

Kalamazoo Rotary, October 16, 2017
Editorial Amy Remmert

President Tim Kilmartin called the meeting to order and we sang the National Anthem accapella. Nathan Dannison did the invocation.

Songs: We had two very talented guests to present a special vocal edition of our musical moment. Artists from the Farmer's Alley Theater sang two pieces from the current showing of "Gypsy." An amazing performance. There is still a week left for you to get to this showing of Gypsy.

Mary Zoeller and Jeanne Brandenberger asked each table to take a little quiz on where Polio is in the worlds scheme of things. Questions were then presented at the podium and members were asked to answer them. Not too bad on the outcome. Which led Jeanne into the announcement that next week, October 24th is World Polio Day. On Monday, October 23rd, we will be asking everyone to make their donations to Polio Plus. Remember, for every dollar donated, Bill Gates will match with two. We are this ---- close to eradicating Polio. Only 11 new cases to report this year.

Announcements: Tim spoke about Rotary International's attempt to get everyone to set up and use "MY ROTARY" account to do their donations. This is a great way for you to track and see your contributions over the year and lifetime. Don't forget the 501 at Jeff Ross' office at 259 E Michigan Ave, on Thursday, October 19th.

New member Introduction: Christopher Schram was introduced at today's meeting by Cindy Trout. Chris is Cindy's boss at the KIA. He recently decided that he wanted to live in Kalamazoo because of the great amenities and the KALAMAZOO INSTITUTE of ARTS. He and his husband adopted two children and are so grateful for the Kalamazoo Promise.

SPEAKER

Pete Strasda is the Mayor of Portage and is, in his professional life, WMU's Facility's Manager. Pete talked about sustainability at WMU and what they have done and are doing to manage energy costs. When, in 1994 the psychiatric hospital on Oakland began downsizing, WMU took ownership of the old coal fired power plant. Smokestacks used to pump out tons of thick black smoke. Western's ultimate goal was to convert to natural gas.

Today, sustainable energy has saved or avoided costs of \$120,000,000! Recent and future development will use LEED principles. Solar is becoming a standard in many areas around campus, including roof top panels on Sangren, the solar garden at the BTR park, and Miller Auditorium Parking lot to mention a few.

Areas that make all this happen include, heat recovery, daylight harvesting, lighting conversion and more. Western is doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases.

Western, with their presidential leadership and in conjunction with Pete's outstanding leadership, are leaving the campus in better condition than they found it.