



January 8, 2018

The Weekly Westerner

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Grey Eagle Hotel, 3777 Grey Eagle Drive (Corner of 37 St SW and Glenmore Drive)
Mondays 12.10 pm - 1.30 pm

President: Ben Kormos **President-Elect:** Tim Anderson **Past President:** Terry Felton

Secretary: Marlene Doherty **Treasurer:** Karl Herzog

Directors: Debbie Barry, Judy Cochran, Bill Fitzsimmons, Gustavo Jimenez, Gerry Meek,
Les Morgan, Orlin McMillan, Duncan Stanners

January 8, 2018 Edition: 51.21 Reporter: Larry Doyle Editor: David Williams

President Ben Kormos called the meeting to order at 12:16 pm and thanked the Tsuu T'ina Nation for its ongoing good service and hospitality to us. He then asked the meeting how many people had read the email he sent around prior to Christmas. A large number of people indicated the affirmative.

Robyn Braley led us in the national anthem.

Judy Cochran gave the invocation.

The head table consisted of our speaker **Alvin Law**, **Les Morgan** (thanking), **Patricia Morgan** (introducing) and **Marie Rickard**.

President Ben then announced the award of the second unsung hero pin to Marie Rickard for her many and quiet contributions to the club over many years. Marie was the founder of our St. Valentine's Day shortcakes fundraiser nineteen years ago, and has been a prime force behind many other projects and endeavours. Marie has hosted seven exchange students, and has served as an outbound counsellor many times. She is the champion of the Malawi Girls Education project, among others, and was her husband **Steve's** first lady when he served as district governor.





My Passion, My Moments, Our Rotary

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Robyn Braley introduced our visitors and guests and had the club stand up to sing the welcome song.

President Ben then gave us two obscure pieces of music, which nobody got at this week's instalment of Guess that Tune.

President Ben gave us a synopsis of the last All Presidents' meeting.

- On March 3, 2018, there is a Rotary Night with the Calgary Hitmen. They are playing the Regina Pats. Looks like a fun evening! Tickets can be obtained at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2050500771874493/>
- The presidents also discussed membership retention, and the new format for the District newsletter.
- There is also a District Bonspiel, February 21-26. We have a team entered.

Ben briefly mentioned his trip to Brazil and his involvement with the RC of Bela Horizonte and the Ramacrisna project. More will be said later. Details are at <https://www.facebook.com/bkormos/posts/10155815738355734>.

Marie now demonstrated again her worthiness for the Above and Beyond pin she was just presented with! She announced the kick-off of this year's St. Valentine's shortcakes fund raiser. The target this year is 5,000 cakes. Each cake can be bought for \$7, and delivery will be free for orders of six or more cakes. The cakes will be assembled on Tuesday, February 13, and delivered on February 14.

Christine Rendell, District Governor Nominee for the year 2019-20, reminded all about the RI President's Environmental Sustainability and Peace Conference in Vancouver February 9-11, 2018. You can register online.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Debbie Barry announced the formation of a bridge learning club. There will be a meeting at her house on Friday, January 12, at 7 pm. Anybody interested is invited to attend.

Debbie also indicated that the Monday meeting was the last opportunity to sign up for the 2018 Dinner Club. In addition to this, she announced that there would be another games evening at the **Helen and Lawrence King's** home on Friday, February 9, or Saturday, February 10. This event is a potluck and requires no particular skill, other than the ability to inhale and exhale in the right order. Contact Debbie, if you need more information.

Orlin McMillan briefly got up and gave a quick talk on the diversity of Rotary and directed everybody's attention to the pamphlets placed on each table.

May 4 - 6, 2018: District Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary
June 23 - 27, 2018: Rotary International Conference, Toronto



50/50 DRAW

The 50/50 draw was won by **Linda Haines**.

SPEAKER

Patricia Morgan, wife of Les Morgan, introduced our guest speaker, Alvin Law, giving us an overview of his life and excellent qualities and accomplishments.



Alvin was a thalidomide baby and was born without arms. He had the good luck to be adopted by two extraordinary people who loved and accepted him, and provided him with the love and support which enabled him to develop himself into the exemplary individual he is.

Alvin views his handicap as a great gift and the foil against which he had the courage and tenacity to develop himself. He started with something terrible and turned it into something amazing. He recounted many of his life experiences, and how he was able to develop in himself more talents and abilities than most people achieve (my words, not his). He became an accomplished trombonist and drummer, and can drive a car with just his feet, and also perform all the functions of daily living. He attributed his success to his choice to be a good person and to persevere. He says he became successful because of his challenges, not in spite of them.

Alvin was wearing a Paul Harris pin when he visited our club. It was presented to him at a Rotary event in acknowledgement of the contributions he has made. He told us of an experience he had as a keynote speaker at a Rotary event in Uganda. Uganda, he said, was in many ways a terrible place, but it has the potential to become a great one.

All in all, Alvin demonstrated with his life that what is possible for us is much greater than we think. He makes his living as a motivational speaker and writer, and is available to businesses and other organizations for all events, large and small. He can be reached at <http://www.alvinlaw.com/>. The website is well worth visiting, even if you are not going to engage Alvin.

Les Morgan thanked Alvin and presented him with his Boltman.

Alvin brought copies of his book, *Alvin's Laws of Life*, and it looked like he sold a great many of them. I bought one!



Coming Events

January: Vocational Service Month	
1	No Meeting: New Year's Day
8	Alvin Law: Motivational Speaker
15	Local Services Committee Programme: Bryden Horwood and Steve Rickard
22	Dr Arlin Pachet: Capacity Assessment and Rehab. A tie-in with Bethany Atrium
27	<i>Rotary After Hours: Bring a friend - Kensington Legion (1:00 pm)</i>
29	Team Meeting
February: World Understanding Month	
5	Strongest Oak/Burkino Faso Solar Project
12	No Meeting: Strawberry Shortcakes preparation and delivery 13th and 14th
19	No Meeting: Family Day
26	"Never Too Late" Rotary Scholarship Awardees
March: Literacy Month	
5	Marianne Ryan, Alberta Ombudsman
12	Debra deWaal: "Safe and Sound" Personal Safety Training
19	Team Meeting
26	Member Introduction and Rotary Moment
April: Maternal and Child Health Month	
2	Assembly Meeting at noon
9	E C Manning Innovation Awards
16	Member Introduction and Rotary Moment
23	Habitat for Humanity: "Restore", "New Housing"
30	TBA

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May: Youth Service Month	
7	Member Introduction and Rotary Moment
14	TBA
21	No Meeting
28	Youth Programme: RYLA Adventures in Citizenship
June: Fellowship Month	
4	Rollin Stanley: GM of Urban Strategy, City of Calgary
11	TBA
18	Turnover Meeting: Induction of New President and Board
25	Special Canada Day Programme: RCMP Speaker TBA
July: Stampede and Okanagan Cherries Month	
2	No Meeting. Canada Day Holiday
9	Stampede Yahoo. Country Music and Dancing
16	TBA
23	TBA
30	TBA
August: Membership and New Club Development Month	
6	No Meeting: Family Day