



Saturday, December 6, 2025

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



Events

December 12th
**Plymouth Weekly
Club Meeting**

December 19th
**Plymouth Weekly
Club Meeting**

Club Leaders



Candice Towers
President



Preston Gee
President-Elect



Kasey Kohn
Secretary



Daniel Amos
Treasurer



Nancy Ann
Baldwin
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



Eric M. Joy
Youth Exchange
Chair

James Gietzen
iPast President

Broadcaster December

By Paul J. Sincock on Saturday, December 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Today's meeting was called to order by Acting President Kasey Kohn. We had a large group on hand because today was the day to honor our Public Safety-First Responders. We had police officers, public works technicians, fire fighters and paramedics and their families on hand for the awards luncheon. This program is annually one of the programs that highlights our Rotary year as we name the police officer, fire fighter, municipal services worker and paramedics for the City and Township of Plymouth as well as the paramedic of the year from Huron Valley Ambulance.

Acting President Kasey led the group in the Pledge of Alliance and called upon Kurt Heise to give the moment of meditation for the club. Kurt's thoughts were most appropriate as we honored these great public servants. He gave thanks for the work of first responders everywhere and for their families.

SIGN UP: There was a reminder to make sure that you respond to the weekly email related to lunch on Fridays. It is important to know if you are coming to Rotary, to allow us to make sure that we have enough food on hand to meet the demands of those in attendance. Please be sure to sign up on a weekly basis.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: On hand celebrating with us today was Dr. Herm Theeke. We also mentioned birthdays of Terry Durkin and Caroline Mayer and Mary Ann Wood.

DECEMBER 12 FUN NIGHT OUT: There is still room to sign up for the December 12th fun night out in Downtown Detroit. See James Gietzen, Chris Porman or John Buzuvis for more information. The trip includes a bus trip to downtown Detroit, the ability to walk around, check out the trees and participate in other activities. You will be returned to the Plymouth Cultural Center after the trip.

BELL RINGING: Don't forget to sign up for Bell Ringing, Chuck Lang reports that several slots are open at all of our bell ringing stations. We will be ringing the Salvation Army bells on December 12 & 13.

REPORT OF THE CHICKEN BBQ: Now Past Rotary Chicken Bar-be-que Committee Chairman Eric Joy reported on the proceeds of last September's BBQ. He reports that the Committee turned over the proceeds of the event in the amount of \$50,000 to the Plymouth Rotary Foundation. Great Work!!!! Now it is onto the Spring Golf Outing and then the 2026 Chicken Bar-be-que. Make sure you have your calendar marked for September 12, 13 & 14 to participate in all the activities of the BBQ, from set up to day of and the clean up on Monday.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT EVENT: On Friday, December 12th for the Annual Holiday Concert by the PCEP Orchestra and Choir. Please plan on attending and please be sure to register for the event by responding to the weekly email. Family and friends are welcome as well, but please let us



Marie A. Morrow
Club Executive
Secretary

know who will be coming, to help ensure that we have enough food on hand.

PROGRAM REPORT: Past District Governor and Club President Paul Sincok was called upon to lead the program today. He welcomed all of the visitors, extended congratulations on behalf of the club to the winners and their teams. We were reminded that in the early stages of an incident that first responders are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment. No matter what the weather, what the conditions or what the call for service is, these first responders are on scene protecting our community. Today's Program is to recognize the best of the best in our community. It was noted that all of the professionals in the room work together to serve the community, no matter what the patch on their arm says. These professionals back each other up, assist each other and collaborate to deliver high-quality cost-effective services to the community. Those working partnerships between agencies help to make Plymouth the special place that we all know and love.

Introducing the Huron Valley Ambulance Paramedic of the Year was HVA Vice-President Karl Rock. He introduced Ramsay Black, she started with HVA as a basic EMT; while working full time, she went to the HVA Paramedic school, which is a second full time job. She now works as a full-time paramedic based here in the Plymouth Community. Recently, she applied and was selected for the position of Field Training Officer, to assist and train new paramedics in response techniques. Her cool calm demeanor helped to lead her to the selection of Paramedic of the Year.

