

Rotary Club of Calgary West
(Service through Fellowship)

The Weekly WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3, Elbow River Casino, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Garfield Ganong **President-Elect:** Lynne Thornton

Past President: Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards

Treasurer: Mike French

Directors: Brent Barootes, Mark Ferguson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

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BULLETIN GUY'S NOTE: My computer is now connected, so here are the news!

The crew gathered for our weekly meeting at Sam's place, The Elbow River Casino

President Garfield spoke about World Understanding Month. And when he Googled, up came Rotary International.

O Canada was sung.

At the head table: **Roy Thurm, Robyn Braley, Ron Brookes**, Garfield Ganong and our guest speaker, **Joe Pham**.

Introduction of visitors and guests was presented by **Bob Kerr** followed by the welcome song.

Marie Rickard announced that Jane Beveridge will host a partners' party on April 16 at 10AM.

President Garfield announced that **Adam Joyce** has resigned because of business and family pressures.

ENSINADA: Our club will build two homes there this year.

Des DeFreitas told us of the upcoming exchange trip to Orangeville, Ontario.

President Garfield mentioned the importance of membership.

Ron Morrison has tickets for the Integrity Awards Dinner.

Dan Doherty tried to collect on a February 29th birthday, but it was his daughter's.

Did **Don Alexander** actually win the 50/50 draw?

Larry Doyle spoke about the auto show or did he win tickets?

Robyn Braley did a wonderful introduction of our guest speaker.

Joe Pham told us of his family's escape from, Vietnam 29 years ago. Our guest is a pharmacist .In sharing his life experience he told of the family's decision to flee their country. His father was a doctor. They were on the open seas for five days. Each member of the family had a \$1000 gold bar, but it was taken from them. They had some American money rolled up in a cigarette. They had to swim or die. Malaysia became their home – in a UN camp. They were offered US, Australia or Canada and chose Canada. Saskatoon became there home and Joe is a graduate of the U of S. His father was a captain in the Canadian forces based at Cold Lake and Edmonton. His sister, Juliette, taught English.

He is part of a project that sends wheel chairs to Vietnam, Brunei and Uganda. They store the wheel chairs at 3613, 13 Street in Inglewood.

CLUB MAKES COMMITMENTS TO OVER \$65,000 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

The International Committee continues to do excellent work in reviewing opportunities and ensuring our club project investments are both worthwhile and fiscally managed. A series of motions were brought forward to the board at the meeting on Monday, February 25. After much discussion, short and long term planning discussions and fiscal responsibility the International Committee has been approved to undertake the following projects above and beyond what has already been committed this year and in the future. The motions were as follows:

The club has approved a donation of \$1,000 to our Ensenada project daughter (Ana) to further assist her through her schooling at this time. This is a one-time gift and conditional upon AG funding approval.

In addition the club has approved to commit to a further two-year support of the Ensenada project that the club has supported the past two years, both financially and with club engagement. The club will donate \$14,000 for the 2008-2009 and \$7,000 for the year 2009-2010 in order to build three houses; two teams including RYLA members would participate in the building of the two houses in the year 2008-2009 and one team in 2009-10. This motion is conditional upon AG approval. The club champion will be Dan Doherty.

The board, on behalf of the club, has also approved a one-time gift of \$10,000 to Shelter-Box Canada for their important work and to continue our past support for this Rotary sponsored program. This motion is conditional upon AG funding approval.

With our ongoing past support of Operation Eyesight Universal, the board has approved a one-time donation of \$5,000 to Operation Eyesight Universal for their ongoing work in restoring eyesight in underdeveloped countries with the stipulation that this money be directed only to eyesight restoration in third world countries and not for other projects or capital funding. This motion is conditional upon AG funding. Motion carried.

And finally, in addition to the monies already allocated for this fiscal year (\$10,000) to the Guatemala Hearts and Hands project, the board has extended its commitment to include two additional years of funding not to exceed \$15,000 per year. This motion is conditional upon AG funding approval and a minimum 75% of the donated funds is matched by various sources.

