

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



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President Garfield opened the meeting in his normal timely fashion providing a few snapshots of this day in history with the most memorable being the visit of our district governor on this very date.

Without losing a beat he managed, yet again, to mangle the pronunciation of another name!

The head table was introduced with authority, the authority being District Governor **Bernie Carriere**. **Len Hamm**, Assistant District Governor was along side DG Bernie, as was PDG **Ted Valentine**. Also joining President Garfield were PDG **Steve Rickard** and our honorary member, Past Vice-President of Rotary International, **Curly Galbraith**.

Margot McDermott introduced our many visitors and guests followed by an eloquent grace given by **Dan Varvos**.

President Garfield completely lost control of the scramble for lunch with club members and guests abandoning all politeness for our distinguished head table and elbowing into the line ahead of them all. We must get better at this! (Now what does that mean?!)

Garfield asked DG Bernie to present PDG Steve with his Paul Harris Fellowship pin plus five sapphires.

President Garfield went for his leisurely stroll around welcoming **Marlene Swinton**, wife of former member **Jack Swinton**, who recently passed away.

Garfield then ejected **Mike French** from the room to announce that the board had unanimously passed a motion to endorse Mike for District 5360 Governor for the year 2010-2011. He asked that a club member second the motion and then received a complete endorsement from the members.

There was a banner exchange with **Cicero Silva** from Sorocaba, Brazil. Cicero expects to visit us on many occasions as he now has family in Calgary.

Victoria Achilleos's "special" birthday was acknowledged in song.

Margot announced the deferral of the musical fundraiser until next spring, as well as the club assembly which is to be held on October 17th at Quincey's downtown.

Mike French then announced the winners of the final day of golf: **Mike Carlin** - low gross, **Holland Berry** - low net and President Garfield - most honest.

Roger Joki spoke of the success of RYPEN last weekend and how the six students we sent had benefited from the program.

Grant Ritchie acted as sergeant-at-arms, seeing as how he couldn't get the real job!! **Karl Herzog** and Steve were fined for their trip to Alaska, **Frank King** for his "Mickey Mouse", **Joe Klassen** for bemoaning the fact that there were no engineers at the head table (which didn't sit well with Garfield), Victoria for special recognition and our golf champions for being champions.

Frank King from Calgary South walked off with the 50/50 proceeds. The accumulator pot is over \$1,000 now, you had better hone up on the Four-Way Test!

SPEAKER

Len Hamm introduced District Governor Bernie.

Bernie spoke of his sense of awe at how well the clubs in the District are doing, their individual characteristics and how hard-working everyone is.

He noted how you can tell how a club is doing by the buzz as you walk into the room, and boy did he notice a buzz in Calgary West.

He brought us greetings from RI President Wilf and explained his role as DG. He spoke about Rotary themes and Rotary dreams and how, by working together, we can make them all come true.

He then pulled out an IKEA measuring tape, exactly 52 cm long, and counted down the weeks in the Rotary year that had passed and how little time there is left to accomplish the dreams not yet started.

Membership growth was discussed and the attrition noted. He also noted how younger people wanted to be in Rotary, to give back to their community, but maybe cannot fit the traditional model of Rotary and how we must adjust to accommodate their desire to serve.

He reminded us to ask people to join. People will wait to be asked and may never join if we "Don't get our ASK in gear".

He then read the following poem to remind us to include all those who come through our door in our social circle:

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me to think that your club spends so much time looking for new members, when I was there all the time.

Don't you remember me? I am the one who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me.

I tried to be friendly, but everybody seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but nobody paid much heed to me.

I hoped someone would ask me to join a committee, or to somehow participate, but on one did.

Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. No one asked where I had been. I guess it did not matter whether I was there.

Who am I? I'm the member who never came back.

IS THIS LIKELY TO HAPPEN TO YOUR CLUB?

DG Bernie then reviewed Rotary in your mind, in your heart and in your pocket book, by outlining Rotary information, Rotary Caring and The Rotary Foundation.

“The world is waiting – any dream will do”

PDG Ted Valentine thanked DG Bernie, who deservedly received a genuinely warm, if not hot, standing ovation from the members and guests present.

Closing quote: “The best leader is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” Theodore Roosevelt

Calgary West Calendar

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| October 5 | Robert Ferguson, Director for Citizenship and Immigration Canada |
| October 12 | Tseden Dhogonpa, Tibet Canada Women's Foundation |
| October 17 | Club Assembly at Quincey's |
| October 19 | NO MEETING |
| October 26 | Phyllis Wheaton, The Story of the Stones of Signal Hill |