



The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3

Holiday Inn, McLeod Trail, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Grant Ritchie **President-Elect:** Don Bateman

Past President: Sa'adat Keshavjee **Secretary:** Brian Wintonyk

Treasurer: Des DeFreitas

Directors: Dick Brown, Frank Burns, Marnie Cardell, Mike Carlin,
Murray Hunter, Duncan Stanners

December 16, 2011 Edition: 45.23 Reporter: Brent Barootes Publisher: David Williams

It was shaping up to be a full house (and a nicely decorated room for the holidays) with this reporter arriving at 11:20 am to prepare for what was to be an eventful Rotary meeting.

Already underway was a meeting of the “big guys” as DG **Mike French** and his District Conference team head honchos **Garfield Ganong**, **Dan Doherty**, and a few other non-club Rotarians were feverishly planning and chatting. At the same time not far from this industrious group was a Foundation Committee meeting with **Gordon Rodrigues**, **Jim Willson** and **Bill Quinney**.

Jim Barnes managed the front desk taking our hard earned cash for the day's lunch of sandwiches, a delicious cream of potato soup and salad. **Bill Lawless**, the registrar for the 2012 District Conference, also took over the greeting duties this day for yours truly (as I had these scribe duties to do as well as sergeant-at-arms responsibilities). Bill did yeoman service putting service before self in sharing the load. **Holland Berry** was also at the front desk taking attendance while also selling 50-50 tickets. The 50-50 pot this week was won by **Tim Anderson**.

The crowd flowed in by 11:40 and the likes of **Vasile Douros**, **Ron Staughton**, **Ron Jones**, **Stan Beveridge**, **Bryden Horwood**, **Ted Valentine**, and so many others, were having great fellowship and fun at this last meeting before Christmas. It was to be an exciting meeting as **Robyn Braley** had lined up photographers and a CTV camera man to capture the meeting. **Peter Fleck**, who has done a great deal of still photography for the club, including Stampede breakfast, Strawberry Shortcakes and so on, was attending to capture photos of a “typical” club meeting for our archives and PR files. Also attending was **Kevin Green**, who recorded on video (no audio) the meeting, including all traditional aspects, the lunch, the speaker and announcements. Kevin was recording the meeting for the 6 pm news anchor's special report on the community and (thanks to the hard work and dedication of Robyn Braley) our club was chosen and our



activities, such as wreath sales and the meeting itself with our check presentation to the Salvation Army as a focal point of the special series.

Don Axford handled double duty as both our organist leading *O Canada*, as well as delivering the invocation.

The sergeant-at-arms allocated the table movement to the food trough with the head table leading, followed by the scribe's table (at which the scribe ate last as he was also sergeant-at-arms) and then in order of average age of the tables with the eldest going first!

President Grant Ritchie introduced our head table: **Bill Quinney**, who introduced our speaker, **Major Roy Langer** of the Salvation Army, **Chuck Morrison**, who thanked our speaker and **Karl Herzog**.

Bill Lawless introduced our visiting Rotarians, as well as guests. Bryden Horwood had a very special guest attend with this week. Sadly, last month, past club member and fine Rotarian, **Alex Coelho**, passed away. Bryden and Ted attended his memorial service last week and invited his son, **Colin Mendes**, to join us and experience the activities his father participated in and show Alex what his father so passionately was involved with.

At 12:35 sharp, the flurry of announcements and club business began. They were as follows:

The AGM

- **Past President Sa'adat Keshavjee** orchestrated the AGM with the announcement of two new board members for **President-elect Don Bateman's** term. **Helen King** and Mike French will both sit for a two-year term on the board, along with the returning board members. Congratulations to both of these dedicated Rotarians for their commitment.
- Sa'adat also announced that **Malcolm Harrison** would be our new club secretary and **David Hamilton** would be the new club treasurer. Both are for two-year terms. Congratulations to both these club members who have taken on these so very important roles for the club's operations.
- And Sa'adat finally announced that **Duncan Stanners** would be the president for 2013-14. What a great step forward for the club with Duncan's commitment to this important job and we look forward to his organization and leadership.
- All motions regarding these dedicated follows were passed unanimously and the AGM was closed.



