February 28, 2013

Posted by Larry Kanters

President Bryn got the show on the road at about 12:30 pm. Gary Severtson said grace with thanks for the food and the fellowship. No guests were located in the crowd. After the preliminaries there was a photo session in regards to the Pennies for Polio initiative in Innisfail with the RC of Innisfail brass watching Mevce, our Turkish exchange student, put some coinage in the polio collection bucket. It was mentioned during the photos session that Feb. 28 was the last day when contributions by Canadians to The Rotary Foundation Polio Plus would be matched dollar for dollar (or penny for penny) by the Canadian government through CIDA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation making a $3 for $1 benefit towards the global eradication of polio.

President Bryn then asked Gavin Bates to talk about the ticket distribution for the Friendship Dinner April 24th. Gavin mentioned that the tickets had been distributed to the membership and that if the members who had tickets were not likely to sell them, then they were asked to give them back to Gavin as soon as possible so he could get them to other people who wished to attend. Ticket cost is $85 and Gavin said the next year is the 50th anniversary so some extra special occasion may be done for that shindig. President Bryn thanked Gavin for the ticket organizing and also thanked Curtis Bachur and John Newsham for their planning of this year’s event.

John Newsham then reminded the meeting attendees of the upcoming Big Brothers/Big Sisters bowling event March 3rd and circulated the pledge sheet one last time to the membership. John mentioned that at the recent Rebels 50/50 game the pot was $18,000 with of course half going to the lucky winner. This was the final Rebels event for the RC of Innisfail during the regular season but if the rebels were to advance in the playoffs, another date may come up needing our expertise. One final comment John made was that RI had produced the world’s longest video commercial which consisted of clubs around the world sending in video clips and photos showing how close we are eradicating polio. John said he tried to watch the whole thing but his attention flagged after about 30 minutes. Rod Bradshaw then drew the member’s attention to the email he sent out during the week concerning the RSP (Not Rod said some income tax saving/deferring vehicle) but the Rotary Strategic Plan to be discussed on the evening of Tuesday April 30th. A moderator is going to be present to direct focus and to facilitate discussion amongst the members as well as prevent physical altercation resulting from opinion variances. It was also mentioned that the next meeting is to be a General Assembly so it was requested that guests not be present.

Our Rotary education was next on the agenda. Mike O’Dwyer had his Sharpie pen and easel ready to record the details of the member’s brainstorming on the subject of membership retention of the new and seasoned Rotarians. Discussions of how to get the new members involved in joining Rotary and once they join how get them to find that their involvement is fulfilling and worthwhile were explored. Mentoring as an important factor was mentioned. In regards to the existing membership, it was asked “How have we helped the longer term members to handle change?” Discussion ensued. The session was wrapped up with a discussion on the aforementioned Rotary Strategic Planning session April 30th in regards to framework, structure, plan flexibility and membership involvement in developing the RSP.

For Happy/Sad bucks, Rod Bradshaw had a sad buck in that Mevce was going to be moving to a new host family in the next week and a happy buck in that it had been a pleasure to have Mevce stay at their place. Gary Severtson also had a sad buck in that Charlie Dallas had been treated for a recent heart attack but had a happy buck in that within 3 hours of the event Charlie had a heart stent put in at the hospital and was recovering well. Gary said Charlie wanted to recover speedily since where he is staying near Palm Springs (I believe) there is free golf for those 80 years and older and Charlie said he wanted to get his money’s worth. Jane Duncalfe had a happy buck since starting March 11, 2013 she would be working with Denise Lester at Sundance Realty. Eric Moe had an observation buck in noting that 80% of the female members were present for the meeting but less than 50% of the male gender members were in attendance. Gavin Bates had a sad buck in that with the latest Heart and Stroke fund drive in Innisfail there were very few people to canvas unlike in previous years when Ed Asmundson was a workhorse and would cover a large part of the town on his own. Michelle MacDonald had a happy buck since her committee had selected Ben Campbell to attend the Adventures in Citizenship and they had also selected at least on RYLA student and would have more interviews to come. Michelle said she was impressed by the interviewees.

Rod Bradshaw was selected to seek the Joker. No luck for Rod this day.

Next meeting: General Assembly for members only. No guests please.