

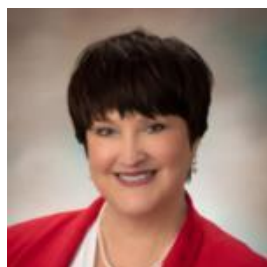


The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday, March 28, 2023

By Kristen Jones

President Rob called the meeting of the Elyria Rotary Club to order at 12:12 pm with the ringing of the bell and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner."

Gary McIntyre was on tech duty. **Kristen Jones** on photography.

Today's invocation was given by **Kimberly Wilhelm** with thanks for our many blessings and opportunities, and the ongoing work of Rotary.

Guests

Rob Ernst and **Gary McIntyre** introduced their wives, Kathy Ernst and Carol McIntyre. **Mark Mroz** introduced his wife Marlene and family. **Annie Heidersbach** introduced Annie Cunningham, Elyria Catholic

April 4 Program

Kristian Smith

The Adult Career Center at Lorain County JVS

marketing and communications director, who was here with their students.



Mark Mroz and family

Newly Approved Members

Also introduced were incoming Elyria Rotarians, whose applications have been approved by the Board: Rev. Dr. Leonard Budd, a retired United Methodist pastor who now lives at Wesleyan Meadows, and Kathy and Richard Fissette. Kathy is site director of BASF in Elyria. Her husband

Richard is a retired COO. All three will soon be going through orientation and induction.

Song of the Day

Nathan Russell led our song of the day, selected by **President Rob** in honor of our guest speaker and theme of the day, partnering with **Joanie** for “Jingle Bells.”

Student Guests

Madison Perkins is a senior, and has a longtime family volunteer connection to the Salvation Army through her grandmother. She has recently taken on that tradition by taking over the role of Angel Gifts. She plans to attend Kent State major in criminology. She is a varsity cheerleader captain, is in NHS and is involved in church and school volunteerism.



Elyria Catholic visitors

Levi Ellis has a 4.3 GPA. He is a volunteer with Elyria Little League and EC Football camps. He will attend Hillsdale College to play football and major in finance. He too is involved in church and school volunteerism.

No pressure here, but he *has* played the role of Jesus in their Passion pageant, so watch your P’s and Q’s.

WWJD? He’d go to Rotary, of course.

The Jug

Mike Gebhardt was here to celebrate birthdays present and past. **Jim Hunt** hasn’t divulged his actual birthday so he gets to pay every month.

Bill Hudnutt has two APL dogs, and was pictured with his wife and dogs at some point in the last year. This clipping is apparently so old that it was etched on slate, and the statute of limitations may have run out on that \$5 fine.

New ERC Board Member

Due to work conflicts of **Don Schiffbauer**, **Jim Miller** has stepped on to our Board to finish out Don’s term, and was thanked for doing so.

Special Ceremony

Leah Kacher, granddaughter of **Mark Mroz**, was inducted as “honorary Elyria Rotary Vice President for the Day.” Each year, our Elyria Rotary participates in Salvation Arm bell ringing. For the past two years Leah has volunteered with our Club, bringing great enthusiasm and inspiration, and displaying spirited service above self. Leah danced through her entire shift as a bell ringer, inspiring shoppers to fill the kettle to the brim.



“VP” Leah in her “special” induction ceremony

A special slideshow of her joyous bell-ringing service was shared. Leah was presented with a certificate of excellence as our “Dancing Bell Ringer,” and was gifted a beautiful crystal bell by **President Rob**.

Announcements

- Oberlin Rotary Pancake Breakfast April 2. Oberlin Elementary School, \$8 adults.
- Elyria Sunrise Rotary selling tickets for their Booze Cart Raffle until April 5. \$20/ticket.
- Vermilion Rotary Club selling tickets for their Reverse Raffle and Dinner on April 28. Dinner and raffle tickets, \$75.
- MESA Annual Bike event starts June 24.
- Elyria Rotary Steak Fry and Auction is Friday, June 16. **Everyone** is expected to be there and help.
- Scholarship Applications for graduating seniors are open. Deadline April 15. Details on elyriarotary.org.

Today’s Program – Tracy Knappins – Salvation Army

Marl Mroz introduced today’s program. Captain Tracy Knappins has been with Salvation Army for 28 years in various roles of leadership. She serves as core officer at Elyria Salvation Army. She has both secular and ecclesiastical training and 5 generations of her family have been involved in Salvation Army leadership. As officers, they are appointed to serve and are moved around to different locations. Their average term length in one location is 3-5 years and Salvation Army serves in 114 countries.

Captain Tracy presented a certificate of appreciation and small meaningful gifts to Leah, our “honorary Vice President.” The two of them then performed “Joy to the World,” with “Dancing Leah” on bells and Tracy on trumpet.



She and her husband arrived here during the pandemic in August 2020, and it was challenging to get around to meet the community during that time. It was during that time that they developed a program to support children in virtual learning which morphed into the current “Learning Zone,” an afterschool program. Programming for youth is her passion.



Capt. Tracy

She is proud that Salvation Army is able to meet human needs wherever they can, and they never closed a single day during COVID. Most of their traditional programs are now back to full functioning.

Spring basketball league is in full swing now at their facility, which encompasses an entire city block. The food pantry serves 300 families a month, with emergency food assistance always available. Rent and utilities assistance, as well as any service to help accomplish basic needs, is also a focus.

Funds raised at Christmas dictate their entire year’s budget for programming. Many service

projects are accomplished during that holiday season, including Angel Tree and Not Forgotten Box. Over 20,000 toys and clothing items are distributed providing hope to so many families.

The Salvation Army is also a church, providing Christian education and study. Volunteers are invited to participate all year long. "Christmas in July" bell ringing is an upcoming opportunity.



Today's Book presented to Elyria Public Library in honor of our speaker was, "Something Wild."

President Rob held a special raffle today for those attending. The winner, drawn by Captain Tracy, was **Jim Hunt** – a box of chocolates he then gave to Leah.

Today's Chuckle, presented by Honorary Vice President Leah: Why do cows have cow bells?
Because their horns don't work.