Governor’s Blog February 2024

As we wind down the club visits, February represented visits 50 through 55 of our 60 clubs in the district. Here's who we met in February:

February 6th – Met with the **YEG Passport Club** online. The impact this club has in their community is exceptional, particualrly their work with **Sinkunia Community Development Organization.**

February 7th - I visited the **University of Alberta Rotaract Club**, one of my planned visits with all of the Rotaract clubs. You just can't imagine the great work that they do both on campus and beyond. Please support these Rotaract clubs whenever and wherever you can.

February 9th – We attended **Edson's** TACO 'BOUT A PARTY! What an excellent idea to celebrate their Charter night and showcase their ivolvement with the **Highway to Mexico**, delivering vehicles (buses, ambulances, fire trucks) and firefighting equipment to Mazatlan, Mexico and the surrounding region. Congratulations to President **Tiffany Weatherston** and everyone at the Edson club for the great work. Also a big shout out to Assistant Governor **Nevis Prufer** for her attendance.



February 13th – I visited the **Rotary Club of Whyte Avenue** who meet at the Rooster Cafe on Whyte Ave. We had a special visitor from a Rotary Club just outside of Ottawa, and shared our message of the importance of breaking down the stigma of mental illness. She had not heard that message from her district governor, and appreciated us spending time talking about this important issue. While not a large, the Rotary Club of Whyte Ave. does great work in their community and around the world. Thanks to President **Adam Akbar** and all the members of the club for their great work.

February 15th – I met with the **Rotary Club of Edmonton Southeast**. One of the initiatives this club planned over this year was to rewrite their Bylaws, which had not been reviewed in over 16 years. I was proud to receive a copy of their new Bylaws from President **Chinwe Okelu** during my visit. This is a growing club, and we were pleased to welcome two guests who are considering joining Rotary. Congratulations to this club for their resilience through this past year.

February 21st – Very early in the morning we met with the **Rotary Club of Stony Plain**. What an energetic group for first thing in the morning. It was great to hear the many initiatives they work on, and I plan to cycle at their Interact clubs bikeathon in March. I met with the board post club meeting and we discussed their well thought out strategic plan that all members had an opportunity to participate in. Congratulations to President **Tren Cole** and all members of a club for service to their community

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February 21st – While not an official club visit, I sat with the District Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. It was a very fruitful and robust discussion in fine tuning their Terms of Reference and plans for the future. While in its infancy, this committee has great potential in front of it, looking to educate and inform Rotarians on ways to expand our reach. Thanks to District Chair **Myrna Findt** all the committee members for their hard work in getting this committee launched.

February 23rd – Again, while not an official club visit, I had the privilege to attend the High School Model United Nations (HSMUN) hosted by the University of Alberta. Edmonton Riverview has been sponsoring this event for over 20 years, and now has over 700 high school students throughout Alberta attending. You cannot believe, as you watch these students debate their positions and follow UN protocols in their sessions, that these are high school students. Amazing!

February 28th – We attended the Paul Harris fellow event hosted by the St. Albert Rotary Club at the St. Albert Art Gallery. Six community leaders were awarded the Paul Harris Fellow by the club in recognition of the great service to the community. I had the privilege of pinning some of the recipients, and what a fun time it was. Congratulations to President **Doug Webster** and Foundation Chair **Sandra Fenton** for hosting this unique event.

While the club visits are winding down, there for many other meetings and initiatives being worked on:

February 5th – We held our first ever district-wide **New Member Orientation** for any members who joined in the calendar year of 2023. This was very well received which encouraged us to hold a second one to be held on **April 8th**.

February 7th – We initiated an Edmonton-wide event called **Get to Know Rotary** to be held on March 27th at the Varscona theatre from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. If you are a member of an Edmonton based Rotary Club, please check with your President or Membership chair who has all the information.

February 20th – We held our first meeting with NorQuest College, with the intent of launching a Rotaract Club there. The college is quite keen, and we will keep the wheels turning with a plan to have this new Rotaract club up and running before the end of this Rotary year.

February 22nd – Hosted by District Governor-elect Brian Edwards, we held our second online President-elect Learning Assembly (PELA). In this session we had two very special guests, Chris Etienne, a director on the Rotary International board and Doug Logan, zone champion for the Rotary action plan. The presidents elect we're very keen to learn more about this action plan and ways to apply it within their clubs.

We continue to work on the final details for the upcoming **CREATE HOPE District Conference** on May 3rd and 4th at the DoubleTree hotel in Edmonton. If you have not already done so, please register soon. Anyone registered up to March 15th is eligible to receive a one night stay and breakfast or two at the DoubleTree hotel.