

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 Judy Markusse Paget, who led members and guests in the invocation.

ARTS NEWS was presented by Jim Bridenstine.

Guests: Todd Bannon. Greg Zielowka and Amy Esper were guests of Jack Hopkins, Jonathan Kraker was guest of Allison Hammon and Mel Visser was the guest of David Lucio.

Jared VanderWheel reported that all shifts for the Salvation Bell Ringing are filled and he thanks everyone for their service.

Nancy Peterson reported that the Roteractors garnered over 400 coats for the distribution. They are celebrating their success at Bell’s on Friday.

President Jeannie Brandenberger reported that she will be sending out a report soon regarding the results of the 5th Monday Fun Day input from members regarding what the club should “START, STOP or CONTINUE” doing. One included, no more DECAF coffee at lunch. Don’t worry yet. Still in discussion.

There were many happy bucks. And lots of happy people.

PROGRAM: Rayline Manni introduced Steve Walsh, Executive Director of the Vine Neighborhood Association. Steve reported on the commercial development in Vine especially the retail district along Westnedge.

Steve has been bringing people to the table to address many different issues in the neighborhood to initiate change. These included, partnership, development of Old Central, a strong relationship with WMU, Building Blocks, ridding the neighborhood of

nefarious landlords and the purchase of Central Corners (the building on the corner of S. Westnedge and Vine.

Steve also announced that a longtime advocate and developer of residential rentals in Vine died. Mitzi DeLuca also initiated the development of some community gardens and her presence in the neighborhood will be missed.