

# Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

# Rotary



**Date:** 06/02/25

**Editarian:** Aaron Bradford

**Today's meeting** was called to order by President Taylor Huie at 12:10 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Huie

**Invocation:** Delivered by Seth Weeldreyer

- A stirring call to “build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,” encouraging compassion, healing, and inclusion. A reminder that Rotary is a place where all are welcome.

**Arts News** by Bob Miller

- The *Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo* is hosting the 39th Art on the Mall, the KIA Art Fair, and the Do-Dah Parade.
- Pride Festival will take place at Arcadia Creek Festival Place.
- Yo-Yo Ma will perform with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.
- Don't miss *Ride the Cyclone* at Farmers Alley Theater and *Crawlspace Comedy* with Blunderbuss and Huge if True.

**Foundation Impact Minute** by Jim Cupper

- Jim encouraged every member to donate at least \$100 to The Rotary Foundation.
- \$1,000 contributions have global impact—from clean water in India to polio vaccines for 2,000 children.
- "You're not only doing good in the world—you're saving lives."

**Memorial Day Reflections**

- The Club skipped Monday's meeting in observance of Memorial Day.
- Bruce Justice and Darryl Peterson were thanked for coordinating and promoting the event.

### **Visiting Rotarians and Guests**

- Jack Hopkin's guests were Rob Weiner & Heather Jach Turner – *Farmers Alley Theater*
- Sandy Bliesener's guest was Dave Rachowicz – *Kalamazoo County Parks*
- Sid Ellis's guest was Andrea Tramel – *Fund Development – Ministry with Community*

### **New Member Introduction: Dennis Lutz**

- Retired Major General in the U.S. Army and a former Kodak engineer.
- Degrees in electrical engineering and business.
- Active in veteran services, local planning committees, and American Legion.
- Enjoys golf and playing the ukulele.

### **Happy Bucks**

- Jack Hopkins: Felicitous fin for *Ride the Cyclone*.
- Bruce Justin: Felicitous fin for time at his family cottage and Memorial Day pride.
- Lorence Wenke: Felicitous fin appreciation for the Memorial Day service.
- Rick Briscoe: Celebrated first opera and Broadway show.
- Dann Sytsma: Kids featured in river cleanup photos by Keith Mumma.
- Amy Remmert: River cleanup and photo gratitude.
- Bill Rose: Jubilant Jackson for river cleanup support. Special thanks to Sandy, Nancy, Susan, and Taylor.
- Denny Stults: Celebrated son's wedding and newborn twin granddaughters.
- Jim Cupper: Felicitous fin for missing the Memorial Day ceremony due to road closures.
- Martin Velten: Felicitous fin for recent time with daughters and family milestones.

### **Featured Speaker: Sid Ellis, Ministry with Community, Introduced by Aaron Bradford**

- **Organization Overview:**
  - Secular nonprofit day shelter and resource center in downtown Kalamazoo
  - Open 365 days/year to anyone in need
  - Serves both unhoused individuals and those who are housed but struggling


- **Core Services:**
  - Showers, laundry, hygiene items, lockers
  - Breakfast and lunch served daily
  - Job readiness support (bus tokens, uniforms, steel-toe boots)
  - Access to public restrooms and telephones
  - On-site social workers available 7 days/week
- **2024 Impact Stats:**
  - 4,116 total individuals served
  - 994 new members
  - 1,395 individuals received social service support
  - 4,850 social service visits
  - 210 birth certificates/IDs obtained
- **Inclusivity:**
  - No-barrier access model
  - Serves all races, identities, abilities, and backgrounds
  - 53% of Kalamazoo residents live below the ALICE threshold
- **Funding Breakdown:**
  - 40% Foundations
  - 29% Individual donations
  - 20% Investment income
  - Remaining support from businesses, in-kind gifts, faith groups
- **Volunteer Opportunities:**
  - Meal service
  - Front desk and guest services
  - Gardening and landscaping
  - Musical performances during meals (piano, guitar, ukulele)

- **Special Initiative:**
  - Annual Underwear Party each December to collect socks and underwear
- **Closing Message:**
  - Small, compassionate acts can have a profound impact
  - Rotarians encouraged to volunteer and advocate for dignity and support for all

#### Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Boomers to Zoomers generational diversity event – *Tomorrow at 4:30 PM*
- Art on the Mall – Sign up to volunteer!
- Hayes Park Turtle Celebration – *June 10*
- Rotary International Convention – *Late June*

**Next Week's Program:** *Rotary Connection and Collaborate + Pizza Social*

 *“Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time.”*

— Paul Harris, Rotary Founder