

Elyria
Rotary
Club



The Ramrod



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Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday September 1, 2020

By Kimberly Wilhelm

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

Invocation

Given by **Stephanie Forthofer**. Prayers were offered to help us see the needs of others and to give us the strength and wisdom to serve our community; to help us lift the burdens of others while maintaining the dignity of humankind, and to soften our hearts to be sensitive and loving as we serve together as Rotarians.

Guest

Assistant Governor, **Anthony Cuevas** was in attendance and stated that he wanted to attend virtual meetings at least once a month as his schedule allows

Song Leader:

Mark Mathes said that he and the technology committee will work on possible Youtube videos or some other type of recorded music for future meetings

Announcements:

President Dan told the group that **Nicole Bellmore-Pierse** has opportunities for students to work and he will send out an e-mail with additional details.

September 8, 2020

Kristen Fox Berki

Lorain County Childrens Services

President Dan reminded us that there is a Board Meeting Next Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. via Zoom. He also said to let him know if we hear of community events that are happening that Rotarians may be interested in participating in. There is a Celebrity softball game happening at Crushers Stadium that is a family event with raffles etc. for more information let know.

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Mindy Nielson told us about the "hybrid social" to be held the last Tuesday of September. If you are meeting in small groups, you can call in. There will be a contest for best dressed, facemask, and virtual background and there might be some game playing.

Happy Dollars

Jackie Boehnlein happily announced that she and her husband were celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary. Many more happy years for you both. **Kimberly Wilhelm** stated that she was happy that her youngest daughter has recovered from mild Covid symptoms and no one else had symptoms. God is great.

Drew Kaplan congratulated **Dan Haight** on his achievement of taking on the responsibilities of the position of CEO of The LCADA Way. Congratulations **Dan**.

Drew also mentioned that there should be a way to make the happy dollar and other donations and **Mindy** said they are looking into using Venmo or some other option for us to be able to make donations during this time of virtual meetings.

Program

Sam Battle introduced **Ed Stewart**, ERC Past President who will be giving us a virtual tour of his Middle Avenue Bicycle shop located at 408 Middle Ave., The Elyria Bicycle & Education Center.

Ed told the group that when Mike's Bike shop closed 3 years ago, **Ed** and his friends decided that Elyria needed to have a place where bikes could be serviced. They took over a building on Middle Avenue that used to be the home of a travel agency.

- Currently have 23 volunteers that include 10 primary and 12 youth between the ages of 10 – 19.
- In the 3 years they have had over 950 bikes donated.
- 574 repairs to bikes including complete overhauls, replace flat tires etc.
- Non- Profit Charitable Organization
- Rehab bikes to get them back into running condition.
- Have great relationship with YWCA, Valor Home, Various Shelters to provide transportation when needed.
- Work with the City of Elyria Police Department and they repair bikes that are picked up by the police.

- Bikes are serialized so that they can be tracked and are registered for no charge.
- Works with Mayor Frank Whitfield in his bike initiatives and one bike drive brought in 125 bikes on a Saturday to rehab/repair.
- Open 3 days a week Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 12 – 5.
- Due to insurance restrictions, the shop does not loan or trade bikes.
- Monthly overhead is approximately \$1,600 and they currently average 20 – 25 sales/month.

Video of Bike Shop

- We got to see repairs being done on bikes by volunteers from loose gears to replacing a tire on a rim by an eleven-year-old volunteer from St. Jude School.
- They have spare parts well organized with a selection of used parts that could be re-used as well as new parts that were ordered to keep on hand.
- There is a selection of various seats mounted to a handmade board on the wall.
- **Ed** created a ramp out of 2 X 4's that make is easy and safe to bring the bikes up and down the stairs

Sam said he was impressed with the operations of the shop and the training of volunteers and **Jackie** stated that the Community Action Center has benefited from **Ed's** services. Service hours are available for youth and they work with the courts as well.

When asked about the future, **Ed** said:

- Additional training satellites within the city to get more done.
- Potential welding and painting programs for those who want to learn new skills.
- Would like to see the retail side of the business expand and be able to give young adults hands on training on how to run a business.
- Need additional volunteers, potentially looking for someone recently retired that is

eager about looking for something to fill their time and can work on a regular basis.

He said it has been an amazing adventure and is so appreciative of all the community response. Thank you, **Ed** for sharing with us.

The book donated to the Elyria Public Library will be chosen by **President Dan** and he will get it to **Ed** for his signature.

Zoom Recording of this Meeting

<https://youtu.be/wS14J86pBEw>

Upcoming Events

ERC Board Meeting on Zoom – Sept. 8, 8 am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85335479518?pwd=TWNUbWtWaUg0cDFuNWNnL3lrQ0hlQT09>
Meeting ID 8533547 9519, passcode Rotary

ERC Meeting – Sept. 8, 12 Noon – Kristen Fox Berki;
Lorain County Childrens Services

5th Tuesday “Hybrid Social” on Zoom – Sept. 29