



**Meeting Date - May 9, 2023 (Virtual by Zoom)**

**Prepared by Dustin Clark**

**Opening** – President Ben opened the meeting at 12:15. With 20 members present and four guests. A reminder that the theme of the month is Youth Service. Ben played Oh-Canada – a choir & piano rendition without sound – members stepped up and picked up the tune.

**Invocation** – Chris Kershaw

**Guests:** Merle Taylor (guest speaker Project Amigo), Gerald Pash, David Sheppard, Jacqueline

**Speaker** – Renate introduced the guest speaker – Merle Taylor (Member and Past President of Edmonton Glenora Rotary Club and Past President and Secretary of Project Amigo Canada Society)

How Project Amigo Started: During a vacation in Mexico, Founder Ted Rose enjoyed an ‘accidental’ visit to the village of Cofradia in Colima, Mexico when taking a wrong bus after seeing the volcano. He talked with the children in the village and seeing a child’s home, turned out to be a life-changing event. The annual Christmas Fiestas began with 45 children. Today more than 350 children benefit annually.

Over 80 students have graduated from University through this program. One way to raise money is to have people or clubs sponsor students. The other option is to sign up for a service week (a portion of these fees are a donation to the program) – Merle wanted to give our club more details on this option:

The cost is \$1,500 per person plus airfare. Includes transportation, accommodation, entertainment and all meals. Services weeks go from Sunday to Sunday. Various projects can be undertaken in a service week – repairs, building, handing out books and reading with children, clothes distribution, etc.

Many volunteers will bring clothing, school supplies and other items needed in the community. Merle shared amazing pictures of the activities, food, and support Project Amigo provides to the kids and community during Service Weeks.

There are many service weeks available:

[Service Weeks | Project Amigo Canada](#)

There is no minimum for signing up for a Service Week. The maximum that can be accommodated is about 25. The Service Week is open to anyone who wishes to help, not just Rotarians.

Ben thanked our guest speaker.

### **Announcements:**

- Reminder – District Conference May 19/20 – ½ the fee is paid for first-time attendees
- Great time was had at the benefit concert played by the Bald Eagles. Per Chris K over \$3,000 was raised for accessible playground equipment in Oak Bay. Thanks are very much due to Bryan Crockford for suggesting this event.
- Bottle Drive – Exceptional day with 16.5 bins (a new record) – next bottle drive first Saturday of June (June 3)
- John Jordan – a reminder that the first **flag installation** is coming up. If you are an installer, please look at your flags, check if they are in good repair and confirm you have enough for your route!
  - Request for volunteers to help with Flag Repairs – contact John Jordan
  - Reminder to look at Joan’s last email for the updated subscriber list
- **June 3** -- Music Bingo hosted by Ron King at the Monterey Recreation Centre on Saturday 3 June from 5:30-9:00 pm - See your email for a reminder from Chris Kershaw.

### **Celebration Master – Wendy Townsend**

- Birthdays – Neil May 10; Dustin May 14
- Guenter - 1 year club anniversary with us and over 24 years with Rotary
- Anniversaries
  - Jack & Brannan – 23 years
  - Tim & Vicky – 44 years

Trivia with Wendy – she roused us with her true-false questions and opened up our wallets.

Wendy reminded us about the next Feed and Bleed – Friday May 26, from 1:15 to 1:45 and meeting for lunch beforehand at 11:30. Contact Krista Voitchofsky

Chris Kershaw – Happy to have received his Canadian Passport

President Ben – Happy to be travelling to Japan to visit family

Vicky – Happy anniversary dollars

Lorna – Happy dollars for a visit from a friend from Nova Scotia

Gerald – Happy dollar – to bring attention to the music on May 20 @ Topaz Park – Gerald is the MC ½ price admission after 6 pm.

### **Break out for Club Day:**

Ben allocated members to their assigned clubs for a breakout

- Dustin was assigned all by his lonesome to Youth Services. Just as the discussion was picking up and plans were being finalized, President Ben arrived and was kind enough to reallocate him to the Foundation team 😊