Announcements

- Helen King got up to thank all those who participated (bought, sold, delivered) the wreaths this Christmas season. It was again a thunderous success with over 200 wreaths being sold by the club and \$3000 going to the club coffers.
- Bill Lawless as the registrar for the upcoming District Conference reminded all club members that this was our own Mike French's conference and we were all encouraged to register and attend. It will be an amazing trip to Canmore, and the early bird registration rate expires January 31, so get in now! The conference takes place in Canmore on May 25-27.
- Chuck Morrison announced that, once again, the Christmas Rotary Family Brunch is sold out
- Dan Doherty announced the success of the upcoming Ensenada, Mexico, house-build trip with us undertaking to build four houses this year. The trip will be March 8-11 and 55 people are already committed to attend. But Dan reminded everyone that many hands make lighter work and there is room for 15 more people, so be sure to step up soon before all the spots are gone. Prospective club member **Andrew Bicton** and his wife attended Dan's presentation on December 5 and both are signed up to go on the trip.
- **Frank Burns** announced that the 2012-13 outgoing Youth Exchange Student had been selected: **Evan Volk**, a grade 11 student from Bishop Carroll High School, will be Calgary West's YEX for 2012-13.
- Robyn Braley, in addition to his role of doing a fabulous job of producing the club event this day is also working on delivering for us an amazing program for the Friday, December 30, meeting, where we will ring in the New Year. Be sure to bring friends and family, because it is going to be tremendous.
- Malcolm Harrison organized a great showing for the Sally Ann Kettle Drive where we filled all our assigned shifts and helped raise much needed money for the Salvation Army to help the less fortunate this Christmas. Malcolm called up several of the folks who worked those shifts and presented a check to Major Langer of the Sally Ann on behalf of the club. This \$1000 was above and beyond our shifts at the Kettles. This was all captured by our photographer and CTV.
- Past DG and the RI President's Envoy for Microcredit, our own **Steve Rickard**, also brought us up to date about Microcredit. He opened his key note address (oops, he wasn't the speaker) letting us know that his message was a good news and bad news one. The good news is that Microcredit is expanding world wide



and serving its role, but more support is needed. Today, there are over 200 million borrowers through Microcredit, with an average household of five people. So, these Microcredit loans are serving the needs of over 1 billion people. The good news is the access to small loans for such impoverished people is now accessible; the bad news is that more is needed. The success has been tremendous and Steve and his team are to be commended for the work they do in this area. Well done, Steve.

- The sergeant-at-arms was on the podium for less than two minutes and handed out many credits - including Tim Anderson, who won the 50-50 draw and donated it back to the Salvation Army - and was still able to sting just about every club member like Scrooge on Christmas Eve, taking into the club's coffers over \$65. Merry Christmas, all!

Guest Speaker

Major Roy Langer of the Salvation Army was introduced to us and he delivered a very informative and inspiring presentation on the work that the Salvation Army delivers here in Calgary. Major Langer has been posted here in Calgary at the Salvation Army for less than two months. His background of over 30 years with the Salvation Army has taken him coast to coast in Canada in roles from pastor to administrator. Most recently, he has been involved in leading disaster response support which has taken him to such sites as Ground Zero, Katrina, and, very recently, Slave Lake, where he headed up the overall disaster relief services. As well, he was chaplain to the security forces at the Olympics, and the G8 and G20 meetings. Major Langer is also a past Rotarian.

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth in London, England, in 1865 as a Christian faith-based organization to help the poor. Today, that mission remains the same, to assist those in time of need and trouble. In Canada annually, they serve over 1.5 million people through 450 ministry units and 311 churches. Through this they meet the human needs, or at least try, based on the funding they can secure. They provide these services in a variety of ways, including the Agape Hospice in Kensington, which they own and operate, and provide to those in need at this time, and have served over 3500 people since opening the hospice. The Jackson Williams senior home provides our aging population who do not have a place to stay and partake in life, while the Centre of Hope of 9th Avenue SE provides a variety of services from drop-in centre, short and developmental stays (355 beds), emergency and transitional; employment and education services, and more. Each month, almost 600 people go through the education program with a 50% permanent full-time job success ratio, which is fantastic. They provide recovery services, as well as a segregated women's residence and services. Major Langer talked about their Healthy Family Programming, which provides counselling services, the teaching of parenting skills to those that need it, going into homes to help where needed, and much more. Over 2000 families were served last year! The Pregnant



and Parenting Resource Centre served over 500 families last year, and saw an increase in service needs by 40% from 2009 to 2010.

The Salvation Army also provides other services such as tax assistance to those who need it, the Coats for Kids program, the Work Boot program, the Kids Back Pack program (serving over 1000 kids last year) and infant needs with over 1200 packs of diapers and 700+ cans of formula for babies.

The Christmas program that our club supports through a donation and our work at the Kettles will help over 2700 families and over 6400 children and teens. The Pine Lake Camp ensures less than able children still get the opportunity to attend summer camp. And the community churches serve the spiritual needs of their members and the community at large.

As Major Langer noted, they are not a missionary service. The work they do is in the name of Jesus Christ, but they do not force their beliefs or ministry on their clients, but rather have it available to them if they want, or need, it.

Major Langer finished off by noting that all they do here in Calgary would not be possible without the volunteers from the community. Volunteers are the mainstay of their program, be they in a hospice providing comfort, serving meals or manning kettles. Volunteers are essential, and he thanked us for our gift and our volunteer services.

Chuck Morrison thanked Major Langer and presented him with a Boltman.

Note: there will be no meeting on Friday, December 23, but we will meet on Friday, November 30, for a festive meeting.

Coming Events

December 23	Meeting Cancelled
December 30	Party Time: Songs of Hope and Inspiration
January 6	Darlene Davies and Laverne Bissky: Personal Polio Journey, Polio Plus
January 13	Vince Caleffi, Key Player in the Start-up of Alberta Sheriff's Department
January 20	(Tentative) Paul Miller, SVP Oil Pipelines, Transcan: Keystone
January 27	(Tentative) Peter Menzies, CRTC Commissioner