



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- September 5 American members please note
Freedom Park & Rotary Adventure Park
Work project to be continued
Contact Jill Greer for more information
windmill2greer@gmail.com
- September 8 Semiahmoo Rotary Golf Tournament
Morgan Creek Golf Course
3500 Morgan Creek Way, Surrey, BC
TIME: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
REGISTRATION FEE: \$275.00
For more information: Doug Blender – dblender50@gmail.com
- September 12 PNW Passport Rotary Club meeting – 4:00 pm
Guest Speaker: Chris Loat
Shelter Box
- September 23-25 Zone 28/32 Online Summit! You need to register.
- September 24 PNW Passport Rotary Club meeting – 6:00 pm
Guest Speaker: Izzie Edwards
Speaking about Bird Watching
- October 22 PNW Passport Rotary Club meeting – 6:00 pm
Guest Speaker: DG Carol Tichelman

THE PNW PASSPORT ROTARY CLUB - ROUNDUP

Date: August 27, 2020
Meeting: 6:00 pm End: 7:15 pm
Place: Zoom Online – hosted by P-Elect Deb Wiggs

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

President	Roy Holman
President - Elect	Deb Wiggs
Treasurer	Terry Greer
Membership & Engagement, Chair	Pati Villhauer
Service, Chair	Jill Greer
Secretary	Joy St. John

The Rotary Bell was rung at 6:15 pm after a few moments of confusion over the zoom link. Our Host Deb Wiggs managed to get everything sorted out and all members were admitted.



P-Roy: Welcomed all in attendance to our virtual meeting. Welcomed DG-Elect Bev Harrington. Bev has a very extensive bio and has served District 5050 in many positions. Is a recipient of the Rotary Service Above Self award.

He asked Pati Villhauer to introduce our guest to the Club Charlene Teel

Pati: It's my pleasure to introduce our guest to our Club Charlene Teel. She is a very active member of the Camino Island Chapter of Days for Girls. She works tirelessly on this project to get the menstrual kits made for girls around the world, now is making masks for those who need them.

P-Roy: Said it was time to induct two members to the PNW Passport Rotary Club Andy Leebron-Clay and Lornell Ridley. Pat Bond would you please introduce Lornell to the Club.

Pat: It is with pleasure that I tell the Club about a very fine member that is joining. Lornell has over the last 22 years belonged to three Rotary Clubs and has decided that our Club will help her remain an active Rotarian. Lornell, is an extraordinary fundraiser, she also has worked hard to promote literacy at home and abroad.

P Roy: Thank you Pat. Our other member to be inducted tonight is long overdue that is Andy Leebron-Clay an essential worker, she has been extremely busy like all essential workers over the past months. She fortunately is able to make time to join the meeting today.

For both new members they are no strangers to Rotary but I'd like to tell them about our Club. Passport Clubs offer the flexibility to attend meetings on your own schedule there is no requirement to attend a weekly meeting. I want you both to know that your new Club is not very old but we are truly a Club that is working hard to listen to its members in particular their wish to do what Rotary does best Service Above Self, we have several new projects on the go for coming year and we hope to expand to more. The Club has a new fundraiser

we are hoping it will bring in the funds to help us accomplish that aim. It is nice to hear you enjoy fundraising and are excellent at it Lornell!

Welcome Lornell Ridley and Andy Leebron-Clay to the PNW Passport Rotary Club.

Andy: Some of you might not know that I am an animal rescuer right now I have 4 dogs!! Rotary is in my blood, my dad was a long time Rotarian.

Lornell: She is happy to be a member of the Club and would like to help where she can.

P-Roy: Asked Pati Villhauer our Engagement Chair to introduce our Guest Speaker and member Celeste Mergens.

Pati: Its my honour to introduce Celeste. Celeste Founded Days for Girls in 2008, she is now the CEO. I along with Jill Greer help make the kits at the Stanwood Chapter on Camino Island. This is such a wonderful project we are fortunate to have Celeste as our member and our guest speaker tonight.

Celeste: Thank you for having me speak tonight. I will be speaking to you about a project that I am very passionate about, I have slides to show you about this project.

I was working with a family foundation, the Leebron Foundation, in the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya where I began assisting an orphanage. In the wake of historic post-election violence, the population at the orphanage had swelled from 400 children to 1,400.



As I was getting prepared to return to Nairobi, I went to bed with the devastating situation weighing heavy on my mind. In the middle of the night, I woke up with a nagging question: "What are girls doing for feminine hygiene?" Seeking an answer, she ran to the computer and sent an email to the Assistant Director of the orphanage.

