system and thanked the RC of Innisfail for their sponsorship. A certificate of appreciation was given to President Bryn by Sam on behalf of the members of the Innisfail Legion. Sam also presented Bryn with a 1987 Rotary Friendship Dinner glass that had been found recently while cleaning out one of the offices in the Legion. Sam went on to talk about some of the Legion activities such as the April Dominion Crib Tournament which had Legion members from all over the country coming to Innisfail to participate (90 Legions across the country applied to host the tourney but Innisfail got the job and did itself proud). Sam said the Innisfail Legion has been involved with a lot of fundraising for the youth in the community of Innisfail and has sponsored activities in hockey, ringette, soccer etc. Sam went on to say that through the fundraising efforts of the Legion, \$228,056.00 has been contributed to STARS Air Ambulance over the years. Sam finished his talk by saying after the meeting he was going to do a demo of the new sound system in the Legion hall for any interested Rotarians.

For Happy/Sad bucks Mark Jejina said he had a happy buck in that his son was graduating with his BBA and would soon be gainfully employed with the Royal Bank. Eric Moe said he had a preemptive fine to be given to the Sgt-at-Arms since his cell phone audibly went off during the meeting. Larry (he of royal airs) Verbitsky said he was glad to be back from the sunny south but of the cold and the snow "He was not amused". Charlie Dallas said he was also glad to be back from the USA and as had been reported previously, he had need of medical attention while there and said he was treated well. On his return to Innisfail he said he also needed medical attention at the Innisfail hospital and was happy to report that there he was treated just as well. Dave Hogarth had a happy buck in that it was the first time he had attended 2 Rotary club meetings in one day (7 am at Olds and noon at Innisfail). Sgt-at-Arms Mike O'Dwyer welcomed the snowbirds back and said he was glad Eric Moe was an honest man in earlier paying up his fine for his phone going off during the meeting, before Mike had to address the issue.

John Newsham's number was picked to try for the Joker. John Newsham did not find the Joker.