

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: Derek McClary

Directors: Brent Barootes, David Elson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali



Date: October 12, 2007 Edition: 41.15 Reporter: Pauline and Garth Evans Publisher: David Williams

About 55 members and guests gathered for fellowship and were greeted by **David Williams**. As usual the front desk, led by **Helen King** and assisted by **Des DeFreitas** did a great job of ensuring that everyone paid up. The 50/50 ticket seller hit us all up to be sure that we all have a chance at the BIG!!!! Jackpot **WHICH IS NEARING THE \$1000.00 MARK**. **President Garfield** showed us that we really do have a **JOKER** in the deck. **Be sure to buy your tickets and memorize the Four-Way Test**

President Garfield welcomed us by reminding us that October is vocational month and reminded us that "Vocational service allows all Rotarians the opportunity to share their skills and expertise as business leaders as well as the contribution of our vocational talents to the problems and needs of society."

President Garfield introduced the head table consisting of the guest speaker **Tseden Dhogonpa**, representing the Tibet-Canada Women's Foundation, **Mark Ferguson**, **Dan Varvos**, **Walter Krawciw** and **Jim Wilson**.

The national anthem was played by **Don Axford** and was followed by an appropriate invocation given by **Murray Hunter**.

Des DeFreitas introduced our guests in his usual friendly and humorous manner.

After another great meal by The Elbow Valley Casino, our treasurer, **Derek McClary** again reminded us that the **2007/2008 dues are due**. The district has invoiced us, so we need the money to cover the cheques we have sent to RI and district.

Pauline Evans reminded everyone that the spring assembly is on Wednesday, October 17, at Quincy's restaurant on 7 Ave. SW and that there is parking in the city parkade on 9 Ave SW between 5th and 6th Street. We have about 42 Rotarians signed up for a great evening of entertainment, food, fellowship and information.

Bill Lawless reminded everyone of our upcoming annual Christmas dinner and dance on November 16. Tickets for this event will go on sale October 26 at the front desk.

Chris Davis gave us a brief overview of Vocational Service and what all it means.

Sa'adat Keshavjee reminded everyone that November is Foundation month and there will be more news next month.

Don Axford asked us to remember Margot in our prayers as Margot's sister-in-law passed away this week.

As there was no sergeant-at-arms this week, President Garfield asked everyone to put in a loonie.

Chris Davis did the Reporter-at-Large and interviewed **Adam Joyce**. Chris reminded all the members that have joined in the last two years to send him a brief biography via e-mail.

Guest Speaker

Tseden Dhogonpa, President of the Tibet-Canada Women's Foundation, was introduced by Mark Ferguson. Mark gave us a little background information on Tseden who was born in India after her parents escaped from Tibet following the invasion by Communist China in 1959. The organisation was founded here in Calgary by Tseden and a group of Tibetan and Canadian women. Through her work with the Tibet-Canada Women's Foundation, Tseden has been honoured with the Immigrant of Distinction Award 2006, as well as the Women's Eve Award 2005.

Tseden started her talk by thanking Mark and all the Rotary members for inviting her to come and talk to us.

The Tibet-Canada Women's Foundation (TCWF) was founded in August 2003 by Tseden and a group of Tibetan and Canadian women in Calgary because they felt that it was important to help the less fortunate Tibetans in India, Tibet and Canada. It is important to note that help is extended to everyone, not just Tibetans.

The main objective of the organization is to promote awareness of the Tibetan women's situation and to help preserve Tibet's ancient and fantastic civilization and culture. Also, to interact with and educate private, public and not-for-profit groups. They provide help to new immigrants to Calgary regardless of their race or religion. They also provide assistance to the Tibetan refugee camps in India and the Elementary Boarding School Orphanage in Tibet.

The TCWF is currently working on two major projects: a refugee camp in India and an orphanage in Tibet. As with all of these kinds of projects they need financial support and raise funds through cultural shows, Tibetan dinners, movies and direct donations.

The Lama Karma Gyurme Rinpoche orphanage opened in 2005 and is now a home and school for 108 Tibetan children. They are trying to take in 50 orphans a year and hope to be able to accommodate 500 orphans in years to come.

In 2006, the team took dental and medical supplies to orphanage and were able to treat over 1000 patients. They are planning another trip in 2008 and hope to have dentists and other medical personnel accompany them to help provide care.

If anyone wants more information, go to the website at www.tcwg.ca.

Dan Varvos thanked Tseden for her informative and moving presentation. He saw a bumper sticker that he felt summed up our guest: "If you can see yourself in others, how can you hurt yourself?"

Garfield ended the meeting with the following quote from the Dalai Lama: "As human beings we all want to be happy and free from misery. We have learned that the key to happiness is inner peace. The greatest obstacles to inner peace are disturbing emotions, such as anger, attachment, fear and suspicion, while love and compassion and a sense of universal responsibility are the sources of peace and happiness."

Calgary West Calendar

October 17	Club Assembly at Quincy's Restaurant
October 19	Regular club meeting is cancelled
October 26	Phillis Wheaton, The Storey of the Stones of Signal Hill
November 16	Annual Club Christmas Dinner and Dance
November 18	Feed the Hungry

REPORTER on October 26: George Edwards

District 5360 Events

Be sure to check out the District website for more information on the RI Conference in LA – June 15 – 18, 2008, and our District Conference in Lethbridge May 23 – 25, 2008.

District Governor Bernie Carriere has asked us to pass on the following information about an upcoming seminar to be held on November 3rd at the Carriage House.

Invitation to "Making Rotary Dreams Come True"

I would like to extend to you as current year's Club President, and to members of your Board an invitation to the above 1 day training session on Saturday Nov 3rd at The Carriage House Inn in Calgary.

As of this writing, I have visited 30 of the 46 clubs in our District and I continue to be astounded at the contributions each and every club in District 5360 is committing to its local and international community through outstanding service projects.

At the PETS sessions held this past spring, you as incoming Club President received a substantial amount of information leading up to your year serving as leader of your club.

I trust this education has paid off, but as we all know, in Rotary the education never really stops.

District Governor Elect Mark Starratt and I are planning the above session, with the assistance of Service Projects Chair Mike French, as both a review and on-going education in the many areas that you work with day to day in your role as Club President.

Next year's Club Presidents are invited to allow them an even earlier timeframe to begin plans for their year, and you as serving Club President to review and reinforce plans you have for your year, but mostly to encourage Club Presidents from both years to generate continuity from 1 year's activity to the next.

Sessions on Youth programs, Rotary Foundation, Membership and others will enhance your knowledge and understanding of the many programs of Rotary. The agenda is attached.

Members of your Board, both current and those who have demonstrated their willingness to serve next year, AND any of your Club members are invited to attend as well. Space is limited.

District will cover the fee for each attendee for the day's session on Saturday, clubs are asked to cover the overnight accommodations at the Carriage House Inn.

On Friday evening Nov 2nd, DGE Mark Starratt is holding a wine and cheese reception for the 2008 & 2009 President Elects, while I wish to hold a separate no host hospitality reception at the same time, this to take place at 7:30 PM.

DGE Mark and I are looking forward to seeing you the weekend of Nov 2nd at The Carriage House Inn, as we all work towards "Making Rotary Dreams Come True".

Regards:

Bernie Carriere
District Governor

I have sent to each CWRC member further details of the above meeting.

And finally . . .

“An elected official is one who gets 51 percent of the vote cast by 40 percent of the 60 percent of voters who registered.” Dan Bennett