

# Rotary Club of Portage Bulletin

## Porta-Rota-Call

Date: March 24, 2021

by: Christy Klien

President Matt Semelbauer called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. We recited the Four Way Test and the Pledge of Allegiance. Dick Hewitt gave the invocation.

PROGRAM: TeamAgar: inspirational program hearing from a man with cerebral palsy.

Dick Hewitt introduced the inspirational father and son team, Jeff and Johnny Agar. Johnny was born with cerebral palsy and struggled to do many things on his own. Johnny always had a connection with sports with his dad's experience in professional baseball. He wanted to be out on the field competing. The road is Johnny's field. In 2009, Jeff and Johnny started running together. Jeff would push Johnny's wheelchair in races. In 2013, Johnny wanted to compete himself; he walked the last mile of a race and crossed the finish line. That mile was Johnny's marathon. When he crossed the finish line, Johnny said he felt like he was officially an athlete. Johnny shared that his parents supported him, gave him athletes to look up to, and showed him how hard they had to work to be successful. He learned how failure is just part of the process. His parents compared his therapy to what athletes go through every day to gain strength and get better. His family always included him in all activities. He learned that all things are possible with hard work and support. The father and son team have participated in 5Ks, half-marathons, marathons, triathlons, and an ironman. During the Ironman, they failed to make the time cutoff for the bike portion and had to stop. Johnny's response was, "sometimes you win and sometimes you learn." You have success with failure. He wants to inspire others to reach their full potential.

Johnny's story was featured on ESPN (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaTMWdVCW1k>). Johnny has also been featured in Under Armour commercials with Michael Phelps and Rock Johnson.

Johnny is an Eagle Scout and a graduate of Aquinas College. In the future, he wants to get back to Kona, run a race on his own, and work for the Tigers. He has written a book and does motivational speeches.

Follow along with Johnny's journey:

twitter:@agar\_john

Instagram: officialjohnny\_agar

[www.johnnyagar.com](http://www.johnnyagar.com)

<https://www.teamagar.com/about-me/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Virtual Auction Update
- Amazon Smile Link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-3353675> - use this link to add Amazon as your chosen non-profit
- **You can now include the PayPal fee in your PayPal transaction** - Payments are accepted through PayPal for Rotary items, you can find a PayPal quick link at <http://www.portagerotary.org/>, or use your PayPal app using [Rotaryclubofportage@gmail.com](mailto:Rotaryclubofportage@gmail.com)
- Super Bowl Winnings for the following Rotarians are in my office – Ben Barber, Paul Carlson, Jen Maynard, Scott McGraw

We celebrated Matt Semelbauer's (5) and Rafael Wolf's (10) club membership anniversary.

Matt Semelbauer, Dick Hewitt, Tom Welsh, MaryLou, Pete Marsiglia, Art Roberts, Randy Orwig, Marlene Camacho-Ochoa, Paul Carlson, AJ Srmek, Mark Bielang, Jen Maynard, Bob McGraw, Jeanne Willacker were all happy today.

Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Buckley fined U of M, Loyola, and any other graduates from Sweet 16 schools. Chris also conducted Portage Rotarian trivia today.

Next week's program is a Rotary 501 – Meet at the Celery Flats Pavilion at 5:01 p.m.

Bring walking attire as we will also have a trail clean-up for those interested; otherwise, you can tuck in under the awning for general camaraderie.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Review this Zoom meeting..

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EfaqUf5JM9amooKrvjm0OFtXILdm6liiTxaB4\\_oKDEhkD6yqkVZnqhDfNd14-w1y.bcyEBpvfqnvCdxSp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EfaqUf5JM9amooKrvjm0OFtXILdm6liiTxaB4_oKDEhkD6yqkVZnqhDfNd14-w1y.bcyEBpvfqnvCdxSp) Passcode: Z+.H9WRL



[Facebook link](#)

The Portage Rotary Club provides financial support for youth education, families in need and other local charitable causes. We are part of Rotary International. A service organization of business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian services and help build goodwill and peace in the world