

[November 29, 2012](#)

Posted by Larry Kanters

President Bryn started the meeting pretty much on time. Jacqueline McCook said grace after the traditional but finely sung "O Canada". John Newsham had 2 guests who were to be our later guest presenters but wished to give their names at the time of their guest speaker introduction. A warm welcome was given to our incognito guests by the members present.

Bryn (the guy in charge) asked the members who were not there last week to put up their hands (not for the purposes of embarrassment!) to give them a sheet detailing the new membership cultivating teams distributed at the last meeting. A comment was made that prospective members should be well informed of the financial commitment involved before joining Rotary. If more information is needed to explain this to the prospective member, please ask Monty Wild as he has a written outline on this matter. Monty then came to the podium to announce that this is the last week of the Rotary Foundation month of November in the Rotary calendar. Monty said he had been asked by Rotary members if the Foundation actually does any good considering there is so much need in the world. He said he also pondered this when he visited Uganda and saw the children playing in the area he was staying and asked himself are we actually helping through TRF. He said he came across a newspaper article of a story about a young girl walking along a seashore flinging starfish into the sea which had been washed up and left stranded on the beach. An old man walking by ridiculed the child saying "With all the thousands of starfish on the beach, how do you think you are going to make a difference in what you are doing?" The girl then picked up a starfish and after throwing it back into the surf said "It made a difference to that one." Monty then reminded the Rotarians of the \$105 CDN donation annually to TRF to maintain their status as Paul Harris sustaining members (Every Rotarian, Every Year).

Tom Peters gave an update on the soon to happen Seniors' Dinner December 4<sup>th</sup>. Cocktails to start at 5:30 pm and dinner is at 6:00 pm. Tom asked that setup be done on Tuesday morning at 10:00 am and asked all available Rotarians (and others) to help. Tom also mentioned that since the seating arrangements are complicated, it would be appreciated if the exact number of guests and Rotarians attending the dinner be given to him as soon as possible. Members were also asked that if they can help with the transportation of the seniors on the night of the Dinner to let Tom know. A food bin will be available at the Dinner for donations to the Innisfail Food Bank and cash or cheque donations will be gratefully accepted. Santa has been invited and is expected to have some presents and a few lumps of coal to distribute. President Bryn then reminded members that the Food Bank bin will be present at the next 3 club meetings courtesy of Clarence Stewart to receive food items, and cash donations or cheques made out to the Innisfail Food Bank will be eagerly accepted by Clarence and tax receipts will be sent out at a later time. Bryn in the big chair also mentioned that the Rotary meeting December Thursday December 27<sup>th</sup> will be cancelled to allow more family time and to recover from the Christmas feast. It was also announced that Tom Peters had turned one year older and wiser the November 28<sup>th</sup>. President Bryn also announced that the Rotary District 5360 (DISCON) is to be held in Lethbridge May 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup> 2013.

John Newsham then got around to introducing our guest speaker(s). But first he mentioned that the next Rebels 50/50 event will be Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> with Victoria visiting the Rebels.

Ten plus people are needed for the evening and a signup sheet will be circulated at the next meeting. Our guest speaker Kim Lundquist has been the General Manager of Sunset Manor for about a year and her co-presenter Laurie who did the computer engineering for the presentation is an LPN at Sunset. Kim told her story of how she was raised on a Saskatchewan pig farm and through her subsequent experiences has lived in Edmonton, on the Island in B.C., in New York and now in Innisfail. To start her talk, Kim showed the plants she had brought to the meeting as well as the two bags of dirt. She asked for a volunteer to take some dirt from the first bag and distribute it on the plants to show that to accomplish some worthwhile things in life one has to get one's hands dirty. Tom Peters gamely dug in to this nurturing horticultural exercise. She asked another volunteer to distribute the second bag of dirt on the plants to which Brent Spilak met the call. Just before Brent reached in the bag Kim said the second bag contained dirt as well as finely composted local manure which would greatly enhance the plants vitality but to get the job done as in other things in life we have to get our hands, wrists and elbows dirty. Brent, however, with some trepidation reached into the bag and did the deed. Kim went on to say she researched what Rotary was before her talk and found that Rotary is has elements of leadership, stewardship and giving back to the community. Kim said she started off her career as a CBC news producer and said she covered the tragic event of the 1986 space shuttle disaster and the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks which had more graphic footage than what was shown on the telecasts. She said she reached a point where she found being in a career where the negative news is highlighted was not something she could continue in and felt she needed a change. She left the CBC and with her husband went to a bible school/camp in Lethbridge. One thing that struck her as a positive exposure in her time there was the ITEAM concept in group dynamics. Its not about me, Together, Everyone, Accomplishes, More. After Lethbridge she went to New York for a missionary position, living just off Times Square working with children and young adults in impoverished areas where the police would only come into if there was a violent situation. Kim said she lived in an abandoned hospital in an area where there was no heat, no running water, at times no electricity, encouraging children in an environment of drug addicted prostitute mothers and drug lord dealings to continue their schooling and help them with their day to day homework. After 2.5 years in New York she moved to Edmonton where she worked as a receptionist at a seniors centre that was part of the same group that administered Sunset Manor in Innisfail. She was asked by the managers of the organization to go to Innisfail to be GM of the facility here and after some reflection agreed to the move. She said when she came to Innisfail, Sunset Manor had many spaces open for seniors but now it is almost full. Kim said encouragement is the oxygen of life. She said her role is to love and encourage seniors and their families and as a leader to look always at the positive side of a situation and be interested in what other people are thinking. She finished her talk by asking if we are willing to get our hands dirty to do good. In life things happen that we have no control over but we have control over our attitude. John Newsham gave a Kim a Rotary keychain gift for coming to speak at our meeting.

There were no takers when President Bryn asked for Happy /Sad bucks. The Sgt-at-Arms Mike had no report but cautioned the members that he would be fully aware if members were negligent in not supporting the Food Bank and consequences for noncompliance could be dire. The meeting ended in sort of a Hollywood ending when Birthday Boy Tom Peters after all the planning and preparation for the Senior's Dinner selected the Joker with 4 cards left and won the pink purse full of cash.

Late breaking news! Santa had the time to visit the Senior's Dinner at the time of this publication. He found nice (not naughty!) well-deserving seniors to give presents to with the help of the younger Kure children. No coal was seen in Santa's bag. Good to see some of us are behaving themselves.