



Battle Creek Rotary Club RotoScoop

February 27, 2023

Jeremy Andrews, CEO Sprout Co-op and Penetrator Events

Jeremy Andrews could not move away from Battle Creek fast enough when he got out of high school. After some time away he decided he wanted to live closer to family members, so he moved back with a changed attitude. He decided to stop complaining about the area and work to make good things happen instead. He has been busy ever since creating what he calls awesome, weird things.

In 2009 he helped found the Mustache Club and that club established the annual Festivus and Leilapalooza festivals. He and his wife are co-owners of Penetrator Events, which has created an Adult Prom, Q the Creek, Restaurant Week, and the Hachet and Knife Throwing League. Upcoming this April is the Big Cheese, an event where area restaurants and caterers will compete over who makes the best mac and cheese. Penetrator Events also facilitates the Make Battle Creek Awesome Grant Program, which provides small pots of money for community events. (Our Club is a recipient of an Awesome Grant for a community event we are coordinating in this coming July.)

Andrews is also the CEO of Sprout Co-op, a market and deli that works to improve community access to fresh and healthy food. Sprout has existed since about 2011 and has plans to move to a corner of Michigan Avenue near the Record Box. The new store will be open to anyone interested in buying locally and regionally grown foods and other products. (sproutsbk.org)

Andrews sees himself as a connector that brings people together to try new things in the community. He encouraged attending students to be leaders. He recommends breaking rules and asking forgiveness not permission. "Figure out who you are and do it," stated Andrews.



February Students of the Month



February's Students of the Month: (Left to right) Jenna Follett (Calhoun Christian), Greg Garfield (St.Phil), Amina DuBois (Harper Creek), Cole VanderWaal (Pennfield), Katelyn Belmore, and Alexandra Hogue (Lakeview)

OTHER NEWS....

Stephanie Lemmer, Superintendent of Pennfield Schools attended this week's meeting as a guest. Stephanie was previously involved in a Rotary Club and is considering joining us since her move to the area. Kathy Gallagher is her sponsor.

Rotary supports the development of future leaders by hosting the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** program. Our goal this year is to have sixty freshman or sophomore high school students participating in this great opportunity. This year's camp is scheduled for July 14-16, 2023, at the Battle Creek Outdoor Education Center in Dowling, Michigan. Financial assistance is available. Contact Kathy Gallagher for more information.

Many Hands Make Light Work Many members are involved in running this club, and working together is a great way to get to know your fellow club members better. Fortunately, we have several committees, miscellaneous tasks and roles to choose from so you can find a way to help that you enjoy.

The Public Image Committee is one possibility. The role of the club public image committee is to develop strategies to keep the local community informed about Rotary, its role in the community and promote potential membership. What that amounts to is writing and sending the weekly newsletter, posting news and events on our website and Facebook page, and sending out occasionally press releases. Each of those tasks can be broken down to smaller increments if that suits you better. For example, it would be helpful to have a committee member that just takes pictures of our weekly speakers, inductions, and students of the month. Then they can be passed to others to use in various ways. Contact Kathy Gallagher if you are interested! (kgallagher@bcacs.org)

District 6360 Conference May 5th and 6th. [Click here to access conference information!](#)



The conference is literally in our backyard this year. Let's have a good showing by our club and support club member Kathy Gallagher as the District Governor. Conference fees include meals and a cocktail party with a Kentucky Derby theme. Several inspirational speakers are scheduled as well. (Photo right: District Governor Kathy Gallagher wearing her Kentucky Derby hat.)



Zoom No More After numerous discussions the board decided to discontinue Zoom participation at our weekly meetings. A few of the reasons why include very low use of the service, frequent technical difficulties, and poor quality transmission of meeting sound. Also, it is so much nicer to see everyone in person. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Upcoming Programs and Events

- 03 06 2023 Jennifer Powell
The Rink of Battle Creek
- 03 13 2023 Zawadi Kibumba
uwezo swahili community
- 03 20 2023 Student of the Month
Lew Boyd Room

Contact Jill Anderson if you have any ideas: jillandersongrants@gmail.com

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