



Cowbell - March 6, 2017

Present: Angie C., Melissa C-K., Donna G., Erik H., Don I., Paul K., Robert K., Bruce N., Ian S., Brenna W., Rhoda W., Robert L.

Absent: Alaina A., Bob B., Lisa B., Alex C., Don D., Rob D., Cindy D., Jeff F., Rhonda H., Blair H., Ed K., Greg K., Alaina L., Harold L., Cecile M., Mary M., Lou M., Tina M., Teresa O., Bob S., Jason T., Rob T., Shelley V.

Guest: Laura Brewer

Rotary Minute: Erik brought a recent issue of the Rotarian and shared an international story about Honduras.

Chair: Angie Cummings

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Bruce Northrup

Guest Speaker: Laura Brewer is the Therapy Dog Coordinator for the St. John Ambulance in New Brunswick. The St. John Ambulance is an organization that started more than 900 years ago. Originally the organization was known as a group of first responders. Many things have changed and St. John Ambulance is now involved with many different programs including the Dog Therapy program that commenced in 2006. Laura explained the importance of distinguishing between a therapy dog and a service dog. Therapy dogs are privately owned, wear a kerchief and can be petted; service dogs are for assistance, wear a vest, and should never be petted. Almost any breed can be used as a therapy dog but the dog must be well-mannered, safe, friendly with strangers, controllable as well as be up-to-date with immunization. These dogs have made a difference in the lives of many institutionalized patients who have difficulty with connecting with staff and their surroundings. One of the challenges of getting the dog therapy program off the ground was the belief that dogs would lead to a higher rate of infection and disease in the hospitals and nursing homes. Research has shown that this is not true; however, just like anyone who visits or works in a hospital proper precautions are necessary for both the dog, the handler, and the patients.

Cindy Dubois volunteers with her dogs. The Sussex Public Library will be hosting the therapy dogs on March 8, 10 and 11.

Thanker: Ian Smyth

Committee Reports

Fundraising Brainstorming Meeting Report – March 2, 2016 – Rhoda reported that this was a very successful meeting with 10 members attending the session at Taste and See. Many excellent ideas were put forward. More information will be forthcoming on this matter. Paul was asked to explain his fundraising idea. Paul stated that he was planning a business leadership program in April and that for every attendee at his presentation, Paul would give \$100 back to Rotary.

Committees for 2016/17 – A sign-up sheet will be circulated shortly to allow Rotarians to sign-up for committees. Please review the Committee manual that was recently circulated and please volunteer where you would like to serve.

Dinner and Auction – May 4, 2017 – Melissa sent out a draft letter for collecting items for the Rotary Action together with a form that will help with tracking of prizes and donations. Please take time to use this form that is designed with efficiency in mind. Angie circulated posters and lists of ticket buyers to sellers of last year tickets. The Scotia Bank has agreed to match the \$75 ticket price for each dinner ticket that is sold at the Scotia Bank. Please recommend that all individuals pick up their tickets at Scotia Bank as this can make a considerable difference in revenue.

Events

PETS/SETS – April 22, 2017 – Fredericton for upcoming presidents and secretaries.

Happy Bucks / Sad Bucks / Fines: Melissa Cummings-Keith filled in for Shelley.

Chase the Joker: Bruce Northrup's ticket was drawn but not the Joker. The pot is \$116.

Next Meeting: March 13 – Eugene Lewis, Shelter Box – Jason Thorne, Chair.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda Wilson
Secretary