

## **Rotary Meeting – Monday, October 15, 2018**

The meeting of the Kalamazoo Rotary was brought to order by President Jeannie Brandenberger, following the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner”, with accompaniment by our own accomplished pianist and fellow member, John Dillworth.

### **INVOCATION**

President Jeannie called on Rotarian Dan Sytsma, who led members and guests in the invocation.

### **ARTS NEWS**

Rotarian Cindy Trout presented the Arts Minute News outlining the exciting variety of this week’s arts events and activities.

### **GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

Dan Hartleib introduced visiting two Rotarians: Bill Brandenberger (Gull Lake) and also Fred Upton (St. Joseph).

Rotarians introduced Guests, including: Rick Voohman introduced his son, Arnie (also Guest Speaker for today’s meeting); Rotarian April introduced Frank McGinnis; Rotarian Allison introduced her “daughter” Serita from Finland; Rotarian Mary Z. introduced Todd Balin of Great Lakes Peace and Zach Tilden, Rotary Peace Fellow.

### **SONGS**

Since flu shots were being administered at today’s meeting, Rotarian April picked an appropriate “feel good” song from “Mary Poppins”: “Spoonful of Sugar” (“...helps the medicine go down..”)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Birthdays:** President Jeannie announced birthday celebrations this week including: Denny Stults, Don Phillips, Carl Sandelin (who turns 90 tomorrow – or actually 7pm today, Finland time, as he reminded us). Carl revived an old tradition of “giving a dollar for each year” and presented a check in the amount of (you guessed it!) \$90.00! Lisa Godfrey and Zaf Khaja are also celebrating their birthdays this weekend

**Business Sponsor:** President Jeannie introduced and acknowledged today’s Business Sponsor, Kurt Elliott, representing Focal 5 Group (“the business of transition”).

**Operation Ray:** Rotarians who helped prepare packages and labels for the 8<sup>th</sup> successful Operation Ray were recognized, along with photos of the project supplied by Keith Mumma. Care packages are sent to 30 of our service men and women for Veteran’s Day.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – *Continued***

President Jeannie called on former Finland Exchange student Serita Niemien (who has returned for a visit to host Allison Hammond and family and friends from Loy Norrix). Serita recalled her time and experiences here during her nearly year-long stay, reconnecting with other exchange students from other countries, and underscored the value and importance of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

President Jeannie announced that Rick Light (brother of Rotarian Tim Light) passed away. She asked that we keep Tim and Rick's families in our thoughts during their time of loss.

**“Bundle Up Kalamazoo” project with Roteract club:** Collecting children's and adult sized winter wear, including snowpants, boots, etc. as well as toiletry items for collection and distribution by project partner, Communities in Schools. There will also be a “wrapping party” on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more details.

**Happy Bucks** – President Jeannie called on a number of Rotarians who shared “Happy Bucks” for a variety of reasons, including: Oktoberfest fundraiser; remembering Max Doolittle; celebrating wedding anniversary; Daughter winning Business School sales competition; in honor of Carl Sandelin's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, 10<sup>th</sup> annual Improv festival; Kalamazoo College football victories; Congratulating Sid Ellis on his new position with Douglas Community Association; Planned Parenthood fundraising ball; WMU's five-touchdown football victory; Marrietta College is 6 and O; Thanks for support of Operation Ray. Probably a record for the number of “Happy Bucks” collected at a meeting this year!

**PROGRAM** – Past District Governor and fellow Rotarian Rick Briscoe introduced our guest speaker, Arnie Voorman, Program Officer, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. His focus is in the area of polio, which the Gates Foundation has joined the efforts of Rotary in the mission to eradicate the disease worldwide. A key reason that Arnie's interest sparked in this area was that his grandfather had been a victim of polio. He shared some interesting facts about polio, reaching back to ancient Egypt, which was the earliest recording of the disease. The first successful vaccination was developed by Jonas Salk in 1955, followed by the Sabin oral vaccine in 1961. Rotary began its program to fight and eradicate polio in 1985, and was joined by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the CDC as partners. In 2007, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation made their commitment, and now working in the two areas of the world where polio cases remain are North Africa and Pakistan. Arnie stressed that it's important not to stop but continue with vaccinations otherwise polio would spread once again. President Jeannie thanked Arnie for his presentation and we were reminded that “We can't forget about polio because polio hasn't forgotten us”. The meeting adjourned following Rotarians reciting the “Four Way Test”.