

Kalamazoo Rotary Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2017

The November 13th meeting began with Rotarians and guests joining together to sing the National Anthem. Rotarian Aaron then led the inspirational invocation.

The meeting was then brought to order by President Tim.

Arts Report - Rotarian Laura Latiolais reviewed a wide array of Arts events, activities, performances and exhibitions lined up for the week ahead.

Introductions of Visiting Rotarians and Guests – Several visiting Rotarians from Portage, Mid-Cities and Three Rivers, along with a number of guests, were introduced and received a warm welcome.

Songs – In recognition of Veteran’s Day, Rotarian Susan Sunday and President Tim led the group in a musical “Armed Services Medley” salute to all branches of the service.

Operation Ray – Rotarian Don gave a rundown of places where packages have been sent to service personnel and read some touching letters of appreciation.

New Member Introductions: Rotarian Deb introduced new member Christina Duran, Director of Development at Catholic Charities. Rotarian Steve D. introduced new member Nick Boyd, Director of Primerica.

Announcements:

Casa Amparo: Rotarian Dan announced that donations from fellow Rotarians would be much appreciated to help make a special Christmas for the girls at Casa.

Polio Plus: President Tim announced that the “bike ride-a-thon” benefitting Polio Plus at West Hills on Sunday was a success and that it’s not too late to participate!

Holiday Bell Ringing: Rotarians are encouraged to participate in the annual “Bell Ringing” for Salvation Army. (to age 5). Shifts are still available!.

Program - Rotarian Heather introduced Keith Hopkins, Non-Profit Fundraising Consultant. He has been working in this field since 2007. His topic focused on philanthropy.

- \$390 billion was donated to charity in the U.S. last year, an increase of 1.4% over prior year.
- 63 million Americans served as volunteers to assist charities last year.
- Who gives? Surprisingly, most generous percentage of annual income donated were those who made \$25,000 or less.
- Average American family gives 3% of annual income.

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Program – Philanthropy – Continued

- Percentage of Americans who give is shrinking
- Donations made in Kalamazoo County (2012) by:
 - Individuals – 70%
 - Foundations – 22%
 - Business – 4%
 - Estate Gifts – 4%
- Giving has been shown to be one of the most central things that make people happy.
 - Keith gave several examples of individuals who made a difference through their generosity – some of whom were not wealthy but everyday working people who had saved dollars over the years to donate and “make a difference”.
- Keith closed with final thoughts we can all take to heart: “When you give, you light a candle in the darkness”.

Next Week’s Meeting: Features Rotary’s annual “Soup and Salad” lunch, with the first of the Human Trafficking series as the Program..

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.