

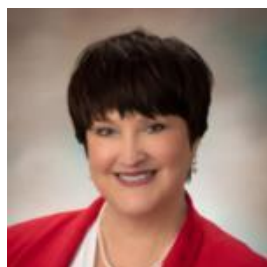


The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday, November 1, 2022

By Kristen Jones

President Rob called the meeting to order at 12:15pm with the ringing of the bell and the singing of "My Country 'tis of Thee."

Today's invocation given by **Past President Amanda Deery**, was a Universal Prayer of Peace for All Faiths. Peace...Peace...Peace.

Kent Iler on tech duties today.

Song of the Day

Mark Mathes led us in "Sing Out a Song of Rotary", and we were so glad to have **Joanie** back on the keys as well.

New Member and Guests:

President Rob welcomed and noted our newest member in attendance: **Jim Miller**.

November 8th Program at Wesleyan Village
Special Program Honoring our Club's Veterans
Please plan to attend!

Pete Shilling introduced a guest from North Ridgeville Rotary Club, and **Dave Pacanosky** introduced our student of the day, Troy Wise.

Guest Student

Troy Wise is a senior at Midview, and he has a stellar GPA and is a member of NHS. Activities include participation in sports teams, marching band, food pantry, and canine search and rescue teams. He hopes to attend Akron or CWRU in biology/biomed.

Announcements

- Thanks to the Rotarians who helped with the Boo Drive Thru!
- We will be sending a Trivia team to the Lorain Rotary event on Saturday. We could use one or two more people to join in, and our Club pays the admission. Contact **Steve Hosler** if you're game.
- **Dianne Brehm** issued a reminder that there are a few people who haven't yet turned in their Apple Festival ticket money.

- The 2023 Peace Conference will be held at University of Toledo Law School on Saturday, 11/19. Contact **Jeanine Donaldson** for more information.



Today's Speaker – Uh...

President Rob alerted us to the fact that today's program had to cancel due to an emergency. So those hoping for Vodka samples were sorely disappointed.

Nonetheless, there was QUITE the topic at hand for an impromptu Club Assembly; namely, the ongoing location for our Club meetings.

Wesleyan Village has issued the decision that there will be no more food available for any of our meetings. Additionally, charges for the room and/or beverage service are now being implemented.

COVID, Village management changes and staff shortages, and the drop in our attendance and those wanting a meal, have all been factors that contributed to the disruption. It was mentioned that the food quality at Wesleyan Village has also steadily declined over several years.

President Rob fielded a discussion of our options:

Option #1: Continue meeting at Wesleyan Village at a weekly room charge of \$35 per week with nothing provided, the cost of which would have to be eaten (no pun intended...) by the members through dues or by ERC as a whole. If the desire for food continues to be on the table (again, no pun intended) we would have to source it from another vendor, or members could bring their own lunches.

Option #2: Continue meeting at Wesleyan Village with a room cost PLUS beverage service only, for a fee of \$65 per week.

Option #3: Develop a search committee and find a potential new location.



A number of questions were asked, and discussion ensued. There were suggestions of other locations as well as nonprofits that

wouldn't charge a room fee, as well as food vendor options. There were ideas of revising the way we meet as a Club, e.g., bi-weekly formal meetings, coupled each month with a volunteerism day and a social event. There are several logistical considerations for any location pursued. Nothing has been determined, and Wesleyan Village is still confirmed as our location through at least the end of 2022.

Thanks were given to **Tammy Bertrand**, who always tries to be a positive advocate for the Elyria Rotary Club with the powers that be.



There was time for discussion at individual tables, but the subject matter will require more lengthy conversation.

Part Two of this Club Assembly will occur at our November 22 meeting.

In the meantime, should you have comments or suggestions, please contact **President Rob. See the handout on the following page.**

There will be a hot lunch, TBD, planned for next week's meeting - a special program honoring our Club's Veterans -- at Wesleyan Village, and more information will be distributed by the end of the week.

Club Assembly
November 1, 2022

Topics of Discussion:

Causes of the situation we're in:

Covid disrupted our routine.
Food quality
Low purchasing of lunch

Is the club happy in the current location? Should the club continue to meet at Wesleyan Village? Should the club increase dues to offset the facility fee?

New location suggestions. Points to be considered.

1. Parking
2. Handicap accessibility
3. Importance of food: Food options/hot food/box lunch/bring your own
4. Importance of Piano

What can be done to encourage current members to return to weekly meetings?

Ideas for growing the club membership.

Ideas for club programs?