



THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH VANCOUVER WHEEL SQUEALS

January 6, 2014

Written by Bob Nowell

Being our first meeting of the New Year, best wishes to everyone for an enjoyable and successful 2014!

Desk: Joy Jones was at her usual role of providing a cheerful greeting to members and guests.

O Canada: Norman Thomson led us in the singing of a rousing O Canada; the high standard for 2014 has been set.

Invocation: President Deborah had a stressful day at work and made it to the meeting just in time to provide the invocation.

Guests: There were 3 guests - Roger Wong from the Chinatown RC, Kevin Evans (7 years since he was a member), and our guest speaker, Saad Karim.



Announcements:

- Roger Wong advised our members about his club's project - a "Be My Valentine" party on Feb 14 with a 12 course Chinese New Year cuisine. Tickets cost \$80.
- Deborah reminded us that the District Foundation Dinner is being held at the North Shore Winter Club on Feb 1. Cost is \$70 per person and the location is ideal for many of our members to attend; to top it off, Kevin Evans is the MC.
- Operation Red Nose results - on New Year's Eve, there were 21 volunteers providing 33 rides and donations of \$1,307 were received. For the whole ORN period, there were 234 volunteers who provided 260 rides; donation amount to be provided later.
- Deborah had circulated an email from Robert Crozier regarding the future of the Rotary Wheel at the Lions Gate Traffic Circle. Our members were unanimous on all the questions and that we should continue with the required maintenance.
- Deborah had also circulated the email from Chris Offer about the Photo Op project.
- PE Daniel Tardif has scheduled the meeting on Feb. 24 to be a brainstorming session on fundraising. Each member is being asked to provide 3 suggestions for fundraising projects and proposed beneficiary(s), for that meeting.

Sergeant-At-Arms:

Norman Thomson stepped up as Sergeant-at-Arms; Bud Fast won the draw but he did not pull the elusive Ace of Spades. There were a number of happy's and no sads.



Guest Speaker:

Our speaker for the evening was Saad Karim and he gave one of the most impressive speeches our members have ever heard. He had the full attention of everyone and the meeting continued until 8:45 as we wanted to hear more and ask more questions.

Saad grew up on the North Shore and by the age of 34 he has served in a number of countries (primarily African) in a peace and conflict resolution role. After starting on a Political Science degree at UBC, he left after 2 years and eventually ended up with a United Nations internship. Following completion, he felt he was making too much money and returned 40% of it back to the community. It was during this time that he realized that he wanted to spend his life assisting people in war torn countries.

He obtained a CIDA internship in Sierra Leone for 6 months and this turned into a 3 year period assisting people there. He wrote his Master's thesis on post-conflict resolutions. He then went to Liberia to help on refugee issues, then Uganda for 2 years, Sudan for 2 years, and Congo for 2 months.

In May 2012 he met with our club and was nominated for a Rotary Peace Fellowship. This required review by our district and then Rotary International and he was selected. The Fellowship was taken in Thailand and Saad said it was an excellent experience.

Following completion, he took a step back and decided to return to Liberia to focus on women and youth problems and human rights issues. He returned from Liberia in September 2013. He is currently looking at other areas he would like to go to but is currently laid up with a torn Achilles tendon from playing soccer.

Joy Jones presented the polio certificate to Saad.



Toast to Rotary International: President Deborah led the group in toasting Rotary International.

The 4-Way Test: President Deborah led the group in The 4-Way Test:

Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Hearing nothing more for the good of Rotary, President Deborah adjourned the meeting.

Future Meetings / Key Dates:

- Jan 13 The Rotary Foundation, An Information Session - Don Evans, Rotary District 5040 Annual Programs Chair and Strategic Planning Chair and member, Rotary Club of Vancouver
- Jan 20 How To Take Charge of Your Online Presence - Rory Kermack, Founder and Lead Developer, KermackCreative
- Jan 27 Robbie Burns Day Dinner, An Evening of Scottish Fellowship - Partner Evening
- Feb 3 Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics - Dr. Clara van Karnebeek, UBC Faculty of Medicine

