

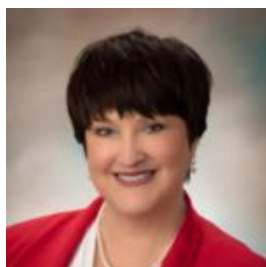


The Ramrod

Chartered in 1918

News of the Elyria Ohio Rotary Club

Visit the: Elyria Rotary web site: elyriarotary.org



Tuesday, November 8, 2022

By Kristen Jones

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

Today's meeting began with the Presentation of the Colors, presented by the Cadets of the Elyria High Junior ROTC.



November 15 – at Wesleyan Village
"How the Government Can Help You Preserve Your History" – Andrew Lipian

Today's invocation given by **Past President Jeanine Donaldson**, with a touching poem honoring Veterans. "On the 8th Day, God looked at His Creation and knew He needed a hero...so God made a Veteran."

Mark King was on tech duties today, and **Kristen Jones** was also on photo duty.

Special Powerpoint Presentation Honoring our Club's Veterans

We were treated to a rotating slideshow highlighting the service of our Club's Veterans. **President Rob** expressed appreciation to **Mark King, Mark Mroz, and Greg Kruszka** for their efforts in putting together the special presentation and today's program. Thanks also to **President Rob** for coordinating the luncheon. ***The presentation is attached as a special link to the Ramrod.***

Guests

We were joined today by numerous guests – we welcomed the EHS JROTC Cadets, many public safety officials, Wesleyan

Village Veterans and spouses, Veteran guests and family members, and **Assistant DG Tony Cuevas**. We extended a hearty welcome to all.

Announcements

- Congratulations to our Trivia team, who placed third in the Lorain Rotary event.
- The 2023 Peace Conference will be held at University of Toledo Law School on Saturday, 11/19. Contact **Jeanine Donaldson** for more information.
- Our Elyria Rotary Club annual meeting will take place at the Tuesday, 11/22 meeting.
- Next week's meeting menu will be Italian Sausage w/peppers and onions. Please sign up and RSVP in advance. Thanks to all who are making these meals happen!



Rotary Foundation Month

President Rob invited **Past President Janet Long** to the podium for her preview of the month ahead.

November marks Veteran's Day, and today marks Election Day – but we also mark this

month with special emphasis on the important work of the Rotary Foundation.

We will encourage donations this month by having two special raffles:

- For each \$100 contributed to the Rotary Foundation, each person will receive one ticket in a raffle for \$500.
- For each \$20 contribution to Polio Plus, each person will receive a raffle ticket for a Liquor Basket.
- Both raffles will occur on December 5.

Please give generously.

Recognition of Veterans

President Rob called the Cadets back to assist in the Club's recognition of branches of the armed services, with the help of **Joanie** on the keys. Veterans were asked to stand as their service branch was named. At the end, all those with a family member who served were asked to stand, which left very few left seated. Thank you to all for your service to our country.



Program – Honor Flight Cleveland – Jacob Smith

Mark Mroz introduced our program and speaker, **Jacob Smith**, executive director of Lorain County Veterans Services, and

President and Director of Flight Operations for Honor Flight Cleveland (HFC).



Honor Flight began as an idea generated out of Ohio, with the first flight having taken place here in 2005. After COVID delays, HFC is just getting back to their regular flights, and they have provided 5 full flights to Veterans this year.



HFC provides a full day trip to Washington DC for Veterans to be able to experience the war memorials. There is no cost to Veterans. The day begins at the crack of dawn with a flight to Baltimore, where the group is greeted in the airport as conquering heroes. All the memorials are visited, as well as Arlington National Cemetery.

Jacob showed clips of video and photos, and relayed touching stories of these life-changing experiences for our Nation's

finest. Most of the Vets now experiencing Honor Flight are from the Korea and Vietnam eras, but next will be the Desert Wars.

If you are a WWII Veteran or know of someone who is, they would jump to the front of the line in terms of priority. Please contact Honor Flight Cleveland as soon as possible.

HFC is funded by donations. You can participate as a volunteer (or "Guardian") to escort Veterans for the day-long trip. If you are a Veteran yourself, the first trip is at no cost to you. Others, or subsequent trips, are \$250 for the Guardian, to cover costs.

Learn more about Honor Flight Cleveland, and see more first-hand experiences, on their [Facebook Page](#), or their [Website](#).

Today's Book presented to the Elyria Public Library in honor of our speaker is, "The Secret Signs of Nature."

Closing

President Rob then called on the Honor Guard to Retire the Colors, and with that, the meeting was adjourned. Thank you to all our guests and Veterans who joined us for today's special meeting.

