



# The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

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



Tuesday, November 2, 2021

By Kristen Jones

**President Amanda** called the meeting to order and led us in our patriotic song “My Country ‘tis of Thee” and in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Helping today on technology was **Kent Iler**, and photography was by **Tammy Bertrand**.

#### Invocation

Today’s Invocation was given by **Mark Mroz**: “God sees in perfect detail the end of every beginning...help us to be ready to make every moment count.”

#### Guests

**Mark Mathes** introduced his wife, Susan. There were other Rotary spouses present as well, and we’re always happy to see them.

#### Song of the Day

**Kristen** noted that there was a competition of song suggestions for today’s number. She will be taking requests and a panel will award the Song of the Day from here on out... Just kidding.

#### November

### **“Memories from the Home Front: Growing Up During WWII”**

**Elyria Rotarian Panel discusses their first-hand memories, moderate by Greg Kruszka**

But **Janet Long’s** song choice, “Show Rotary Cares,” won out today, as it was so befitting of our program!

#### Club Sympathy and Care

**President Amanda** sadly noted the passing of **Claudette Mealwitz**, wife of **Pastor Pete Mealwitz**, as well as the passing of **Kim Wilhelm’s** mother. Additionally, **Carl Wagner** and his wife are both ill.

#### Announcements

**Jeanine Donaldson** thanked those who participated in the Peace Conference at LCCC. It was well attended, and our Club was a vital part in making it happen through the first registrations that came in. **President Amanda** noted that the event was very worthwhile!

#### Jug/Happy Dollars

**Rob Ernst** gave Happy Dollars in honor of **Diane Brehm** for her help with the Rotary grant application site.

**Nathan Russell** gave \$20 in honor of **Jeanine** and for the success of the Peace Conference.

**Today's Program– Rev. Janet Long – November  
Rotary Foundation Month**

Janet began her talk by noting that The Rotary Foundation helps Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

That singular sentence of commitment and mission has resulted in projects all around the globe, and the transformation of millions of lives since the Foundation's beginnings in 1917.

Rotary member Edgar F. Allen efforts to found the International Society for Crippled Children resulted in the Rotary Club of Elyria receiving the first \$500 grant from The Rotary Foundation in 1922.

Janet noted some impressive facts about the health and transparency of The Rotary Foundation:

- With a score of 90 or more considered "exceptional", The Rotary Foundation rates 99.16 in financial management and a perfect score of 100 in matters of accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator confers its highest 4-star rating on The Rotary Foundation. 91% of monies received are used to fund grants and operations.
- 1,359 global grants totaling \$95.6MM were made in the 2020-21 Rotary year, that 490 district grants totaling \$33.6MM were funded, and that 339 disaster response grants totaling \$8.4MM were directed to areas hard-hit by tragedy. Those grants represent a total of 2,188 responses met with a total of \$137.6MM.
- Over half of the 1,359 global grants mentioned were directed toward the eradication of Polio.

**Paul Harris Fellows**

After donations to The Rotary Foundation from an individual total \$1,000, a Paul Harris

recognition is received. Today, we welcome 8 new Paul Harris fellows. They are: **LaTaunya Conley, Stephanie Forthofer, Dan Haight, Tom Hoover, Ryan Kaplan, Mark Mroz, Rich Radachi, and Jerry Schaefer.**

We also recognize **President Amanda Deery**, who was awarded her Paul Harris pin and certificate by our District Governor during her recent visit to Elyria Rotary.

We also recognize four others who are being honored with the distinction of Paul Harris Fellow status by a family member who is a member of this club:

**Sharon Elek, Greg's spouse; Kathy Ernst, Rob's spouse; Victoria Fisher, Amber's daughter; and, Susan Mathes, Mark's spouse.**



We commend those who have moved beyond that initial designation as a Paul Harris Fellow through contributions in multiples of \$1,000.

Those becoming Paul Harris Fellows +1 are: **Rich Fredrickson, Kristen Jones, Dick Laubenthal and Jim Vandemark.**

Six of our members reached the level of PHF +2: **Jeanine Donaldson, Greg Elek, Rob Ernst, Amber Fisher, Dan Messaros, and Dave Richards.**



**Don Boddy** and **Brian Jankowski** both reached PHF +3.

**Mark Skellenger** and **Todd Sommer** moved upward to the PHF+4 level; with Mark having reached levels 3 and 4 this year.

**Robert Demby** achieved the PHF +5 level.

**John Aquilla** and **Janet Long** both reached the PHF +6 level.

**Pete Shilling** receives both the PHF +7 and PHF +8 awards, reaching both levels in a single year.

We recognized a new Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, representing lifetime gifts of \$10,000 or more. **Bill Kaatz** has reached this level of giving and we celebrate and congratulate him on this very special and rare designation.

He joins **Maud de la Porte** and **Jennifer Gallant** in reaching this milestone of generosity.

All told, Elyria Rotary boasts 67 Paul Harris Fellows within our membership.



Those Paul Harris recipients who received recognition previously were asked to stand and to join this year's inductees in front of the screen for a photo.

Our Foundation Committee invites others to reach the Paul Harris level during this month's emphasis on giving to The Rotary Foundation. All gifts make a difference!

**Happy Dollar Link:**

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=2922TCG6S5HTA&Z3JncnB0=](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=2922TCG6S5HTA&Z3JncnB0=)

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

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

**Meeting ID: 864 6108 2213**

**Password: Rotary**