



The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

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Tuesday, February 16, 2021

By Kathleen Runser

President Dan called the meeting to order with our patriotic song, "My Country 'tis of Thee," and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. **Mindy Nielsen** helped with today's technology.

Today's invocation and reflection was given by **Fred Kerestury**, in honor of Fat Tuesday, a Mardi Gras Prayer: "Today we feast. We thank you for the abundance of gifts you shower upon us, especially for one another. As we give you thanks, we are mindful of those who have so much less than we do. As we share these wonderful gifts together, we commit ourselves to greater generosity toward those who need our support. Amen."

Nathan returned to lead us in our song of the day, "R-O-T-A-R-Y."

February 23, 2021

Robert H. Kuck II, PDG District 6600

Pierre-Louis de Lorimier, an early settler, his journey through Ohio Territory to Missouri.

Announcements

- **Mike Meecha's** father Tom passed away. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.
- March 4th is the Mayor's address via Zoom. **There will not be a meeting on March 2nd.**
- Vermilion Rotary is hosting a reverse raffle later this week to help fund the Imagination Library.
- Rotary One Summit is coming up in two Saturday's via DacDB.
- The Board voted to sponsor RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) and **Sam Battle** and **Niccole Belmore Pierse** will chair. RYLA is a leadership training program and we will partner with Horizon to offer this program at Eastern Heights.
- Scholarships are open for students to apply. The Board voted on one change to the Scholarships and they are now open to children of Rotarians.
- **Jeanine Donaldson** is recruiting for the Diversity, Inclusion, Peace Committee and is

looking for volunteers so please email her if interested. **LaTaunya Conley** and **Nicolle Belmore Pierson** are helping, as well. **Jeanine** has also been asked by the District Governor to chair the Peace Conference—
Congratulations!

- Rotarians are also able to participate during the month of March in the 21 Day Racial and Social Justice Challenge which is a program recently picked up by the YWCA.

Jug/Happy Dollars

February Birthdays (dates): **Deb Warden, Jerry Schaefer, Mike Meecha, Gary Kneisley**—11th; **Clarence Wills**—19th; **Mindy Nielsen**—22nd; **Don Andress**—24th; **Mary Siwierka**—26th

Rotary Anniversaries (# of years): **Greg Kruszka**—35; **Pete Shilling**—33; **Chris Mead**—30; **Tom Hoover, Jennifer Gallant, Mike Meecha**—13; **Rob Ernst**—7; **Kristian Smith**—3; **Kim Wilhelm**—2; **Chuck Hirsch**—2

Sam Battle and **Nicolle Belmore Pierson** each donated Happy Dollars for the Horizon/Rotary RYLA partnership.

Program – Jeff Miller -- Murray Ridge Center and the Vocational Program

Jeff first highlighted the mission of Murray Ridge and the services they provide, as well as some background information on these services. The remainder of the program highlighted the Vocational Services Program which has three main components:

- Vocational Habilitation
- Group Employment Supports
- Individual Employment Supports

This program is a state law which went in effect under former Governor Kasich. Some of the benefits of this program include learning new skills, learning to work with people in the

community, learning ways to get to and from work, and an understanding of how to work in a group.

The Vocational Program usually has about 215 participants working in about 23 businesses throughout Lorain County. These jobs can be part or full time and they are compensated with wages and benefits commiserate with the job being performed.

One of the programs Jeff highlighted was the two Federal contracts they have - both with the FAA. The people placed in these jobs are paid at the Federal Minimum Wage for janitorial work, which is \$12.80/hour and they are also paid a health and welfare benefit which is \$4.30/hour, so they are making over \$17.00 an hour!

Many of the participants in the Vocational program have been promoted to full time jobs with benefits, and the program receives high marks from employers for the dedication and hard work provided by the people placed in these positions.

The book donated to Elyria Public Library in honor of our speaker is “All Together Quilt” by Lizzy Rockwell.

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/4ED_ZmBKZE0