

Porta-Rota-Call

by Molly Chase

February 7, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by President Josh Goodlock.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Four Way Test was recited.

Our invocation was by Ginny Dell.

Our greeter Bill Kaufman introduced our guests: visiting Rotarian Dr. Rev. Seth Weeldreyer, Bo Snyder and Brad DeBoer.

Ginny Gell introduced our speaker, Dr. Rev. Seth Weeldreyer from First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo. His presentation was titled 'The Pilgrim Journey.' He is a graduate of Hope College. He earned his masters' degree as well as attending seminary. He lived and served in Marshall for 12 years before moving to Chicago. He loves exploring the United States.



The pilgrim journey is an inspiration for faith and life. He shared 3 different locations that he shares with people on their pilgrimage. Faith is not something that is accomplished, rather it is a journey. He has come to realize that no matter your plans, life happens. Our experiences shape our world and the way we see others.

Our hearts and minds shape how we greet and meet others. The way we frame the places we visit will determine whether the experience is positive or negative. Pilgrimages encourage travelers to see their world differently when they are back from their journey.

Scotland was the first location he shared with us. You can only get to the location by ferry. Iona is the town on the island where the abbey is located. This is where Christianity was likely formed. This was the center of politics and learning. He shared photos of the abbey-nothing is symmetrical, yet it is beautiful,

just like life. Tradespeople and ministers worked together to restore the abbey. Their group stays in the abbey for a week and perform chores together and discuss their faith during their pilgrimages.

Ghost Ranch in New Mexico is another location that was shared. The idea behind this location is that in the desert, you are able to experience what really is important and what is not. What is important to tend to in life and what is not? The ranch is also where Georgia O'Keefe lived and where she took much of her artistic inspiration. As a metaphor for life, your perspective in life can shift and help you see the same things in more inspiring words.

The 3rd location is in Spain. We have to cherish every moment that we have so that time stands still. Transcend the mundane and embrace the beauty of life. What makes this different is that you walk quite a bit on this journey. They walk an average of 11 miles per day on this trip. Everyone moves at their own pace. They start the day and end the day together. You are given the opportunity to meet people all over the world. This is a rural area of Spain. You stop at different locations along the way to get your passport stamped. You earn a certificate as long as you get 2 stamps per day. There are many different types of terrain (flat cement is the hardest terrain) just as there are different journeys that your life may take. The scenery was stunning. The walk makes you ponder how many other people took the same journey.

You can stay in many places. It can be in a bunker house or a swanky hotel. You spend the day deciding your own journey. At night, you eat dinner together as a group. You have many options to take the journey such as walking or riding a donkey. You see many of the same people along the way even though everyone moves at their own pace. The people that you meet along the way are part of the journey. Find the way in life knowing that you are loved. The purpose of rotary is service over self. When you travel to destinations you are not familiar with, you get out of your comfort zone. Remember to stay humble and you will get the opportunity to give others grace and to learn about others. We must leave the world a better place than we found it.

Announcements:

- Community Service Awards Nomination forms due Feb 12th
- Last call for Super Bowl tickets!
- Blood drive is Feb 8th-all volunteer spots have been filled
- Board meeting minutes (1-26):
 - Membership: 59 members, 4 open applications to join
 - Continue to tell others about rotary and encourage them to join
 - Treasurer's report: \$32,000 in our club acct
 - \$28,000 in our charities account
 - \$76,000 in our CDs
 - We will use the interest earned from the CDs to pay for a therapy service dog for a local school
 - 501 on May 29th instead of Lunch and Learn since our space will be occupied
- \$40 check from Miller Auditorium from A Carpenter's Christmas. My First Lady is March 10th. We earn \$10 for every ticket sold. Please use our URL – millerauditorium.com/portage-rotary-club.
- Gary Meyers has been contacted and is going to be an Honorary Rotarian
- Randy Orwig is working on his transition plan for becoming Rotary President
 - February 28th at 5:00 fundraising meeting to raise funds for our scholarships

- We will not be continuing with our golf outing. This is sad news as we have hosted this for many years. Last year we broke even and it was so much work for volunteers.
- There are other ideas for fundraising being planned including perhaps a Sip & Putt fundraiser event
- Sunday May 5th is the Zeigler Marathon. Signup sheet was passed around

AJ Srmek is celebrating a birthday. Bill Kaufman celebrated his 35th rotary anniversary.

Happy bucks and fines collected by Sergeant at arms Chris Buckley from Bill Kaufman, Dick Hewitt, Pat McGinnis, Pete Marsiglia, Ginny Dell, Jose Santamaria, Roy Dangel, Paul Ballard, Nicole Miller, Dan Bunker and Bob Borsos

50/50 drawing: Steve Montanye won \$32.

Ace of spades drawing: Steve Montanye didn't find the Ace.

Next program on February 14th will feature Dr. Vishal Gupta, Cardiologist at Ascension Borgess

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm by President Josh Goodlock.

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. The comment period will close seven days after the second publication of this Notice.