

Portage Rotary Meeting
4/3/2024
12pm-1pm – Hybrid option
In person meeting: **Portage Sr. Center**
Maternal and Child Health

Finance at the Door: Dave Morgan
Bulletin: Bob Borsos

Bell rang at 12pm
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by President-Elect Randy Orwig
Four Way Test: Led by President-Elect Randy Orwig
Invocation: Dick Hewitt

Greeter: Chad Schuring. Chad welcomed Jose Santamaria's fiancé Melinda Figgins

Program: Our own Mark Bielang presented a picturesque summary of his trip to Rwanda. Mark's son-in-law is with the foreign service that placed him in Rwanda with the embassy staff for three years. Mark and his wife took the opportunity to visit them and see Rwanda.

Rwanda has a population of 13,000,000 and its scenic beauty is known as the Land of a Thousand Hills. Rwanda is a developing country and has significant challenges yet seems to have overcome its history of tribal warfare that slaughtered over 1,000,000 people. Today the people call themselves Rwandans and not by their tribal affiliation.

Mark showed many slides of the animals you would expect to see in their native habitat including hippos, baboons, monkeys, elephants, zebras, giraffes, crocodiles, and GORILLAS. The country is beautiful with lush vegetation making hiking an arduous task.

The highlight of the trip was the trek to see the Gorillas. Mark's family was led by an experienced guide. The gorilla families are constantly on the move and viewing them requires continual communication from trackers who radio locations to the guide. The viewing required a 2 mile hike that took four hours because of the dense vegetation and the uphill climb on the slope of an extinct volcano. Mark and his family came within 10 feet of the gorilla family, when a 500 lbs. silverback male gorilla came out of the bushes, sat right behind Mark's wife, and had lunch. (My wife thought a hot air balloon ride was scary!) Ironically, the Silverback's name was "Remember", and I'm sure that wasn't hard to do.

Announcements

- Signups going around (Marathon, Memorial Day Parade, River Cleanup). Please sign up.
- See Jen with items that can go in our "Taste of Portage" District Raffle Basket.
- Miller Auditorium- Still time to buy tickets. Miller has been reimbursing the Club \$10 with each ticket sale even if less than 10 are sold by the Club.

- Daisy Dollars are still available. See Roy. Thank you Schuring Greenhouse for donating 25% of purchases to Portage Rotary. Chad has recently added additional vouchers as we previously had sold out.
- We also are collecting hygiene items for Ministry with Community

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Latecomer Fines: No one confessed to having a birthday or anniversary.

Happy Bucks and Other Fines (Sgt at Arms): Chad Schuring collected many happy bucks for Purdue, Mark's program, Dave Morgan's radio interview and more.

50/50 Drawing – Bob Borsos is getting a 1099 for winning \$34 dollars, and being a greedy person, also won the next drawing for the Ace of Spades. Fortunately, Bob didn't win the second drawing and the money carries over.

Next Program: Allysa Crittenden; Community Healing Center. Come hear about the amazing services that they provide including Child Services, Recovery Services, Mental Health, After-School and Summer Programs, 24 hour Crisis Support...and More!
The meeting adjourned by 1pm with the ringing of the bell.

Notice: An Application for Membership in the Portage Rotary Club has been submitted by Matt Copp. He is sponsored by Chad Schuring and his classification would be Marketing Executive. 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.