



Kalamazoo Rotary News



Monday March 29, 2004

Edited by Sandra J. Bliesener

Upcoming Programs:

March 29, 2004 **A New Library Commons:
Connecting the Kalamazoo College Campus to the World**
Lisa Palchik

April 5, 2004 **Gilmore International Keyboard Festival**
Dan Gustin

Rotary Monday March 15, 2004:

After singing the national anthem, **DICK ST. JOHN** gave an “Old Irish Blessing” for the invocation and Robert Ford read the WKZO version of the current news. **JUDY JOLIFFE** brought everyone up to date with the current Arts News.

Visiting Rotarians:

President RICK called on Table Hosts to introduce visiting Rotarians. **JOE HERDUS** introduced Matthew Mace from the Portage Club and John Domanick from Kalamazoo Sunrise.

Guests:

ED GORDON introduced his wife Alice; **DIETHER HAENICKE** introduced the Kalamazoo Community in Schools Foundation (KCIS) Board; **DEB CHOPE-HUGHES** introduced Jeanne Grubb; **PAM KINGERY** introduced the KCIS Staff, including Larry Lueth, Jim Harrington, Rebekah Fennell, Yvonne Conner, Bob McDonough, Laurie Kmen, Jennifer Engemann and Coby Chalmers; **ROB PETERSON** introduced Ken Barnard; **President RICK BRISCOE** introduced Barb Updike; **RALPH JARL** introduced his daughter Polly Freer; **JANICE BROWN** introduced Alex Lee and Elriw Hurley.

Songs:

GERRY ALBERTSON and **JOHN DILLWORTH** led Rotarians through the “WMU Fight Song” in honor of the great success of the Western men’s basketball team in the conference championship. **GERRY** also led us through a surprisingly well done tribute to Kalamazoo Public Schools to the tune of “The Marine Song.”

New Members:

CRAIG MISNER introduced two new members. The first, **DR. GARRETT BOERSMA** of K-RESA, with a classification of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education, has been a teacher for 39 years. He attended Kalamazoo College and Western, was Director of the Special Education Program for Kalamazoo Public Schools, then spent several years in Virginia as an Assistant Professor assisting families in the Navy. He came back to Kalamazoo 13 years ago and became Director of Special Education at Portage and Vicksburg schools. **GARRETT** started at K-RESA this year, and is the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Programs. The programs serve over 500 students, and span from birth to 26 years of age. The second, **LYNNE COWART**, also of K-RESA with a classification of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education, was born and raised in Cleveland. She attended Miami of Ohio and George Washington University before joining VISTA. She went to San Joaquin, California where she met and married her husband Jim within a six week period. They worked in California, New Haven, Connecticut, Ann Arbor then Kalamazoo. **LYNNE** and Jim live in the West Main neighborhood, and she worked with **CRAIG** in the Parchment School District for 26 years before joining K-RESA last August. Welcome **GARRETT and LYNNE!**

Committee Reports/Announcements:

D. TERRY WILLIAMS spoke briefly about the Rotary Arts Committee, which he co-chairs with **MARGARET MERRION**. The committee's mission is to enhance Rotarian's awareness and appreciation of the arts in Kalamazoo. One of their objectives is to develop proposals to bring to the Rotary Board to make us all daily, addicted users of the arts.

JOE HAKIM announced that, after a great deal of soul-searching and conversations with Bill Johnston, he will be resigning his position at the Radisson and pursuing his dream of owning his own hotel. He has enjoyed the eight years he has spent in Kalamazoo, and hopes to have great success in Columbus, Ohio. Good luck **JOE!**

AMY KRONE announced that a Blood Drive will be held next week. Two (more) good reasons to give: 1) four Rotarians have each pledged five dollars for every pint of blood given, and 2) giving blood will count for one meeting make-up.

President RICK presented a check from **PP NANCY OWEN** to the Kalamazoo Rotary Charities for the purchase of six pairs of tickets to "Dancing on Wheels". The tickets were then auctioned off to **BOB SPIEGELMAN, JANICE BROWN, and KEITH ROE** for \$30.00 per pair.

