

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 Chris Buckley.

Our greeter Ginny Dell introduced our guest, Eric Goodlock.

We inducted 3 new members of rotary today!

- Bo Snyder: He is honored to join our club that has done so much for the community. He serves on the Portage Board of Education. He thanked the club that all we have done for Portage Public Schools. One fact about himself that he shared is that he has an unhealthy relationship with The University of Michigan. He holds a few degrees from the school and enjoys their sports. He has only once missed one game at the Big House in many years. He is married with two children.



- Brad DeBoer: He gave a shout out to Pat McGinnis for being his rotary sponsor. He has been married to Betty for 27 years. He has two sons that he is very proud of. He and his wife are currently empty nesters. He currently works for Gordon Water Systems in sales. This is a family business that is currently being run by two of his cousins. He has his master's degree in counseling from Western Michigan University.



- Steve Rodia: He is a longtime Portage resident and volunteer. His former volunteer activities include the Friends of the Portage Senior Center and Portage District Library. He also coaches men's and women's tennis. He works as an IT consultant focused on small business. His wife Sue is retired from WMU. He has one daughter named Nicole. He thanked his sponsor, Art Roberts. He is also a past recipient of our Portage Rotary Community Award winner.



Josh Goodlock introduced our speaker, Randy Orwig. The presentation was titled 'The Magic of Rotary.' He will be the next President of our rotary club. Randy was President in the past and is excited to take the reins again. He has been preparing for the last several months for his new duties. He shared the rotary model. Next weekend he and Jose are attending a President Elect training session in Kalamazoo. In doing that, they are brought up to date on current news within Rotary and Rotary International. Goal setting will also be a big focus of the retreat. His overall goal is to build on our past successes while developing new priorities to be more impactful to our community.



He sent us all an email last week and was happy with the responses he received. Only 21% of our club answered his email. He hopes that we all care about the future of our club. This was sent last Wednesday so please take the time to respond to his 3 questions. Rotary International helped guide our

4 main focus points: Increasing our impact, expanding our reach, enhance participant engagement and increase our ability to adapt.

We all come with different backgrounds and bring different experiences with us. We all evolve as we grow older and gain more experience. Our new member orientation engagement will continue to be a focus to make sure that our new members are encouraged to become involved in service right away. We also want to have fun in our club! Are we delivering value to our members in our meetings? We need to continue to grow and gain more members. This will help us financially also. We have gained 11 new members in the last year! Increasing community awareness and continuing our open houses are goals. Expanding our reach through diversification will be a focus as well. We are people of action, and we are problem solvers.

Involving and connecting members is of high importance. Bring friends and family along to volunteer events. There is also training available to us. Review emails sent from the club and respond accordingly. A welcome kit along with the fireside chat is a great idea to make the new member process a little more formal.

Working to build and increase our public image may be most important. Bridge the gap between what the public thinks we are and what we think we are. New members will continue to be important. Talk to others in the community about the work we do. If you are on Facebook, follow Portage Rotary and share our events. This helps to tell our story in other formats to the community. People prefer to see action photos rather than us just standing around. Remember to promote all the great things we do. Why is the community better off with Portage Rotary?

Resources and donations are more likely to come in if they know who we are. Look for opportunities to collaborate with other organizations. We are a service organization, so how do we increase participation? How can we turn the curve to get more members involved in our activities? We have long supported Community High School and the therapy dog is our focus right now with them. We have changed our focus based on the needs of that school. Our Interact Club with Portage Public Schools gave great feedback on ways for our club to do more. Scout Troop 287 (45 males and 14 females) is a troop that we sponsor. This is a big troop that we can utilize along with their parents to encourage them to be more involved.

Portage Community Center is a partner that we have worked with for years. They serve an area of the community that can benefit from our help. Rotary International focuses on two main causes, Polio Plus and Paul Harris. We have goals that need to be developed at the training next weekend. Portage Rotary Charities is what we participate in through Happy Bucks.

Part of our legacy is responding to natural disasters around the world that are in crisis. We have donated funds for clean water in the Dominican Republic. We have done various projects in Nicaragua in the past helping to build houses in concert with Kalamazoo Rotary. We have donated mosquito nets. Casa Amparo in Mexico has been spearheaded by Bonnie Granado for many years. Paul Carlson led our club efforts in Nepal. The global grants possible through rotary is quite a process. www.rotary.org is an impressive website. Two global grants have been received by us: There was a hospital in Nepal that kept

running out of water during the course of their day. We did a \$58,000 global grant. We raised about \$17,000 through our club. The district-designated fund matched our donation. When we contributed to Rotary International, we received \$25,000 from the world fund. The project cost \$300,000. The hospital now has running water continuously. There was a school in need in Tanzania that needed physical structures. Rotary then decided their focus was not on buildings due to the maintenance needed. The new application was built on education and literacy. \$37,000 project total that we were solely responsible for. Our club raised \$12,000 and designated funds from the district were also involved.

We have a general account and a charity account where budgets are created. We currently use the charity funds for Adopt a Family, Casa Amparo, Community High School support, Community Service Award winner charity donation, Interact Advisors, funding for students to attend a rotary youth academy, Portage Community Center and our scholarships. There are new fundraisers under development that we will hear about soon. This is money in our community for our community. Our feedback will help direct our goals for this coming year.

Announcements:

- Portage Rotary Hero nominations-Please send your nominations by March 22nd to Josh (josh@skillquestintl.com or 517-605-1925)
- Several sign-ups are going around (blood drive, marathon, Memorial Day parade)
- Bonnie is looking for Sam's Club gift cards. She leaves for CASA on the 25th. The orphanage has 17-20 girls that get about \$20/week for food.
- Miller Auditorium- next show is My Fair Lady on March 10th at 6:00
- Kalamazoo Rotary Satellite Club 5:01 Social event is Tuesday March 10th at KNAC.

Happy Birthday to Mike Marsh. Today is Nikki Miller's 17-year wedding anniversary.

Happy bucks and fines collected by Sergeant at Arms Chad Schuring from Steven Montanye, Matt Semelbauer, Bob Borsos, Jose Santamaria, Ginny Dell, Joe Winters, Steve Rodia, Brad DeBoer, Steve Rodia, Marlene Comacho-Ochoa, Bo Snyder, Helen Driver, Bob Borsos, Chris Buckley, Jim Martin and Pat McGinnis. Anyone not wearing their rotary pin was fined.

50/50 drawing: Jose Santamaria won \$28

Ace of spades drawing: Chad Schuring did not find the ace.

Next program on March 13th will be Kathleen Hoyle, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Her presentation is titled 'What's Going on at Portage Parks?'

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 pm by President Josh Goodlock.