

Rotary News October 14, 2019

President Steve Kreider called the meeting to order, and we sang the National Anthem. Rotarian Cheri Bell gave the invocation, honoring the Indigenous people of our country.

The Arts News was given by D. Terry Williams, noting the many events coming up this week.

Visiting Rotarians: Nancy Wenke, from the Gull Lake Club.

Guests: Susan Coney, introduced by Dave Campbell.

Songs: In honor of President Steve's Green Bay Packers, set to play the Detroit Lions tonight, we sang a half-hearted version of the Lions song, led by PP Tim Kilmartin. (Most of us had never heard this song.) There were also some wager opportunities on the tables, with President Steve (in his Packers' jersey) pledging to match--proceeds to Polio Plus. (Postscript: Were the refs really from Green Bay??)

Membership Minute: Dan Sysma reported on Saturday's District Membership Summit held in Kalamazoo. Many good ideas exchanged—many which our club has already implemented.

Adopt-A-Family: Cheri Bell has assumed the role of chair for this committee and said two more committee members would be helpful. It is also time to nominate families to receive some extra help during the holidays. Let her know if you have nominations or would like to join the committee.

Rotary Foundation: PDG Rick Briscoe announced that next week checks will be accepted for Polio Plus and the Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund. Remember that the Gates Foundation will match your Polio Plus donation 2:1, and Rick will match those donations \$100 or more.

Announcements: Flu shots will be available during our meeting October 28 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Satellite Club meets at 5pm Wednesday at Louie's Trophy House, wrapping boxes for Operation Ray.

Happy Bucks: Thell Woods for a great trip to the Far East; Aaron Winters for a Reverse Raffle Friday at the Fetzer Center; Deb Harris for the Membership Summit; and Todd Bannon for the celebration of life for a great uncle who was also a Rotarian.

Program: Rex Bell introduced Rotarian Dave Campbell, Superintendent of K-RESA, who shared information about a proposed Career & Technical Education center. He referred to several factors that have created the "perfect storm" in the economy. With automation, technology changes, demographics, outsourcing, a recession that caused many Michigan people to move to other states for jobs, and the current high cost of post-secondary education, there is a great need for people with 1-2 year associate degrees or certificates and 21st century skills—and a number of people leaving high school who could benefit from this type of education. They could fill the jobs currently available in our area but lacking qualified applicants. There are also large numbers of skilled workers retiring in the next few years.

The current decentralized model of delivering CTE has worked for a number of years, but has prevented many students from participating because of the necessary travel time to the various high schools where the courses are offered. The plan is to build a Career & Technical Education Center somewhere in the center of the County, maintaining some satellite locations. This would allow a greater number of students to participate. The CTE millage election on November 5 will be for operations of the program. There will also be a new program design for career awareness and work world exposure.