

Rotary Meeting – Monday, November 12, 2018 by Colleen McBride

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 Jeff Ross, who led members and guests in the invocation.

ARTS NEWS

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

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

No Visiting Rotarians

Guests: Jeanne Bell (Infinity Advisors) and Lucy Dilley (Can Do Kitchen)

Operation Ray: Rotarian Dan Phillips gave an update on the project and read two notes of gratitude from military recipients of the packages from Rotary. He also read a Certificate of Appreciation from veterans serving in Afghanistan recognizing our Rotary Club’s efforts. Care packages are sent to 30 of our service men and women for Veteran’s Day.

SONGS

Past Prez Tim Kilmartin led members and guests in medley of songs from all branches of service in a musical tribute to Veterans. Over the years, this has become a “song segment” tradition for our Rotary club, in recognition of Veteran’s Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues – President Jeannie announced that deadline for payment of 2nd half of dues is December 1st. She explained that if Rotary members miss that deadline, unfortunately they will no longer be considered an active member.

President Jeannie presented a brief overview of her 12-day trip to the Smokey Mountains and thanked President-Elect Heather Isch for presiding at the meeting during her absence.

Business Sponsor: President Jeannie introduced and acknowledged today’s Business Sponsor, Kalamazoo Community Foundation, represented by Rotarian Ann Fergeman.

Rotary Foundation: A video about the Rotary Foundation was shown. President Jeannie also noted that Rotary Foundation received 4 stars from Charity Navigator.

Membership Rotarian Mary Zoeller recognized committee member Dan Sytsma for his assistance with Membership Minutes, and also recognized other members Steve Charmley (“5th Monday Funday”), Mike Barcelona and PP/PDG Karl Sandelin (Mentor Program), Christina Doret (Sponsorships), Deb Harris (new member inductions), Kevin Janssen (visitor follow-up) and others committee members Bonnie Sexton, Pam Walker, Thell Woods and Ann Fergeman – all who contribute time, energy and support to the committee.

Red Kettle – Rotarian Jered VanderWeele announced that “bell-ringer” sign-ups for the annual Red Kettle collection campaign are filling up. Hours: 6–8 p.m. shifts still available.

“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 1st at 6:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more details.

Rotary Offsite Meeting: Rotarian Amy Remmert announced upcoming offsite Rotary meeting, which will be held at Bell’s in Comstock on November 26th.

Rotary for Reading – Rotarian Kevin Brozovich shared information about announced Rotary Club’s Book Fair coming up on November 29th hosted by “This is a Bookstore” and “Bookbug”. Proceeds from book purchases made on November 29th will be donated to our Rotary for Reading program.

GRANT PRESENTATION:– Rotarian Bill DeBoer provided a bit of background on Rotary Charities and opportunities, then presented \$3,000 grant to Lucy Dilley, Executive Director of “Can Do Kitchen”, which will assist in purchase of new freezer for the organization’s latest kitchen location. Can Do Kitchen builds foundations and removes barriers to food business ownership through education and access to commercial kitchen facilities and other resources.

HAPPY BUCKS – a plethora of “Happy Bucks” were presented in lieu of the Program today President Jeannie called on 20 Rotarians who shared “Happy Bucks” for a variety of reasons, ranging from the Bundle Up Kalamazoo project; and re-branding of former DK1 to Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership to the 10th Annual Improv Festival and honoring Karl Sandelin’s 90th birthday. And this might just be a record for the number of “Happy Bucks” collected at a single meeting this year!

The meeting adjourned following recitation of Rotary's "Four Way Test".