



April 8th, 2020

The Fortarian

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay, (Fort William)

2019/2020 Board of Directors

President: Stephen Margarit
 Treasurer: Boris Cham
 Secretary: Joan Krisko
 President Elect: Cynthia Judge
 Past President: Sante Sottile
*Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,
 George Jeffrey Children's Centre
 Boardroom 200 Brock St E., 6.30pm*

Website www.fwrotary.ca

Directors: Steven Beaucage
 Glen Craig
 Robert Moore
 Steven MacDonald
 Dawn Sebesta
 Jill Zachary

Allocations Committee

Chair: Bob Hookham
*Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month,
 Weiler Maloney Nelson Board Room 12 noon.*

Rotary House Lottery Committee

Chair: Dave Knutson
*Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month,
 Weiler Maloney Nelson, 12 noon.*

Weekly Dinner Meetings

*Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
 Airline Hotel and Conference Centre
 698 W. Arthur St. Thunder Bay, ON*

Mailing Address

Thunder Bay, ON
 P.O. Box 10061
 Canada P7B 6T6

Note: For July and August, meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday only.

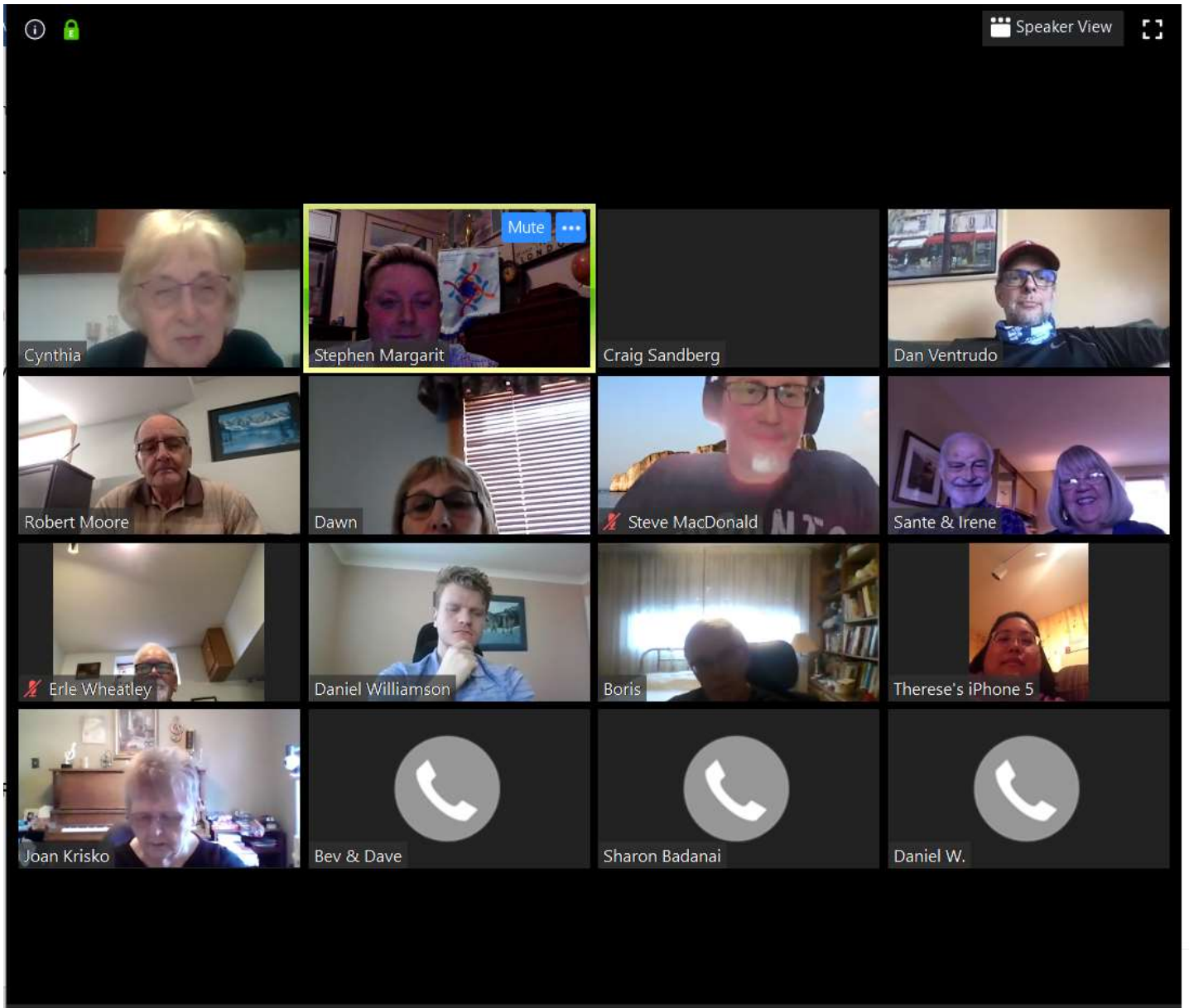
Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

April 8, 2020

Thanks to our President's technical skill we held our first virtual club meeting. Stephen invited us all to a Zoom meeting at 5:30p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. We had nineteen attendees which is I believe a very good percentage for a first virtual meeting.