Happy Bucks:

President **RICK** and **JANICE BROWN** both paid for her not wearing her Rotary pin in a recent photograph.

Rotary Program:

PAT DIGIOVANNI introduced **DR. JANICE BROWN**, Superintendent of the Kalamazoo Public Schools. Contrary to the belief of one KPS student, her job as Superintendent is not to be the Mayor's wife. She describes her job as advocating for the students, with the primary goal of high literacy levels. Unfunded mandates such as No Child Left Behind and Education YES programs require every school district to be accountable for the students, and KPS is making progress in all areas of concern. A recent survey showed that 96% of community members involved with KPS graded the schools with an A or B, indicating that KPS is meeting the challenges that are presented.

Rotary Monday March 22, 2003:

President-Elect **TIM BROWN** opened the meeting, **AMY KRONE** gave the invocation and Robert Ford read the WKZO version of the current news. **D. TERRY WILLIAMS** gave the Arts News.

Visiting Rotarians:

President-Elect TIM called on Table Hosts to introduce visiting Rotarians. **JOE BROGGER JR.** introduced Rev. Steve Charmley from the Gull Lake Club; **GREG TAYLOR** introduced today's speaker, Rizek Abusharr from the Jerusalem Club; **RIC WORDELL** introduced Paul Ballard from the Portage Club and Tom Duisterhof from the Grand Rapids Club; and **BLAKE HART** introduced David Becker from the Portage Club.

Guests:

THELL WOODS introduced Andrew Vorbrich; **ROBERT BROWN** introduced Steve Halasz; **HENRY HOLLAND** introduced Larry Baker; **BOB COLEMAN** introduced Sandy Derby; **GORDON DUISTERHOF** introduced his wife Merlyn; **REV. JOHNNY THOMPKINS** introduced Suzanne Rhoades Tidey; **KEITH MUMMA** introduced Joe Deluca; **NORMAN HAMANN JR.** introduced Valerie Wright; **DUWAIN HUNT** introduced Don Dillon and Nicole Horton who stars as Anna in "The King and I".

Songs:

Although initially reluctant to drown out her beautiful voice, Rotarians eventually joined Anna in singing "Whistle a Happy Tune" and "Getting to Know You".

New Member:

BOB KENT introduced **STEVE KREIDER**, a former member and Past President of the Battle Creek Club. Steve was born in the Upper Peninsula and his parents still reside in Iron Mountain. He received his Business degree from Western, worked at Michigan National and Old Kent Banks in Richland and Battle Creek. He currently is the Manager of the Private Banking Department at Fifth Third Bank in Kalamazoo. He has been married to his wife Jane, a daycare provider, for 20 years. They have four children (three sons and one daughter) who range in age from 19 to 10, and are involved in a variety of sports and activities. Welcome **STEVE!**

Committee Reports/Announcements:

GORDON DUISTERHOF spoke about the Polio Eradication committee, the goal of which is to continue to promote contributing to Rotary International's Polio Eradication program until we reach a level of 100% participation. In addition, they educate the club about the status of world-wide efforts.

PETE SCHMA was not present, but if he had been he would have announced that our Monday, April 26 meeting will actually be held Friday, April 30 in Battle Creek at the District Conference. Sign-up for that meeting will begin next week – both reservations and payment (\$20.00) will be required in advance.

PP NANCY OWEN has organized a Fireside Chat on Tuesday, April 20 at the Park Club. You don't have to be a new member to come and learn more about Rotary.

The Group Study Exchange Committee still has opportunities available for host families. See **MARY MCCORMICK** if you are interested.

Happy Bucks:

There wasn't enough time to give everyone an opportunity to offer happy bucks, but money was given for the success of both the WMU and KVCC teams.

Rotary Program:

MARVIN LUDWIG introduced Rizek Abusharr, Rotarian and retired director of the Jerusalem International YMCA, who spoke about peace initiatives in the Middle East. Rizek lives in Jerusalem and his family has been in Jerusalem for over 500 years. The Jerusalem International YMCA espouses respect for others, and that is what is missing in the ongoing conflict in the region. Understanding of the different opinions that exist is one of the keys to a successful resolution.

