



THE NEWSLETTER

The PROBUS Club of Simcoe & District
Meets second Tuesday of each month at St. James United Church hall



Christmas lunch

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

Hi-Way Restaurant, 63 Queensway West, Simcoe.

11:30 a.m., socializing; noon lunch.

Members and guests welcome!

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Review of Nov. 13, 2018, meeting:

President **Murray Uren** called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. **Brian Cook** led us in our national anthem.

PROBUS business:

Christmas lunch: **President Murray** gave details about our Christmas lunch. We will dine in the back room of the Hi-Way Restaurant. The Hi-Way will offer its full menu, including specials, and drinks from the bar. Everyone will order individual meals. Bills will automatically include a 15 per cent gratuity. Spouses and guests are welcome.

Wellness: **Gerald Sheppard** reported that **Gus Takacs** hopes to return to our meetings soon.

Program: **Dan Pearson** has speakers lined up for January and February.

Special events: **Dick Pearson** is seeking ideas for outings in 2019.

Treasurer: **Dave Montross** reported 29 members have paid their \$45 dues for 2018-19. A few members have yet to pay. We are in good financial shape. Dave read a thank-you letter from the family of **Jay McKiee**. Our club made a donation to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in memory of Jay, who passed away on Oct. 8.

House: **Rick Middaugh** reported all is well.

Newsletter: **David Judd** praised **Jay McKiee** as a fine businessman.

Who-Am-I: **Bernd Mueller** has volunteered to be a Who-Am-I speaker.



Union cavalry in action in New Mexico at Apache Canyon during the battle of Glorieta Pass.

Guest speaker: Mike McDonnell

A little known chapter of the American Civil War took place among the Wild West deserts and mesas of New Mexico. Historian **Mike McDonnell** described how New Mexico, then on the western frontier of American settlement, played a small but interesting role in the War Between the States, 1861-65.

Mike is a retired police officer and Civil War buff. He told us the war in New Mexico was “kind of a mess,” involving untrained soldiers led by incompetent commanders.

The Spanish explored the area in the 1540s and established its capital of Santa Fe. The United States Army established a series of forts following the Mexican War of 1846-48. Although New Mexico was not suitable for slavery, it did have some slaves and many Southern sympathizers who supported the Confederacy.

In 1861, 350 Texas Mounted Volunteers invaded and declared a Confederate territory in southern New Mexico. The following year heavy-drinking Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley led 2,600 Confederate troops in a half-baked plan to capture Santa Fe, then move north to take Colorado and on west to California.



Mike McDonnell