Six members of the satellite club attended which I think indicates that our younger members are much more conversant with the digital age (and this scribe was delighted to note that our newest member, Daniel Williamson, was present).



President Stephen called the meeting to order and asked Lottery House Chair, Dave Knutson, to give an update. Following is the information compiled and submitted by Dave K.

1. AGCO allowed extension of dates:
 - New Grand Prize Draw date is October 12, 2020
 - Early Birds start July 3 through to September 4, 2020

2. Telephone sales now allowed:
 - POS and telephones being organized by Robert and Boris
 - Process being finalized for response to web e-form
 - at this stage we are responding to web e-form requests (call back) are ramping this up (additional assistance once the POS machines arrive and are set up in individual homes)
 - We will consider other refinements to telephone sales as we proceed
 - in the meantime Joan and Diane have been continuing to process the mail-ins and responding via telephone

3. New rules in effect starting April 6:
 - new dates
 - Telephone order specific rules
 - all previous purchasers have the right to refund (if they wish) provided they apply in writing postmarked not later than May 2, 2020. For this reason, we have issued a mail-out to all purchasers (prior to April 6) with the revised dates and rules

4. Revised rules slips – these have been printed and must be included with all tickets sold from April 6, 2020 onwards. The information on these slips replaces that printed on the ticket stubs -i.e. the new dates and rules

5. Advertising: we are being careful to increase our advertising gradually. This is the largest single expense that we have and is usually spent over 4 months. We have already been billed for 1-1/2 months. We need to spread the balance of the advertising over the next 7 months and we need to manage both our budget and cashflow carefully. We need advertising to sell tickets but we also need to generate sufficient revenue for all of our expenses. This will be a balancing act.

6. The microwave has arrived – Bev and I picked it up and moved it to the house, where Robert provided the additional muscle to get it into the kitchen (it is bulky and weighs 105 pounds). Lormar will install it.

7. Finally, the work over the past three weeks has been accomplished by a number of people to whom we owe thanks:
 - To give credit where it is due, we have a small team working on this:
 - Joan and Diane maintaining the flow of tickets
 - Robert working the technical and process around the telephone sales (and many other things)
 - Stephen M. Providing input, guidance and social media
 - Steve Beaucage keeping our suppliers paid on time (and expenses covered)

Boris assisting with Tbaytel on the technical and phone issues and Moneris for additional POS machines

Dawn Sebesta is continuing to compile the database which is so important to get the notifications out

Bruce N. is assisting with the media to the extent that his day job allows.

We have had great cooperation from Lakehead Printing and the Letter Shop. Curries have been great at getting envelopes to Joan at an economic price.

Dave K.

Robert Moore gave an update on the sales process and noted that there was a big jump in sales immediately after Stephen M went on Facebook.

Joan informed us that she has had a lot of emails and phone calls and she would like more help.

Robert stated that we will have three more POS machines which will be in three other individual homes where the information and sales will be processed before being delivered to Joan to input and then taken to Dawn who is doing the data entry.

Stephen M noted that there was no cost involved when he went on Facebook and it led to a big influx in application forms being filled out.

Bev gave an update on giving to the Foundation. She thanked Joan for forwarding her email to the club. She noted that we have until June to donate for this year and that we can donate either by going on-line or by cheque. If giving by cheque send it to Bev at the club address and remember to allow for conversion from Canadian to U.S. dollars. Stephen noted that Bob will be applying to the District for a grant for Wilderness Discovery – so giving to the Foundation might help.

Stephen said that Brian Phillips had inquired about our club's possible volunteering efforts in connection with the Covid 19 virus situation. A possible suggestion is volunteering to talk to isolated people. Also Stephen will talk to the Thunder Bay Community Foundation about partnering with them to donate our non-allocated funds.

For our meeting on April 22nd we will have a Zoom virtual meeting, probably with a speaker at the start followed by our regular meeting format.

Meeting adjourned.

Stephen noted that at our Shelter House meal last Monday only the 18 residents were eating in the dining room, where they were socially-distanced (as were the volunteers in the kitchen), and the rest of the clients were given take-out meals. He will inquire whether RFDA needs help on the third Monday.



Editor – Erle

Scribe – Bev

Photos – Stephen M