

PORTAGE ROTARY BULLETIN
MEETING DATE: November 20, 2024

President Randy Orwig called the meeting to order at 12:00noon.
We recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Rotary Four-Way-Test.
Wendell Pierce gave the invocation.
Bulletin by Paul Ballard
Greeter Chad Schuring allowed Bo Snyder to introduce his guest and wife, Jane Snyder.

PROGRAM: Rene Rodriguez, graphic designer, consultant and manager of political campaigns, presented his family story. He played a video: “The American Dream Re-imagined, a Migrant’s Story” about his family and their journey to a better life. He then told of how early last century, his grandparents, Saul & Ignacia, crossed the Rio Grande to find work in the farms of America picking cotton, fruits and vegetables. Farmers, who appreciated their work ethics, then helped them obtain work visas. After each picking season in Texas, Arkansas, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan, they would return to Mexico. In 1965, their truck broke down and they stayed in Michigan. Bob Cook, farmer in Lawrence, helped them build a modest home.

Rene’s parents, Hector and Donica had met in a migrant camp and were married. Rene had four siblings - Hector who became a house builder; Gilbert, intellectual - but died very young; Victor who became a very successful dress designer; Donna who was a teacher. Rene was the first to receive a college degree (from WMU), a great achievement compared to his father and mother’s education of 3rd and 6th grades, respectively. The family motto: “Whatever you choose to do, do it well” has guided their successes. There are now 100 descendants of his grandparents living well and contributing to our society. The presentation was a good reminder that we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants and we all have a universal desire for a better life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Jen Maynard is sending a thank you to each of the staff at the Community High School. Help out by writing one of the cards after the meeting.
- There will be a Board Meeting Friday at Michelle’s at 7:30am.
- November is Rotary Foundation month. Donations will be matched by the District 6360 Foundation in November and December.
- Miller Auditorium fundraiser – Upcoming performances: see website. Rotary earns \$10 per ticket purchased through millerauditorium.com/portagerotary.
- Bell Ringing sign-up is being circulated.
- See Chris Buckley to be added to PCC Holiday Volunteer List
- Blood Drive will be December 12th at Crossroads Mall.
- Super Bowl Mania tickets were distributed. Please give checks to Roy Dangle.
- Basket for the support of our Casa program is at the door today. You can donate directly to the school if you wish. Casa Amparo, PO Box 760176, McAllen, Texas 78504.
- Holiday volunteer opportunities with Portage Parks Dept. – see attachment to the email sent by President Randy last week with the agenda.

President Randy presented the slate of candidates for next year club leadership that was motioned, seconded and approved by those present.

President 2025-26: Jose Santamaria
President Elect 2026-27: Ginny Dell
President Nominee 2027-28: Matt Copp
Secretary: Emily Turner Hollman

Treasurer: Roy Dangel
Director ending 2026: Karen Foster
Director ending 2027: Dan Bunker
Running for Director ending 2028 (pick 2):
Molly Chase, Sarah Gerstner, Bonnie Granado, Stephen Rodia

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES: No Birthday or wedding anniversaries this week.
Rotary Membership Anniversaries this week: Chris Buckley and Patricia Randall.

HAPPY BUCKS: Were given by: Bill Kaufman, Matt Copp, Mike March, Helen Driver, Mary Hall, Paul Carlson, Mark Bielang, Wendell Pierce, John Crandall, Randy Orwig, Bo Snyder, Sarah Gerstner, Nicole Miller, Karen Foster, Matt Semelbauer and Jose Santamaria.

Sgt-at-arms Jim Pearson then raised more money with trivia – names of animal offspring.

50/50 DRAWING: Roy Dangel won the \$38 weekly pot. But Paul Ballard missed the ace of spades for the cumulative pot worth \$222.

Next week's program: There will be no meeting next week – Happy Thanksgiving!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58pm.

Notice: An Application for Membership in the Portage Rotary Club has been submitted by Todd Kuntz. He is sponsored by Pat McGinnis and his classification would be Community Foundation, Investment Officer. 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.

Notice: An Application for Membership in the Portage Rotary Club has been submitted by Katelyn Huntington. She is sponsored by Pat McGinnis and her classification would be Community Foundation, Investment Officer. 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.