The City Fire Fighter of the Year is Sylvia Stepien, and she was introduced by City Fire Services Chief Matt Samhat. The Chief noted that Sylvia has responded to over 330 calls for service in the City of Plymouth over the past year. She started her career in 2017 as an EMT and joined the City Fire Services in 2018. The Chief noted that Sylvia is a member of the Department's Field Training Officer program. She also demonstrates strong command leadership on critical incidents.

The Plymouth Township Fire Department Fire Fighter/Paramedic of the Year was introduced by Township Fire Chief Pat Connelly. He thanked the Plymouth Rotary for sponsoring this program. The Chief then introduced to the group the Township Fire Fighter/Paramedic Tony Pancoast and his family. The Chief noted Tony's has extensive automotive experience and is working on the procurement of the Township's Mobile Command Post. His skills and integrity in his duties as well as being a leader in the organization, which led to his selection as Fire Fighter/Paramedic of the year.

City Director of Public Safety and Police Chief Al Cox introduced the group to City Police Officer of the Year, Sgt. Justin Bulmer. Cox described Bulmer as a quiet, steady leader who can always be counted on, and takes pride in his work. Sgt. Bulmer took on the task of updating the training calendar for the police department. It was noted that on-going training in a police department is time consuming, expensive and difficult to schedule while still providing for the mandate of service to the community. Bulmer was appointed the training coordinator and was able to revamp the entire training schedule to accomplish over two-thousand hours of training for department members, without sacrificing service levels, officer availability or morale in the department. Bulmer is also responsible for a recent grant that will provide over \$100,000 to the area police departments for world class use of force investigative training for officers and investigators.

The Plymouth Township Police Officer of the year was introduced by Chief Jim Knittel. He thanked the Rotary Club for their involvement in this program. Chief Knittel talked briefly about partnerships across the community and how important that is to the community. He then introduced Detective Luke Drejewski and his family. Luke started with the department in 2020 and currently serves in the detective department. The

group was introduced to the term "You've been cooked." That means your photo is on the wall because your time as a violator of the law has been completed, since you've been arrested. Luke's most significant case this year involved a house party and armed robbery in the west end of the Township. This case involved minors and involved three shots being fired. When police arrived on scene people were scattering and arriving officers determined that no one was injured, but that an armed robbery had occurred. With minimal clues, Detective Drejewski and team were on the case and within 24 hours suspects were arrested, and search warrants were executed with property being recovered and the weapon being recovered. The case is now in the court system. We were told that Luke is considered a regional source for information and techniques.

Plymouth City Manager Chris Porman introduced us Municipal Services/Public Works as First Responders. Chris indicated that rarely is public works seen as First Responders because they don't have sirens, flashing red lights, or even dramatic television shows named after public works, yet. However, the impact is everywhere, clean roads, working hydrants, and countless things that no one notices. The pandemic changed all of that since the public was home and began to see all of things that go into making the community a great place to live and work. Public Works/Municipal Services officially recognized by Presidential Directive in 2003 and every year since. Chris introduced us to Operations Technician Evan Duffiney, who served proudly with the U.S. Marines and has been working for the City Municipal Services Department two years. He is known for service, honor, courage, commitment, something that he brought to Plymouth from the Marine Corps. Further, Evan represents everything good about public works, not because of one headline moment, but because of his consistency and dedication to getting the job completed.

WINNER OF THE WEEK: 8847 was the lucky number and the second chance winner was not in attendance.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: This seemed appropriate as we honored the community's best first responders. From the Disney Movie Ratatouille, Chef Gusteau said; "You must not let anyone define your limits, your only limit is your soul."

With that have a Super Positive Week and make sure you sign up to Ring the bells for the Salvation Army.

Paul J. Sincock

Broadcaster November 21, 2025

By Kurt L Heise on Friday, November 21, 2025



Call to Order:

President Candice Towers called the meeting to order with **Paul Sincock** delivering the meditation.

Lunch was served – beef stew with salad

Introduction of Guests & Announcements:

Guests today included **Mickey Guisewite, Tim Reimeck and Sam Plymdale**

- **November 28 - No Meeting - HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
- **December 5** – Our annual **Plymouth City and Township First Responders** Awards program; we will also have an update on this year's Chicken BBQ by Eric Joy.

