



Rotary Club of Kalamazoo

June 24, 2024

Editorian: Charles Ofstein

President Martin Velten called our meeting to order at approximately 12:15 PM. The Club recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Past President Sid Ellis provided an invocation.

Rotarian D. Terry Williams presented Arts News this week. There are several classes this week, including improv classes, music, theatre, and art classes. Do not forget Lunchtime Live at Bronson Park every Friday during the summer! As always, for up-to-date information, such as times, locations, and other information for events in our area, click: <https://www.kalamazooarts.org/>.

There were no visiting Rotarians or guests today.

Announcements

- President Martin reminded everyone to pay their club dues and to contribute to our local Rotary Charities fund.
- President Martin announced that Past-Everything Jim Cupper recently received an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award from the marketing department at Haworth College of Business, Western Michigan University. Congratulations Jim!
- There are several upcoming opportunities for volunteers. For details, see our website at <https://www.kalamazoorotary.org/>.
- Our club was awarded a District 6360 grant in support of our Rotary is for Reading event!
- President Martin asked for a moment of silence to honor Rotarian Charles "Chuck" Van Zoeren. Chuck passed away at the age of ninety-two on June 1, 2024. May his memory be a blessing.
- We had five grant requests to Rotary Charities during the Spring of 2024. Three of those charities were provided grants. They are (1) Building Blocks of Kalamazoo, (2) Lending Hands of Michigan, and (3) the Southwest Michigan Kingpins Drumline. Thank you to all the outstanding charities! We know that you will be great stewards of our contributions!
- We already have several Paul Harris Fellows in our midst. Now there are two more! Congratulations to Rotarians Jeff Ross and Sid Ellis for their sixth and second Paul Harris Fellowships, respectively. Additional salutations to the following:
 - Past President Jack Hopkins (himself a Paul Harris Fellow) transferred points to elect Rotarians Lucinda Stinson and President-Elect Taylor Huie as our newest Paul Harris Fellows.
 - Past-Everything Jim Cupper (also a Paul Harris Fellow) announced that Rotarian Dr. Kelley O'Reilly has received her second Paul Harris Fellow.

I am certain that there will be more to come on the topic of Paul Harris Fellowships!

Happy Bucks

- Past Presidents Rick Briscoe, Jack Hopkins, and Rotarian Steve Duisterhof all honored Chuck Van Zoeren. He was truly a one-of-a-kind member!
- Rotarian Matt Mapes recently enjoyed several events with his son, including playing the guitar after a long absence away from the instrument.
- Rotarian Steve enjoyed a recent concert at Red Rocks natural amphitheater in Colorado.
- Past President Sandy Bliesener announced that her daughter's wedding was this past weekend.
- Past President Sid Ellis announced that his son is back on the boards! He recently starred in Face Off Theatre Company's adaptation of "Ain't Misbehavin'."
- The grandeur of Yellowstone National Park and the Badlands amazed Rotarian Aaron Winters.
- Rotarian Rob Peterson announced that one of his children graduated from Pitt this year and has moved back to Kalamazoo to start their career!
- Rotarian Dan Hartlieb was honored to receive the Red Rose Citation. He also was happy about outgoing President Martin and incoming President Huie's service to the club.
- Rotarian Dann Systma recently celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary. That reminded Rick Briscoe that he has been married for 55 years!
- President Martin thanked everyone that has helped him navigate his role as President of our club.

Changing of the Guard Presentation

- President Sid Ellis noted that the "Has Been Society" of former club presidents met recently in their traditional reserved spot under the Patterson Street Bridge. At that meeting (which seems to always serve only one purpose, but I digress) the Society unanimously inducted outgoing President Martin Velten into their club. Congratulations, Martin!
- Outgoing President Martin provided the club with a status report on his year as President. Our club continues to grow, albeit slowly. We have expanded club service activities year over year, and his year as president was no exception. Our club has also increased collaboration on events with other Rotary clubs in the district. Of the nineteen goals that President Martin set out for our club this year, an admirable fourteen were achieved!
- Outgoing President Martin again thanked all the members who helped him during his tenure by explaining why we use the idea of a goose when switching Presidents. He then "passed the goose" to President Huie as his last official order of business. Thank you, President Martin, for your year of service to our club!
- President Taylor Huie formally introduced herself to the club. This year's theme is "the Magic of Rotary." Her focus during her presidential year will be to engage with

the community, to grow out our giving program, to deepen our understanding of Rotary and to focus on Fellowship. More to come on these four important topics!