

President Randy Orwig called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Rotarians and guests recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Rotarians and guests recited The Four Way Test.

Chad Schuring gave our invocation.

Our greeter Mark Beilang introduced our guests – Kaitlyn Huntington and Todd Kuntz (Kalamazoo Community Foundation), Karen Townsend (United Way), Pat Burgwald (former teacher), Steve Pieczko, Larry Grant (Portage Community Center active member), and Daniel Makande.

Randy Orwig introduced our speaker, John Crandle to welcome our visitors and guests for the fall Rotary Lunch and Learn. John kicked us off with an overview of Rotary before kicking off the history of Rotary International. Rotary was founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois. Paul Harris was one of the first four members who partnered to start Rotary International. In 1911, the first international club began in Winnipeg, Canada. Paul Harris was our first International President. The first Rotary service project was the installation of public toilets in the city of Chicago. Our motto, “Service above Self” was officially adopted in 1950.

Up next, Jen Maynard shared more about the specifics of Rotary, specifically the Rotary Club of Portage. Then, Matt Copp, one of our newest members, shared more about our club from his perspective and his first six months as a member. He was born and raised in Portage, but just recently moved home. He was eager to serve and was immediately interested in Rotary and became a member in June 2024. His examples of resources and connections he has made as a member was endless. He loves learning more about our community each week. He truly feels he has gained more than he has given and is thankful for the opportunity to serve as a member.

President Randy, a two-time president of our club shared his thoughts and perspective. He is especially impressed with the twelve new members that joined last year that are bringing new lifeblood to our club. Randy has served our club for 25+ years. The magic to Rotary is to give back globally while building friendships and serving under “Service above Self.” He learned about service early on as a member of Boy Scouts and a scout leader for his kids. He was invited to three different Rotary clubs at three separate times before visiting the Rotary Club of Portage which felt like his best fit. Randy shared an extensive list of activities we participate in, partner with, or lead for our local community, district, and worldwide. Randy also shared his leadership experience, as a member of the board, then President of the club. Randy shared that the Magic of Rotary is different for each person and defined by how much you get involved in ways that matter to you.

### **Announcements**

- Buy your Miller Auditorium tickets
- Volunteer signup sheets continue to be circulated until they are filled
- November is International Diabetes Awareness month. On Thursday, November 14 (World Diabetes Day), the Rotary Action Group for Diabetes is presenting a Screening/Presentation at Kellogg Community College Binda Theatre at 5:00 pm. Presentation at 7:00 pm.
- Next blood drive is on Thursday, December 12 at either the church or mall. Location TBD.

Christine Berro paid a late \$1, and we sang to her.

Sargeant at arms Pete Marsiglia collected happy bucks from Mike March, Helen Driver, Bill Kauffman (35 years as a member of our club), Nicole Miller, Mary Hall, Art Roberts, Larry Grant, and Dick Hewitt.

50/50 drawing: Art Roberts won \$28!

Ace of spades drawing: Art Roberts Kugler did not draw the ace of spades for \$189.

Our next meeting is **November 6** features Clint Wagner from the Portage Community High School. Join us to learn more about all the great new volunteer opportunities to support their students and staff.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm by President Randy Orwig.