



President Martin Velten started the meeting with the pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was given by PP Sid Ellis and focused on keeping Maui in our thoughts

Art News by Bryan Zocher who mentioned that he and Alisa are celebrating their 1 year anniversary. He mentioned that he now has lunch with MONA lisa

Visiting Rotarian Matt Schrock from South Bend.

Visitor: Juan Gonzalez was a guest Dianne Shaffer.

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Rotary District 6360 Raffle: Raffle tickets are available from Amy Remmert or you may purchase tickets with a credit card at the meetings or by emailing Amy and providing her your credit card information. **On-line purchases are no longer available** since the State of Michigan specifically requires person to person sales of raffle tickets.

Oddlympics on September ? and we are looking for teams. \$25 per person.

Please Pay dues as soon as possible so we can get the financials up-to-date - and please contribute to the Charities. Charities is where we help our non-profits with support through grants.

USTA attendance of Rotarians last week was a little on the wet side but enjoyed by those who attended.

Happy Bucks: Because of distractions, the Editarian was unable to keep up with who said what. She will surely pay next week.

PROGRAM: Intro by Amy Remmert for Dr. Kelly Codi and Mchael FrY.

Dr. Kellie Cody was in attendance for today's presentation. He is the former director of the Lakeside Home in which our Rotary Club played a significant role during it's early years. Dr. Cody also has been involved in work with veterans and spent over 30 years working in the mental health field.

Our program presenter today was Michael Fry, who is a Criminal Intelligence Analyst at the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety focused on Homicides and other violent crimes. He was born and raised in Kalamazoo and is a former Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He graduated from Vicksburg High School, is married to Catherine and has two children, Reagan (11) and Logan (9). In his volunteer role, he is the Chairman of the Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee and Campaign Co-Chair and Treasurer of "Yes for Kalamazoo Veterans" in order to improve their lives and their families.

Yes For Kalamazoo Veterans:

The Veterans Service Office – located at Kalamazoo Health and Human Services currently has 5 staff members meeting with Veterans to discuss benefits and other subject matters that are relevant to Veterans. Veterans face many frustrations connecting with services and the staff will take the mystery out of where they can get help.

There has been a surge in the local community for this help. The Veterans Service Office provides assistance with rent or mortgage payments in a time of need to help prevent homelessness. The County has provided \$50,000 to assist with the program. Coming out of Covid the agency was given \$400,000 of the 52 mil. Given to the county. But that money was quickly used up and today the 50,000 for 2023 but not enough. That money has already run out and the County is not in a position to add more.

A proposal for a millage became an obvious solution to the problem of funding and the rate recommended would equate to about \$10 for a 200,000 Home. Less than \$2 a month. A \$100,000 County administrative fee will come off the top but the money in the funds raised will significantly support the efforts to support veterans.

Michael Fry is encouraging individuals to give serious thought for a yes vote to help support veterans. There are too many vets falling between the cracks and way too many suicides. You can go to [Yes4vets](http://Yes4vets.com) online to learn more. The Millage will be on the November ballot.