



## Rotary Club of Sussex Inc.

P O Box 7004, Sussex Corner, NB E4E 5M3

[www.sussexrotary.org](http://www.sussexrotary.org)

Club # 6355 / District # 7810

**Cowbell**

**Date: April 11, 2016**

**Attendance:** Bob B., Lisa B., Kathy C., Rob D., Cindy D., Donna G., Rhonda H., Don I., Ed K., Greg K., Harold L., Mary M., Tina M., Bruce N., Wendy O., Ian S., Rob T., Shelley V., Rhoda W., Robert L.

**Regrets:** Alaina A., Angie C., Don D., Jeff F., Erik H., Robert K., Alaina L., Cecile M.

**Guests:** Tracey Lowe, Kim Driscoll, Zoë Watson

### **Grace & Toast to the Queen**

**Welcome:** Lisa Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Rotary Minute:** Rhoda spoke about Rotary International President Elect John F. Germ. Mr. Germ is an engineer from Chattanooga, Tennessee who has been a Rotarian since 1976. The theme for the 2016-17 year will be "**Rotary Serving Humanity**." Mr. Germ and his wife, Judy, are both members of the Arch Klumph Society. The Rotary Foundation was born as an endowment fund in 1917, the brainchild of RI President Arch C. Klumph. The Society recognizes individuals who are donors of cumulative gifts of more than \$250,000.

**Social:** The next Rotary social will be a pot luck at Robert Driscoll's on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at a time TBA.

**New Generations** – Lisa announced that there would be eight students from SRHS going to the RYLA conference. Petitcodiac High may be sending two others; if not, then two more from SRHS will be asked.

**Rotary Fundraising Dinner and Auction** – Cindy thanked everyone for all their work with the dinner and especially some members of the committee. Reports are that it was a very good night with more than \$20,000 in profits. There will be a wrap-up meeting on Sunday evening, April 17, 2016, at Cindy Dubois' house at 7:30 pm.

**Introduction** – Greg Keith introduced Zoë Watson who is District Superintendent for schools for Anglophone School District South (ASD-S.) Zoë grew up in Sussex, taught in Sussex, and was a school principal in Sussex before taking on various jobs with the Provincial Department of Education.

**Guest Speaker** – Zoë Watson noted that as National Volunteer Week it was fitting to thank Rotarians for all the work that they do, particularly in our schools with Coats for Kids and the recent support of Discovery Park for Sussex Elementary School.



There have been many changes in education and some have been the restructuring and rearrangement of districts. Ms. Watson noted that enrolment has declined 25% which means that there is less budget money coming in. Ms. Watson recognized all the different types of staff that contribute to effective schools – teachers, teachers’ assistants, guidance counsellors, administrators, janitorial staff, bus drivers, etc.

A main focus of the talk was attendance and Ms. Watson handed out a brochure entitled “Attendance Matters.” Surveys have been done with students as to why they do and do not attend school. In any given day 18% of students may be absent. Absenteeism is greatest at the high school level but there are problems at all age levels. There are a surprising number of students that say they do not attend school because of pressures to work and to contribute to the family income. It is important that schools are welcoming and inviting. Ms. Watson stated that in recent years there are more demands as there are greater percentages of students with autism, students with emotional health issues, and students that may require one or more teachers’ assistants. There are many challenges and everyone needs to work together to meet the needs.

There is an election for District Education Council (DEC) members on May 9, 2016. In the Sussex area there are two names on the ballot -- Rob Alexander and Payman Tahershamsi.

**Thanker** – Ed Keith thanked Zoë for her presentation.

**Happy / Sad Bucks**

**Chase the Joker:** Wendy Osborne’s ticket was drawn but still no joker. The pot is now \$336.50.

**Next Meeting:** Next Club meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2016, at the All Seasons Inn and Restaurant starting at 12:15 pm. Paul Kearley of Dale Carnegie Association will be speaking.

**Meeting Adjourned, 1:15 pm.**