

January 24, 2013

Posted by Larry Kanters

President Bryn opened the meeting to a cozy but quality group of Rotarians. Rumour had it that the slight attendance was due to a coinciding curling occasion. Bob Newman said grace giving thanks for the beaver tails (hamburger patties), beans, the pleasant mid-January weather and for the opportunity for Rotary fellowship. The next guy in line to be President, Rod Bradshaw introduced our guests Shaelynn Anderson and Melissa Houchin who were 2/3 of the our past RYLA student contingent and our soon to be guest speakers, as well as Shaelynn's mother Donna Lynn Anderson.

Eric Moe announced to the membership that the summary of the vital statistics and photos of the RC of Innisfail members were on the website. Eric encouraged the members to check the information for accuracy and to see if the photos taken were of their best side. He also mentioned that next week he was going to have a Facebook session to be presented by him and his partner Brenda. John Newsham announced that there was a sign-up sheet for an RC of Innisfail team or two for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters bowling fundraiser March 3, 2013. There were challenges from the Spruce View Lions Club as well the Innisfail Rotary Anns in fundraising for the cause. John figured with the bowling talent and money generation skills in the Innisfail RC it would be no sweat to meet these challenges. John also thanked those members who helped at the Rebels 50/50 event January 17th. \$15, 000 gross ticket sales were accomplished with a payout of \$7,500 (needed some math but there it is) somebody ended the evening happy. Make-ups for participating members were being reported by John in his usual efficient manner. John finished up his discourse by saying people are needed to sign up for being the door maître de la meeting in the coming weeks so don't be shy. Counting money can be fun.

President Bryn sent around a sign-up sheet again for the Red Deer College Tour April 11, 2013. In response to an invitation from our recent guest speaker Joel Ward President of RDC, the RC of Innisfail members will leave in a bus from the Legion at 11:15 am sharp and travel to RDC and the members will enjoy a lunch to be followed by a tour. The bus should be back at the Legion parking lot at about 2:30 pm. Please contact Bryn to indicate your interest to attend if you have not signed up. President Bryn also read a "Thank You" card from Carol Sims for the recent \$400K (actually \$400- private joke at the December meeting), donation to the Innisfail Food Bank and thanked the RC of Innisfail for their ongoing support.

Next it was Shaelynn Anderson and Melissa Houchin's turn to give the members a summary of their experiences at the recent May 2012 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) event. They started off by showing some pictures of the Canmore Nordic Centre where they said the speakers' sessions, meals and the dance was held. The third student sponsored by the RC of Innisfail (I believe her name was Courtney) could not attend today's meeting. They said the essence of the weekend was they learned lots of stuff such as how to respect others and how to react to other people as well as learning a lot about themselves. They said they started off shy but the counselors were helpful in breaking the ice with some getting-to-know activities. One of the speakers present was Amanda Lindhout who related her experience of her abduction in Somalia and how she has coped

in her life experience afterwards. Other speakers that Melissa and Shaelynn had photos of were Geoff who was the main leader of the RYLA presenting team and Junior who is a muscle body builder who related his experience in turning away from the drug culture in his early life. Melissa and Shaelynn said the counselors were very helpful in pushing them to make friends and make the best of the RYLA weekend opportunity. They also showed pictures of their exercise in breaking a block of wood with their bare hands. Melissa was successful; some were not but it was agreed it was a cool experience.

Melissa and Shaelynn said one of the sessions involved being divided in small groups and discussing how to deal with subjects such as abuse in a negative home environment, peer pressure and bullying. Melissa and Shaelynn said they did a presentation on depression and youth in Alberta which was presented to all the Rotarians present. The members of the RC of High River were so impressed they contributed a donation of \$2,500. Shaelynn said she met a girl over the RYLA weekend who was blinded during an assault who presented herself very well in appearance and manner. At the end of a presentation she made to the group the blind girl asked that the lights to be turned off in the room and then told everyone that this is what she sees when she wakes up in the morning. The one day of the RYLA weekend was called Wii Day. The activity that our guest speakers said they enjoyed on Wii day was joining in on the Wii games and also watching some very athletic young males do their Wii thing. Lots of friends were reported to be made over the whole weekend and Melissa and Shaelynn said they still keep in touch with a lot of their new acquaintances from the weekend. Melissa and Shaelynn finished their talk by giving a big thank you to the RC of Innisfail for sponsoring them for the life-changing RYLA weekend. At the end they showed a group picture of the 100 or so students who attended RYLA and the members spent some time playing "Where's Waldo" by trying to locate Melissa and Shaelynn.

Our esteemed Sgt-at-Arms Joe had no issues to report. Happy and Sad Bucks did not get a response. With number 932 drawn Monty made a valiant attempt at locating the Joker but none was to be seen.

Next meeting.... Face to Face with Facebook.