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District 28
Region of Durham

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JUNE 2021

Goodwill Report

By Janet Beaton

A Goodwill Committee plays a significant role within a District. Members perform a wide variety of acts which demonstrate caring, compassion and celebration. Districts are encouraged and expected to allocate funds based on the needs of their membership.

Personal contact is always considered the best kind of Goodwill that can be offered to our colleagues. While the members of a Goodwill Committee may provide leadership and direction in this regard, it is appropriate and encouraged for any concerned RTOERO member to respond when a situation is known.

Under exceptional circumstances, when in-person visits are not allowed or recommended, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, members must abide by RTOERO protocols and local health authority advisories. There may be additional restrictions imposed by some Retirement & Nursing Homes to ensure the safety and well-being of residents and we must respect these requests, as well.

For the past 15 months, we have tried to maintain contact with our members by sending Birthday, Christmas and Thinking of You cards as well as emails, when appropriate. It has been a pleasure to acknowledge special 90th and 100th birthdays with floral arrangements and cards. These gestures have been greatly appreciated. In 2020, we honoured 21 individuals who celebrated 90th birthdays and two members who celebrated 100th birthdays. In 2021, we will acknowledge 20 members who will celebrate 90th birthdays. Their shared life stories and experiences have been inspiring and most interesting.

To spread some Christmas cheer, we sent seasonal floral arrangements to our District members in Retirement Homes, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living during the 2020 Christmas season. This initiative met with great success and will most likely be continued in 2021. We also acknowledged



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the work of frontline workers in keeping residents safe during this pandemic with a floral arrangement and thank you note.

We have recently received updated Goodwill Guidelines from the Provincial Office regarding Social Isolation which can become a major challenge for our senior members. A phone call or note can be very helpful in lifting spirits and improving state of mind. Hopefully, we will be able to resume in-person visits in the future.

The Guidelines also provided a protocol for in-person visits to hospitals, retirement or long-term care facilities which includes the recommendation that the visit be pre-arranged, and that two Goodwill members or Members at Large should be present during the visit. The document entitled Summary of Legal Responsibilities/Liabilities for Goodwill Representatives will be forwarded to all members.

We always appreciate extra volunteers to assist us in our Goodwill endeavours. If you are interested, please feel free to contact any member of our committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Beaton
Goodwill Chairperson