Kalamazoo Rotary Club Make-Up List, March 22, 2004:

<u>BATTLE CREEK, MI:</u>	Joe Licavoli
<u>BOARD MEETING:</u>	Rick Briscoe, Tim Brown, Drew Elliott, Blake Hart, Glen Kellam, Bob Kent, Mary McCormick, Keith Roe
<u>EAST NASSAU - BAHAMAS:</u>	Bud Betts, Tom Thomas
<u>EDITARIAN:</u>	Sandy Bliesener
<u>GALESBURG, MI:</u>	Don Gilmer, Joe Herdus
<u>GULL LAKE AREA, MI:</u>	Dave Boutell, Dave Ticknor
<u>KALAMAZOO SUNRISE:</u>	Mary McLean, Mary Jo St. John
<u>N. PALM BEACHES, FL:</u>	Bob Britigan
<u>OSHTEMO, MI:</u>	Howard Dooley, Jerry B. Love, Carl Walker, Greta Williams
<u>PARCHMENT, MI:</u>	Don Flesche, Mary McLean, Bob Straits, Carl Walker (2)
<u>PORTAGE, MI:</u>	Brent Bierma, Brian Kaufman, Mary McLean, Greta Williams
<u>SOUTH MANATEE, FL:</u>	Cecil Kerr (2)
<u>STRIVE 03/05/04:</u>	Gerry Albertson, Gifford Blaylock, Steve Duisterhof, Jill Eldred, Jim Holtgreive, Glen Kellam, James Kneen, Jennifer Lang, Karl Sandelin, Mary Jo St. John, Johnny Thompkins, Ric Wordell
<u>??:</u>	Bob Britigan

Walking Together Project – An Update and Invitation to Participate

**Join the Mayors of Kalamazoo and Portage in *First Steps into Spring*
Centennial Park, Portage – by Grain Elevator on Garden Lane
April 14, 6:30 PM registration – walk begins at 7:00 PM**

Responsive to the concerns we all share about the need to contain ever increasing health costs, many of which can be avoided if we are physically more active, the boards of the Rotary clubs of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Sunrise and Portage approved ***Walking Together*** as an appropriate project to develop. A steering committee comprised of Rotarians, WMU staff and representatives of the hospitals, businesses, health advisors and others have been at work for a year and are now inviting the community to participate. **Walking** was selected because it is affordable by all, and it is effective.

During the year news media increasingly devote space to the crisis that is developing with health care costs. From Lansing we learn that physical inactivity in 2002 cost \$1175 per adult in Michigan (this approaches 5 billion dollars annually!). Michigan is one of the least healthy states, Detroit is designated the fattest city in the nation and Kalamazoo County is the third fattest county – need we say more about the need for a change?

The May 2003 Rotarian devoted space to the health problem and urged Rotarians to become involved. Our view: if Rotarians have the ability and staying power necessary to eradicate polio, surely we can affect a needed change in our communities. Rotarians represent all segments of the community, enjoy respect and trust, and are uniquely able to bring about the needed effort.

We believe that by bringing together the community around the task of working toward a healthier community, it will happen. It is in our interest from so many points of view to effect a change – it is surprisingly simple: increase physical activity. It will take time and education, but the results are positive: healthier individuals, lower costs of health and lower costs to individuals and businesses – resulting in a community that is better able to retain and attract businesses.

The Portage City Council passed a resolution of support on March 23, the Kalamazoo City Commission will do so on April 5, and the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners will do so on April 6. We thus have the governmental agencies publicly asking the community to join in an endeavor toward a healthier community. Now the real work begins – we need your help!

The effort has to start somewhere – come show your support on April 14 by coming to the walk at 6:30. Join the Mayors!

And, after that, join Mayor Bob's walking group in Kalamazoo Rotary!

Karl Sandelin