

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

Invocation: Given by Christina Dorett.

Arts News: Brian Zocher gave us the Arts News, that the Gilmore Piano Festival began this week and will go through May 12. Plan to attend the events of your choice—there's something for everyone!

Visiting Rotarians: We were pleased to have Visiting Rotarians from the District 3300 Rotary Club of Ipoh Central in Malaysia: Dr. Monesh Pillai Gopi, and Assistant Governor Dr. Rita Olikh. Casey Jacobson was visiting from the Lansing Club.

Visitors: Larry Deniston introduced his wife, Nick Boyd introduced two guests: Marnie Sewicki from Crossroads Mall and Arianna Bryant from a healthcare group.

Announcements: President Martin reminded the group that this is Rotary is For Reading week, and Jim Cupper then announced that we need one more reader, **at Lincoln Elementary, 9:30 tomorrow. Please let Jim know if you can do this.** Two more projects coming up—the Memorial Day flag project, and the Art on the Mall setup project. Sign up if you can help with either. Martin thanked all volunteers who were at the River Cleanup on Saturday. There were about 350 from our community and others who worked on the cleanup. Great job all! It was a pretty cold day as well!

New Member: Dare'l McMillon is originally from the Detroit area, but came to Kalamazoo to attend Western. He graduated from WMU with a degree in music production, and is now in theatre production.

Happy Bucks: Maria Newhouse for the upcoming Gilmore concerts; Rhasheda Shepherd for two children who now have bachelors' degrees; Don Flesche for the many Gilmore concerts, Terry Williams for the week extension of Sondheim on Sondheim already; Dr. Olikh for her daughter graduating from WMU, Jeff Murphy for Howard Dooley's grandson being accepted at the Naval Academy; Anne Witherspoon for her daughter's first T-ball game; Dan Hartlieb for Sandy Bliesener, Bill Rose, and others who organized the River Cleanup; Nick Boyd for his son being in Lion King at the Civic and the Interact group going to the Dominican Republic (and could still use more funding); Jack Hopkins for the 5 vets in the club here today, and the Flag Project.

Program: Bonnie Sexton introduced Katherine Kemp as the program speaker. Katherine has an impressive history of working in the business world, most recently at the Kellogg Company. She is now the executive director of the local Girls on the Run. It is an after-school program for girls in the 3rd to 5th grades. The program reaches into 5 counties, is in 46 schools, and 34,000 girls have participated since inception 22 years ago. The program is 25 years old nationally. Volunteer coaches work with the girls during several weeks with a curriculum that helps them get ready for the event held in the spring. The curriculum includes building the girls' self-esteem and reaching their "limitless potential." This year's event will be at KVCC on May 18.