



Charlotte Rotary Club Leaders:

**President:** Tyler Pray  
**President-Elect:** Mandy Stewart  
**Treasurer:** Len Kilgore  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Tim Jewell  
**President-Nominee:** John Dykstra III  
**Secretary:** Ed Foster  
**Assistant Secretary:** Eric Crandall  
**Rotary Foundation Chair:** Doug Buck  
**Membership Chair:** Don Sovey  
**Public Image Chair:** Keisha Howe  
**Club Service Chair:** Cary Ritter  
**Past President:** Jerry Sommer  
**Directors:** Jim Cicorelli, Mike Crowner, Keisha Howe, John Newland, Tim Johnson, and Joel Fox



Join us January 18<sup>th</sup> at The Center!

**Greeter:** Elena Reed greeted everyone with a smile.

**Call to Order:** President Tyler called us to order and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and in singing "My Country Tis of Thee".

**Invocation:** President Tyler led the invocation, in place of Wally Miars who is still off for knee surgery.

**Arts & Culture:**

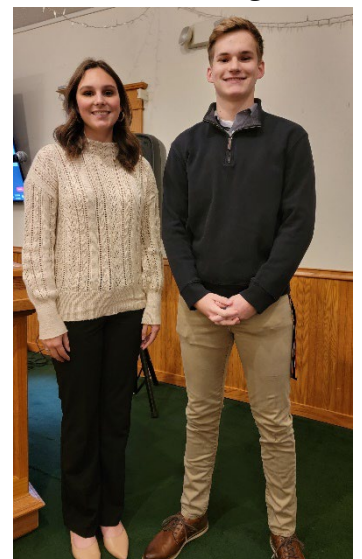
**Gregg Guetschow** led us in song, first with song #1 R.O.T.A.R.Y., followed up with the Birthday song for Joe E Pray. Then we finished with #22 The More We Get Together.

**Guests:** We had Visiting Rotarian **Mark Sweatman** from the Satellite Rotary Club at our meeting. **Don Sovey** introduced **Jennifer Kay Sparks** as his guest.

**Jr Rotarians:** January Jr Rotarian **Samantha Stanke** is the daughter of Mike and Katy Stanke and she is involved in Symphony and Marching Band, FFA, and Dance. She plans to attend MSU in the fall, to pursue Agronomy and Ag Business. January Jr Rotarian **Justin Beck** is the son of David and Ronda Beck. He is active in Soccer, Basketball, Golf, and the Relay for Life Committee. He has numerous community volunteer experiences. He plans to attend Trine University.

**Samantha Stanke** was introduced to the group (by her first name) by Annie Williams. Eric Crandall was asked to introduce **Justin Beck**, however he had to look it up, so in the meantime John Dykstra was also asked, and he had to look it up. After fumbling with their phones Eric finally came up with the introduction.

**Suggestion:** if you don't know the Junior Rotarians yet, simply go over to the Junior Rotarian and introduce yourself. That makes you look good and the Junior Rotarian appreciates it as well. It is a great way to make our monthly Jr Rotarians really feel welcome!



**New Member Announcement:** President Tyler introduced **John Laupp**, owner of *As the Wood Turns* in downtown Charlotte, as our newest member. Welcome John!

**New Members Presentation:** Gregg Guetschow returned to the stage and presented our newest class of Rotarians; **John Laupp**, **Harper Wildern**, **Annie Williams**, and **Amy Radford-Popp** with their Rotary Pin, and a 4 Way Test coin and plaque. He also explained in his golden radio-like voice that, in addition to the 4-way Test, the best guideline to being a good Rotarian is to ask "What needs to be done and how can I help."



**Member Spotlight:** We have brought back the *2 Minute Member Spotlight* to the club. This week, **President Tyler Pray** provided the second spotlight. Tyler was a 2001 graduate of CHS and then attended Kalamazoo College earning a degree in English, Poetry and Music with a Minor in Business. Through K college he studied six months in the forests of Northern Thailand and the city of Chiang Mai, and four months in New York City working a journalist, writing arts and music reviews and writing a feature article on the NYC Fire Dept Engine 1 which was the first department to respond to the World Trade Center on 9/11. After graduating from K, he attended and graduated from Wayne State University School of Mortuary Science and earned his license as a funeral director. Following that he spent a year in Florida as a Barefoot water ski instructor. He finished that year at the Barefoot Nationals finishing sixth overall in his age division. Then he returned to Charlotte to marry Dana Douglass and join the now 100 year old family firm.



