



Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

May 08, 2023

Editarian: Denny Stults

Today's meeting was called to order by President Elect Mark Velten

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by President Elect Mark Velten

Invocation: Seth Weeldreyer. Offered a prayer based on a traditional Cameroon meditation

Arts News: Art News was presented by Bob Miller, Visit the Arts Council Website at Kalamazooarts.org for details on our Rotary Website.

Guests: Jack Hopkins introduced Lucinda Stinson, who is joining our group today.
Lawrence Wenke introduced Jessica Fox, a friend and realtor with Jaqua

Announcements:

- Bonnie Sexton spoke about the return of sponsorships. \$75 for a member \$150 for a non-member. Benefits include: 3 minutes of mic time, logo and a few PowerPoint slides, table handouts.
- Rob Peterson spoke to the Oddlympic Games coming up in September with proceeds benefiting Friends of Recreation. Sponsorships are available. Games are designed to allow you to "keep holding your beer"
- President Elect Mark Velten reminded us of the Board Meeting Wednesday and to get lunch orders in today. All are welcome and new board member orientation will be on the agenda.
- President Elect Mark Velten also reminded us of the June 19th Red Rose Celebration.
- President Elect Mark Velten commented on the recent district conference and recognized the contribution of Taylor Huie and note that Jim Cupper received the Hero Award

New Member Comments: Jack Hopkins introduced Lucinda Stinson. Lucinda is the CEO of Lending Hands and instructor in Western Michigan's Department of Health and Human Services. Her family opened the first African American owned and operated business in Kalamazoo, North Burdick Grocery and Market in 1949. This is where she learned her business skills and to value community service. She is a member of the Mount Zion Baptist church, volunteers in various roles and sings in the choir with talented daughter Lucretia Stinson, who a Team Lead – Member Contact Center Specialist at Advia Credit Union.

Happy Bucks:

- Steve Duisterhof - celebrating 50 years of Gordon Water started by his Dad Gordon
- Dan Hartlieb - for Rick Briscoe and his excellent dog training

- Denise Hartsaugh - she appreciates the Strive mentors for their service
- Ann Withersoon - for Rotary is for Reading.
- Bonnie Sexton - for her Marine son who is now in DC AS A COLOR GUARD she is also in a new job as HR director at Rose St Advisors
- Don Flesche - not to out do Jack Hopkins and his Marietta - he praised K College
- Lucinda Stinson - new member open house for Lending Hands new location
- Amy Remmert - apology for name boo boo of Craig Chindemi spelling
- Steve Duisterhof -invite to open house
- Mary Zoeller - thanks for best gong by Lucinda

The Program: Bob Miller introduced Justin Zeldes



JUSTIN ZELDES

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS RELATIONS

HOMETOWN: SAN ANTONIO, TX BATS:R THROWS:R
COLLEGE: OHIO UNIVERSITY

JUSTIN FIRST JOINED THE KALAMAZOO GROWLERS AS AN OPERATIONS INTERN IN 2018 AND LATER JOINED THE BATTLE CREEK BOMBERS FROM 2019 TO 2021. JUSTIN RETURNED TO KALAMAZOO AS THE GROUP SALES LEADER. HE HAS NOW TRANSITIONED INTO THE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS RELATIONS FOR THE TEAM. JUSTIN GRADUATED FROM OHIO UNIVERSITY WITH A BACHELOR OF SPORT MANAGEMENT AND MINOR IN MARKETING JUSTIN IS ORIGINALLY FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS AND IS A DIE HARD SPURS FAN.

269.492.7410
 JUSTIN@GROWLERSBASEBALL.COM

FUN FACT: LOVES WATCHING STAND UP COMEDY

Justin explained that the Growlers are an Un-baseball team and all about the fan experience. Their motto is “where fun makes a difference”. They play good baseball, the 2022 winners of the Northwoods League Championship, but they prize wacky antics. Grandma’s Grounds Crew (crew doing their duties during game dressed as grandma’s), urinals fitted with growling speakers and Kyle the running juggler are a few examples. They have a high top table dining area behind home plate, The Home Plate Club, for dinner and a game. Their marketing focuses on “going viral” and they are not afraid of making mistakes...the No Cell Phone game being one. There is a lot of great information on their website. Rotary will have a game day there in July...food and beer included!!

Closing: President Elect Mark Velten lead the group in the Four-Way Test and closed the meeting at 1:30pm.