

Rotary Club of Portage Bulletin

Porta-Rota-Call

June 26, 2019

by Paul Ballard

Christy Klein called the Meeting to order at 12:10pm.

We Sang God Bless America, recited the Pledge, and Paul Carlson gave the invocation.

Greeter Pete Marsiglia welcomed us but there were no visiting Rotarians or guests today.

Presentation: Matt Semelbauer presented Jeannine Willacker with her Paul Harris Plus 7 pin and certificate. She received a standing ovation for her contributions to Rotary.

PROGRAM: Christy Klein presided over the passing of the gavel for the Portage Rotary's 53rd year. Stepping down as President was Chris Buckley, who will now fill the Past President seat on the board. Stepping out of the positions they held during the past year were Past President Dave Jewell, Secretary Bill Beck, Assistant Secretary Phil Stinchcomb and board member Mary Lou Wright. The club thanked them all with a hearty round of applause.



President Chris Buckley presented his remarks on the past year, thanking all club members who have made his year a success. Under his guidance, the "Big Idea" came to fruition with the opening of the new Celery Flats Pavilion. He successfully brought the fireworks back this year at a new location and noted the increase in new members. His administration saw the growth of the "auditorium" fundraisers, park clean ups and more family oriented events. He gave special thanks to Bill Beck for his efforts as secretary, including the new methods of paying for lunch, buying 50/50 tickets and recording attendance. He then passed the gavel to our new President, Tom Welsh.

President Tom enumerated several changes and initiatives for the coming year with the motto: Come for Service, Stay for Friendship. We will begin our meetings with the 4-Way Test and eliminate the opening song. Meetings will begin at 12:00noon and end at 1:00pm. As a transition period, for the month of July, you will not be considered late until 12:10pm. He would like to have a service project for every month. We currently have 10 and need two more project ideas He will look at putting together a Polio Plus event in October to help with that elusive goal. Every member was encouraged to continue to contribute least \$100 per year to the Rotary Foundation through birthday, anniversary or other donations. President Welsh asked that everyone ask at least one person to come to a Rotary meeting and to sit at different tables to get to know other members. He would like to see more involvement with the high school Rotaract clubs.

Serving with President Tom and Past President Chris in the upcoming year are: Matt Semelbauer, President-Elect; Dan Melnik, Treasurer; Josh Goodlock, Secretary; Emily Turner Hollman, Club Director and President Nominee. Also serving as Club Directors are: Ben Barber, Mark Bielang, Mary Hall, Dick Hewitt and Larry Schaffer.

Announcements:

Bill Beck has had an unexpected surgery but is recovering well.

Karen Foster – More volunteers are needed at the Fireworks event from 6 to 8pm and especially for the 8 to 10pm shift.

Jeanine Willacker – Blood Drive Thursday at First Reformed Church, 1:30pm to 6:45pm.

Dick Hewitt – First Annual “Pint-wood Derby” will be held August 17, 4:00pm at the Kalamazoo Expo Center to benefit the Boy Scouts of America youth development program.

Bonnie Granado – More golfers are needed at the golf outing.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: There were no anniversaries to celebrate but we sang happy birthday to Dick Hewitt and the “late song” to Chris Berro.

HAPPY BUCKS: Paul Carlson gave 93 happy bucks in honor of his father, a WWII vet who just passed away. Many other happy bucks were given to thank President Chris for his great year as president. Then, Sergeant at Arms Bill Crown filled the bucket with 4th of July trivia.

Tim Summers won the 50/50 (but left early) and new President Tom could not find the ace.

There will be no program next week – please sign up to work at the 4th of July event!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm.

[Facebook link](#)

The Portage Rotary Club provides financial support for youth education, families in need and other local charitable causes. We are part of Rotary International. A service organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian services and help build goodwill and peace in the world