

March 20, 2013

Posted by Larry KanTERS

President Bryn was at the helm again for today's meeting. A well tanned Gerry Meding freshly back from his sojourn to India said grace. Our only guest was Paul Grigaitis who is the new editor of the Innisfail Province. Brent Spilak who had invited Paul to the meeting said Paul was gratified that he was going to stay for the whole meeting this time since at the last meeting he attended 2 weeks ago he was heaved out since it was an Assembly.

Gavin Bates gave a bit of an update on the upcoming April 24th Friendship dinner encouraging members to continue promoting ticket sales. Larry (the one that wears a tie sometimes) KanTERS gave a brief update on our outbound exchange student Brianna Layden (she of the red Canadian blazer) who has been in Germany since August. Larry said Brianna was staying in a town called Schleiden which is close to Cologne located not too far from the Belgium and Dutch border. Brianna reported having a few rough patches of home sickness which is a common exchange student malady and was having some challenges with the German language since her Teutonic linguistic knowledge was limited before she left Canada. She reports major improvements on both fronts. She also mentioned she was with her 3rd host family. Brianna said she finds it is interesting and eerie that she is in areas where less than 100 years ago bombs were falling as evidenced by the bomb holes and that there are fields nearby where tanks had been driven and soldiers marched and many people likely died. She is adapting well now and having fun and getting ready for her eagerly anticipated big German trip.

President Bryn then reminded everyone of the April 11 Red Deer College tour outing (bus leaves Legion parking lot at 11:15 am sharp) and the April 30th evening Rotary Strategic Planning Session. The continuing campaign for the Coins for Polio was also given a bit of a plug.

Brent Spilak introduced more formally our guest speaker Paul Gregaitis. Paul hails from Winnipeg Manitoba where he completed high school and took a post secondary journalist course. He is currently at his 6th newspaper after making stops in Portage la Prairie, Brooks, Edsen, Fort Saskatchewan and most recently Maple Creek. Paul said at his last brief Rotary meeting 2 weeks ago, before he was graciously asked to depart, he noticed the 4 Way Test banner and was impressed with its principles. Similarly he said the Canadian Press has a code of ethics that are important to journalists which include commitment to report the news in an accurate manner, following a code of privacy such as no intrusion into grief and discrete reporting on suicides, using discretion when interviewing a child and only doing so with an adult present, not paying for interviews and identifying themselves as a reporter when they are doing interviews and covering stories. Paul said reporters don't go out of their way to promote sensationalist stories but when controversial items do arise journalists try to provide an unbiased view and to present all sides to the story. It was mentioned as well by Paul that small papers such as the Province are always looking for community interest stories so if something is coming up that may be of potential interest to let him know in a timely manner, such as not at the last minute but also not too far down the road either. To get people's attention for publicizing certain events Paul said it was good to think outside the box and do something visually unique. After Paul's talk he addressed some questions from the members such as with the information age we live in does the printed newspaper have a good future (Paul said

local papers do more than the large city papers since they deal with unique local news items not available online) and what is the training for a journalist (varies from 2 to 4 year programs post secondary school and if certification is a requirement in the future this could go a long way to ensure ethical standards maintained. Brent thanked Paul for his talk and his photo will be posted on the club website (Visually unique? You be the judge).

The rest of the meeting was the Clarence Stewart show. Clarence had a sad buck in that he could not go to Vermillion to watch his grandson play hockey since the roads were terrible. Then Clarence's number was selected again to try for the Joker (Third time in the last month or so. A judicial inquiry is pending). No Joker for Clarence though.

Next meeting we got some more Club Education comin'.