

Rotary News, February 11, 2019, Submitted by Charles Ofstein

President Jeannie Brandenberger rang our meeting to order at approximately 12:30 PM. The club sang the Star-Spangled Banner. We were accompanied by Rotarian John Dilworth on the piano. Our invocation was given by Rotarian Seth Weeldreyer. The club was particularly thankful for the regular coffee at our tables this week!

Arts News was presented by Rotarian Dann Systma. Dann reminded us that there were several events in the local arts community celebrating Black History Month. Please continue, as always, to support the Arts in Kalamazoo.

Rotarians Dan and Sharon Wherry from Club 14 in Lincoln, Nebraska joined our club meeting this week. Welcome to Kalamazoo, Dan and Sharon! Guests (and their Rotarian hosts) included Greg Ayers and Tim Wenzel (Joe B.), Dan Davis (Sid E.), Jonathan Kraker (Allison H.), Laura Eller (Bob M.), Tom Stoby (Steve K.), Jeff Visser and Jan Underhill (Deb. H.), and Molly Whitfield. Welcome all!

Songs were presented by Past President Tim Kilmartin (with a piano intro by Rotarian John D.) In honor of our guest, Tim led the club in the WMU fight song. As always, Go Broncos!

This week's sponsor was Great Lakes Peace Jam. The non-profit's director, Rotarian Todd Bannon, introduced us to the charity's mission and its impact on the community. Todd announced that this coming Friday, February 22nd, the public is invited to a speech by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi. The event will be held at Loy Norrix High School. It will begin at 7:00. Thank you, Todd and Great Lakes Peace Jam, for your good work in our community! We are excited, too, that you are joining our club as a member!

Rotarian Mike Isch introduced Jeff Visser as our club's newest member. Jeff was originally a member of our firm's Satellite Club. He is the first member of that club to transition to full club membership. Jeff came to Kalamazoo 20 years ago as a student at Western Michigan University. Currently, he is the Chief Sales Officer for Consumers Credit Union. He also happens to be Mike's brother-in-law. Welcome to our club, Mike! We look forward to working with you in service.

Past President Jeannie used this week's meeting as an opportunity for several Rotarians to exchange their red badges. As a reminder, new Rotarians are honored with a red badge during their first year of Membership. This badge is intended to remind long-standing members to introduce themselves to the new members at club meetings. New Rotarians exchange their red badges after one year. Congratulations to the following nine members (wow!) for their one year of service!

- Pam Walker
- Nick Boyd
- Tauhric Brown
- Scott Peterson

- Dave Reed
- Nathan Smeltzer
- Nancy Stoddard
- Denny Stultz
- Ryan Wieber

Rotarian D. Terry Williams announced that this year's Red Rose recipient search is underway. He asked members to consider the many unsung people in our community who would be worthy of such an award. Applications with criteria for nomination will be available beginning at next week's meeting.

Time for Happy Bucks! Highlights included Rotarian Jack H.'s thank you to Tim Lester and the entire WMU football program for their recent assistance at Ministry with Community, Rotarian Dave L.'s announcement that his Strive mentee had been accepted into three different universities and had obtained two scholarships, and Rotarian John D.'s announcement that Goodwill Industries of Southwest Michigan is one of 10 non-profits in the country that received a grant from Google related to data analytics. Congratulations to all members on their amazing accomplishments.

Rotarian Bob Miller introduced our speaker, Tim Lester. Tim is the head football coach at Western Michigan University. In addition to several on-field successes, the Broncos earned the 2018-2019 NCAA sportsmanship award (see <https://wmich.edu/news/2019/01/51303>). The team also holds cumulative GPA of 3.05.

Tim's talk related to the club not through football, but through his observations in coaching the millennial generation. The club could relate to Tim's challenges in coaching and mentoring 18-22-year-olds in the information age! He described several examples of how he related to this generation. They included a prolific use of texting (which are described as "conversations" by this generation) and no-phone rules during practices. He also described how WMU uses information gathering (a process only made available through the information age) to ensure that the players remain healthy. The take-away was that we, in our respective businesses, could use these tools to work with the next generation.

With respect to the WMU program in general, Tim described his mission as the "Western Way." He is focused on growing the leadership and culture of the team. He values relationship before opportunity. He requests that his players follow the Golden Rule: to be 100% wherever you are at and to live in the moment.

With respect to football, Tim is looking forward to the next season. He wants to keep the team healthy. He is going to concentrate on managing the player's stress, frustration, and fatigue throughout the season. He is going to continue to recruit great players by "selling Kalamazoo" as a great community to play football in.

Thank you, Coach Lester, for your inspiration and football insight!