



### Report on the Meeting of Feb 25th, 2019

#### Head table

President: Kevin Harding

Introducer: Ron Dick

Guest Speakers: Troy Welch

Thanker: Cindy Ruckermann

Rotarian: N/A

Sergeant at Arms: Martin Parker

#### Introductions/Guests

- Guest speaker – Troy Welch – Craft Talk

#### President's Announcements

A meeting of Durham Women's Group for a candle lighting evening on Wednesday. The speaker is Hala Abou Youssef a Rotarian active in the Durham region.

#### Mic Time

Ron Dick future District Governor had four announcements. President elect Jay will be attending training sessions this weekend. Please send in your survey form on club activities and management. The past presidents will meet on Thursday to plan the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the club next year, and **Tom Maxwell was called up to receive his third Paul Harris fellow.**

#### Happy Bucks

Happy bucks were many. Ron Dick told how the car in front of him and his wife Karen paid for their breakfast at a Tim Horton's Drive Through. Tom Hodgson was misidentified at a funeral as one of the embalmers or maybe one of the customers (it wasn't clear). Tom Maxwell landed safely after many circles around Lake Ontario with the plane covered in ice. Rhonda Gorman raised \$1240 on her recent walk and her team earned \$89,000 for The Refuge, a truly outstanding achievement. President Kevin was ion the top 10% pf realtors. He also told of our four members currently in the Dominican Republic on sweat equity (Rhonda, Clive Lori and Emmy)

#### Speaker

Troy Welch – Craft talk attached

## **Noon Hour Draw**

The fifty-fifty draw had an unusual outcome. No one had the ticket. In the small crowd everyone was polled by everyone else, but the ticket could not be found. So, a second ticket was drawn, and Bob Alexander stepped up to draw the wrong card; so, the pot grows.

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## **Next Meeting – March 4th, 2019**

### **All regular meetings held at:**

12:10 at the Oshawa Golf and Curling Club

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Troy's Craft Talk

### Kraft Talk

NOT SMART, TERRIFIED TO FAIL, KIND, RESPECTFUL, BIG HEARTED. PROTECTIVE, Some of the words myself and others may use to describe me.

I have been a home builder, truck driver, young offender worker, worked in an all-female children's aid home. A volunteer fire fighter. A construction labor. A fire equipment inspector. Patient Transfer, Factory worker. A support worker, and a REC coordinator.

But I'm getting a head of myself

My name is Troy Welch, I was born at a very young age in Peterborough Ontario.

I had 2 siblings an older sister Tracy by two years and a younger brother Terry that would have been one year younger than me.

My brother Terry died when he was only three months old. I don't remember much from that far back, but I think my family life was pretty much normal up to the death of my brother.

That's when my parents started to blame each other, and alcohol became a big part of my parents' life.

Things at home were tough, my parents decided to separate when I was about 6 or 7 years old.

My mother Sue and my sister Tracy and I moved into a women's shelter called the YWCA.

After leaving the YWCA we ended up moving from apartment to apartment for a few years. Unfortunately alcohol was still a big part of my mom's life.

Having an alcoholic mother and a dead beat father, who wanted nothing to do with me started to play its toll in my life.

At around age 9 so grade 4, I was already being suspended from school and had received the strap numerus times.

Between social workers, psychiatrist, the school board and my Mom they decided to put me in a school for troubled kids, called Browndale, it's now called Kinark. Back then this school was more about behavior not education.

They tried putting me into special ED classes a few times, but my struggles were still there. I was ashamed that I had to be in those classes and not in a regular class, with regular kids.

At age 12 I was done at brown Dale I had reached the age were there was no more services for me. I lived with my Mom and sister In the Cameron street low rental units.

I tried to go to high school, but there was 2 problems I had no former education, and I was already pegged as trouble by some of the teachers.

So again school became a struggle.

My Mother RE- Married an alcoholic named Paul.

Paul was a very angry man and seemed to enjoy taking his anger out on me, by smacking me around. But I always figured it was better me then my Mom or my sister so I took it. Between the physical abuse and the mental abuse, and my real father not around I began to self-destruct.

On the day of my 13 birthday I was taken to emerge from an overdose.

Shortly after wards I got into trouble with the law, in court my mother told the judge she didn't want me, SLASH couldn't handle me anymore, and because my father wanted nothing to do with me the judge put me in a group home in Peterborough called Robuck, now called Park Place. And I was placed on probation for young offenders.

They ended up moving me into another group home in Bridge north called Baily residence. I was released on my 16 Birthday, but not able to go home and know where really to go and thinking I knew everything, I went on my own.

“Wow was I wrong”

I really didn't know anything. But I knew the streets and knew how to survive. I went from Job to job, moved from town to town place to place just trying to find my place in this world.