His answer was: "Nothing. They wait in their rooms."

I learned that girls were sitting on cardboard for several days each month, often going without food unless someone would bring it to them. This set in motion my first intervention - disposable pads. I found out that girls were sexually assaulted for a single pad!! But I and my team quickly discovered a major problem - without any place to dispose of the pads, this was neither a viable nor a sustainable solution.

I truly wanted girls to be able to go to school educated young women make for a better country.

It was time for Plan B: a washable, long-lasting pad.

The first Days for Girls Kits were quite different from the design in use today. Each of the 28 iterations that followed would be redesigned by extensive feedback and designed to meet unique cultural and environmental conditions in communities throughout the world. There are many Chapters of Days for Girls with many, many volunteers sewing the reusable kits. There are ladies and men in Third World countries who are now sewing these items. The kits last approximately 5-yrs if cared for properly.



What would eventually become clear in the years following the beginning of Days for Girls' was just how much of a difference hygiene solutions would make in assisting women and girls to break the cycle of poverty to live lives of dignity.

Cambodia is now fully on board with helping get the reusable kits to the girls and women.



Rotary has been a true supporter from the very beginning of this extremely important and rewarding project.

Today Days for Girls are also making the necessary masks for the Third World and at home where they too are needed.

Today, Days for Girls has reached more than 1.7 million women and girls in 125+ countries with DfG Kits and menstrual health education. This translates into over 115 million days of dignity, health, and opportunity!

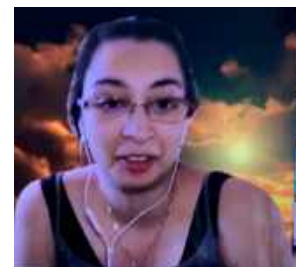
I leave you with this 'each of us can make a change there is power in We.'
"When odds are one to a million, be that one."

P-Roy: Called upon Julie Johansen to thank our speaker.

Julie: Thank you very much Celeste for speaking to our Club today. We need to be updated continually on Days for Girls accomplishments and challenges. We truly appreciate you taking the time today to do this. Again thank you.

P-Roy: Ask our member & a Rotaractor Nav to report on working on the Canadian service project for Urban Water Society.

Nav: Said they were all thankful to be able to work on a service project after such a long period of time of not



being able to, when the Rotaractors were always involved in local service and international projects.

Pati: September 12 our speaker would be talking about Shelter Boxes.
September 24 meeting would be on bird watching.

Terry: The second half of the Rotary Playground project on Camino Island was happening on September 5, at 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. They had another donation of paint! After the project everyone was welcome to come to their place for hamburgers and a drink.

Sean: ARES had three clubs who were going to sponsor the 2021 project, ours being one of them. They expected a shipment to go out in January 2021.

Deb: Scrips was up and working there is an app for it. There are approximately 750 companies who will give a percentage of each purchase of a gift card back to the Club, the percentage varies from company to company. If you want more information on how to access the gift cards please reach out to Deb at dwiggs@v2vms.com. Terry and I are now working on getting a Canadian company

Allen: The Green Bag project needs more people who want to fill a bag with food. Please ask neighbours, colleagues, family members if they live in the Ferndale area if they would be willing to fill a bag for the Food Bank. He was working on the Rotary matching grant.



P-Roy: Said it was now Happy Buck time:

His Happy Bucks were because the Rotaracts came out to help with the service project.

Deb: Mix-up with the zoom link and the induction of two new members.

Terry: The Freedom Park & Rotary Playground service project made the local newspaper

Ken: Welcome to Lornell

Sean: Happy work was busy but has caused him to miss some of his usual Rotary activities! Welcome Lornell and thank you Celeste. Later added to his Happy Buck donation, he didn't want to be out done by Tim!!
Thank you Tim!!

Tim: Yeah we now have Scrips and the Green Bag Project is up and running.

Jill: Grandson has a watch phone and calls her on it!

Joy: Grandson has passed his written Commercial Pilot License test!!

There were so many more who had great reasons to give to our Happy Buck program. Remember the funds received for Happy Bucks go to support our projects. We operate on the honour system when you feel you have enough in your Happy Buck jar, please send a cheque to:

Terry Greer (US dollars)
PO Box 1594
1009 Juniper Beach Road
Stanwood, WA 98292

or

Lindagene Coyle (Canadian dollars)
2789 Cranley Drive
Surrey, BC V4P 1E2

P-Roy: asked P-E Deb to ring the Rotary Bell to end our great meeting.



Look at Pati's fantastic dahlias!!