



Blue Sky PROBUS Club

PROBUS Club # 268

Notes Blue Sky PROBUS Club Meeting July 9, 2019

- 30 attendees – 2 new members
- The first item on the agenda was the distribution of the just received name badges.
- The official meeting started at 10:00 am. With Howard Kizell President of the club presiding.
- H. Kizell welcomed all.
- Executive members S. Miller and G. Godin were not present.
- H.Kizell announced that the formal name badges were available. The badges were presented to members as their name was called. Those members not present were dubbed “in the bag”. Also, J. Roberts mentioned that the badges were OK with pacemakers. Ha!
- H. Kizell emphasized the need for volunteers to assist with organizing social events and activities. He jokingly suggested drawing from the name badges of those not present.
- Also, there is a need for a committee to assist G. Gordin with engaging speakers.
- There were no immediate volunteers to take on these tasks.
- J. Roberts mentioned that it was the intent to have participation from both clubs in activities.
- The recent canoe trip starting at Pimisi Bay was discussed. Also, biking activities.
- Generally if a need is met by other groups then the club does not want to replicate. For example O. Ridler leads a biking group. Those interested can contact O. Ridler.
- Discussion around sign-up sheets and notice of dates for activities. Only activity group members will receive a notice.
- Speaker: Peter Chirco. His topic was related to his role as President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce.
- With humour and some nostalgia Peter recalled his formative years with family and the fact that his mother dealt with 12 siblings after losing her spouse at the age of 39. Wow!
- Peter outlined his career in banking and politics. He became deputy mayor in 2002.
- The Chamber of Commerce was restructured in 2016 and Peter is the first CEO.
- The Chamber represents 800 businesses with approximately 6000 employees. It is over 100 years old and is the 3rd largest per capita in Ontario.
- Peter outlined and number of challenges facing the Chamber and its’ members and initiatives to meet the challenges.
- Peter elaborated on the ION program and how one project resulted in world leading technology being developed locally.
- There are over 400 unfilled jobs locally. One of the Chambers roles is to work with education and other agencies to fill the vacancies. One proposed solution is to encourage professional immigrants to locate in North Bay.
- Questions were encouraged during the presentation and many were asked.
- Peter was thanked by Ray Dubeau and a gift was presented.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.