

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by Secretary Jose Santamaria

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Four Way Test was recited.

Our invocation was by Paul Carlson.

Our greeter Mark Bieling introduced our guests, Matt Longjohn and Dave Groendyk.

Chad Schuring introduced Dave Groendyk who introduced our speaker, Jim Rojas. He shared a humorous story about his daughter hitting his son's car. From there, a friendship developed.

Jim is the Past President of The Kalamazoo Concert Band. He has worked for a variety of big companies and moved to Kalamazoo about 15 years ago. He is now retired and has been very active with the band for the past 10 years.



Their concerts are free to attend. They offer small group performances. The oldest group is Kalamazoo Concert Brass, and they are playing Brunch with the KCB Brass at Thunderbird in Kalamazoo from 10-12 this Sunday. The mission of their band is to provide band music to the community for free. This is also an opportunity for lifelong learning. They provide people with opportunities to play their instruments as well.

They hire performers to play with the band throughout the year. They do ask for donations if you are able. They have between 85 and 100 musicians who perform. They have 4 regular concerts per year as well as 4 summer concerts. They promote West Michigan as a great place to live. Kalamazoo does a beautiful job bringing the arts and music together. They raise funds to support themselves as well as to award scholarships to high school students. They hold a youth solo competition annually for those scholarships.

This program builds confidence in their musicians. Their small groups, especially their trombone group, frequently visit schools to perform. The concert band has been performing in Kalamazoo for over 75 years. Their annual audience is over 5,000. They are supported by grants and foundations. Some of their

current donors include The Dorothy S. Gilmore Foundation as well as The Upjohn Foundation. They try to attract younger people as well as donors.

Their annual budget is about \$100,000/year. They are very fiscally responsible. Their next concert is Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Comstock Community Center at 7:30 pm. Their holiday concert will be on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Miller Auditorium at 8:00pm. Register for tickets soon if you are interested in attending. They play in Portage as well throughout the year.

To follow them or to donate, visit their website: <https://kalamazooconcertband.org/>. They are also on Facebook and Instagram. They are on the Kalamazoo Now calendar as well as the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo website. If you donate, you are added to their email list. The pandemic hit them hard, so they are really looking for donors. They are trying to create sustainability for their organization. Another goal is to add diversity to their audience as well as band members.

Announcements:

- District Foundation raffle tickets are \$25 each. Checks should be payable to Rotary District 6360 Foundation. Give cash or checks to Roy or Jose by October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Miller Auditorium fundraiser is ongoing. We receive \$10/ticket per ticket sold. Information was on the tables. Please use our QR code so we receive credit.
- October 17- Blood Drive sign up
- October 24- World Polio Day- Rotarians are encouraged to attend City Council meeting Tues October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 & lighting up Senior center in purple lighting.
- October 30- Lunch & Learn- Please bring a friend.
- Bell Ringing and PCC Holiday Volunteer sign ups were passed around.
- The sign up for Cemetery flag removal will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 to pick up flags after Veterans Day.

Art Roberts and Jose Santamaria are celebrating birthdays this week. Dave Morgan has a 6-year member anniversary this week. Paul Ballard also celebrated his wedding anniversary.

Happy bucks and fines collected by Sergeant at Arms Pete Marsiglia from Dick Hewitt, Matt Semelbauer, Chad Schuring, Jim Rojas, Dave Groendyk, Mike March, Bonnie Granado, Molly Chase, Jose Santamaria, Matt Longjohn. Fines were also collected from several members as a result of trivia questions.

50/50 drawing: Bill Kaufman won \$28.

Ace of spades drawing: Roy Dangel did not find the ace today

Next program on October 23<sup>rd</sup> will be Acupuncture and You with Melissa Toyoshima

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm by Secretary Jose Santamaria.