

## Rotary News December 19, 2016

PP Jim Cupper called the meeting to order. After the National Anthem, Rotarian Jeff Ross gave the invocation.

**Arts News** was given by Jim Bridenstine, focusing on the holiday offerings from now until we meet again in January.

**Guests** were acknowledged as a group, due to the number of visitors today.

**Membership Minute:** Dann Sytsma recognized John Dillworth for his consistent musical contributions to our meetings.

**Nominating Committee Report:** PP Jim presented the report of the nominating committee for a vote today: President Elect, Jeannie Brandenberg; President Nominee, Heather Isch; Secretary, Nancy Peterson; Treasurer, Lisa Anspaugh. New board members include Dann Sytsma and Troy Thrash. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate by acclamation. Congratulation to all!

**Career Connections:** C.J. Washington, student at Loy Norrix High School, was introduced and reported on his "connection" with a counselor at WMU. He is interested in a career at the high school or college level as a counselor and thanked the club for the opportunity to visit with someone in this profession.

### **Announcements:**

**\*There are no weekly meetings on December 26 or January 2.**

\*Susan Sunday was thanked for coordinating the Salvation Army Bells days, and \$2960 was raised by Rotarians.

**Program:** PP Joe Brogger introduced the program for the day—*Problem Solving Courts in Kalamazoo County*. Guests/speakers included Sara Green, Drug Treatment Court Manager; Judges Anne Blatchford, Robert Kropf, Curtis Bell, and Pam Lightvoet. The courts outlined in their presentation included: Men's Drug Treatment Court, Women's Drug Treatment Court, Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, Family Dependence Program, Youth Treatment & Recovery Program, and a new Veteran's Treatment Court which will begin operation in March. The program also included very inspiring stories and testimonials given by three graduates of the courts.

The Men's Drug Treatment Court is about \$300,000 per year. They currently have about 100 in the program, with a waiting list of 15. This compares to a cost of \$30,000-\$40,000/year per individual to be incarcerated.

The format for the courts include meetings each week, counseling, development of plans for individuals according to their needs, and the new Veterans' Court will include mentors.

It was obvious that Kalamazoo County is fortunate to have these problem solving courts in our community, and these judges dedicated to helping individuals rebuild their lives. Colleen McBride and Jack Urban both urged Rotarians to take advantage of Sara Green's invitation to visit the courts by calling her at 383-6469.