



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS



May 10th, 2010

by Jeff Pearce

Joy Jones handled the desk, signing us in and taking our money, in her usual friendly manner.

Norm Binion led us in O Canada and Bud Fast gave an impromptu invocation.

Guests:

RYLA 2010 participants, Darylle So from Sutherland Secondary School and Taylor Quinn from Argyle Secondary School; Barry Lunseth, Environmental Consultant and acquaintance of Norm Binion; and tonight's guest speaker, Alan Nixon, District of North Vancouver Councillor.

Announcements:

President Norman Thomson presented Sonia Baron-Wolowidnyk with a 3 diamond Paul Harris Pin. Congratulations to Sonia on this terrific achievement!

This coming Saturday at Centennial Theatre there will be a performance of Animal Tales by The Sinfonia Orchestra & The Cascadia Companions handbell ringers.

RYLA South 2010:

Darylle and Taylor reported on their experience at this year's RYLA program that was held at Camp Jubilee on Indian Arm April 23 - 26. They were among 77 students, aged from 16 - 18 years, participating in the program. They both said it was a very positive and stimulating experience. They mentioned that the Talking Stick ceremony and the Intention/Mechanism training were both highlights of the weekend. They thanked the club, very much, for choosing and sending them to RYLA.

Sheriff:

Sergeant-at-Arms Peter Taylor levied fines to those who were late after watching the end of the Montreal - Pittsburgh Stanley Cup playoff game. Yeah Montreal!

There were many happy and sad dollars; Joy is heading up to the district conference in Prince Rupert by way of the northern BC Ferry. Neil C is happy for Aymeric's favorite hockey team winning tonight. Deneka was sad for soccer injuries to herself and to brother, Tevis, on the weekend. Neil M was happy to have attended the Youth Exchange outbound orientation in Prince George last week and announced that our inbound exchange student, Tan, will be coming from Thailand in August. Sonia is also happy to be heading up to the District Conference and is sad about the recent death of her friend. Fred was recently at a conference in Kelowna and was pleased to see many young persons in attendance. Bud passed on greetings from Past President, Randy Fowle, who will be re-joining our club soon. Deb was sad about the recent passing of her mother.

Neil McDonald had the lucky ticket but missed drawing the Ace of Spades by 1 card (he drew the King)!

Guest Speaker:

Deneka Michaud introduced North Vancouver District Councilor, Alan Nixon who spoke to us about the funding challenges for North Vancouver's Social Safety Net and what a huge impact the loss of funding for support agencies is having on the disabled and disadvantaged. Alan spoke of the aging demographics on the north shore and the loss of young families who are no longer able to afford the high cost of housing. He mentioned that the Harvest Project interviewed 4,000 clients in need during 2008 and that number ballooned to 8,700 in 2009. He thanked our Rotary club for all that we do to help the vulnerable and needy in our communities. He suggested that we all need to keep well informed and engage politicians, at all levels, of their need to be pro-active in helping to balance inequities in our society. Jeff Pearce thanked the speaker.

Toast:

Bryan Chalmers led the toast to Rotary International and John Stuart led us in the Four-Way-Test.

Future Meetings:

May 17th - NATO - Lt. Cdr. Danny McCrane

May 24th - Holiday (no meeting)

May 31st - Welcome Home Society