



JANUARY, 2021

THE PEN DOOR

THE NEWSLETTER of the ROTARY DISTRICT 5550 DG

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DG Gailmarie Anderson



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH



Click on the image above to read more about Rotary Vocational Service

Upcoming Events

Evening Talk Show

January 7

District Board Meeting

January 12

Assistant Governor Meeting

January 13

Director Dialogue

January 14

Succession Planning Committee

January 19

Starting an Eco Club

January 19

Click [HERE](#) for more details



VIRTUAL LEARNING & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

“A TINKER, A TAILOR, A BOWLEGGED SAILOR” A LOOK at VOCATIONAL SERVICE

D5550 Evening Talk Show
January 7th, 2021 – 7 pm

Join your fellow Rotarians for a bit of history, some stories, and as always, fellowship and opportunities for sharing our passion, ideas and best practices.

DIRECTOR DIALOGUE
January 14th - 7 pm ET

Rotary International Director Valarie Wafer talks with Past R.I. President Barry Rassin "*Elevate Rotaract*"

[WEBINAR REGISTRATION](#)

Question can be submitted to RID Valarie Wafer -
valarie.wafer@gmail.com

“HOW TO START AN ECO-CLUB!” January 19th at 7 PM ET

Interested in helping to start a new cause-based club?
Join the next presentation from the Innovative Club Advocate Team for Rotary Zones 28 & 32 on Tuesday, [REGISTER HERE](#)
This 30-minute session is part of a series being held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The
Rotary
Foundation



Doing Good In The World



 [Zone 28 & 32 Beyond Borders Newsletter](#)

 [D5550 Board Minutes](#)

Rotary



VOCATIONAL SERVICE

AS I SEE IT - DG Gailmarie Anderson

It is a New Year 2021 but it is also the halfway mark of our Rotary Year 2020-2021 and we can all breathe a sigh of relief that this is behind us, given the devastating situation in our world. COVID 19 has brought so much sorrow and stress to all of us. It has created heart wrenching times for frontline workers, it has created mental distress for individuals, it has created economic havoc around the world, and it has left a lingering malaise into this next year because it is still rampant even today. How do we deal with such uncertainty? How do we create opportunities to remain connected to each other and to our communities? How do we even deal with these unanswerable questions?

I can only quote a fellow DG colleague, “Don’t stop believing that 2021 will be a better and healthier year for Rotary to open more opportunities for us”.

Let’s just do what Rotary has always done – let’s help those in need – in whichever way we can – let’s stick together - and let’s work toward a more promising world of peace and justice for all.

Happy New Year!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - ROTARY’S PATH FORWARD

Fred Wright - Past District Governor D5550

Community engagement is a strategic process with the specific purpose of working with identified groups of people, whether they are connected by geographic location, special interest, or affiliation. Interested people or groups collaborate to identify and address issues affecting the well-being of the community.

Why Community Engagement?

- To find out what our communities want and need
- To find ways to help provide the wants and needs
- To connect with our communities through partnering and increased membership

How to Engage Post Pandemic

There may be limited ways the community is willing to gather during the pandemic. Fortunately vaccination has started and an end to isolation is looming on the horizon. When individuals feel safe to gather again, sponsor an event like a pancake breakfast or BBQ lunch to get community members out. Once you have community members as a captive audience, seek their feedback. One way to do this is by brainstorming for ideas, then having individuals prioritize the ideas. A suggested technique for this is described below.

- Seat your community members in groups of six to eight, preferably at round tables
- Provide each table with a few sheets of Flip Chart paper and markers
- Ask each group to assign a note taker and reporter
- Ask each table to come up with as many wants and needs for our community as possible and give them ten minutes to do so.
- Ask each table to report their wants and needs
- Pin up the flip chart pages from each table on the walls
- Give each participant a strip of coloured dots.
- Get the participants to put their coloured dots on the projects that they feel are most important/worthy. They can put more than one dot on a project.

- Thank your audience for their participation
- Take the flip chart results back to your club and decide what you can do to provide what the community wants/needs most.
- Once you decide what you can do, call another meeting of the community to engage the community in the project(s) that you can support.

How to Engage During the Pandemic

- Invite your community to a Zoom meeting.
- Ensure that you have breakout rooms set up and a facilitator to ensure that assignments to rooms and discussions are well handled.
- Consider a draw for a prize as an incentive to get people to join the meeting.
- Ask each breakout room to assign a note taker and reporter
- Ask each breakout room to come up with as many wants and needs for our community as possible and give them ten minutes to do so.
- Make sure you have at least two people assigned to collect the feedback from each group into poll questions
- Ask each group/breakout room to report what they came up with
- Have another person assigned to capture the feedback on a shared screen.
- While showing the total collection of ideas on the shared screen, ask the participants to vote for the ideas they like the best, 1 most important to 10 least important to them
- This requires some solid pre-planning and practise to ensure positive results
- Thank your audience for their participation
- Take the results back to your club and decide what you can do to provide what the community wants/needs most.
- Once you decide what you can do, call another meeting of the community to engage the community in the project(s) that you can support.

PEOPLE OF ACTION - *District Governor Gailmarie Anderson*

Thank you to all Rotarians in our District 5550. You are truly People of Action. So many of you stepped forward to help with giving during this holiday season and you kept the true spirit of Christmas alive in 2020. From the Regina Oskaya Club's Virtual Christmas Concert to the Sioux Lookout Club's Online Themed Basket Auction to Kenora Club's Christmas Gifting for Seniors, and many, many more, we all stepped up to provide gifts of sustenance, warmth, and fellowship.

The story of the Rotary Club of Dauphin's Gift of Lights 2020 Fundraiser is a fine example of this and gives us a great idea for next year!



GIFTS OF LIGHT 2020 - DAUPHIN, MB

GIFTS OF LIGHT 2020 (Submitted by Dauphin Rotary Club)

Looking for a new fundraiser, especially during COVID times? Want to capture your community's heart in the process?

New in 2020, this Dauphin Rotary project offered community members the opportunity to remember special people this Christmas season through sponsoring one of 40 Gifts of Light.

People "purchased" live evergreen trees decorated with bright lights that were set up in our beautiful downtown CN Park.

In Memory signage beside each tree gives the names of those being remembered. A composite sign, illuminated by flood lights, lists the honourees and the community sponsors for the project.

Some people even began personalizing "their" tree with ornaments and decorations that were meaningful to them. Whether seen from afar or when walking among them, these beautiful trees have resonated with many and created a new tradition in our community's Christmas celebration.

People who weren't able to participate this year due to the number of trees available during this inaugural year, have already asked to be on the list to sponsor trees for next Christmas.

For further information on the details of this fundraiser, please contact Steve Sobering at s.sobering1@gmail.com.

**Your
Story**
STARTS HERE

What has your club been up to?
How has your club evolved to
respond to the pandemic? We would
love to share your stories with the
district. Submit your stories to
gmanderson@sasktel.net

