

PORTAGE ROTARY BULLETIN  
MEETING DATE: JANUARY 31, 2024

Written by Paul Ballard

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

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

Ginny Dell gave the invocation.

Greeter Chad Shuring introduced guests Sarah Gerstner (member-in-progress), Bo Snyder, Kris Taft, Dr. Toni Barnes, Bob Gettings, Felicia Orlowski, Karen Marr & Tristy Walton.

**PROGRAM:**

Our program today was a presentation all about Rotary. President Josh first introduced John Crandle who gave a history of Rotary International. The first Rotary Club, established in 1905 by Paul Harris along with 3 other businessmen in Chicago, is based on friendship and pooling resources to accomplish good. Within 5 years there were 16 clubs across the USA and, in 1911, it became international with one in Winnipeg, Canada. Rotary International now has over 46,000 clubs with 1.4 million members. The name Rotary initially meant that meetings were held each week at a different location. The cogs on the wheel logo represented the different professions of club members that help make the community function.

Jen Maynard reminded us that you get out of Rotary what you put into Rotary. Frequent attendance leads to frequent opportunities to engage in “Service Above Self” - our Rotary motto. A new president is elected each year both at the local clubs and the International Level. This provides a new theme and focus for the organization in our ever-changing world and communities. This year focuses on mental health. The largest ongoing project is Polio Plus. This has nearly eradicated this deadly and debilitating disease from the planet. There are many other projects our club has been involved with such as providing mosquito netting, clean water filtration systems, a water cistern for a hospital in Nepal and Christmas presents for female street orphans at Casa Amparo in Mexico. More locally, our club funded the Concessions stand at McCamley Field and the activity shell at Celery Flats. There are “Interact” clubs in each of the Portage High Schools with their own fundraisers. We help with Red Cross blood drives, the PCOC Strut, Community High School activities and fund scholarships for Portage High School students.

Mike Marsh, relatively new member, gave his perspective on joining the club, his love of volunteering and his new awareness of Rotary in every community he visits.

Bob Borsos, a member for 40 years, discussed how he came to know the depth and passion of Rotary members around the world. Because we are an organization volunteers, money donated to Rotary goes directly to projects locally and globally without large advertising, soliciting and administration costs.

President Josh also pointed out other club involvement in things like Salvation Army Bell ringing, Halloween’s Monster Mash, Scaling Up for Summer, park clean-ups, veterans flags in cemeteries, local Boy/Girl Scout troops and our annual Community Service Award.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Super Bowl Fundraiser tickets (\$100/20 tickets) are still available email or call Roy Dangle.
- Miller Auditorium fundraiser – Upcoming performance: March 10<sup>th</sup> – My Fair Lady. Rotary earns \$10 per ticket purchased through [millerauditorium.com/portagerotary](http://millerauditorium.com/portagerotary).
- Community Service Award Nomination Forms are due on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Blood Drive on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up to help.

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:** There were none to be celebrated this week.

**HAPPY BUCKS:** Were given by Paul C, Dan B, Paul B, Mike M, Bill C, Chris B, John C, Matt S, Sarah G, Ginny D, Roy D and Jen M.

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

50/50 DRAWING: Art Roberts won the \$31 weekly pot. But Jen Maynard missed the ace of spades for the cumulative pot worth \$267.

Next week's program: Dr. Rev. Seth Weeldreyer, First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo presenting "The Pilgrim Journey"

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Brad DeBoer. He is sponsored by Pat McGinnis and his classification would be Commercial Sales. 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](mailto:wmujose@gmail.com). The comment period will close seven days after the second publication of this Notice.