

Rotary



SOUTH HAVEN ROTARY SPOKES

November 4, 2025

This morning our greeters were David Flack and Ron Seiler.

We were welcomed by our President Amy Nichols, followed by the singing of “God Bless America”, and Art Ayers’ invocation.

ZOOM ATTENDEES: Bob Brickman, Nick Tuit, Ross Woodhams, and Clark Gruber

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

+ Mary Sue Lyon announced, a few weeks ago, that there would be a few changes to the Blessings in a Backpack packing day schedule: November 12th is a Wednesday, and November 24th is a Monday.

+ Our club Holiday Party has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 9th, at Clementine’s, where we’ll have more room for socializing.

+ The Holiday Open Door Dinner has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 16th, at the United Methodist Church. We will be seeking volunteers.

+ Brian Davis, representing the Open-Door Dinner Program, has requested additional help with the weekly dinners to address food insecurity. Our club agreed, by a show of hands, to help with the additional dinner on November 13th.

+ December 13th was chosen for our annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Our ringing will take place at Walmart and, since the bakery has closed, the other location will be the Flying Saucer Coffee Shop, located at 413 Phoenix St. Sign-up sheets were circulated.

SONGS with LARRY WITTKOP:

Highlighting our morning were renditions of “King of the Road” and “Roll Rotary”.

COPPING’S COMEDY RELIEF with JERRY GRUBER

One day at Sunday school, the teacher was asking the children where they felt that Jesus lives. The teacher asked for volunteers, and the first child responded, “Jesus lives in my heart”.

“Very good”, said the teacher.

Another child raises their hand and replies, “Jesus lives in Heaven”.

“Very good”, said the teacher.

Little Johnny is waving his hand “like crazy”, but the teacher would rather not call on Little Johnny, who often responded in a most unpredictable way.

The teacher gave in and finally called on Little Johnny.

“Jesus lives in the bathroom”, he said.

After a long pause, the teacher asked why he lived in the bathroom; Johnny replied, “Every morning when my dad gets up, he bangs on the bathroom door and asks, ‘Jesus, are you still in there?’”

STUART COMISKEY-50/50 RAFFLE

+ Stuart filled in as Sergeant-at-Arms this morning, since Tom Ruesink was not feeling well and missed the meeting.

+ Stuart chose honest and reliable Paul Hix to draw our first winning ticket, which was held by Mark Odland. Mark then drew the ‘4’ card, so we had a JACKPOT WINNER.

Mark, subsequently, indicated his winnings would be donated to Polio Plus.

Todd Heinrich’s ticket was drawn for the \$2 prize.

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES:

+ Dan Thompson said that his son, Andrew, currently serving on the USS Gerald R. Ford, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was celebrating his 44th birthday today.

+ Don Hodgman will be celebrating his birthday tomorrow.

+ Tom Renner reported that his grandson, Clayton was 14 years old yesterday.

+ John Mellein’s eldest son has a birthday tomorrow.

+ Bryan Kurtz’s grandson, Lennon, celebrated his 2nd birthday.

Our singing of “Happy Birthday” was presented as a round “in reverse”.

HAPPY BUCKS:

+ Don Hodgman reported that 930 trick or treaters came to his house on Halloween. Seeing the children and their parents and giving out the treats was one of Carole’s favorite things to do!!

+ Todd Heinrich and Jeff Wilhelm live in Don’s neighborhood but didn’t come close to 930.

+ Kaileigh Eddy announced that the South Haven Boys Soccer Team concluded their season as the state runner-up in Division 3. Congratulations!

+ Art Ayers- “Go Blue”, as Michigan’s basketball team scored 121 points in their season opener.

+ Many HAPPY BUCKS!

PROGRAM: Health Economics

+ Program Chair- Don Meyer

HIGHLIGHTS:

+ South Haven Rotarian, Don Meyer, a retired professor and chair of the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University, spoke to us about Health Economics, explaining the concepts of substitutes and complements in economics and shared his experience as a department chair. He also mentioned that he had the opportunity to teach a health economics class, which had not been offered for several years.

+ Don emphasized the importance of understanding basic economic principles and highlighted the role of health economics in the academic curriculum.

+ In discussing health economics, he compared health to a durable good that requires investment and is subject to depreciation.

+ He outlined 5 factors affecting health: genetics, environment, medical care, self-care, and randomness.

+ He emphasized the importance of active involvement in health maintenance and the complementary nature of healthcare and self-care in producing health.

+ Don shared some of his personal experiences and research on healthcare systems, highlighting the importance of both medical care and self-care in improving health outcomes.

+ His presentation also touched on the high cost of healthcare in the United States and the role of lifestyle choices in health management.

There were several questions from our members which concluded the discussion.

President Amy thanked Don, on behalf of our club, for his very informative presentation and, in further appreciation, presented him a gift card courtesy of the Fleming Brothers Oil Company.

NEXT MEETING: November 11, 2025, at 7am at Peace Lutheran Church

GREETER: TBD

PROGRAM CHAIR: Amy Nichols

PROGRAM: Rotary District 6360 Interact Clubs

PROGRAM SPEAKER: Kimberlie Lewis, Interact chair

We adjourned with the Four-Way Test.

Respectfully submitted by Art Ayers, Co-Editorian with Tom Renner.