

President Update

TASTE OF INDA

We have launched into our 2026 Taste of India. We NEED some members to lead some of the activities. The crucial areas where we need both volunteers and a LEADER for that section are:

- Obtaining silent auction items
- A volunteer or two to purchase the liquor required for the event. This is not as onerous a task as it may appear. We have engaged professional bar tenders to manage the bar. The task is to purchase the liquor (a list will be provided) from a BCLB store and deliver it to the Lion's Hall.
- We would like more members who would be willing to approach potential sponsors.
- We would like two or three members to go to the Storage locker and perform an inventory of our "linens" and properly label the bins. It will make it so much easier to set up if we know where the items are!!

Board meeting dates for remainder of the 2025-2026 Rotary Year:

- Tuesday January 20-7:00 PM by MEETS (zoom)
- Tuesday Feb 17- 5:30 in person
- Tuesday March 17- 7:00 PM by MEETS (zoom)
- Tuesday April 21-5:30 in person TOI reporting
- Tuesday May 19 7:00 PM by MEETS (zoom)
- June to be decided

Annual General Meeting

I have asked Frank Busch to arrange for a time for our annual general meeting. We need to appoint Committee Chairs and Executive Members for the 2026-2027 Rotary Year.

Okanagan Community Foundation

I was asked to meet with the Foundation. We met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. The main items of discussion were:

- 1. The Foundation is an Okanagan Foundation, and they have recently realized that they have not been visible or very active in West Kelowna. (Melissa Hunt-Anderson, Leneta. Parry and Melissa Grassmick were mentioned people they have talked to regarding West Kelowna.**
- 2. They will be setting aside funds to provide "grants" and funding for West Kelowna projects. They heard that we have a very active Club and hope that**

there will be opportunities to work on projects together. I was actually asked if we had any current projects that we should discuss.

- 3. They also wanted to do a follow-up to my discussion with them about a year ago when I enquired about being able to partner with them in a manner by which cash donations to our Club could receive receipts making the donation eligible for a charitable tax refund credit. We did not pursue the idea any further as I was told that they could only issue a receipt if the donation was specifically given for a project that had a CRA number. That didn't make sense as we could give the money directly to organization and not involve them. I was asked why we didn't pursue the idea. I gave our reason and was told that I was misinformed. They can issue a tax receipt for donations we receive. They will hold them in an account. We can donate funds to causes from that fund and the recipients know that the money came from our Rotary Club. They charge a 10% fee on money they manage on our behalf. That may seem high but may still be attractive to donors who would like to receive the tax credit which is about 40% in BC. More discussion to follow!!**

District 5050 and Kelowna area Club news:

- 1. The 2026 Rotary Days event has been scheduled for Sunday June 28th back at City Park (same place as last year).**
- 2. May 17, 2026, is the Rotary International Day of Service and they would like every Club to run a service project that day that hopefully will receive some publicity.**
- 3. District 5060 has set a \$1 million Foundation fundraising goal for the 2026-2027 Rotary Year. The incoming Governor would really like all Clubs to participate and "dig deep" both through direct contributions and through legacy gifts.** It was actually suggested at the meeting that Clubs may want to slow down Foundation and Polio donations in this half year and increase donations in 2026-2027. It was "suggested" that the Kelowna area Clubs set a goal of \$100,000 USA which would be about \$15,000 a Club. There will be a big kick off dinner at the end of October in Osoyoos More to follow.
- 4. Due to three Clubs in our area folding (Peachland and 2 Vernon Clubs) the Areas are being changed. There will no longer be an Area 4. Kelowna Morningside Club will come into our Area 5 and Lake Country will be moved to a Kelowna Area. The remaining two Clubs in Vernon will move to the Sicamous Area**
- 5. District Conference will be in Kamloops from April 17-19. Details will be coming out shortly.**
- 6. Some Club updates**

- a.** Ogoopogo Whisky tasting will be held on Feb. 17, 2026
- b.** Sunrise sold all but 20 of their calendars and raised \$ 90,000 half of which goes to their Club
- c.** Two of the Clubs have organized simulated golf nights as fund events. Apparently, they are a lot of fun and people who aren't golfers seem to enjoy them.
- d.** The 38-year-old President of the Landmark Club had a heart attack on Xmas eve. Their President has stepped in. They have been able to grow membership from 7 to 13 as a result of setting up in Landmark Towers.