



February 17, 2025
Editorian: Amy Remmert

Today's meeting was called to order by President Taylor Huie, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Given by Rotarian Aaron Winters.

Arts News: Rotarian Dan Sytsma gave an "COMEDIC" presentation of many of the interesting and upcoming performances and arts related events this week in the area.

Foundation Minute: Jim Cupper gave us a few reasons to give to the RI Foundation. We get back funds through the District and donations are used for designated relief initiatives. Jim encouraged Rotarians to donate gift type items for gift baskets that will be used for fundraising activities.

Red Rose Award: Don't forget to put your thinking caps on. You may know of someone who deserves to be recognized with the Red Rose Award. Forms were distributed on tables for members to take in order to nominate a deserving individual for the award. Nominations are due April 7, and forms are on the website.

SATELLITE CLUB UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: Be on the lookout for future updates on Volunteer opportunities. The Satellite Club is planning a Youker Tournament that will be coming up soon. Additionally, Rotary is for Reading sign-up is available on the website. Please consider donating some time to read to our second graders about the importance of college. A fun and worthwhile activity. River clean-up is also on the horizon in the spring. We are looking to increase participation by Rotarian and the community at large.

New Member Introduction: Richard Underwood jokingly introduced himself by emphasizing that he needs cataract surgery and so he may not be reading the right information from his prepared notes. Richard is from Manchester England and has been in the US since 1998. He has three master's degrees, one in aviation, one in education and one in business. He is married to his American wife. He was a teacher in the aviation program at WMU. He is also a licensed Realtor. I'm sure I'm missing some of his long list of accomplishments but he loves to travel and has been to 43 countries, 40 US states and soon to add one more. He loves to hike, water ski, and has signed up to help Rotary on the Public Image committee.

Happy Bucks: Amy Remmert gave a happy "Fin" because Carrie Andrews has offered to home host the Rotoracter from Brazil while he is Kalamazoo. Aaron Winter gave three happy bucks because he survived somewhat sore chasing after three grandchildren. Jeff Murphy suggested to everyone that they may know his wife Brenda who has survived 57 years of marriage to Jeff. Martin Velten celebrated his high school daughter's last regional game. Dan Hartlieb gave a happy ten because he is now grandpa Dan to his daughters 9lb baby and Dan will soon be leaving for Casa Amparo to visit and do helpful things at the orphanage.

Rotarians Being Helpful in time of Need: Keith and Sally Mumma is spending a lot of time attending to their daughter who was diagnosed with brain cancer. So if you are inclined, you may help by signing up to prepare a meal to help them out.

Program: Lucinda Stinson introduced our speaker, Wendy Fields, President of the NAACP.

Wendy is the president of the NAACP and is also a member of the Galilee Baptist Church. Wendy gave us the background on the Springfield Race Riots where 5000 white people attacked the black community and force over 2000 out of their community. There was a call to action to fight for the rights of blacks, jews and whites. That is when WE DeBois organized the NAACP. The belief was that everyone has the right to dignity, human rights, equity and the elimination of discrimination with the emphasis on the importance of inclusion for everyone.

The NAACP partners with many like minded groups and is non-partisan. They work on getting out the vote and work closely with the League of Women Voters. They are intentional about issues that affect us all. Silence is not good. Contrary to popular belief, "Racism still exists."