

[December 13, 2012](#)

Posted by Larry Kanters

Monsieur Directeur Bryn called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm (or thereabouts). Mevce our Turkish exchange student was present with no other guests being announced after the O Canada and grace. M. Bryn stated that the December 20th meeting would be more of a fancy dining affair (avec vin) and spouses/partners/friends were encouraged to attend. It was also mentioned that the December 27th meeting has been cancelled. Amongst the other announcements it was mentioned that this is the last day that Gerry Meding would be collecting cheques for The Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Sustaining Membership on behalf of the club. Donations can still be made on TRF website at rotary.org after you have registered and used your login. John reminded the members of the second Rebels 50/50 adventure December 14th and that a few more attendees would be welcome. Meeting is to be at 6:30 pm downstairs and John said it will may be busy with over 7,000 fans attending since the Rebels are doing darn good and with no NHL, the fans have to slake their hockey thirst somehow.

Barry Lloyd said he would not be at the Xmas party Dec. 20th since he would be in Mexico and would be arranging to deliver shoes to the families that live in the town dump on which he had a presentation concerning last year. Barry said he and his wife Carol along with the Vineyard Church would get shoe sizes from the children by tracing their feet on a piece of cardboard and with their picture attached would go to the local Wal-Mart and buy shoes that match the cardboard trace for about \$5 a pair. Then they would deliver them to the kids by identifying them by their picture. The kids normally run around the dump barefoot and can get their feet cut up quite badly on the broken glass and tin cans. Barry said the parents are exceedingly grateful. Barry then passed a basket amongst the membership and asked if anyone wished to contribute some funds to the cause. The basket was generously filled by the end of the meeting.

Mevce then gave a rundown on what was happening in her life. She mentioned she learned how to make pancakes (good for the rodeo I'm thinkin') and coming up she said she was going to the Calgary Zoo with a group of youth exchange students (YEX) to see Zoolights. She also mentioned that the YEX group were working on raising \$1,000 to sponsor a Shelterbox. This is provided through Shelterbox International which is a worldwide program affiliated with Rotary for providing emergency shelter and supplies to families who lose their homes after a disaster such as an earthquake or tsunami etc.

Bryn then asked Mike O'Dwyer to come to the podium to talk about membership retention and attraction. Mike said he was encouraged when he saw some team members having a huddle before the meeting talking strategy. He said today he wanted to have a brainstorming session to share ideas about membership. The first question to tease the noggin was "Who should we ask?" Members replied: clergy, educators, accountants, dentists, agricultural guys, Town of Innisfail admin, Innisfail Co-op, Manville, oilfield. Mike said consider business competitors since Bob Newman sponsored Mike to be a member of the RC of Innisfail. Bob responded by saying he sponsored Mike so he would have less time to sell cars and trucks. Mike's next question was "Why recommend Rotary to prospective members?" Survey said: To meet people, give back to the community

(Service Above Self), tell them they are needed, Rotary is the most active service club in town, sense of community, opportunity for international service. The last question was “What do we tell prospective members of their opportunities and responsibilities in Rotary?” Responses: Be prepared to keep up the attendance (do we make attendance more flexible?), as a club we could do more socializing in a group setting such as going to football games and hockey games or visit a brewery or distillery or work at the food bank once a month (if they think we are competent). General cranial fatigue was evident at this point so Mike said to keep thinking about ideas and we would discuss again in the future.

For Happy/Sad Bucks Barry Lloyd had a happy buck in that he was finished selling a ton (literally –about 2,880 lbs) of fruit cake for the season. Clarence Stewart was the lucky guy with the right ticket number but the unlucky guy at the card draw. He knew the 4-Way test pretty good though.

Next meeting we have fancy dining and wine’s on the menu. The Innisfail Food Bank bin still needs filling up so don’t disappoint Clarence.

By the way; in case you are wondering what Bryn does when he is not a Scotia Bank manger or being a Rotary Club President or playing the bagpipes in a kilt (the way it is supposed to be worn) he has been known to hang out with an a cappella boy bank called Hoja. Once in a while they let him wear the pink cowboy hat and play the mini-guitar. Who knew Bryn could do the moves like that.