

Rotary News – Monday, June 14, 2021

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Seth Weeldryer. The national anthem, with organ accompaniment this time, was played by John Dillworth.

Invocation was given by Jeff Ross, reminding us to invite the spirit of love & gratitude.

Arts News was also presented by Jeff, with several virtual and in person opportunities coming up this week.

Announcements from the Board Meeting: President Seth reported a long discussion was held at Wednesday's meeting regarding budget for the upcoming year. Shortfalls exist for both dues and the charities accounts. Therefore, important to get those checks in soon, or make decisions soon and notify Annette of your intentions. This is necessary to make plans for next year, and budget will not allow for covering you until you pay later.

Larry Deniston needs to step down as chair of Sergeant At Arms Committee and is looking for a replacement of 1 or 2 people. Please contact him if you could be interested.

June 28 is the date for the *Changing of the Guard*, and there will be NO NOON MEETING! Instead, we will meet at 6:00 pm at the Douglass Community Association for an IN-PERSON event. See Annette's e-mail (or our website) for all details, and register online as soon as possible. Great way to celebrate the past year, and the year to come—food, music, and finally meeting in person!

Happy Bucks: Jeff Ross, for the recovery of his horse from a stay at Michigan State's veterinary ICU. Terry Williams, for the July 3 Bronson Park event—Kalamazoo Symphony patriotic concert. Rotary will present a plaque to the City for the Rotary stage, honoring the medical personnel who worked so hard during the pandemic.

Program: Christina Dorett introduced the program, *Rank Choice Voting for MI*. The speaker was Ron Zimmerman, Executive Director. It is an all-volunteer organization and a 501(c3-C4.) He outlined how the current system drives voters to often vote for the "lesser of two evils," or feel like they are wasting their vote.

With rank choice voting, you rank your choices and the winner must get more than 50% of the vote. It causes candidates to have to appeal to all voters, not just their base, and therefore resulting in less negative campaigning. Also means no runoff elections. It is being used currently in the state of Maine, and in many cities around the country, as well as other countries. Alaska also just approved. It is used in some states for primaries, state conventions, and military overseas votes. The goal is to allow it in cities who want it, and ultimately mandate for state & federal positions, as well as implement in Michigan. For more information and details on how it works: go to their website rankmivote.org.

Next week's program: *Kalamazoo Farmers' Market on the Move*.