

ROTATELLER

by Ian Smith

Official Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Saskatoon
Founded August 17th, 1917 as the 332nd Club in the World



Chartered #332 in the Rotary World

by Ian Smith

Vol. 97 Week #36 April 16, 2010

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Bulletin Publisher: Ian Smith

Meeting April 19, 2010

by Ian Smith

President Bernie welcomed all and opened the meeting with O Canada led by Wayne McGillivray. Our guests, Carl Schlosser (Prairieland Park), Chief Clive Weighill (Speaker) and Donald McDonald (Prince George Rotary Club) were warmly welcomed with our Hello song.

Thank you to all those who ably handled today's duties.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Sundby. As we have been away for a few weeks, Sergeant Dave anticipated that there would be a few more fines this week than usual.

Anyone who didn't read the articles about our President Bernie presenting a cheque for Shelterbox or those who did not see, and tell their friends about, the Zakreskis in the Starphoenix loading a container bound for Malawi with over \$500,000 in supplies - that would cost you! It was at this point that Wayne attempted to fine Dave from the floor for not being clear if the aforementioned articles were in the same day's paper or different editions and for not wearing his Sergeant-at-Arms Badge. No luck Wayne, there is only one Sergeant-at-Arms!

We had a brief discussion of the Masters Pool and we had one winner from the club who won \$100. Some of the winnings were promptly donated by way of happy dollars to the members of the winning golf team. Bill Edwards had the worst score in our club and as his prize he will be able to pick a fine bottle of wine. Congratulations to both. The Masters Pool raised approximately \$5000.

Volunteers for the students coming to town for Adventures in Technology are still needed. If you can billet a student, please help out. If you can't, pay up!

Next Meeting - April 26, 2010

by Ian Smith

The next regular meeting will be at the Delta Bessborough on Monday, April 16, 2010. Arlene Julé scheduled to speak about the Tanzania Project.

Duty Roster April 26, 2010

by Ian Smith

Duty Roster for Monday, April 26, 2010 at the Delta Bessborough:

Greeter - Colin Rooke

Visitors & Guests - Bev Johnson

Cashier - Scott Byers

Grace - Irv Bender

Sergeant-at-Arms - Dave Sundby

Food Cards - Dave Sundby

Please be at your posts no later than 11:45 p.m. **If you cannot fulfill your volunteer duties, please arrange for a fellow Rotarian to replace you.**

Program April 19, 2010

by Ian Smith

Police Chief Clive Weighill began by thanking the Rotarians for the work that they have been doing in the community in Saskatoon, especially for the Badge, Shield, and Star Dinner and the RAP Program that is a continued success. Chief Wieghill laid out his presentation in three main points: Crime, the Police Plane, and Tasers (Conductive Energy Devices). His comments were as follows:

Crime in Saskatoon - There has been real progress in Saskatoon as of late with robberies being down approximately 35% in the last three years. He also noted that armed robberies were down approximately 34% and assault being down 10% in the same time period. These are very good numbers

given that the City continues to grow and more and more people are coming to the City that would usually attract some elements of crime.

Chief Weighill indicated that he was recently on the John Gormley show speaking about the perception of crime on 22nd Street. The Chief noted that there were 190 stabbings in Saskatoon last year, only 9 of which were on 22nd. Generally the issues that drive crime are still the big issues in Saskatoon and they are not just on 22nd. We are going in the right direction with the crime stats and Saskatoon is generally a great, safe to live in.

The Police Plane - The Plane has a new muffler which will keep it quiet in the sky and curb the number of noise complaints about the Plane. The muffler came from Germany and cost approximately \$8000. The Plane also received a \$300,000 infrared camera from SGI that will allow the Plane to fly 2000 feet higher and still track the bad guys. Using the Plane, officers can co-ordinate with ground and close the circle on the criminals while being able to see exactly where they are running to by tracing the heat image with the infrared camera. The Plane is also used to patrol North end industrial compounds to make sure inventory is not being stolen. The Plane is a very good value and is used approximately 800 hours per year with the piloting officers being used as regular officers when they are not in the sky.

Tasers - Chief Weighill also referred to these as Conductive Energy Devices. There is currently a lot of controversy about the use of Tasers given the recent media attention with the RCMP. The RCMP are able to use Tasers but the Saskatchewan Police Commission has not yet cleared their use by Saskatchewan's municipal police forces. In terms of where they would fall on the use of force continuum, these devices would be fall right under a gun on the lethal force scale. Their use would be highly regulated and the successful or unsuccessful use would have to be reported on. The Chief would like to see them as a use of force option for the police officers in Saskatchewan.

Other comments:

Chief Weighill mentioned that a CrimeStoppers tip lead to the charging of an individual in the Bob Florence assault case. Good Police work following this tip tracked the fellow down to his house and the charges were subsequently laid.

The new police station has approval for 91 Million dollars and should be completed by 2013. The requests for bidders are being secured now and

construction should start in the near future once all the paperwork is in place and the contractors are secured. The police service currently spends approximately 1 Million dollars leasing space so the new police station would be a way to save this expense.

Graffiti is down 45-50%. One Officer is dedicated full time to dealing with "taggers" and there are protocols in place to paint over any tags shortly after they appear. This is discouraging to the taggers as their hard work is wiped over immediately.

Chief Weighill would like to see Provincial legislation put in place to prevent people from carrying street weapons such as knives, machetes, and swords. The power would be to seize the weapon without laying charges against the person carrying the weapon and would allow for a procedure to get that item back if it was not intended for a nefarious purpose. As it currently stands, there is nothing wrong with a person carrying a sword down the street so long as it is not concealed!

There are currently 5-6 gangs operating in Saskatoon with approximately 20-30 members in each. They mostly fight amongst themselves over drugs and other criminal issues. The best way to deal with them is through drug enforcement techniques.

Announcements

by Ian Smith

We heard of an old exchange student from 1993, Fran Ciela from Mexico who came back to Saskatoon to visit. She has plans of coming back to Canada permanently once all the immigration aspects of such a move are sorted out.

Please be aware that the June 7th and June 14th meetings will be held at the Saskatoon Club. Make sure you show up at the right place on those days!

ShelterBoxes have been deployed to Haiti and President Bernie offered a thank-you for this.

Adventures in Technology students still need billets - please help if you can. You need to provide a bed, breakfast and a ride for these students. So far our club has not been a significant billeting option for the students.

World Community Service meeting is on Wednesday morning at 7:30.

The Ripple Effect Project is off and running. I am sure updates will follow.

The Meewasin Club had their 25th anniversary and we had a number of people present to hear Mayor Atchinson speak. Congratulations to them for 25 years.

The District Conference is May 13-16 in Winnipeg. Make the appropriate arrangements if you plan to attend.

Rotateller

Not getting your Rotateller sent directly to you? Check to see that your messages aren't being treated as Junk Mail! Otherwise, get in touch with Gordon Menuz or Joy Adams Bauer.

Future programs

The programs are set until the end of May. Your ideas for topics or speakers are welcome anytime. Contact Gary Rusu.

2009/2010 Club Executive

President - Bernie Sonntag
Past President - Wayne Berney
President-Elect - Wayne McGillivary
Treasurer - Joanne Fisher
Secretary - Avis Hardy

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