



Flint Rotary World

Charter No. 220 – Rotary Club of Flint, Michigan – Organized April 7, 1916
Rotary theme for 2008-2009 – “Make Dreams Real”

Dong Kurn Lee, Seoul, Korea, President, Rotary International, - Carl "Kelly" Fotheringham, Mildmay, Canada Governor, District 6330

Coming up this week: Ruth Person, Chancellor, UM-Flint Last Friday’s speaker was: 8th District Genesee County Commissioner and Board Chair, Ted Henry.

President Roxanne kicked things off by recognizing **Mike Bourke’s** return after a rough period of illness. She reminded us that Literacy Project Chair **Katherine Gonser** is looking for three volunteers to assist her on distribution day. Contact her at kgonser1@yahoo.com to help. **David Smith** was recognized for being selected to compete in the Children’s Museum’s fund raiser “Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader?” He hoped his Mom would let him stay out that late. **President Roxanne** gave a status report on outstanding dues and pledges. We’re making progress, but we can do much better.

Rob Jewell began the program with his introduction of the speaker, **Commissioner Ted Henry, Genesee County Commission Board Chair**. Ted grew up in Swartz Creek and attended Mott Community College. A Viet Nam veteran and grandfather to four, he is serving his second term as 8th District Commission and was unanimously elected Board Chair.

Ted’s main message is that Genesee County cannot stand alone as it attempts to deliver services the need for which outstrips its resources. New mandates only add to the burden. “Petty fiefdoms” and “power struggles” make for good media copy but accomplish little else. He is optimistic that former Commissioner Mike Brown’s ascendancy to the office of mayor represents a genuine opportunity for returning to cooperative efforts with the City of Flint that may help fill the financial void.

Ted explained that Genesee County’s main responsibility is to pass a balanced budget. For 2007, every County department lost something as the Board carved out \$10 million of expense to balance the budget. 2008’s budget process heralded a new approach that brought Controller Martini together with department heads to propose adjustments which netted another \$10 million in savings. However, the declining economy’s impact on property values has added another \$1.75 million to the shortfall.

VITAL STATISTICS

From the Feb 27, 2009 meeting:

Tom Donaldson served as the greeter and handled set-up and take down. Introduction of guests and visiting Rotarians was provided by **Helen Philpott**. The 50/50 raffle was handled by **Kim Egerer**. **Kathryn Sauders** led us in song and **Reg Lancaster** offered the inspirational message. **Kevin Keane** recognized February birthdays. As always, thanks to pianist **Paul Vanston**. **Don Barrow** wanted **Jim Angle** to get credit for his assistance last week with set up and take down – he even wrote a funny explanation, but we ran out of room ;-).

Upcoming Programs

Mar 13 – Mayor Michael Brown, City of Flint
March 20, Jack Kay, Provost UM-Flint “The Holocaust”

Officers and Directors

President.....Roxanne Caine
President Elect.....Bobby Pestronk
Vice President James Franklin
Vice President Jerry Johnson
Director Joe Fioroni
Director Don Rockwell
Director Tiffany Flynn
Director Joy Martinbianco
Past President Michael Dach
Secretary/Treasurer Richard Cordell
Club Administrator Amy van der Putte

Fortunately, Mr. Henry explained that the County is not without valuable resources. The confluence of highways, rail, and air services make the Flint-area a powerful nexus of North American trade. Competitive land and building cost add to the mix to make economic development the top priority. Led by the Regional Chamber of Commerce, efforts to develop our area's inter-modal transportation hub continue with Fed Ex's cargo ramp soon to come on line. The effort has created new construction jobs and kept others in place. As a major employer, Genesee County brings hundreds of employees into downtown Flint every work day. Their presence, along with new student housing and the Land Bank's redevelopment of degraded properties are accelerating downtown redevelopment.

County Goals for 2009 include filing the vacant HR Director and Public Health Officer positions, early start of 2010 labor negotiations, reviewing the equitable distribution of senior millage revenues, establishing a governance committee to explore new organizational structures, and a thorough review of EMS ordinances and service delivery, among others. Thanks to Commissioner Henry for his detailed presentation.

Other Rotary News:

Club Assembly - Please put April 17th on your calendar to attend the Club Assembly and business meeting to be held that day.

Bettendorf Attendance Initiative - Continue to remember Fr. Jim Bettendorf at Briarwood Manor, 3011 N. Center Rd. just north of Davison Rd. with a nasty infection. Remember, too, the Dick Shick's as they address Rosemarie's cancer, and Michael Thorp's father.

Where to make up:

Monday

Saginaw Valley 12:15 p.m.
Horizons Conference Center

Tuesday

Clio 7:15 a.m.
Roger's Lodge

Durand Noon
Papa Joe's Restaurant

Grand Blanc 7:15 a.m.
Sophie's Kitchen

Fenton 7:15 a.m.
Spring Meadows Country Club

Genesee Valley (Flint) 12:15
Old Country Buffet, Miller Road

Lapeer 12:10 p.m.
Lapeer County Center Bldg.

Columbiaville 6:30 p.m.
Rotary Building

Wednesday

Greater Flint Sunrise 7 a.m.
Sarvis Center

Owosso 12:15 p.m.
Owosso Memorial Hosp. Annex

Saginaw Noon
Saginaw Club

Davisburg 7 p.m.
Don Hart Community Center

Thursday

Flushing 7 a.m.
Sorrento's Restaurant

Burton 12:10 p.m.
Brookwood Golf Club

Frankenmuth 12:10 p.m.
Zehnder's Restaurant

Corunna Noon

New Member Proposals – Second Reading

Daryl Vanella, President/CEO Whaley Children's Center,

Classification: Human Services/Whaley Children Center

John Foren, The Flint Journal, Classification: Newspaper/Editor

Submit comments in writing to Club Secretary

Make-ups:

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| 1/27 | Deborah Pascoe | Lapeer |
| 2/6, 2/13 | Howard Shand | Sarasota FL |
| 2/10 | Rich Fortner, Michael Thorp, Doug Speck | Genesee Valley |
| 2/17 | Dick Cramer | Palm Beach FL |
| 2/18 | Carl Conner, Mike Lindemann | Flint Sunrise |
| 2/20 | Howard Shand | Sarasota FL |
| 2/24 | Rich Fortner Paul Wenstrom | Genesee Valley Grand Blanc |
| 2/25 | Gary Alter, Jim Bettendorf, Tiffany Flynn, Katherine Gonser, Jerry Knoodle | Briarwood |
| 2/25 | Tiffany Flynn, Stuart Forsythe, Jason Galvas, Rob Jewell, Kevin Keane, Jerry Knoodle, Jim Kovas, Amy Drug, Addie Langford, Colin Linsenman, Joy Martinbianco, Heather Morolla, Jerry Preston, Michael Thorp | Rotary After Hours |
| 2/26 | Doug Bacon, Roxanne Caine, Dick Cordell, Mike Dach, Gene Dennis, Joe Fioroni, Tiffany Flynn, James Franklin, Dawn Hibbard, Jerry Johnson, Janice Karcher, Kevin Keane, Jerry Knoodle, Joy Martinbianco, Don Rockwell, Jim Tomblinson | Board Development Meeting |

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