

PORTAGE ROTARY BULLETIN
MEETING DATE: JANUARY 17, 2024

Written by Paul Ballard

President Josh Goodlock called the Meeting to order at 12:00noon.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Four-Way-Test.

Christine Berro gave the invocation.

Greeter Chad Shuring introduced today's guests Steve Rodia and Sarah Gerstner.

PROGRAM:

President Josh introduced Carmen Jonaitis, President of the Breakfast Optimists Club that meets 7:30am every Thursday morning at Michelle's Restaurant. She noted the similarity between Rotary and Optimists clubs with both organizations raising funds to support community activities and youth scholarships. Carmen went through a list of club activities such as: The Respect for Law Event with children interacting with public safety personnel; Christmas Holiday Food Drive partnering with Ask Family Services; The Great Grown-up Spelling Bee raising money for children's books in the library; Food Pack for Portage students needing food during school breaks. Optimists participate with other programs such as: Big Brothers/Sisters Bowlathon; Kalamazoo Playscape; Girls on the Run, Kalamazoo Doo Dah Parade and ushering at WMU sports events.

They work with Bronson Children's Hospital giving blankets and supporting the "Journey Glass Beads" program and "Prize Poke and Chemo Ducks". The Club provides free books for "Book Desserts" at KRESA, underwear for Community in Schools and Feminine Hygiene products for Kalamazoo Schools. Scholarships are given for annual Optimists Essay Contest, for annual Oratorical Contest and annual Communication Contest for hearing impaired students.

Their biggest fundraiser is a Trivia Contest that they will combine this year with a Back-to-School program. They take over 70 students shopping to buy school clothes and provide school supplies. All are welcome to attend an Optimists meeting on any Thursday or visit their website at BOckzoo.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Super Bowl Fundraiser tickets (\$100/20 tickets) are available from Roy Dangle.
- Miller Auditorium fundraiser – Upcoming performances are: Jan 19th – Napoleon Dynamite; March 10th – My Fair Lady. Rotary earns \$10 per ticket purchased through millerauditorium.com/portagerotary.
- Community Service Award Nomination Forms are due on February 12th.
- The January 31st meeting will be a "Lunch and Learn" program – bring prospective members.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: We celebrated Mark Bielang's wedding anniversary.

HAPPY BUCKS: Were given by Paul C, Pat M, Jose S, Bill C, Dick H, Mark B, John C and Dan J.

Sgt-at-arms Paul Carlson then raised more money with trivia questions about the New Year and other random subjects.

50/50 DRAWING: Helen Driver won the \$27 weekly pot. Bill Kaufman picked the ace of clubs instead of the ace of spades for the cumulative pot worth \$231.

Next week's program: T R Shaw on the Battle Creek Executive Airport.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.