

August 5, 2024

Editorian: Martin Velten

Today's meeting was called to order by President Taylor Huie at 12:18 p.m.

Invocation: Past President Sid Ellis offered the invocation.

Arts News: Rotarian Dann Systma provided an overview of events in the Arts for the week:

Foundation: Past President Jim Cupper highlighted the “Every Rotarian, every year” program which means that every Rotarian should donate \$100 or more every year to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). This will enable TRF to fund international and domestic projects through grants. PP Cupper also talked about a mentoring program for elementary school kids he would like to start this fall. Interested Rotarians should reach out to PP Cupper.

Announcements:

President Taylor Huie announced the “we are here for you” initiative and encourages all Kalamazoo Rotarians to reach out in case they need support.

Visiting Rotarians: Marshall Schmitt (PP) from the Rotary Club of Chicago (Rotary One) attended the meeting.

Guests: Matt Bates introduced Allison Bowen from the Girl Scouts.

President Taylor Huie provided an overview of the **volunteering opportunities** for the upcoming weeks:

Date	Time	Project	Register / More Info	Location
08/09-10/2024	All Day	Rotaract Leadership Conference		Chicago & Evanston (RI HQ)
08/09/2024	5-9 PM	Comstock Center Paddle and Pour	Volunteering - Sandy Bliesener Free Admission - Bill Rose www.miwaterwaysstewards.org/comstock-paddle--pour.html	Merrill Park with Michigan Waterway Stewards
08/13/2024	5-6 PM	RoSat Meeting	N/A	The Hub, Downtown Kzoo
08/15/2024	5:30-8 PM	Launch Your Legacy Event	DACdb - Taylor Huie	Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners
08/27/2024	3-6 PM	Bronco Bash (Rotaract)	Taylor Huie / Dare'l McMillian	WMU's Campus

09/10/2024	5-6 PM	RoSat Meeting	N/A	The Hub, Downtown Kzoo
09/18/2024	2-5 PM	Oddlympics	https://odlympics.com/ Rob Peterson Sandy Bliesener	Mayors Riverfront Park

PP Sandy Bliesener is asking Rotarians to support the Paddle and Pour event in Comstock on 08/09. The event will take place at Merrill Park in Comstock and Rotarians will direct traffic etc. Drink donations are still welcome.

Happy Bucks:

- Matt Bates announced that on August 10 there will be an event at the Girl Scouts of Michigan building to celebrate the National Smores Day
- Jim Cupper is happy that two former Rotarians, Jeremy Evers and Von Washington, have pledged to rejoin after he called them last week.
- Dan Sysmsma announced that the Growler last season game will be on Thursday, August 8, with a fun event.
- Marshall Schmitt announced that he had his 35th wedding anniversary this week
- Jack Hopkins was highlighting an Intern at the Growlers from Marietta college

The Program: Aaron Bradford introduced Rotarian Denise Hartsough from the League of Women Voters to provide an overview of the voting rights in Michigan

Denise highlighted Proposal 2 which was voted to amend the Michigan constitution to legalize early voting in Michigan. It enshrined the fundamental right to vote in the constitution and added an early voting option and the option to be an a permanent absentee ballot list to the Michigan constitution. Absentee voting also includes prepaid postage, enhanced ballot tracking, and secure drop boxes.

Early voting starts at least 9 consecutive days from the 2nd Saturday before Election Day to the Sunday before Election Day and lasts for 8 hours per day. Early voting is in person at the voting site versus absentee voting which can be done at home. You can be added to the permanent mail ballot list if you wish to. Absentee ballots can be requested up to 14 days before the election and you can vote at the clerks office between 13 days and 1 day before the election.

Issues with the absentee ballots can be fixed and the election workers will reach out to the voters in case there is an issue (e.g. forgot to sign the ballot).

In person voting requires a form of photo ID – if you have one you are required to show it. Voters without photo ID may sign a simple form called Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture ID and vote a regular ballot.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm, with the recitation of the Four Way test.

Next week's program will be presented by Denise M. Keele, Ph.D., from the Michigan Climate Action Network.