



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

December 8, 2008



Text by Peter Taylor

Joy Jones tended the front door and greeted us warmly for another evening of Rotary. An energetic crowd regaled in our "Happy Hour" until 6:30 when our voiceless leader, President Norm, commenced the meeting. Jim Isman led the club in a stirring rendition of O Canada and Bob McKilligan was asked to ad lib an invocation for the second week in a row.

Guests

President Norm raspily asked for the introduction of what turned out to be many guests and the following were introduced:

- Aymeric Dietrich - our youth exchange student from Switzerland
- Tony Pascuzzi, our guest speaker for the evening
- Sandra Pascuzzi, Tony's wife and Vice Principal of Cleveland Elementary School
- Ramin Izadi, Mortgage Specialist at CIBC
- Jey Etemad, President, Ararat Oriental Rugs
- Parvin Hooshi, Brian's wife and Financial Advisor at TD
- Janice Rose, Burnaby Deer Lake Rotary Club
- Elena Bakhareva, Russian Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar
- Ted Nugent, potential new member
- Frank Milledge - a perennial winter season Rotarian guest from Kingston, Ont.

Announcements

Sporting a microphone, a hoarse President Norm started our weekly announcements:

- President Norm took this opportunity to make a special recognition to Rotarian Brian Hooshi for his outstanding contributions to our club, inclusive of arranging the Persian New Year Celebrations and spearheading the outstanding array of restaurants at the October Wine and Food festival. Unfortunately, Brian was unable to attend our November DG visit when other club members received similar awards.

- Fred gave us an update on the salmon sales. We still need space to store the salmon and Fred asked the club if we should use an average price for the sales or the quoted price on the package. We all agreed the quoted price was most appropriate.
- Operation Red Nose - The project raised almost \$2,000.00 over the past weekend. The club was informed that Operation Red Nose is looking for new committee members for 2009. Anyone interested should let President Norm know.
- 2009 Duck Splash - Past President Bud confirmed we have secured a commitment from Holland America to line-up our marquee prize for the event. President Norm indicated the application should be moving on shortly.
- President Norm introduced visiting Ambassadorial Scholar from Russia, Elena Bakhareva. Elena presented us with a passionate account of her experiences both in Russia and during her stay here in Canada. Elena is from a small Russian city near the China / Mongolia border and she attended a University in Siberia specializing in Economics, just like her mother. Elena has found Canadians to be very open-hearted and extremely tolerant. She has been taking Management Studies at BCIT specializing in Economics, Public Speaking and Computer Studies. She was very impressed by the nature in Vancouver, particularly our close proximity to the Mountains.

Sergeant at Arms

Sergeant Deb returned this week and she quickly found a reason to fine some of our members - those that have never been President or those that have turned down the opportunity; alas, a fair number of funds were collected. Elena picked the lucky number out of the pot and Catherine was this week's lucky winner, but to her dismay, she drew the 9 of hearts. Our sergeant asked for "Happy and Sads" to be shared with our fellow Rotarians:

- Dan was happy that the mess in Ottawa was over.
- David was happy that he got to feed his new grandson this morning.
- Joy jokingly boasted that her grandson is nicer than David's.
- Neil Creighton was sad that Liane's daughter's boyfriend collapsed due to heart difficulty and had a pacemaker implanted at the young age of 28.

Program - Values and Ethics in government

Rotarian Brian Hooshi introduce our Guest speaker, Tony Pascuzzi who has been working for our Federal Government for over 25 years and currently works for the Publics Works Department for Western Canada as a Manager of Values and Ethics. Tony worked the group through a little game asking us to quickly define what we would consider the core values we would want in our government departments, including such things as privacy, honesty, integrity, etc. Ultimately, for the government their main accountability is "Service to the Public" and this approach drives their approach to values and ethics. Our government is a risk averse culture which has rules and regulations designed to scrutinize everything they do and in they way they would accept gifts and hospitality offerings. On a survey conducted worldwide, Canadians rate their government 14th on an ethical scale. Tony asked us to remember there is a difference between Ethics and Values with our politicians as compared to Ethics and Values from our Government.

Neil Creighton thanked our speaker on behalf of the Club, John Ward proposed the Toast to Rotary International and Michael McCarthy led us all in the Four Way Test to end the meeting. Our laryngitic struck President closed the meeting and promised to have his voice back for next week's AGM.

Future Programs & Events:

Dec 15th Annual General Meeting
Dec 22nd Christmas Fellowship Evening (Partner Event)
Dec 29th No meeting



Wheel Squeals - Editor for a Day:

Dec 15th Alec Wallace
Dec 22nd Bob McKilligan
Jan 5th Deborah Sommerfeld

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