



Probis Club of Central Edmonton Newsletter

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Stay safe and enjoy the day.

Upcoming Events:

Mel and Bob have been working hard organizing events. Here is the impressive list:

- Tuesday Jan 19 at 10:00. Regular meeting
- Tuesday Jan 19 at 11:00. A presentation by Edmonton's Opera NOUVA.
- Tuesday Jan 26 at 10:00. Carole Estabrooks of the U of A School of Nursing will speak on elder care in Alberta.
- Tuesday Feb 16 at 10:00. Regular meeting
- Tuesday Feb 16 at 11:00. Jeffrey Hansen-Carlson, President and CEO of Prairie Sky, will speak on Edmonton's Prairie Sky Gondola proposal.
- Tuesday Feb 23 at 10:00 Karen Wichuk, CEO of the Edmonton Metropolitan Regional Board, will speak on the activities of the EMRB.

Probis Events:

December 17

No Christmas lunch, but the EKOSigners. They prepare a concert for delivery over Zoom. This was done by each singer recording themselves singing each song on their phones. These were then assembled into a video showing all the singers. Also, on the

video were the lyrics for each song, so that viewers could sing along with it. I saw several members enjoying this feature. You can find the video on YouTube using the following link: <https://youtu.be/tZSSiO4pfDU>. EKOSigners did great job. It was fitting start to the holiday season.

We were then entertained by Paul Greenwood providing result of a research on reindeer anatomy. Specifically, the reindeer's ability to have a red nose. The research was conducted by the European researchers. Paul started the presentation by reviewing Christmas traditions over the years. He then moved to the research. Using a new-fangled instrument that measure the blood vessels in the nose they examine the noses of a small number of people and some reindeer. The results of the study were that reindeer biology increases the blood flow in the nose and in fact it took on a red tint. Apparently, humans do not enjoy the same biologic advantage. But we did not see the red nose as depicted on the legendary Rudolf.

Greg Anderson is a Professor of Political Science at the U of A with a particular interest in international economic relationship within North America. He spoke about the recent American presidential election.

The election was seemingly about getting Trump out of the White House, not repudiating the republican agenda. He started by saying that he found the last four years exhausting. Also, noting that Madison election design provided able to stand up against this period. This was not the first time that the US seemed to be on the brink of civil war, he pointing to 1968 as an example. He saw parallels between 1968 and now.

There were two op-ed pieces designed to convince New York about the merits of the design of the election system. These are referred to as Federalist 10 and Federalist 51. Greg's assertion was that Madison had foreseen situations such as we saw with the Trump Presidency and the system worked. Also, He recommended that we read book entitled "On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder.

He contrasted the electoral maps of 2016 and 2020. Pointing out that, due to the Electoral College, an election is about winning swing states. Interesting, the margins Trump benefited from in 2016 were remarkably like the margins that benefited Biden. In both elections, the margins were very thin. For example, just about 10,000 votes gave Biden victory on Arizona. Further, in 2016 just 77,744 votes in three states gave Trump the victory. In 2020, 81,139 votes in 4 states gave Biden the victory. He illustrated this further by examining the county by county voting pattern of key states and the country. Pointing out the rural urban split and the blended, Democrat/Republican nature of much the country.

The Democrats lost seats in the House of Representatives. This does not bode well for the midterms elections when historical the election does not go in favor of the White House occupant. With respect to the Senate, he focused on Georgia. There is a runoff for the two senate seats from Georgia. His view is the Republicans will win both seats. This will put the Senate under the control of the Republicans. If this were to happen, a Biden Presidency will be challenged to get its agenda done.

What happens to Trump? Interestingly, he gained ground in some key demographics, e.g., Latino men and Black men and women. Also, what happens to the Republican Party? In his

view, Progressives took a beating. So, what now for them? To get some understanding of how Bidden with deal with progressives in his ranks Greg watches the selection of cabinet. For those who follow US politics the answer to these and other questions will be revealed over the next few years.

Some Random Thoughts.....

"The only mystery in life is why the kamikaze pilots wore safety helmets." – Al McGuire

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." – Albert Einstein

"War is God's way of teaching Americans geography." – Ambrose Bierce

"It would be nice to spend billions on schools and roads, but right now that money is desperately needed for political ads." – Andy Borowitz

"At every party there are two kinds of people – those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other." – Ann Landers

"My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I'm right." – Ashleigh Brilliant

"Have you noticed that all the people in favor of birth control are already born?" – Benny Hill

"The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us." – Bill Watterson

"As a child my family's menu consisted of two choices: take it or leave it." – Buddy Hackett

"My favorite machine at the gym is the vending machine." – Caroline Rhea

"All right everyone, line up alphabetically according to your height." – Casey Stengel

"Never under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night." – Dave Barry

"The duty of a patriot is to protect his country from its government." – Edward Abbey

"How many people here have telekinetic powers? Raise my hand." – Emo Philips

"If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age." – George Burns

"Trouble knocked at the door, but, hearing laughter, hurried away." – Benjamin Franklin



Stay safe and enjoy