



Blue Sky PROBUS Club

PROBUS Club # 268

Notes Blue Sky PROBUS Club Meeting January 12, 2021

- This meeting was held using the ZOOM meeting application.
- The start time for signing into the meeting was 9:45am. This start time was selected to allow new users of ZOOM some time to get on-line before the meeting start of 10:00am.
- There were a total of 24 participants.
- There was general chit chat as people signed on.
- There seemed to be more issues than usual with video and audio as members signed on. I know Cogeco is having issues with intermittent outages and degradation of service.
- The official meeting started at 10:00am. With H. Kizell President of the club presiding sporting his COVID beard.. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- G. Godin started us off with some humour. A knock-knock joke. Everyone laughed but the consensus was: "That was bad." Ha!! G. Godin more humour later in the meeting.
- There were no visitors.
- B Newman gave an update on the availability of name tags. In process.
- There was chit chat about who sported the best no hair look.
- No anniversaries among participants.
- There were two birthdays. G. Godin on the twenty ninth and Lorraine on the twenty seventh. Each gave a short biographic presentation.
- G. Godin and R. Rivers will visit the Motherhouse on February 5th to determine if we can move the monthly meetings to that location. Of course this is when we can resume in person meetings.
- G. Godin gave an overview of the facilities at the Mother House. He was confident that it would be an excellent location for the PROBUS meetings.
- H. Kizell asked for activity reports.
- Choir is meeting January 13th at 1:30 pm.
- Knitters have postponed their meetings until COVID is over.
- The book club will meet via ZOOM on Monday January 18th to discuss the book, "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell." Moderated by J. Valenti. There are currently 12 participants. If you wish to join in contact Heli Vail. vailgh123@gmail.com

- The walking group will be inactive until the end of COVID.
- Our guest speakers were: Kendra Clarke, Campaign Director NBRHC Foundation and Paul Heinrich, President and CEO NBRHC.
- Kendra gave an overview of the purpose of the Foundation. Essentially, the government does not fund the purchase of hospital equipment. Therefore, there is a need to raise funds to support new equipment and replacement of obsolete equipment. She gave an overview of projects underway related to COVID-19. Major initiatives include support for orthopaedic care and the patient portal initiative. She concluded with examples of funding raising projects in the community.
- Paul Heinrich centered his remarks on the COVID situation characterizing it as “an emergency situation with a long time frame.” He talked about the expansion of cases and the move to “load sharing” and the role of the local hospital. Will likely get transfers from the Muskoka region. He talked more generally about the impact of COVID on the local hospital. The hospital received an accreditation visit and was evaluated on over 3K standards with a 98% rating. He credited some of this to the implementation of the Meditech EXPANSE clinical information system. The NBRHC involvement in the delivery of mental health services was presented. He gave some insight into the COVID vaccination program and the potential situation with North Bay and region.
- G. Godin asked that the following message be included in the minutes:
 - The Blue Sky PROBUS Club, like all PROBUS CLUBS relies on dedicated volunteer management to keep it running smoothly. Over the past few months members have been asked if they could step up and volunteer to help manage the club.
 - The current management team has made it clear that they are available to assist any new management team members during the transition period. If you aren't interested perhaps you know a member who might be.
- Next meeting is February 9th 2021. Guest speaker will be from the LCBO. They will be providing an educational session on types of wine from various countries, prices of wine, possibly wine pairings with food and anything else around wine they can think of that active seniors would be interested in.