

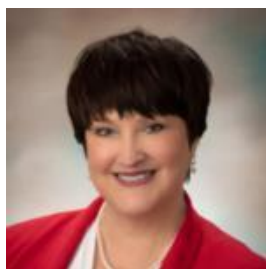


The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday, March 14, 2023

By Kristen Jones

President Rob called the meeting of the Elyria Rotary Club to order at 12:15 pm with the ringing of the bell and the singing of "America the Beautiful."

Today's invocation was given by **Kristen Jones**. She began by wishing everyone a Happy St Patrick's Day, "**Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhaoibh,**" in Gaelic.

She may or may not have learned this phrase on the internet, and she may or may not have actually pronounced it correctly. But we all know that everything on the internet is true and correct...(ahem). She concluded with the traditional Irish blessing, in English.

March 21 Program

Paul Farace – USS Cod

Paul will provide a presentation on the USS Cod docked in Cleveland.

Dan Haight was on tech duty. **Tammy Bertrand** with photos. **Kristen Jones** filled in on Ramrod.

Song of the Day

Kristen Jones (someone make her sit down, please...) led us in singing "School Days," about the way school *used* to be, in preparation for our program today about the way school is *now*! **Joanie** ably on the keys, as usual!

Guests

We were pleased to welcome several prospective Elyria Rotarians today! Rev. Dr. Leonard Budd, a retired United Methodist pastor who now lives at Wesleyan Meadows, and Kathy and Robert Fissette. Kathy is site director of BASF in Elyria and learned about us at last week's Mayor's Address. Her husband Robert is a retired

COO. We also welcomed Dean Johnson, of LCCC Spitzer Center.



Tribute to the Women of Rotary

President Rob called attention to the rotating slide show about our service project at the Elyria Bike Center that **Mark King** graciously created for our meeting. He then presented a special presentation on the history of women in Rotary in honor of International Women's Day and the women of the Elyria Rotary Club. Thanks again to **Mark King** for also creating this slide show presentation.

On July 1, 1989, Rotary International officially changed its Bylaws to welcome women as members. Leading the way prior to that, Elyria Rotary welcomed women as members beginning on November 10, 1985. By 2020, there were 277,000 women in Rotary International, and numbers continue to grow.

A top priority for Rotary is growing and diversifying our membership to make sure we reflect the communities we serve, valuing diversity, equity/equality, and inclusion. Rotary celebrates and welcomes the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion,

socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Women have led the way in the leadership of our Club, but also on the district level. This past year, Jennifer Jones of Windsor Ontario became the first woman to be named Rotary International President.

President Rob concluded by asking all the women of Elyria Rotary stand and be honored.

Announcements

- District 6600 Conference is May 12-14 at Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Register early for better pricing
- Please contributed to the East Palestine emergency fund created by their district governor. Details on the website.
- Scholarship Applications for graduating seniors are open. Deadline April 15. Details on elyriarotary.org.

Today's Program – Tracy Green - LCCC

Marl Mroz introduced today's program. Tracy Green is Vice President of Strategic and Institutional Development, and the LCCC Foundation. She is a friend and colleague to many in our Club and is a former member of Elyria Rotary.

LCCC was Ohio's first community college and now celebrates its 60th anniversary. Times have changed and the college is very sophisticated in its educational approach, and serves more than 14,000 students from Associates through Masters level degree programs.



Even prior to the pandemic, the college recognized that we were in an era of uncertainty and was created to be able to roll with the times. Now, they aspire to a vision of “10,000 degrees” to be awarded to Lorain County residents and are already 72% to that goal. Recently, Harvard University recognized LCCC as one of the top 5 community colleges in the country leading the way in workforce development.

Tracy described some of the many initiatives making an impact:

- College Credit Plus has already succeeded in 45% of Lorain County grads having earned college credit prior to completing high school, since 2013.
- Fast Track to Employment allows students of all ages to receive a career-related credential and training in 16 weeks.
- Fueling the Semiconductor Heartland – references Intel’s investment of \$100B in Ohio chip plants and LCCC’s commitment. LCCC has responded with Associates and Bachelor degree programs in MEMS, microelectronics, and SMART industrial systems – the only college in Ohio to offer these degree programs.
- Earn and Learn internships allow students to earn while completing their degree program, often leading to immediate employment.

- LCCC is acting as an incubator for new companies, such as p-Chip.
- Unlocking Opportunity – LCCC was selected as one of 15 in the country committed to closing the achievement gap.

Today’s Book presented to Elyria Public Library in honor of our speaker was, “A Year on the Farm.”

President Rob held a special raffle today for those attending. The winner was **Dan Haight** with a gift certificate to Elmer’s Ice Cream.

Today’s Chuckle: What did the Leprechaun eat for lunch? A “Bar-loney” sandwich.

