

Rotary News Dec. 5, 2016
Editorial Rebecca Pierce

President Bryan Zocher called the meeting to order. The National Anthem, played by the Salvation Army Concert Band, was followed by the Invocation offered by Laura Latiolais.

Volunteering

Susan Sunday introduced Salvation Army representatives. Rotarians have signed up to serve, so they have a full slate of Bell-Ringers, but some substitutes would be welcome. Email or call Susan if you would like to serve as a substitute.

Fund-raising

President Bryan announced the following fund-raising updates:

- Rotarians reached their goal of \$2,500 to help families in need during the holidays.
- More than \$1,600 was raised in one day for the PolioPlus campaign.

Arts events

Past president Jim Bridenstine offered the Arts News, highlighting outstanding special events and programs at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts; as well as music and theater in the upcoming week.

Guests

There were no visiting Rotarians and many guests were announced. Guest cards were filled out for: Eric Dougal, Kurt Elliott, Scott Harmsen, Sue Rush, Dean Miars, Sue Rush and Morgan Schut.

Membership minute

Membership Development Director Mary Zoeller asked Rotarians to take a moment to think about any significant scars they have received and how those scars have had an impact on their lives.

Announcements

President Brian informed the group that Rotarian Jim Mosby has been diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and will be undergoing treatment. He is currently in the hospital receiving blood transfusions and cannot have visitors, but would welcome email messages or cards. A moment of silence was offered in support for Jim.

Happy Bucks

Rotarians offered their thanks for a variety of special people, places and events.

Program

Past president Jim Cupper presented speaker Steven Broglio, PhD and University of Michigan Associate Professor who discussed recent findings on Sports Concussions. Broglio is the Director of the NeuroTrauma Research Laboratory at the School of Kineiseology.

The University of Michigan holds the largest sports concussion database in the world. Until recent years, the issue was largely unknown. Now, because of increased media coverage, concussions are being recognized as a problem. Broglio pointed to the many fallacies about sports concussions, particularly pertaining to collegiate and professional football players. But the greater concern involves high school athletes and other sports, such as wrestling and ice hockey, which have the highest probability of concussion. Female athletes are at higher risk and face longer recovery times, he noted.

Medical science knows little about the brain. “Where we were with the heart in the 1950s is where we are with the brain today,” Broglio said.

The University of Michigan is in the process of a 30-year study tracking the students. It will be the largest study ever done on this subject. In it, they will examine: Prospective longitudinal research, rules changes and enforcement and equipment improvements.

Broglio made it clear that the answer to these types of injuries should not be to ban these sports, because exercise is important for the brain and necessary for optimal health, but these sports should be made safer.

Program next week: Cradle Kalamazoo: Ending Infant Mortality Together by Grace Lubwama, YWCA Chief Executive Officer; and Catherine L. Kothari, PhD, Assistant Professor at the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine.

Note: No Dec. 26 or Jan. 2 Rotary meetings because of the holidays.