For more information on these or other International projects please contact Committee Chair Bryden Horwood or Director of Giving, Brent Barootes.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT BY CLUB EXTENDED

Thanks to all the hard work of Marg Henschel and her Community Services committee the board has passed motions to support local community initiatives this year and going forward. In addition to our long term commitments to Highway Clean Up, a three year commitment to Feed the Hungry, as well as a capital donation to Feed the Hungry of \$10,000 for new kitchen equipment, much more has recently been approved by the board. In addition to our casino commitments to Habitat for Humanity and the Flames Foundation for Life/Rotary Clubs of Calgary Initiative for three casinos each with an expected outcome of raising over \$500,000 for these two projects through such commitments, the board has also approved one last additional casino commitment in partnership with the Calgary Drop In Centre.

Following are the motions passed at the board meeting of February 25, 2008. Great work by the committee!

In conjunction with the Rotary Club of Calgary Olympic our club will donate \$8000 to equal the amount from the Olympic Club to KidSport Alberta for the launch of the KidSport Summer Sport Shack that will provide less fortunate children in our community with access to summer sports. This is a one-time commitment and the board recommends that KidSport Alberta reapply next year for additional funds. This motion is conditional upon AG approval. Garfield Ganong will be our club champion on this project.

In our ongoing support over the years of this organization, the board has approved to donate \$10,000 over a three-year period to Hull Homes for allocation to their recreation program for their clients. This funding would appear as \$5000 this year and \$2500 each of 2009 and 2010. This allocation would support much needed refurbishment and support of their recreational program. In return, the club would request the recreational program be referred to and named the Rotary Club of Calgary West Recreation Program. This motion is based on AG approval. The club champion for this project will be Dan Doherty. Motion carried.

To follow up on a past project that proved great for our club, the board has approved for the club to donate \$10,000 in the this fiscal year; and \$5,000 for each of the years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 to be a co-sponsor of the Calgary Military Museums School Military History program. These donations are conditional upon a student presentation each year, acknowledgement of Calgary West sponsorship on their website and any material produced and distributed for this program for the entirety of this sponsorship. This motion is conditional upon AG approval. The club champion for this project will be Mike French.

With our commitment to youth and the elderly, the board was pleased to approve a commitment of \$10,000 this fiscal year to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary Teen Mentoring Program for the purchase of toy boxes and building a supply of toys and games. This donation is conditional upon club recognition in the Big Brothers and Big Sisters newsletter and a presentation to club members by a teen mentor about their experience as a mentor. This motion is conditional upon AG approval. The club champion for this project will be Mike French.

As noted above, the club will work with and commit to a casino partnership with the Calgary Drop-In Centre for a period of three casinos with the goal to raise \$250,000 for the organization over a three casino period. The Calgary Drop-In Centre would provide the license, the banking and some volunteers. This is the same format as presently in place with the Flames Foundation for Life and Rotary Community Initiative and our H4H partnership. This will then commit our club members to doing four casinos every 18 months and raising directly to community projects approximately \$250,000 each 18 months (\$750,000 over three casinos) as well as an additional \$250,000 over three casinos for additional spending through our own casino. Casinos deliver the best ROI for time, fellowship and community support. The club

champion on this project will be Mike French.

In addition to the casino commitment, to assist the Calgary Drop-In Centre with immediate medical needs until they are able to access casino funds in the future through our partnership, the club has approved to donate \$10,000 per year for two years beginning in this fiscal year and continuing through 2009 to support a much needed extension of medical staff and supplies to the Calgary Drop-In Centre. This motion is conditional upon AG approval. The club champion for this project will be Mike French.

The club will continue to show support for our own Rotary Challenger Park through a commitment next fiscal year with an additional one-time gift of \$1,000 for the fiscal year 2008-2009 to Rotary Challenger Park. This motion is conditional upon the confirmation of a club champion/club member leader such as Ron Jones.

Excluding the casino opportunity and reviewing previous commitments, the club has made a financial commitment in excess of \$90,000 over the next few years. This is above and beyond the commitment to raise approximately \$750,000 additional through casinos for Habitat for Humanity, Rotary/Flames Initiative and Calgary Drop-In Centre. We are a pretty amazing group. Well done club!!