



The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday, January 19, 2021

By Kathleen Runser

President Dan called the meeting to order with our patriotic song, “America,” and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. **Mindy Nielsen** helped with today’s technology.

Today’s invocation and reflection was given by **Pastor Nathan Russell**: “Oh God, we come to you now in a historic week for our country. Yesterday we celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life, legacy and faith. Tomorrow, a new administration will begin in the Executive Branch of government. It feels as if the precipice of our country hangs in the balance of what could take shape this very week. As Rotarians we are called to truth and servitude. We are also called to peace making. So as custodians of Shalom grant us wisdom and grant us courage for the peace that is ours to cultivate here in Elyria and throughout the world. Amen.”

We extend a warm welcome to our newest Rotarian, **Annie Heidersbach**! **Nathan** returned to lead us in our happy song of the day, “Smile.”

January 26, 2021

Blank Slate Elyria founders
Jacklyn Noga, Eddy Marflak, and Steven Rice

Announcements

- Board approved the new slate of officers for 2021-2022:
 - Secretary—**Steve Hostler**
 - Treasurer—**Dianne Brehm**
 - Sergeant at Arms—**Mark Mathes**
 - President—**Amanda Deery**
 - President-Elect 2022-2023—**Rob Ernst**
- **Jeanine Donaldson** will be heading up the new Peace Committee. This committee will expand the peace through diversity and inclusion. **LaTanya Conley** will also be working with **Jeanine** and any interested Rotarians should contact them or **Dan**. In the spirit of expanding the peace, the Board voted to denounce the Fair Board’s decision to allow the Confederate flag at the Fair.
- Anybody interested in hosting a virtual on-site tour of their facility should contact the Program Committee.

- District Conference has been cancelled but use DACdb for other virtual training opportunities and events.

Jug/Happy Dollars

Sam Battle and **Mary Siwierka** each donated Happy Dollars in honor of **Nathan Russell's** double singing duty today (and let's not forget he also provided the invocation!)

Program – Erik Andrews—Pedal Across America
for Appalachia Service Project

Erik Andrews provided an inspiring program reflecting on his more than two-month trek across the United States on his bike. His decision to trek across the U.S. was, as most things this past year, prompted by COVID and his inability to participate in his annual Appalachia Service Project.

After much planning he began his trip in June by flying to California and biking across the country all the way to Delaware. Using iconic Route 66 for much of his trip, he was able to highlight the Appalachia Service Project and see the best of our country. Not only was he able to witness the beautiful scenery, but he was able to meet many kind and helpful people along the way.

While flat tires, some inclement weather, some rough terrain, and the uncertainty that COVID provided in terms of lodging, food and supplies were a part of the trip, and the photos, along with Erik's passionate description of his trip, were uplifting and heartening!

The book donated to Elyria Public Library in honor of our speakers is "Choo Choo School."

Weekly Elyria Zoom Meeting Link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86461082213?pwd=aVhiV1FBQ1o3cnlwVHZ3dXptODRndz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6108 2213

Password: Rotary

"Happy Dollar/Jug Donation" link: [Happy Dollars](#)

ERC YouTube Recording:

<https://youtu.be/4HRz7EiCAcc>