

Community Involvement

The theme for tonight's AGM is "Community Involvement". Indeed this should be the theme for all VanLUG meetings because this is the reason VanLUG exists, helping the community.

There are actually two communities which we - as members of VanLUG - are involved with.

Greater Community

The first is the "Greater Community", the people of Vancouver, the lower mainland, and in some ways, the whole world. We share the use of this wonderful operating system GNU/Linux, and FLOSS in general. It is too good to keep to ourselves. We need to share it.

How we plan to do this is to participate in community events. Last year we were part of "AWS Community Day" in September and "Beta Collective Collaboration" last May. Both very successful events for us. We would like to participate in more diverse community events, such as the Commercial Drive car free day.

Let us not forget Linux Link. We have monthly Linux Link events at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch and Surrey Libraries Guildford Branch. Linux Link is for everybody. From the person who drops in knowing nothing about Linux and FLOSS. To the great presentations and presenters we've seen. For many of our presenters Linux Link is the first time they've ever stood in front of a group. We always assure them that we are a wonderful group and will appreciate, and show our appreciation to them. Finally the experienced Linux users who show up to help others, or just to chat.

VanLUG Community

Next is the VanLUG community, and we are a community. I've said several times that the best part of a meeting is when the speaker stops speaking and we can talk with each other. This conjecture was certainly demonstrated at our last VanLUG members meeting where we didn't have a speaker. The "Meet and Greet". My regret is that a member wanted some support so I spent most of the meeting fixing his problem. I hope to be able to circulate a lot more at the next Meet and Greet, and there will be more.

Nothing could be easier than becoming a member of VanLUG. All you have to do is come to one of our meetings and you're a member.

As you've been made aware of at the beginning of this AGM there traditionally exists another level of membership, the "paid" member. A paid member pays \$20 at the start of the AGM and gains the right to vote on the motions at the AGM or run for a position on the Board of Directors. In the past this has been the main source of revenue for VanLUG. It's not much. The main impediment to doing what we want to do is a lack of resources, both dollars and people. Shortly we will have a "Donations" page on the VanLUG website and we hope that you appreciate what we do to send a few extra dollars our way. So that we can do more!

We also need you. Volunteer to give a talk at one of our meetings. If you don't know what to talk about we'll find a topic that interests you. Everyone know something worth sharing. If we are to do more community events we'll need volunteers. If we ask for help with a technical issue, and you think you can help, then please respond to our request. And, of course, you can always help to guide VanLUG into the future by volunteering to sit on the board.

Thank You