I stated to box and take mixed martial arts, I entered a few tournaments and had an undefeated record. I finally found something that came natural and I was good at.

My coaches and club members were so proud of me. I really enjoyed this feeling of praise and that's when I decided I wanted more of this feeling in my life.

I ended up moving to Belleville and that's when I decided to go to adult school and get my grade 12 I was about 28 years old.

When I registered I put down I had grade 5 or 6 completed and about 6 or 8 high school credits. I really thought that's what I had.

The school ended up calling me in for a sit down, they were concerned and rightfully so. They had my transcripts, ended up I only had grade 4 completed and 3 high school credits.

Gym and shops.

How could this be, I had been to 6 public schools and 4 High schools.

And still didn't have my grade 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12.

Somehow I knew how to read fairly well and my penmanship was readable, but I didn't know basic math like my times tables, or even basic English like what a verb or noun was.

Between me putting my head down and not giving up, and the teachers being so KIND and PATIENT, and not giving up on me when I wanted to quit, and believe me there were days I wanted to quit.

1.5 years later I was walking down the aisle to receive my Grade 12 diploma that was in June of 2001.

Because I got my grade 12 I was able to become a volunteer firefighter, I loved it.

But grade 12 still didn't seem to be enough to land a good career. So again I went from job to job and had a hard time figuring out what to do with my life.

My dream was to be a Police officer. But I was terrified to write the test I was so afraid of failing.

I got a job working with young offenders at a group home and at an all-girl children's aid group home.

Both part time.

I was there for about two years. Then they decided to close the Young Offenders home.

NOW WHAT? I can't live on part time work.

So I decided to go to College through second career. At Loyalist collage in Belleville. To take the 2 year Community Justice Service Worker program. To become a corrections officer.

After my first 2 weeks I quit, no way was I going to make it through college.

I went in to sign the papers to quit, and they asked me to at least meet the academic visor before I quit.

So I agreed to.

They offered me a tutor, and extra time to write my tests because of my academic back ground.

I worked so hard, many frustrating moments, but with AWESOME FACULTY and a VERY CARING TUTOR.

Two years later I was walking down the aisle to get my 2 year diploma in Community Justice service Worker. That was in June of 2011

Not only did I graduate I graduated on the dean's list.

I wrote my test for Federal corrections shortly after that, it was all math and English, I failed, and that was a tough time for me.

I ended up back in Peterborough, started driving dump trucks again.

I met my girlfriend Liz Stubbert of almost 6 years now at Tim Hortons in Peterborough. She was in Peterborough that week for a work conference.

Liz works at the Brain Injury Association of Durham Region. Liz is the Day Service Supervisor.

The day program is held in a facility 850 king ST west. The day program is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM till 3:30 PM. And on Fridays from 8:30 AM till 2:30 PM.

The day program offers people with acquired brain injury a safe place to go during the day. We offer different programs each day for the clients to be a part of such as. READ OFF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION SHEET.

The day program has about 120 members who come through our doors, and average about 45 to 50 that hang out at the day program each day.

The day program provides a hot lunch Monday through Friday free of charge for our participants.

I would come and see Liz at work, and play pool and hang out with the participants. Somehow I ended up putting in a resume, 1 month later they offered me a part time job, being a Community support worker.

TELL what is Biad and what is a support worker.

A support worker works one on one with clients with acquired brain injuries, mostly out in the community, example, help with banking, help with grocery shopping, paying bills, and take to Doctors Appointments. Anything we can do to help our participants live as normal of a life each day as we can.

Then I was hired on a full time contract. To be the Recreation coordinator. My boss gave me an opportunity to build and have my own program, called the REC program.

EXPLAIN WHAT THE REC PROGRAM IS.

The Recreation program is a program to basically get our participants who don't attend the day program off the couch. For either Physical activity, or social activity. Or both.

By Taking the participants to the YMCA, for Aqua fit class, go lift weights, walk the track, play basketball. Anything the individual is interested doing physically.

Getting a Participants out for social activities, such as going to Tim Horton's, going for a walk through the mall. Going to a hockey game.

Then I was given the opportunity to also coordinate a youth program.

USE YOUTH PROGRAM SHEET TO READ FROM.

It's been a crazy road for me lots of bumps, lots of failures, tons of tears.

BUT IM STILL STANDING

I have a beautiful girlfriend Liz who I live with. A son in law Chris, a step daughter Samara a step son Jessie, and 4 step grandchildren, Dakota 11, Sydney 5 Phoenix 1 month. They are Chris and Samaras children. And I have another granddaughter Elise she is 4, she is Jessie's Daughter.

I am Truly Blessed.

ONE MORE THING, my Mother when I was in my late 20s became a Christian and quit drinking, never touched another drop from that day until the day she died. She became the greatest Mom in the world.

Thank you for listening to my story, I hope this helps people understand me better.