



Rotary April 29, 2024 Meeting
Milestone Senior Services
Editarian Amy Remmert

The April 29 meeting of the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo was called to order by President Martin Velten at 12:16 a.m. President Martin led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rotarian Dan Hartlieb gave the invocation and Sid Ellis presented the Art News.

President Martin made announcements about future events for both volunteer opportunities and the District Conference and Grant Seminar.

Jim Cupper announced that reviews are coming in from teachers regarding the Rotary is for Reading project and is accepting comments on the how things worked.

Marvinetta Woodley-Penn made her introduction as a new member. She has been a teacher for 19 years, works with youth to help them with self-esteem, training on ethics and giving them a voice to speak on issues that are important to them.

Happy Bucks: Jeff Murphy – scammed. Mary Zoeller is done paying for college and gave 14 for the years she was paying for her children. Chad Goodwill gave as his daughter just graduated from nursing school. Rick Briscoe gave for the 18 year long life of their kitty. They donated kitty toys to the Humane Society. Jim Cupper celebrated his work tree planting.

Lucinda Stinson gave the introduction for Dr L. Marshall Washington, President of KVCC. President Marshall Washington is known for creating innovative ways of Learning including promoting industrial trades programs. He is on the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges and numerous other boards.

President Washington praised Kalamazoo Rotary for the good work they do. He indicated that Kalamazoo Valley Community College is uniquely American, affordable, high quality and diverse. It prepares students for transfer to four-year colleges and the trades.

KVCC has a huge impact on the local community and keeps high school grads in the area. Programs include nursing, EMS, heating and cooling, auto mechanics, and other technical programs addressing local economic needs. Programs are innovative, help rebuild the work force, reduces poverty by increasing employability, with low tuition and wrap around services. The average age of a student is 25, 70% are part-time, and many are first generation college students. Students have garnered over \$800,000 in grants. In recent years, the College assumed governance of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The most recent additions are the Culinary School, focused on wellness and food sustainability, the Wind Turbine program and the Cosmetology/Barbering school. Let's not forget the dual-enrollment program for high school students.