

Sunday, March 29, 2026

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary

Events

No Events found

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



Marie A. Morrow
Club Executive
Secretary

Broadcaster March 27, 2026

By Kurt L Heise on Friday, March 27, 2026



Call to Order:

President Candice Towers called the meeting to order with **John Buzuvis** leading the meditation. **Candice** again urged everyone to sign up for lunch online when you get the invite.

Lunch was served – Macaroni & Cheese with a sausage stir-fry medley

Introduction of Guests & Announcements:

Guests today included **Trey Greene**, **Wes Graff**, and our speaker **Joel Batterman**.

Al Blixt from the Michigan Shakespeare Festival was proud to announce that the Festival is returning since being in the dark since 2025. They are returning to the stage at Wayne State and are having a fundraiser at **Don Soenen's** Chicane Restaurant on Wednesday, April 29 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Wes Graff from the Plymouth Chamber provided an update on this year's 4th of July Parade, which will honor America's 250th anniversary. The goal is to make this parade one of the largest and most memorable ever! Wes and his team, including **James Gietzen**, are looking for volunteers and sponsors. If you are out of town that weekend, be sure to invite your friends from Canton, Livonia and elsewhere who want to witness this historic event!

Following his presentation, Wes took time to recognize **James** for winning 'Small Business of the Year' from the Plymouth Chamber. Wes is not too bad for a Kiwanian.

Upcoming Events and Speakers:

Triva Night 2 at EG Nicks is a sellout! Thank you to all who signed up. For those of you who missed it please stay tuned for Round 3 in the months ahead.

April 3 – No Meeting for Good Friday

April 10 – **Keith Ledbetter** from the Michigan Association of Builders and Contractors, talking about the Michigan Construction Academy and the importance of skilled trades in our economy.

April 17 – Foundation Board Meeting

Volunteers are still needed for the Rotary 4-way test award and Host Families for the Youth Exchange Program.

Rotarians are invited to attend the Celebration of Life gathering for **Andrea Knab** on Saturday, July 11, from 1-4 p.m. at the Washtenaw Golf Club, 2955 Packard Rd, Ypsilanti. Please RSVP to Dale at ddknab@hotmail.com

Today's Featured Speaker – Joel Batterman, Transportation Riders United

Transportation Riders United (TRU) is a Detroit-based nonprofit organization that has worked for 25 years advocating for improved public transportation throughout the metro Detroit region. TRU works to ensure everyone can get where they need to go, regardless of whether they drive. TRU educates, advocates, and mobilizes for more and better transit and other affordable sustainable mobility options.

In August 2026, Wayne County voters will have a chance to expand public transit countywide. Wayne County will vote on a ballot proposal that will extend this essential service countywide. TRU supports this proposal as an important step towards a better-connected region and a more prosperous County.

A new state law has eliminated "opt-outs," so all of Wayne County will vote in 2026 on a transit millage that was urged by the Wayne County CEO and passed by the Michigan Legislature. Today, 350,000 Wayne County residents have little to no options to get around if they can't drive. Public transit helps the economy, the environment, public health, and the elderly and disabled, according to Joel.

In outlying parts of Wayne County, some municipalities "opted out" of SMART service when the current system was established in the mid-1990s, including Plymouth and Canton. As a result, these suburbs receive no regional transit service and most provide very little transit for their residents, despite growing need, according to TRU. Plymouth Township provides limited passenger van service to seniors over 60 but you must reserve a ride, and it's limited to certain distances around the Township.

In August 2026, however, all County residents will get to vote on a countywide transit millage to fund transit. Communities across Wayne County are to receive a variety of new services, tailored to their needs, according to TRU. View the entire evaluation on SMART's website at

<https://www.smartbus.org/About/News/wayne-county-service-proposal>

Following his presentation, Joel took several questions from members regarding the cost and scope of the millage and what transit resources would truly be available to Plymouth residents.

50/50

Wrapping things up, the 50/50 was won by **Kasey Kohn; Dan DeLano** would have walked home with the second chance drawing but sadly he was not in attendance.

