



Today's meeting was called to order by President Martin Velten, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Given by PP Sid Ellis.

Arts News: Brian Zocher gave us the Arts News for the week, with appropriate April 1st humor!

Guests: Brian Kaufman introduced Dan Martin; Bruce Justice, president of the Kalamazoo Sunrise was also a guest today.

Announcements: Martin shared that a member of our club, Patrick Allkins, had passed away. He was very generous to the club, hosting our fund raiser for Ukraine last year.

- Red Rose nomination deadline is Wednesday of this week.

- We will return to Milestone Senior Services for our meetings on Monday, April 15, not the 8th.

- Dan Sytsma, president nominee reported on attending Great Lakes PETS seminar. He said the speakers were excellent and he learned a lot. He also complimented President, Taylor Huie, on her presentation.

- We have several volunteer opportunities coming up:

 - 4-9 Hayes Park Cleanup at 5 pm.

 - 4-20 River Cleanup from 11-3 (please register at kalamazoorotary.org and click where it indicates on the opening page. Contact Bill Rose or Sandy Bliesener for more information.

 - 4-22 to 4-26 Rotary is for Reading – Use the sign-up sheet link that was sent out, or Contact Jim Cupper.

President Martin presented Jerry Albertson with a blue badge, as a former member. Welcome back, Jerry! Then he invited Jim Cupper to present the following Paul Harris Fellows: Christina Dorett PHF, Steve Kreider PHF5, Don Flesche PHF6, Martin Velden PHF6, and Nancy Peterson PHF7. Congratulations to all.

New Member: Jennifer Jackson, of Rom Jackson Insurance. Their office is on Drake Rd. Her father, Ron, started the business. She has a son who is married with 3 children, so is a grandmother. Her daughter lives in Cleveland. After getting her marketing degree from WMU, she started a new job in Cleveland today in insurance! Jennifer was introduced to Rotary by Jack Hopkins. Welcome, Jennifer!

Happy Bucks: Aaron Winters for Patrick Allkins, Bill Rose for the April 20 River Cleanup, Brian Kaufman also for Patrick Allkins, Anne Wetherspoon for a Spring Break trip, Nick Boyd for his kids' birthdays as well as for the Interact group going to Dominion Republic, and Dan Sytsma for 2 sold-out shows.

Program: President Martin introduced Lucinda Stinson who as a relatively new member herself accepted the job of Membership Committee. She introduced the rest of the committee and said their goal this year is to reinvigorate the committee and increase our membership. Brian Kaufman, one of the members, explained the Classifications process and how it has changed. They also explained how they have streamlined and speeded up the process. They will bring back the assigning mentors to new members to help them get involved. Our club is about half the size that it was before Covid, with about 60 who are still members, but not attending, So the committee is looking for all of us to help introduce Rotary to others by telling them about service projects and helping them get involved. The Satellite Club is also an option for those who can't make luncheon meetings with a program. They meet after work and focus on service projects and socializing, but are part of this club.