

PORTAGE ROTARY BULLETIN
MEETING DATE: JANUARY 24, 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 guests Steve Rodia, Sarah Gerstner and Tom Cramutolo.

PROGRAM:

President Josh introduced T R Shaw, a Battle Creek Rotarian, who presented the history of the Battle Creek Executive Airport (BTL). The airport officially began in 1924 although Battle Creek hosted an aviation event on July 4, 1911. There will be a 100-year Anniversary event this year on September 21st. It has the second longest runway in the State at 10,004 ft. (Detroit Metro's is 12,000 ft.). The command center for the 110th ANG Attack Wing, currently controlling drones used in the Mideast conflicts, is located there.

Fort Custer started in 1917 and army airplanes used the area fields. W.K. Kellogg donated the money to purchase the land and buy equipment to start a "real" airport. In World War II, B-17 bombers produced in Detroit were shipped to Battle Creek for final fittings and assignment. Post war, it was a stop on the American Airlines routes and then North Central Airlines. Due to its length and military presence, it is the frequent landing spot of Air Force One for presidential visits to Michigan. In 1981 it began the Hot-air Balloon Championships and will host its annual air show July 3rd – 7th this year.

BTL is a designated Foreign Trade Zone and is served by the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. It has 2 fixed-based operators, Duncan Aviation and Centennial Aircraft Services to meet needs of commercial and general aviation customers. There are 55 individual aircraft customers. BTL is the home of the WMU College of Aviation with over 1,500 student cadets. The FAA has a fleet of planes used to inspect other airports around the country. The airport, owned and operated by the City of Battle Creek, employs 3,948 both civilian and military workers. For more information, visit www.FLYBTL.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Super Bowl Fundraiser tickets (\$100/20 tickets) are still available from Roy Dangle.
- Board Meeting Friday, January 26th at 7:30am.
- Miller Auditorium fundraiser – Upcoming performance: 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.
- Bob Borsos received his Paul Harris +8 pin. Thanks, Bob, for your generous donations!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: We celebrated Betty Lee Ongley's 98th birthday!! Chris (Andy) Berro's wedding anniversary & Bill Crown's 23rd anniversary as a Club member.

HAPPY BUCKS: Were given by Bill, K, Dick H, Guest Tom C, Art R, Chris B, Chad S, Jose S, speaker TR S, and Wendell P.

Sgt-at-arms Paul Carlson then raised more money with trivia questions.

50/50 DRAWING: Paul Ballard won the \$35 weekly pot. But Patricia Randall missed the ace of spades for the cumulative pot worth \$250.

Next week's program: Rotary Lunch and Learn Presentation. Bring prospective members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02pm.

Notice: An Application for Membership in the Portage Rotary Club has been submitted by Steve Rodia. He is sponsored by Art Roberts and his classification would be IT Consultant. Any member wishing to comment on this Application should do so in writing, either by mail addressed to the Secretary at PO Box 55, Portage, MI 49081 or email addressed to the Secretary at wmujose@gmail.com. The comment period will close seven days after the second publication of this Notice.

Notice: An Application for Membership in the Portage Rotary Club has been submitted by Sarah Gerstner. She is sponsored by Ginny Dell and her classification would be Healthcare. Any member wishing to comment on this Application should do so in writing, either by mail addressed to the Secretary at PO Box 55, Portage, MI 49081 or email addressed to the Secretary at wmujose@gmail.com. The comment period will close seven days after the second publication of this Notice.

Notice: An Application for Membership in the Portage Rotary Club has been submitted by Joe Winters. He is sponsored by Pat McGinnis and his classification would be Public Relations. Any member wishing to comment on this Application should do so in writing, either by mail addressed to the Secretary at PO Box 55, Portage, MI 49081 or email addressed to the Secretary at wmujose@gmail.com. The comment period will close seven days after the second publication of this Notice.