

Rotary News January 16, 2017

President Bryan Zocher called the meeting to order. After Tim Kilmartin led us in the National Anthem, Rotarian Dan Hartlieb gave the invocation—relating to Martin Luther King Day, which we celebrate today.

Visiting Rotarians were introduced, including **District Governor, Bill Smith**. **Guests** were acknowledged as a group, due to the number of visitors today.

Arts News was given by D. Terry Williams, focusing on the offerings this next week.

Songs: Tim Kilmartin shared some quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr., to inspire us to sing “We Shall Overcome.”

History Minute: Tim Brown took us back to Jan. 6, 1942, which was the Rotary Club’s first meeting after Pearl Harbor had been attacked. The club gathered and listened to President Roosevelt’s State of the Union Address. They also attempted to raise \$30,400 which had been requested by the Red Cross.

Membership Minute: Dann Sytsma recognized Bill DeBoer for his leadership and his group’s work on Club Contributions Committee.

Announcements: President Bryan announced that the Board had approved naming John Polzin as an honorary member. He also shared the criteria they use in presenting an honorary membership: (1) a long time member of the club; (2) significant service to the club/community; (3) no longer unable to attend meetings.

Adopt A Family Report: Bob Squire thanked the club for the financial support of his committee and their project, which was a great success. Troy Thrash and Cheri Bell shared their stories of involving their families in shopping, wrapping, and delivering the Christmas gifts to the families selected. This is obviously a worthwhile project we will continue.

Happy Bucks: Henry Holland for his son interning with Rep. Fred Upton; Jim Cupper for Habitat for Humanity Event Feb. 28; Sid Ellis for *All Ears Theatre* Saturday evening—he is performing; Amy Rimmert for Raymond Harvey’s last “World Of” event, and his continued excellence; Steve Charnley for the MLK event at Mt. Zion Church; Steve Duisterhof for a visit to the MLK Center in Atlanta—and recommendation that all attending RI convention this summer make sure to visit; Sally Reames for staff and board members here as her guests today; Lisa Godfrey for John Polzin; and Ann Fergemann for a Kalamazoo Community Foundation event January 24th.

Program: Rotarian Ed Sackley introduced Congressman Fred Upton who updated the club on the 21st Century Cures legislation passed recently. 58888888It was definitely bi-partisan with 92% of the House and 94% of the Senate voting for it. Legislation will benefit disease research, faster approvals by FDA, and we will see impact at companies like Stryker locally.

When asked about the next Congress and legislative year, Fred responded “It’s a different time in D.C.” He also responded to a question about climate change by saying he was not a denier, that progress had been made during the last administration and that we needed to continue to look at new technologies and work with other nations. On the Affordable Care Act, he said we will not see repeal, without a replacement plan. Rep. Upton has just finished 6 years as Chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. He will now chair the Subcommittee on Energy, working on energy technologies, safety for pipelines, security for the grid, etc.