Until we meet again –

Broadcaster March 20 2026

By William Weber on Friday, March 20, 2026

Call to Order Past President **James Gietzen** stepped in at the last minute, calling the meeting to order at 12:10pm and leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Liz Orbits** was called upon unexpectedly and provided meditation, encouraging us all to pause briefly to reflect on fellowship and the true meaning of the 4 Way Test. Liz reiterated that if all our actions were based on truth and fairness, we could change the world.

Guests Today's guest, **Anthony Pisco**, is a prospective member. My only hope is that the mournful rendition of "Hello" does not cause him to reconsider becoming a member.

Birthdays The members' birthday is closest to today's meeting date is Jeanne Trumpy. Based upon the embarrassing rendition of "Hello", no attempt was made by the club to sing Happy Birthday.

Announcements

Four Way Test readers are still needed. If you can spare some time for this important event, please contact **Carol Souchock** or **Tim Baxter**.

Exchange Student We are still in need of host families. As reported earlier, being a Rotarian is not a requirement so if you are aware of any potential host families, please contact **Eric Joy**

Understanding AI This event will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 pm at the Wilcox Theater at PARC. Pre-registration is required.

Upcoming Programs

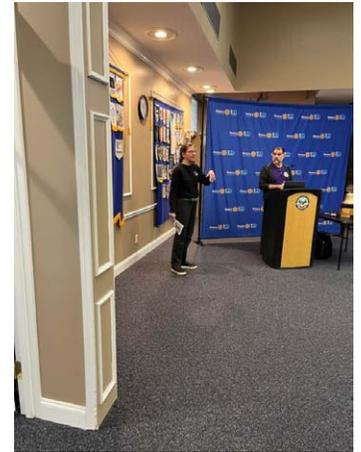
March 27 – Joel Batterman from Transportation Riders will update us on legislation to extend public transit in western Wayne County.

April 3 – No Meeting

April 10 – Keither Ledbetter from the SE Michigan Construction Academy will share the importance of skilled trades to our economy.

April 24 – Trivia Night #2. The recent success of the 1st Trivia event has prompted the club to host Rotary Trivia Round Two at EG Nicks. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes dinner. As there are only 32 slots, this will fill up soon so either let Nancy Baldwin know or sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4CAAAD2DA3FB6-63071876-plymouth>

Program - Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Tim Reimink introduced today's speakers **Karin Bolwahun** and **Joe Zakens**. The agency mission as identified in their 2025 Annual report is "In our pursuit to eliminate poverty, Wayne Metro empowers people and communities to be strong, health and thriving". They envision thriving communities where all people have hope and opportunities to realize their full potential. The presenters stressed that the philosophy of the agency is



grounded in the belief that ending poverty requires more than addressing immediate needs. It requires intentional, coordinated strategies that build power, opportunity and long-term mobility for individuals, families, and communities. While the agency has a substantial budget and employs many people, the use of volunteers is an essential part of their program. Part of the presentation centered on how volunteerism works in the agency and how to become involved. They can be reached at:

wmconnectcenter@waynemetro.org.

Among other things, the agency provides Utility Assistance including water, electricity and natural gas support and guidance; Housing Services which includes homelessness data systems, trauma informed housing assessment tools, countywide youth homelessness needs assessments. These housing services include classes regarding budget and credit, landlord and tenant rights as well as the entire home buying process and connecting people to the appropriate resources. They also provide programs to empower individuals and families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness with solutions to achieve housing stability and long-term self-sufficiency. Neighborhood beautification is also a provided service.

Financial Mobility is an important service as it assists clients with the skills and foundation to be able to have lasting financial stability. Initially, it may help with City income tax relief, Income Tax preparation for eligible clients. This also overlaps with the housing services as they assist new homeowners with financing, insurance, and other needs.

The agency also provides Early Learning and preschool opportunities, adult education and family literacy programs, food support, domestic violence support, Veteran support services for both veterans and their families. They also provide employment assistance including job training and work readiness training.

50/50 Today's raffle was won by **Anthony Pisco**. This was a double win for Cam as he was also claiming the proceeds from the Rowdy table.

2nd Chance – Dave Latawiec would have been a \$100 better off had he been in attendance and bought a ticket. Next week the pot will be worth \$120.

Four Way Test – Past President James led us in the recitation of the 4 Way Test.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

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