

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, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless, Mike Reikie  
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali



Date: September 21, 2007 Edition: 41.12 Reporter: Larry Doyle Publisher: David Williams

**President Garfield** called the meeting to order at 12:15 sharp. He made some historical observations about Rotary's involvement in the founding of the United Nations. In 1945, 49 Rotary members served in 29 delegations to the United Nations Charter Conference. Today, Rotary still participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and promoting the United Nations in Rotary publications.

**Ron Jones** and **Don Axford** led us in the singing of the national anthem.

Our guest speaker today was **Alice Nelson** with Clowns Without Borders. Alice was introduced by **Carolyn Leece**. Thanking Alice was **Ron Jones**. Also joining President Garfield at the head table were **Pauline Evans** and **Don Bateman**.

**David Williams** got his old job back introducing our guests. He had an easy time today and butchered very few names!

**Frank Burns** delivered the invocation.

## PRESIDENT'S WALK AROUND

**Helen King** told us her husband's surgery went well!

## Next were the following announcements:

Thanks to **Sam and Betty Switzer** for their kindness in offering their ranch for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lobster Social. Thanks also to the organizers, including **Denise Penner Collins** and **Marg Henschel** for a successful and enjoyable event!

**Margot McDermott:** Margot's theatre project is set to go Friday, November 2.

**Don Bateman:** Our annual Highway Clean-up happens tomorrow, September 22 at 9:30 AM. (The event went well. We had about 14 Rotarians and partners turn up and spent an hour working and two hours enjoying ourselves! A great way to spend a Saturday morning!)

**Larry Doyle** announced that the golf wind-up would be held at the Woodside Golf Course on Wednesday, September 26. He has three tee times starting at 1:00 and is just about booked. If you want to play, let him know so he can get another time if necessary.

**Joe Klassen:** The Rotary bridge season is up and running. If you like to play social bridge, this is a good group to join. You don't need to be a good player! All you have to do is enjoy bridge, food, fellowship and fun. Contact Joe if you are interested.

### **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Much to the chagrin of your humble scribe, the odious **Brent Barootes** was parachuted into this function in the absence of the scheduled sergeant, **Grant Ritchie**. Brent was at his larcenous best on short notice, and, to give the devil his due, did a great job in lightening the pockets of many and sundry, even if he was a little creative in imagining what constituted an offense. For example, Brent seemed to find the comments of your humble scribe last week to be a form of lèse-majesté and fined me the max. It's a good thing I don't have any children to feed! And Brent is still ugly!

On a positive note, many Rotarians volunteered happy bucks, including Marmie Hess who gave \$5 for the sheer joy of being back with us.

### **50/50 DRAW**

Ron Brookes won today's 50/50 draw and went home with the princely sum of \$24. To his sorrow he didn't pick the joker. The accumulator pot now stands at \$918.50 (if President Garfield's figures are to be believed!). And the joker has fewer hiding places!

### **PROGRAM**

**Erratum: Last week I referred to our guest speaker as Ariel Bateman. In fact her name is Dariel Bateman. My apologies.**

This week our speaker was Alice Nelson from Clowns Without Borders. This organization's mission is:

1. To improve the psychological condition of children in areas of crisis around the world through humour and laughter.
2. To raise our society's awareness of conditions encountered during expeditions.
3. To promote laughter and peace.

Alice changed into her clown outfit just before her talk and, with the clever stunt of upending a full water bottle over the spike on her umbrella, pranced about the room getting several Rotarians slightly wet. She then tried to steal a kiss from Dan Varvos and probably got a little more back than she was expecting! But she carried it off well. I don't think I would have done as well, but I wouldn't try to kiss Dan either as he is almost as ugly as Brent!

Clowns Without Borders fulfills its mission by using laughter and play through performances, workshops and informal interactions such as we have had today.

Partner organizations include community organizations, primary and secondary schools, orphanages, hospices and hospitals to name just a few. They go wherever there is a need.

Performances involve non-verbal physical comedy with music, with themes on the emotional effects of HIV/AIDS, coping with death, discrimination, stigma, isolation and abandonment, all of which have an

impact on children whose families are affected by AIDS. Also, the performances seek to give a sense of play, joy and a sense of belonging, which is necessary to the successful development of a person.

Alice gave us a PowerPoint presentation showing a trip she made with Clowns Without Borders to Woza Moya, a village located in the hills of Ufafa in KwaZulu Natal. This is a poor community which has been severely impacted by AIDS. The children participating looked like they were experiencing much joy and happiness as the result of the clowns performances in counterpoint to the very significant challenges they are facing.

There were other places the clowns visited, including orphanages, adult classes and a medical centre.

Alice is passionate about her avocation and this came through in her talk and in the “clowning” she did for us. She has a particular presence which I will remember for some time to come.

At the end of her talk Ron Jones thanked her and presented her with her Boltman noting the positive effects of humour. Ron said that you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar, but who needs flies?

Well, that’s what time did and President Garfield then adjourned the meeting!

Calgary West Calendar

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September 28 | District Governor Bernie Carrier

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**And finally . . .**

“The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein