

Rotary News, April 8, 2019, Submitted by Charles Ofstein

President Jeannie Brandenberger opened the meeting with the National Anthem. Seth Weeldreyer gave the invocation, and Dan Sytsma presented the Art News.

There was an entourage of visitor from the Rotaract Club in attendance. Welcome to them and several guests.

Rotary is for Reading is kicking into high gear. Please consider volunteering to read to our second graders. Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>, volunteers will be book packing for the participating schools. Time is 4-6.

Business Sponsor: Denny Stultz from Visiting Angels was today's sponsor. Denny has 90 angels providing home care for their clients – doing light housework, bathing, dressing and other duties to their clients. Denny made a special fluffy "Angel" cookie for today's meeting and encourage members to help themselves.

Liz VandenHeede, Rotaract President, invited members to help them celebrate their 10 year anniversary by attending an afterhours at the Stamped Robin 5:30-7:30 on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please keep Joe Brogger and his family in your thoughts. Joe's mother passed away.

NEW MEMBER: Bob Miller introduced new member, Greg Ayers from Discover Kalamazoo. Greg makes sure that Kalamazoo has "heads in beds" at our local hotels. Joe Brogger has been pursuing Greg for over 5 years to join and finally succeeded but was unable to be at today's meeting to introduce Greg. Greg has enjoyed his time here. He is an Illinois State Alum, started out studying Athletic Marketing and Economics and ended up being attracted to Kalamazoo to head up the visitor bureau.

Rick Briscoe did a recap of where we are in our donations to the Rotary Foundation. Our goal for this fiscal year was \$18,500 and to date we are at \$10,584. Last year we had 37 non-givers but this year we have reduced that number to 27. Please help meet out goal.

Paul Harris Fellows were announce: They are Kristen Chezak, Deb Harris, Denny Stultz, Rob Peterson, Steve Charnley, Ann Fergemann, Tim Kilmartin (+1) Jeff Ross (+2) Don Flesche (+3), Jim Cupper (+6).

FLAG FUNDRAISER: The Satellite Club is sponsoring a fundraiser. They will be selling small flags that will be ID'd with name tags honoring veterans. They will be placed in Bronsong Park on Memorial Day. Sales will continue through April.

PROGRAM: Today's presenter was Mike Nellenbach from Tekna, Inc. The topic was "The State of Design Today". Mike is the VP of Product Development and is an industrial designer. There are in Michigan 4000 Industrial designers and for everyone one of those jobs, 8 more are created. Industrial Designers average higher salaries. As he stated, "You need to bring creativity and delivery together for meaningful solutions to product development." The state of design today means moving beyond just the object and taking beautiful objects to beautiful experiences.

