



# The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: [elyriarotary.org](http://elyriarotary.org)



**Tuesday September 15, 2020**

**By Kathleen Runser**

**President Dan** called the meeting to order and led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Today's invocation and reflection was given by **Fred Kerestury**: "It will be a good day when we can all look up from our screens, look each other in the eye, speak with the strength of our convictions, be heard with sincerity and understood empathy and act toward others with the care we would treat ourselves."

Also helping today was **Mindy Nielsen** on Zoom tech duty.

### **Announcements**

There is a **5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Social** planned for **September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00**. The social will be a hybrid format with members being encouraged to meet (adhering to social distance guidelines) in person or join via

September 22, 2020

**Past-President Spencer Ryan and his Bird Watching Adventures!**

Zoom. There will be 3 competitions for best face mask, best background and best dressed. \$20.00 gift cards will be awarded to the winners and we will also be playing our version of the popular game *Would You Rather*.

The Board has decided to go ahead with a Fried Ice Cream fundraiser. It will be held at Smitty's (thank you **Stephanie!**) **on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** and will be a drive-thru format. Logistics are still being worked out but look for more information soon.

The Board has also been calling Rotarians to see how they are doing and reminding them of the virtual meetings. All Rotarians are welcome to reach out to each other, especially to those we have not seen in a while.

An invitation has been extended to **Don Boddy** to “tease” Rotarians during our virtual meetings!

### Jug/Happy Dollars

**Sam Battle** donated 5 Happy Dollars in recognition of his daughter who marched in the Suicide Awareness Walk.

September Birthdays—**Amanda Deery, Rich Fredrickson, Mark King, Kathy Runser**

### Today’s Speaker – Dale Jones – Salvation Army

**Sam Battle** introduced Dale Jones of the Salvation Army as the day’s speaker. Sam has known Dale for some time and they were both members of Leadership Lorain County and Dale is a mentor for our Strive program. Dale Jones presented on the variety of programming available through the Salvation Army. We, as Rotarians are familiar with several as we collaborate with them. These include The Not Forgotten Box and the Bell Ringing during the Holiday season. The Bell Ringing is their largest fundraiser and helps to support other programs the Salvation Army provides. They are not sure how the Bell Ringing will go this year, but they hope it can happen in some format.

The focus of the Dale’s speech was the mentoring program. This program was started in 1996 by Elizabeth Nicholson and the program was aimed at mentoring traditional high school students (non-JVS) with gang involvement at Lorain, Elyria and Oberlin. Dale took over when Elizabeth passed away and has been in charge of the program ever since.

Today the program has expanded to include male junior high students ranging from grade 6 through 12. Although there is a slight decline in seniors, the program sees 100+ students each year and has 100% participation.

The students are chosen by the guidance counselors and the criteria for being chosen includes:

- Single parent homes
- Raised by grandparent(s)
- A need for social and/or academic support

The program strives to be a positive group experience for the boys and receives community support through incentives such as pizza parties and bowling parties. They also do a variety of activities like attending Cavs and Indians games. They must be an active participant to attend these events. The program does work with girls, but is in need of more female mentors.

The program follows a specific curriculum called Achieving Success. However, they do get “off topic” at times and that is to discuss issues happening in their world and how to be successful in the future.

Another program aimed at working with the schools and students is the School Suspension Program. This program enables students to work off suspension hours at the Salvation Army and allows the students to still stay in school. The school contacts the Salvation Army and tells them they have a student who needs to work off X amount of suspension hours and they provide work opportunities for them. This program helps the parents, the student and school. A positive is they do not have many participants!

Dale also mentioned the following programs provided by the Salvation Army:

- Basketball League for teens that promotes teamwork, getting along with others, interacting with people you may not normally interact with, accepting others' differences;
- Soup Kitchen and Hot Meals program which operates on the last 5 days of each month from 11:30 am-12:30 pm;
- Food Pantry for emergency situations but people may come weekly for essentials;
- Rental Assistance program.

**Laura Sherman** asked if the Salvation Army has ever reached out to our Grants Committee—Not yet!

**Laura** also asked if we could get a schedule for upcoming events so that we might volunteer and whether the volunteer hours were flexible.—The volunteer schedule usually comes out in early November and depending on the event, some are flexible.

**Rich Fredrickson** asked about the flexibility of the mentoring schedule—the mentoring is done during the lunch periods at the junior high schools and in the high schools the students are pulled out of class which requires them to maintain their grades in order to be eligible.

**Mark Mathes** asked how many mentors are in the mentoring program and do any of the boys come back to mentor—7 men, 1 has been a mentor for 22 years and the rest have over 5 years of experience. Several young men have returned as mentors.

Sam Battle asked how Rotarians and Interact can help with the Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen—Dale suggested the Interact Culinary group help prepare the Holiday Dinner and much help is needed with passing out the toys from the Not Forgotten Box, collecting non-perishable food items, serving meals, putting food bags together, etc. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities.

If anyone is interested in more information or volunteering, please contact Dale: [dale.jones@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:dale.jones@use.salvationarmy.org)

Today's book donated to Elyria Public Library in honor of our speaker is "I Don't Like the Rain."

#### **Weekly Elyria Zoom Meeting Link:**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 864 6108 2213

Password: Rotary

#### **ERC YouTube Recording:**

<https://youtu.be/mjc1Yr35FyE>