**50/50:** **John Newland** conducted the 50/50 and sent the winnings home with **Tim Jewell**.

**SGT-AT-ARMS:** **Max Baxter** levied fines upon:

- President Tyler for his weekly presidential fine.
- Then fined **Joe E Pray** for his birthday, however Joe E didn't have a dollar, so Tyler paid it.
- Then he collected a number of fines from members who were not wearing their Rotary pins. He warned us last week that he was going to do that!
- **Joe E** was one of the members not wearing his pin, so Tyler covered his fine.
- Max fined **Eric** and **Annie** for their difficulties in introducing the Junior Rotarians

Max collected Happy Dollars from:

- **Gregg Guetschow** for making it back to Rotary after working in Dundee as the interim City Manager since last summer. Ironically, Dundee was his first city manager job, back in the 70's.
- **John Dykstra III** gave a happy dollar for **John Newland** still showing up from time to time to help deliver new cars at the dealership.

Then Max fined **John Dykstra III** as the unsuspecting member.

### **Announcements:**

**President Tyler** announced the Satellite Club will have a Michigan Tasting event at Courthouse Square on March 2nd. This will be a fundraiser for additional lights for the Courthouse Square Holiday Lights display.

### **PROGRAM:**

**President Tyler** then attempted to introduce **Ed Foster** who was on Zoom to introduce the program for today. However Ed had lost his connection so Tyler - with the help of **Mark Sweatman** - introduced the speaker, **Rachel Cuschieri-Murray** of the Eaton Conservation District which was originally established in 1946 as part of a nationwide effort to counteract the dustbowl disasters of the 1930's.

Rachel is the new Executive Director for the organization, taking on that role just a few months ago. After giving some background on conservation district purposes, Rachel spoke about several programs that the District sponsors, including:

- The annual spring Tree Sale which is open to anyone. This year the public will be able to order trees online as well as purchase in person.
- Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance program which certifies local farms as environmentally friendly.
- Women's Agricultural conference.
- Eaton County Collaborative Stream Mentoring program which monitors the health of local streams.
- Michigan Water Stewardship Program - which studies the effects of how water reshapes the land.
- Amateur Photo contest in the fall.
- Native Plant sale on June 10th.



For further info on these programs you can contact [Rachel.murray@macd.org](mailto:Rachel.murray@macd.org)

If you missed the meeting, you can find the Zoom recording here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0f-0X785dKOVRAmr\\_lYe0UPpLX56HTRgx\\_Jm4OndirIO7ivqCwR5krcvWwurKrE.QBfQWbSH\\_2h6Rlxh](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/0f-0X785dKOVRAmr_lYe0UPpLX56HTRgx_Jm4OndirIO7ivqCwR5krcvWwurKrE.QBfQWbSH_2h6Rlxh)

*EXCERPT from District Governor message:*

Hopefully, the majority of Rotarians are aware of Rotary's "**Five Avenues of Service.**" As Rotarians, our commitment to service above self is demonstrated through these five Avenues of Service. They are the foundation of club activity and growth. What are the five avenues?

1) **Club Service** focuses on making clubs strong. Serving in your club to create a thriving organization based on strong relationships and active involvement; 2) **Community Service** helps to improve the quality of life for people in our communities, today and into the future; 3) **International Service** exemplifies our interest in promoting peace and understanding in our world. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects; 4) **Youth Service** recognizes the importance of empowering youth through leadership development programs such as [Interact](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#) (RYLA), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#); and 5) **Vocational Service** calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to address the challenges and needs of society. This last avenue of service, **Vocational Service, is celebrated during the month of January.**

### JANUARY DUTIES

**ATTENDANCE:** Keisha Howe  
**GREETER:** Elena Reed  
**INVOCATION:** Wally Miars  
**MIRROR:** Joe Pray  
**ARTS & CULTURE:** Gregg Guetschow  
**SGT-AT-ARMS:** Max Baxter (Barrel)  
 Helen Johnson 50/50  
 All Committee (S & T)

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**Jan 18** – Tim Johnson – **Peter Clay** – PA voice of the MSU Spartans  
**Jan 25** – Mandy Stewart – **Jonathan Royce** – FIP Program  
**Feb 1** – **Helen Johnson** – Update on Sparrow/Michigan Medicine  
**Feb 8** – Don Sovey – **Calley Green** – Peckham visit – **OFF SITE** – box lunch and program will be at Peckham in Charlotte



*Until next time...  
The "Old" Car Guy*