

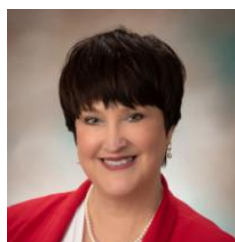


The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday, September 7, 2021

By Kristen Jones

President Amanda called the meeting to order at our temporary “Home on the Range,” Washington Avenue Christian Church, and led us in our patriotic song “My Country ‘tis of Thee” and in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Today’s invocation was given by **Jeanine Donaldson**. In recognition of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, she invited those presented to join her in reciting The Lord’s Prayer.

Helping today on technology was **Kent Iler**, and photography was by **Yours Truly**.



Song of the Day

Songleader **Mark Mathes** led everyone in two well-sung verses of “Home on the Range.”

Announcements

- Please see **Steve Hosler** to pick up your Fried Ice Cream tickets. Also, we need people to sign up for shifts at the Fried Ice Cream booth. Saturday afternoon and evening are the busiest times and we really need more to sign up for those time slots.
- **Dianne Brehm** reminded everyone to participate in the voluntary Covid-19 Survey, a link sent by email. The more people who participate in this brief 3 question survey, the better our chances to win a significant District grant, funded by an anonymous donor.
- 53 Lorain County non-profits will participate in a special rally day for fundraising, September 16. “Connect to a Cause” is spearheaded by the Community Foundation.

Jug/Happy Dollars

- **Immediate Past President Dan Haight** has been recognized with the President’s Citation for his work and leadership of our Club this past year. **President Amanda** gave happy dollars in his honor, and **Jeanine** followed suit.

- **Tammy Bertrand** gave a happy dollar to celebrate the new sound system at Wesleyan Village, which we will enjoy upon our return.
- **Mark Mroz** gave \$ for his son's wedding.
- **Andrea Repko** gave in honor of her son starting 1st grade.

Today's Speaker – Dan Martin - 341 and 337 Broad Street Renovation Project

Chris Pyanowski introduced our speaker, who is a Vice President of UPS. Dan Martin has had a dream for many decades of purchasing an historic building and bringing it back to life. He connected with Elyria's downtown because of its amazing historical structures, and eventually was able to purchase the 1917 Bank at 341 and its adjoining structure at 337. The Bank building was built in 1917; it is an amazing architectural structure with many of its original features still intact, including marble floors and walls, a 34 ft grand ceiling, old bank vaults, and architectural detail. It was built as a replica of Paris' Arc de Triomphe.

Dan lives in Strongsville but wants to see Elyria's downtown saved and revitalized. With the library going in across the street, that was the turning point that urged him to make the purchases at auction. He has already spent hundreds of hours in restoration work, and now a historic renovation grant could help with that.

His plans for the 341 bank building include full renovation and creation of an event space, with an eventual second phase leading to a public wine bar. He has acquired many interesting antiques, stained glass windows, and eclectic local art for use in the space.

With the adjoining 337 building, plans include a sports bar that will also act as home to the Elyria Sports Hall of Fame, and two additional upper floor apartments.

He candidly opined that the downtown needs to be both safe and open in order for this venture to work. Historic buildings must be saved rather than destroyed. With his building

already having suffered two break-ins, he feels the presence of visible "beat cops" would go a long way in helping the safety issues and perception of downtown. His passion and enthusiasm is contagious.



Dan fielded questions from the audience and agreed with **Pastor Janet's** suggestion that he become a member of our Club! 😊

Today's Book

Today's book, "A Space for Me will be donated to the Elyria Public Library in honor of our speaker.



Dan Martin

Happy Dollar Link:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2922TCG6S5HTA&Z3JncnB0=