

Rotary Club of Battle Creek

RotoScoop

March 3, 2025

Upcoming Speakers and Events

03 10 2025	At the Foodbank. No regular meeting.
03 17 2025	Mary Fortney, Disability Network of South West Michigan
03 24 2025	Chris Cooley, Herbal Life Distributor and Student of the Month
03 28 2025	Board Meeting - First Congregational Church, Noon, Board room
03 29 2025	BEE BOX BUILD (construction day), 9 am - 12 pm, Loc TBD
03 31 2025	Fifth Monday Social/Strategic Planning, First Congregational Church, 5:01
04 07 2025	Strategic Planning, Don Sovey / 90 minutes

Bella Bellez

Community Outreach and Events Coordinator
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council



Bela Ballez of Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and Kathy Gallagher

The Kalamazoo River is badly impaired due to paper industries in the area dumping toxic waste into the river for years. PCBs, known as forever chemicals, remain in the river, making fish from the river unsafe to eat. The Kalamazoo River starts in Hillsdale County and the watershed it is part of reaches west to Lake Michigan. In 1993, a plan was developed to clean up the river and the Watershed Council was formed as an advisor board to that effort. It was also involved in the 2010 Enbridge Oil Spill clean-up. The Council continues to address ongoing problems in addition to the PCBs, such as non-point source pollution, deteriorating dams, loss of wetlands, and other contaminants. It also works with the communities along the river to connect people to the river through clean-up projects and youth programming.

The Council will be participating in the May 19, 2025 Clean-Up day. Three different locations along the river are targeted and all Rotary Clubs in the District are invited to help. For more information about the Council go [HERE](#).

Other News

Potential New Member Attends Monday's Meeting



Kathy Gallagher and Jose Celorio-Escandon, Battle Creek Public Schools Communications Manager

Hero Nominations Open

We are taking nominations for this year's Club Hero. Our Club Hero will be honored with other Club Heroes from throughout our district at a special Heroes Dinner at the upcoming District Conference in South Haven. This dinner is Saturday, May 3.

The hero nomination must be for a current member of our Club. There are no specific guidelines, so it is up to each club to identify what makes a hero and how the nominees match that description.

Some clubs select a Hero who has:

- Successfully led a club project.
- Worked behind the scenes.
- Served the club over a number of years.
- Exemplifies a positive attitude that affects others.
- Contributed to the Club in a way that goes above and beyond what is required of a member.

If you want to nominate a club member, contact President [Rod Auton](#) or Secretary [Rita McPhail](#).

News From the Board

Budget: Treasurer Kelli Scott reported that going into the last quarter of our fiscal year we have a surplus of about \$15,000. These funds have accumulated because we are no longer paying an administrative assistant nor for room rental at the Kool Center.

Funds at BCCF: Several board members met at the end of January with the new CEO of the Battle Creek Community Foundation to review the funds that are held there. As a result of this meeting, we are updating the legal status of the Battle Creek Rotary Club Educational Fund to a Donor-Advised fund, which receives an annual distribution from the Rotary Club of Battle Creek/McPherson Fund. As we have not touched the spendable portion of these funds for a few years, there is a significant balance available. Additionally, the Rotary Club of Battle Creek Fund (Master) has an accumulated spendable amount which can be used for direct programming, community grants and projects, or support of other nonprofit organizations.

Strategic Planning: The Club will continue to work through the strategic planning process both at board meetings and at some upcoming club meetings. One area of particular importance is clarifying the club's focus and where we want to spend our funds. As work on the 2025-2026 budget begins in March, please share your input about what you think the club should focus on with a board member.

Contact [Chuck Asher](#), [Talia Champlin](#), or [Chad Kyger](#) if you have any ideas for programming.

Rotary Vision Statement

Together we see a world where **people** unite and take action to **create** lasting **change** across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Board of Directors July 2024–2025

Rod Auton, *President*

Chuck Asher, *President-Elect*

Ron Monte, *President-Nominee*

Rita McPhail, *Secretary*
Kelli Scott, *Treasurer*

Teresa Allen, *Community Service Chair*

Jill Anderson, *Immediate Past-President*

Kara Beer, *Director*

Tom Ebeling, *Director*

Kathy Gallagher, *Public Image Chair*

Ed Guzzo, *Director*

Charles Randall, *Director*

Michele Reid, *Rotary Foundation Chair*

Al Shifflett III, *Education Grants Chair*

Wilhelm Sturhan, *International Service Chair*