



# The Fortarian

Jan 27th, 2021  
Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

## 2020/2021 Board of Directors

President: Cynthia Judge  
 Interim Secretary: Stephen Margarit  
 Assistant Secretary: Irene Sottile  
 Treasurer: Sante Sottile  
 President Elect: Dawn Sebesta  
 Past President: Stephen Margarit  
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,  
 RBC Royal Bank, Board Room  
 1159 Alloy Drive , 6.30pm

## Website [www.fwrotary.ca](http://www.fwrotary.ca)

Directors:  
 Irene Sottile  
 Robert Moore  
 Mary Ann Breton  
 Bev Knutson  
 Jodi Phillips  
 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.

## Semi-monthly Zoom Meetings

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
 Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday

## Mailing Address

PO Box 10061  
 Thunder Bay, ON  
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## Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

## THE FORTARIAN January 27, 2021

President Cynthia Judge welcomed everyone to the meeting. About 21 Rotarians were in attendance at this Zoom meeting.

Rotarians rose as Joan Krisko played *The Star Spangled Banner*, followed by *O Canada* on the piano. Dawn Sebesta gave the toast to the Office of the President of the United States. Stephen Margarit gave the toast to the Queen.

President Cynthia introduced our guest speaker, **Blaine Johnson**. Blaine is a past District Governor and joined Rotary in 2004 at the age of 27.

Blaine was the President of the Rotary Club of Janesville, Minnesota for seven years and served as their President twice. He then joined the Bismarck, North Dakota Rotary Club and served as their President in 2014-15. He currently leads the District 5580 Club Visioning Team.



Blaine noted that 2020 has certainly been a different year with a lot of disruption. He has had numerous opportunities over the past year to participate at Rotary meetings using Zoom rather than travelling. He noted that District 5580 is the first Rotary District in the world to utilize a virtual **Visioning** process; ours is scheduled for next **Wednesday, February 3 at 5:30 pm**.

Blaine asked Rotarians to think about what their perceptions of the club are, what are the problem areas, what are the good things that we do, etc. This information will be used to develop a baseline for analysis and consideration of future actions.

Some of the potential problem areas for clubs tends to be the disruption of continuity that results from an annual change in leadership. Another common issue is for members to be resistant to change, rather than being open to exploring new ways to do things. A cognitive bias causes people to overestimate their positive qualities and underestimate their negative qualities. Other perceptions of challenges include an aging membership, lack of sufficient younger demographic, small core group of engaged members doing a large proportion of the work.

Blaine stressed that we need to look forward to future growth and activities, rather than being satisfied with the status quo and looking backwards in time. The objective of the Visioning exercise is to help us identify opportunities that will:

- be **RELEVANT** to the community we serve and the needs of our members;
- foster greater member **ENGAGEMENT**;
- make the club **ATTRACTIVE** to current members and potential members;
- provide **CONTINUITY** for successive years of leadership;
- build **CONSISTENCY** in objectives, projects, and priorities;
- build **CONSENSUS** among club members so that we are all working towards the same goal.

Next Wednesday's Visioning exercise for our club will build a multi-year plan of club goals for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. A writing exercise will be distributed in advance to those who will be participating in the session. We will be looking at what we have accomplished and where we think we would like to be. Results will be shared with the membership through a Survey Monkey where members can advise of their priorities and comments on the options that were developed. This will feed into a Master Plan for each year, with the action steps needed to accomplish the objectives.

President Cynthia thanked Blaine for his presentation. She will send out the writing exercise and a Zoom link to those who will be attending. We expect to have more than 20 members in attendance at this important session.

President Cynthia noted that we had received correspondence from Dan Brown, Assistant District Governor. Dan is asking that each Thunder Bay club identify a Foundation Champion for their club. This person will encourage members to support the Foundation through contributions and assist with applying for grants. Correspondence was also received from Shelter Box Canada. They said that without Rotary they would not have been able to reach the 200,000+ people that they helped in 2020. The letter indicated that over 130 Rotary clubs across Canada provided support.

Robert Moore advised that the Allocations Committee had met and will be recommending to the Board that \$20,000 be approved for the Art Gallery and \$4,000 for St. Joseph's Foundation.

Dave Knutson said that the application for the House Lottery was sent in last Wednesday and is under review for approval.

Robert Moore is continuing to work with Shout! Media on the website for the House Lottery. The page should be finalized by the end of February.

President Cynthia advised of the following upcoming events that will be held using Zoom:

- Wednesday, **February 3**, 5:30 pm – Club **Visioning** Session, hosted by Blaine Johnson and two other facilitators
- Wednesday, **February 10**, 6:00 pm – regular club meeting

- Wednesday, **February 24**, 6:00 pm – regular club meeting, Irene Sotille will speak about the roles of our Rotary Club and the District
- Friday, **February 26**, 7:30 pm – Port Arthur Rotary will lead the Anniversary event, more details to follow

Mandi O'Connor provided COVID-19-themed jokes for The Lighter Side.

President Cynthia adjourned the meeting.

**Editor Erle**

**Scribe Dave McColl**

