



# Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

August 23, 2021

Editarian: Amy Remmert

**Today's** meeting was called to order by President Sid Ellis at 12:15 p.m.

**National Anthem:** John Dillworth played the National Anthem in Marvin Gaye style.

**Invocation:** Cheri Bell lead the invocation keeping social justice and environmental justice in mind.

**Arts News: Alisa Carrel:** A lot is going on in Kalamazoo. Visit the Arts Council website at <https://www.kalamazooarts.org/event/> to find something of interest to you or your family.

**GUEST:** Taylor Huey is our guest from the Rotaract group.

**Announcements:** Raffle tickets are available through our website. Click on the Link. We hope that each member will either buy a ticket or get someone to purchase a ticket. This money does come back to our club through grants for various projects in our community. If you do not want to pay for the ticket via credit card, you can send a check to Amy Remmert at 1005 Davis St., Kalamazoo 49008. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Rotary District 6360 Foundation.**

Denise Hartsough spoke about the Strive mentoring program which involves juniors and seniors at the Kalamazoo High Schools. The schools are asked to line up a few students who are direction minded and who would love to work with a mentor. Steve Kreider finds STRIVE a very fulfilling program and loves getting the students headed to graduation by setting goals.

Join us for our first in person regular meeting. The lunch meeting next week (August 30) will be at the Douglass Community Association. Deadline for registration is 5pm on Thursday August 26. Lunch is \$16. Go to the website to register and pay for your lunch. No lunch payments will be accepted at the door. If you come to the meeting and are not eating, please be advised that a \$5 meeting fee will be required. If you're wondering why --- we will incur other expenses outside of lunch related to equipment and set up.

**Happy Bucks:** Only two happy bucks, all in honor of Amy Remmert's efforts to get us to an in-person meeting on August 30 and finding a location and lunch option. Sid Ellis gave a felicitous fin and Kevin Garrison an American Fiver.

**The Program: Ellery Johnson, todays speaker** is a community engagement specialist with the State of Michigan, in the Division of Environmental Health. She is the lead community engagement coordinator for two research projects: the Michigan PFAS Exposure and Health Study, and the Multi-site Health Study. Ellery is committed to helping Michigan residents

collaboratively process and address environmental and public health issues affecting their communities.

Ellery has been in her current position since February 2020; prior to that, she graduated from Michigan State University with a Master's degree in Public Policy, as well as bachelor degrees in Comparative Cultures and Politics and International Relations.

Ellery spoke about a new study in Parchment. She works with other researchers in the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services in partnership with the CDC. Study sites are Michigan, California, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The main goal is to understand the relationship between PFAS exposure and health outcomes in different populations and in particular children.

All participants will complete a health survey, provide a blood sample, body measurements. It will include adults and children from 4-17 with residential well water. Eligibility is standardized for all areas.

The study excludes people who are occupationally exposed to PFAS. These studies could be very influential in future legislation, be able to reconstruct how long much PFAS was in the water, and see how it influences birth outcomes and other diseases. Birth outcomes are only being studied in Michigan.

As a precaution, COVID safety measures are being observed and the study is adhering to social distancing measures. Spread the word about this study. Call 877-256-8073 to confirm eligibility and enroll. You can also visit the website [Michigan.gov/DEHBio](https://Michigan.gov/DEHBio)