



The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

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August 18, 2020 Program
Erica Larson
Web Design and Social Media

Tuesday August 11, 2020

By Kristen Jones

President Dan called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Amanda Deery offered a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense."

Guests

We welcome **Don Schiffbauer** as a returning member; he is the new director of The Nord Center.

Announcements

- Elyrians Helping Elyrians needs help this Thursday, 8/13. If you can help

with either the 1:30 and/or 4:00 shifts, let **Laura Sherman** know. This may be the last week for us as the project may be winding down.

- Second Harvest food bank is looking for volunteers for a packing project. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Nicole Bellmore Pierson** reminded us that she is still accepting donations of school supplies, and the library drive "day" went very well. You can drop off to her or contact her and she will pick them up.
- **President Dan** referred to the One Community grant mentioned by DG Keith. This will be a matching grant for community projects, for COVID response. Our Club will be looking for the right project for our application.

- **LaTaunya Conley** announced she is retiring from the City of Elyria on August 31 after 38 years.
- ERC Board is officially cancelling Rotary Auction for the year; looking at an “Un-fried Ice Cream Event” for the fall, the proceeds of which will be utilized for the Children’s Christmas Party, in whatever form that takes.
- ERC is also looking at possible social events for virtual engagement.

Happy Dollars

Laura Sherman – her youngest daughter did well on her LSATs, and her oldest daughter is visiting from Boston.

Sam Battle – In Honor of **LaTaunya’s** retirement, and his son will be lead drummer for Midview marching band

Today’s Program

Jackie Boehnlein, an instrumental leader on this committee, introduced fellow colleagues of the Lorain County Complete Count Committee – Richard Romero, regional partner specialist with the US Census Bureau, Victor Leandry, Executive Director of El Centro, and Commissioner Matt Lundy – to discuss the importance of the US Census and how we’re doing locally prior to the deadline at the end of September. This is the first time the Census has allowed individuals to complete the Census online.

Matt Lundy started out by thanking **LaTaunya Conley** for her outstanding career in public service.

Matt showed an introductory video on the reasons to have the Census, which is a population count that has been conducted

every 10 years since 1790. He noted that Victor Leandry and Richard Romero have been on the ground as leaders helping to make the Census successful.

The Census determines representation, and guides leaders in making allocation decisions. All information is confidential. For every American counted, \$2000 – per person, per year for ten years – of federal funding is distributed to local governments. This includes funding for bridges, hospitals, schools, block grants, Medicaid dollars, safety services, to name a few.

The first meeting on Jan. 9 showed overwhelming response for getting a complete count, and the group members were organized into 12 subcommittees covering towns as well as target areas of industry. The Census National Director came in to see more about the organization taking place.

Richard Romero said that, as of today, many communities show much higher response than previous years, already over 80%. Elyria and Lorain, the two biggest cities with the highest poverty, are the lowest, between 60-68%. However, these are very strong numbers and will surpass the 2010 numbers. In cities over 50,000, Elyria is #3 and Lorain #5 in the state.

Victor Leady talked about the “Hard-to-Count” population. Approx. 2.2 million young children were missed in the 2010 Census. There is still misunderstanding and mistrust about the government “trying to get information” on individuals. The challenge is still in getting the information, as people are not responsive to “door knockers.” Please ask at least 10 people if they’ve completed the Census – and let

neighbors, customers, and other community members know that they should expect these Census takers in the neighborhoods, and to please respond when they come to the door.

The final push is to spread the information through churches, social media, and throughout the Latino community. They offered thanks as well to the Community Foundation and Nord Family Foundation, both are supplying generous funding to support this project.

Contact **Jackie Boehnlein** if you would like to be connected to ways you can help.

The book donated to the Elyria Public Library on behalf of our speakers is, "Glorious Big Problem."