

Rotary Meeting - July 24, 2017 - Editorian, Amy Remmert

President Elect Jeanne Brandenberger announced the National Anthem. Invocation by Steve Springsdorf who reflected on a Book Filled with Hope.

D Terry Williams presented the arts news. Visit [www.kalamazooarts.com](http://www.kalamazooarts.com) for more information.

Visiting Rotarian: Bill Dimond and from Mt. Clemons, Kevin Keller, Past District Governor.

Guests: Deb Harris brought Nicky Tarchala, Steve Duisterhof, Jeremiah Smith; Chris Shook brought Sue Brockelbank; Caroline Ham brought Bob Sinabro; Cheri Bell brought Emiliana Renvart; Kurt Elliott brought Dan Ingles Mary Zoeller, Bonnie Beckton.

Susan Sunday - Music -With imagination being the theme for the program, we sang, Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

Membership Minute: Mary Zeller and Dan Sytsema recognized folks from the Student Exchange program. Craig Meisner received a trophy for his efforts and Allison Hammond got the cool shades because she is such a cool host. Vaughn Washington got a very special cards signed by students of the Rotary is for Reading initiative..

Joe Brogger announcement: Junior Nationals is celebrating its 75th anniversary. There will be an expanded draw. Have lunch and see top seeds and get a makeup for Rotary. It's 10 for lunch any day during the week. And don't forget that August 5th is the exhibition with Andy Rodick. Tickets on sale on line.

Kurt Elliott introduced a new member Rotary member and good friend - Dan Ingles. Dan emphasised that "Mentorship" is important and he will be participating in Strive. Dan also had a Strive mentee in high school, the now Past district governor from Traverse city. For him, everything is now coming full circle. Raised by a single mother, his interest is in personal finance. He spent six years in the military having gotten his start in ROTC at Central Michigan.

Kevin Kelly, Rotary Foundation major gift director for one of the Michigan Districts. Past 35 million matching dollars by Bill Gates, this year continues support up to 50 million for the next three years.

Ed Sackley introduced the program focused on Urban Growth in Kalamazoo presented by DKI and City of Kalamazoo Community Planning and Development Director, Rebekah Kik and Andrew Haan, President of DKI Partnership.

The Mission of these two entities is to have a world class downtown that draws people there to live, work and play. Their Vision is to create a Kalamazoo that is connected and accessible, equitable and vibrant let alone, Friendly & Full of opportunity.

There is a 2% vacancy rate on the residency side and there is the potential for an estimated \$500 million in retail sales that the Kalamazoo Market can capture. There are currently 180 residential units under construction.

The vision is to have a “Connected City” brought about by “Marketing and Branding” with the help from “Business Recruitment” and providing “Walkable Amenities” with “Anchor Districts” and through “Coordinated Management”.

Rebekah Kik has been working with planners to turn streets from One-Way to Two-Way. Three are targeted: Park and Westnedge, Kalamazoo and Michigan, South and Lovell. Partnerships are needed to help fund these projects because public dollars are harder to find.

Some of the challenges in the retail market in downtown are focused on difficult navigation in and around shopping areas, parking management, limited marketing and a lack of relevance to university students. Ideas include: two hours free parking in the ramps to encourage use, and meters on streets to limit long term on the streets.

**Don't forget membership dues were due July 1st but the Board approved a 30 day extension. So, you have until the end of July to get your payments in. We are now accepting credit cards.**

Next week 5th Monday Funday with guest speaker Jeff Breneman, Spectrum Public Affairs, “Draining the Swamp.”