- **December 12** – Our annual **Holiday Concert** featuring performances by the **PCEP wind ensemble and High School Choir** – one of our most memorable events of the year!
- **December 12** – Rotary Night Out \$50 – See Marie Morrow for details
- **December 12-13** – Sign up for **Salvation Army Bell Ringing!** Online sign up should have already gone out; see Chuck Lang for more details
- **December 19** – Kick off the Holidays with a **Mead Tasting Session hosted by Ken Schram**. Sparkling wine will also be available!
- **December 26** – **NO MEETING** – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Many Thanks to **Don Soenen and his team at Chicane Restaurant** for hosting the third annual Rotary Veterans Luncheon on November 20 at the Plymouth VFW Hall.

Birthdays

Today was **Kasey Kohn's** birthday!

She was serenaded by a rousing Rotary version of "Happy Birthday!"

Today's Presentation #1 – Sam Plymdale, City of Plymouth DDA Director

The Plymouth City Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is a governmental entity that encompasses most of the Downtown area of the City. Local businesses pay a portion of their taxes to the DDA so it can enhance the downtown experience for guests and businesses alike. The DDA also hosts events like the Summer Concert Series, Santa Parade, Ice Fest, Fall Fest, Art in the Park and Christmas in Plymouth. It also relies heavily on local sponsorships for these events, with Plymouth Rotary being a major supporter. Events with the most visitors include Art in the Park (88,600) Fall Fest (81,700) and Ice Festival (60,900). Weekly concert nights attract roughly 3,900 visitors – of which 1,392 shop and dine in Downtown Plymouth! The DDA is currently taking resident input on a new 30-year plan to update and enhance the downtown area. Learn more at

www.downtownplymouth.org

Today's Presentation #2 – Mickey Guisewite, Bottomless Toy Chest

Mickey is the CEO of "Bottomless Toy Chest," an organization she created when her young son Jack was struggling with life-threatening cancer 17 years ago. The Bottomless Toy Chest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to delivering empowering toys, craft projects, and interactive activities to hospitalized pediatric patients. Their mission is to lift the spirits and promote a positive state of mind in young cancer patients by providing them with engaging, empowering activities while they are going through treatment. Their work is much more than delivering toys at Christmas or putting them in a box. The Bottomless Toy Chest is at work in dozens of hospitals and outpatient facilities across Michigan and the Midwest, providing support in many ways including:

- **INPATIENT TOY PROGRAM:** We deliver gift-wrapped toys and

activities to children who are hospitalized and undergoing cancer treatment.

- **OUTPATIENT TOY PROGRAM:** We provide loads of small toys for kids who are getting needle pokes and other anxiety-producing procedures.
- **TONS OF TOYS HOLIDAY EVENTS:** Our volunteer 'Elf Squad' makes a special delivery of toys to patients and siblings in oncology clinics during the Holiday Season.
- **RED CARPET MOVIE EVENT:** Patients and families get star treatment at a local movie theater with a private viewing of a current film followed by a pizza party, crafts, photo booth, and other fun surprises.
- **HOSPITAL SURVIVOR CELEBRATIONS:** We supply hundreds of toys and stuffed animals to area hospitals that host summer parties for current and past clients.
- **SUPERHERO DAY:** Our volunteers dress as superheroes and deliver superhero toys, apparel, and other accessories to the superhero patients we serve.
- **TOY-TACULAR:** These are special days where we give toys not only to hematology and oncology patients but also to every child in the hospital.
- **WAREHOUSE FUN DAYS:** We invite patients and their families to our warehouse headquarters to pick out toys, do crafts, play games, and enjoy special treats.

Learn more about the great work of the Bottomless Toy Chest at www.bottomlesstoychest.org.

50/50

Wrapping things up, the 50/50 was won by **Tim Adams** for \$61. **Kim Crouch** would have walked home with the second chance drawing of \$100 but was not here!

Until we meet again –

Lunch ordering- Advance sign up is IMPORTANT!

Respond to the weekly email or Email Marie.morrow@pcuw.org or Call Marie - 734- 453-6879 X 4

Salad options available:

Maurice Salad

Cesar with or without chicken

Greek with or without chicken

Spinach with or without chicken

Mediterranean