Governor's Blog January 2024

January was another great month of club visits. During most of my vists I carried along my club's fundraiser, a puzzle of Edmontn's river valley, a very popular item!



January 3rd – We visited the **Edmonton Northeast club** that now meets at the Jerry Forbes Centre. A wonderful visit, and a little intimidating with 3 Past District Governors in the room! Thanks to President **Carl Clayton** for hosting Adele and I. What lovely meal we enjoyed!

January 4th – I attended with District Rotaract Committee Chair **Pauleanne Codilla** a cookie decorating activity with the **Northen Lights Rotaract Club** at the Alberta Avenue Community Hall. What a great group, and they are just waiting for their official charter as District 5370's newest Rotaract Club. Congratulations to President **Chelsea Letwin** for all her hard work in making bringing this club to fruition.

January 6th – Adele and I enjoyed a fabulous Lobster boil with the **St. Albert Rotary Club**. There were over 80 in attendance! Live lobsters were flown in from Atlantic Canada and cooked by Rotarians, led by PEIer **Robert Gallant**. Thanks to **Ed Heitzman** for hosting the event in the comfort of his drilling shop in St. Albert. Others brought salads and desserts. What a feast!

January 11th – I visited the Spruce Grove Rotary Club at Ray's Wok. We started with a Board meeting to discuss the success and challenges of the club, then met with the full club. We had been at their RibFest in the summer, so it was great to reconnect with them at their regular lub meeting. This was right in the deep freeze cold snap we were enduring yet everyone made it out. Thanks to President **Mark Radke** and club member Assistant Governor **Myrna Findt** for hosting me. The food was awesome, enough for supper that evening!

January 19th – I had the pleasure of volunteering at **Prosper Place** for my club's bi-annual Friendship Feast. Prosper Place is run by the Canadian Mental Health Association-Edmonton and is a safe, inclusive community of vibrant peer culture and peer excellence where people living with the effects of mental illness feel valued and encouraged to explore their self-directed paths of recovery. Thanks to fellow Rotarian Chris Gowers for his work in organizing this event.

January 18th – I visited one of our most unique clubs, the **Rotary E-club of Canada One** (RECCO). This is an online club with members from all around the world. We had people on the call from Ontario, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Spain. Of those on the call from Canada they were scattered from Toronto to the Maritimes. There are several past district governors who are members of this club comma including Judy Brown, Elly Contreras-Vermeulen, and James Ferguson. This club does a lot of work with the Dolly Parton imagination library, Project Amigo Canadian Society and creating opportunities for Guatemalans. Congratulations to President **Neil Rogers** on this unique and successful club.

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January 19th – District Governor-nominee **Ramesh Ferris** joined us from Whitehorse, Yukon to the **"End Polio Now"** Oil Kings hockey game. Fifty-eight Rotarians attended, many in their "End Polio Now" t-shirts. Ramesh and we had the privilege of attending centre ice where we were featured on the Jumbotron. Thanks to **Philip Giannini** from the Oilers Entertainment Group for assisting us. Also thanks to District Community Chair **Kelly Baker** and Polio Plus Coordinator **Donna Greenway** and her husband **Neil** for attending our table at the game.

January 24th – I visited the Hinton Rotary Club via zoom at their luncheon meeting. Adele and I had visited in the fall for their Oktoberfest, which as a great event, so this was my more formal DG visit. Thanks to Bernie Kreiner for his leadership as President.

January 25th – We had a wonderful visit with the **Nisku-Leduc Rotary Club** at the Red Tail Landing Golf course clubhouse. President **Bill Orthner** reminded me we had connected many years earlier at the Dawson Creek District Conference with Chris Hadfield as the keynote speaker. Assistant Governor **Terry Demers** joined us, and we met a new (relatively) new Sunny Mundi from Saskatoon. We enjoyed a lovely breakfast and had a great visit.

January 25th – While not an official visit, at the invitation of President **Jeremy McDonnell** I attended a discussion session with Edmonton Sunrise on their future plans. It was one of the most well attended meetings they've had in months, and the passion for the club was on full display. Assistant Governor **Jeanette Bancarz** also attended and offered some external facilitators who could help with a pathway forward. Congratulations to the club for having the courage to hold such a meeting and plan for the next steps in their service journey.

January 27th – At the invitation of co-president **Catherine Keill** of the Edmonton Glenora Rotary Club Adele and I attended the Varscona Theatre to explore this venue as a site for our Public Image event called **"Get to Know Rotary"**. The venue is excellent and other clubs have used the Varscona for their club events. We also enjoyed the play "The Drawer Boy" while there. What a fabulous play, and Shadow Theatre has two new fans!

January 29th – I enjoyed a joint meeting of the Edmonton Rotary Club and the Edmonton West Rotary Club at the Selkirk hotel in Fort Edmonton Park. The guest speaker was Tim Marriott, the Fort's historian, and we learned a great dela about the history of the Fort and Rotary's connection. Thanks to fellow Rotarians **Lori Farquharson Persaud** and **Madeline Verhappen** of the Fort Edmonton Foundation for working with the two clubs to put this on.

January 31st – I attended the YEG Passport Club's "Pints for Polio" event at the Odd Company Brewery. It was great to reconnect with club members and was thrilled to witness the induction of new member **Issa Kamara,** the Executive Director of the **Sinkunia Community Development Organization**. We had a lovely visit and even connected with some potential new Rotarians! Congratulations to co-president **Shelley Sabo** for her great work with this club.

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While the club visits are winding down, there are many other priorities and initiatives we are working on.

- District Membership Committee
    - Follow up on new prospects through the RI leads system
    - Launching a Rotaract Club at NorQuest College
    - New member orientation
    - **"Get to Know Rotary"** Day – March 27th
- Learning & Development Committee
    - Launching of the **President-elect Learning Assemblies**
    - Working on re-launch of District Awards
- Rotary Employment Partnership with Inclusion Alberta
- District Conference Planning Committee meetings