



# Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

September 14, 2020

Editorian: Amy Remmert

**Today's** meeting was called to order by President, Seth Weeldreyer at 12:15 p.m.

**National Anthem:** Jose Feliciano sang the National Anthem in today's rendition.

**Invocation:** Dan Harlieb – that we will not be jaded by the negative and pay more attention to the positive. We injure with the negative so we need to process what we hear and say.

**Arts News:** A little humor by Rotarian Dann Sytsma who focused on what should have happened in history starting with Napoleon. Then moving on to a story on a Russian rock crashing into the moon surface. Bruce Willis should have sent the rocket back to Russian as in movie lore. There are many virtual activities in the arts. Please visit the Rotary website to see a list.

**Announcements:** Happy birthday to the Kalamazoo Symphony for celebrating 100 years. Seth reminded everyone that we will begin chat rooms at noon, begin program at 12:15 and done by around 1-1:15.

Satellite club will be meeting at Hays Park and they are proposing to take on an enhancement project there. Meetings will continue at Hays Park until the weather no longer allows.

Polio has been irradiated in Africa and we should celebrate.

Reach out with questions at any time. We will announce resignations going forward. We care for one another and this might help us reach out to those individuals who may need a hand in friendship.

**Happy Bucks:** Heather Isch – the Arts council raised 52,000 for their campaign in this difficult time. Bonnie Sexton's daughter is home after serving in the army and excited about starting a new life.

**The Program:** Thell Woods introduced Tim Snow. Tim puts on the election having been clerk since 1987. He's a member of Michigan Association of County Clerks.

Tim Snow, County Clerk for Kalamazoo County. This has been and will be a big Election year with already three this year and getting ready for November. Primary election numbers were 54,456 with 35,000 dems, 22,000 rep. COVID will cause a huge increase in absentee voting. On Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> there were 6 recounts for various positions. The were completed in one day with no changes in the end results. August is in the record book.

What are they doing to get ready for the November election, coordinate, prepare ballot, training election inspectors, training candidates for campaign finance rules. They are preparing for a large turnout. There are 205,335 eligible voters in the state so they are prepared to handle enough ballots for everyone including spoilage. There were 67,000 on absentee register which equates to 33% and these numbers will continue to get bigger. Voter registration is high in this area and in Michigan. Everyone should be registered which is a lofty goal.

Tim recommends that if you move, change your registration. You may do that at the Secretary of State if you have an appointment, but there are no walk-ins available at this time. You can also do this in person at clerk's office or County. The State's website now allows registration online - go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). You can trace your absentee ballot at that sight as well. A sample ballot is also available.

Voter registration drive is ongoing. October 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline. The Clerk can handle registration after that date. You must be 18 on or before election day in order to vote.

Tim reported that absentee ballots are being printed by end of week. He's hopeful to have first batch out on or about September 24<sup>th</sup> in the mail. Military folks have a deadline to receive ballots and so they should be in the mail by the end of this week. Over sea's personnel need time to get their ballots back in time and by mail only.

We are expecting a large turnout – the post office is sending out postcards with instructions on how to get an absentee ballot. Drop boxes are available for absentee ballots if you don't want to send through mail. Allow 7 days if mailing ballot. Early is better. Don't forget to sign the ballot envelope – critical step for your vote to be counted.

November 3 election inspectors are needed. Call if you are interested. A lot of the people who were inspectors have dropped off due to COVID concerns.

A couple of Questions:

Jim Cupper does your voter registration change if you change your driver's license address.

Concerns about the president calling the election on in person voting only. We are not concerned in Michigan.

Thank you for your work, Tim.