January 3, 2017

'm back!  The last mtg notes I sent were on September 13, 2016.  I apologize I was away so long.  The merger went well and I truly enjoyed my assignment on the road.  The only trouble was I did not have the opportunity to attend Rotary meetings in the towns I traveled to. It seemed all of them had noon meetings that did not work in my schedule.

On with the notes................

January 3rd mtg notes

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

Birthdays -

Paula Jorge            1/1

Bill Holdsworth      1/3

Jack Sisson             1/4

Roy Lawrence         1/7

Club Anniversary -

Joe Yuchasz          52 Yrs.

Wes Knecht          16 Yrs.

Bill Donberg         15 Yrs.

It is reported that Nick Hein is doing well and enjoying his family.

Tom S shared information about the Digital Projection System for HERTH. This will include a motorized screen in front of the current stage curtain, a cabinet for the projector, remote operation within the hall, etc. Total cost is $14,000. HERTHA is currently working to raise the funds for this needed addition for the community. They will be submitting a request to the Good Works committee as part of their fundraising efforts.

The upcoming January 24th meeting is an appropriate time to focus on membership. Prospective members should be invited to this meeting and a community invite to attend that evening will be going out as well. "HIS HOUSE MINISTRY” will be the program for the evening.

A list of prospective members was reviewed by all in attendance with adjustments and assignments made accordingly.

President Garr provided an overview of highlights for 2016

Year in Review 2016 -

Tom Klingler – club president

Shot Felt Round the World - polio awareness - community event

Robotics presentation

Camp Elk Rapids

Honor Roll - Rotary park

Officers installation

District Governor Gernot Runschke visit

Harbor Days parade and chicken barbecue

Pure Water for the World

Arch Klumph inductee – Norm Veliquette celebrated

ER Rotary highlighted in Munson publication

Announcement of Tom Stephenson as president elect

Christmas Dinner Auction

President Gary’s closing comment – “Let’s make it another good one. Well, let’s make it a great one.  Let's continue to tell the Rotary story.”

Happy New Year everyone.  Here is a fun and healthy 2017 for each of you.

Big hugs to all.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

January 10 Mtg. Minutes

Morning Meeting -

Jokes were up to par. However, Connie topped Chris and won the door prize for best joke.

Clinton Shattuck Community Service update –

Good Samaritan His House:  Clinton, Tom S, Dean, Jim N are scheduling a visit to obtain a better feel for services provided by His House. If you would like to participate in the visit, please let Jim know. Reminder Jan 24 meeting will feature His House. We are treating this as a membership event, and all are encouraged to bring a guest to hear this program.  Stacy Nelson, the Director for His House will share how the program engages parents with their kids via games, art, woodworking, crafts and other joint projects.

TART Trail update:  Clinton has initiated dialog for members of the Community Services committee to get caught up on this project. Also look for an upcoming program in March on this topic.

Rock-A-Thon Fund Raising: Connie (chairperson) is coordinating this club fundraiser to take place on June 24th, 2017.  How does it work? Decorate a rocking chair, get a sponsor(s), for our chair, and then sell pledges to friends and family. Sponsors should be in the range of $100 to $250 per chair and pledges should range from $10 to $50 or more. Proceeds will go to Good Works Fund.  Stay tuned.

Evening meeting -

Bill Holdsworth – 14 yr. club anniversary!

Interact update – efficient group…. 20 minute meeting….they get stuff done

Upcoming fundraiser is a Sock dance. Chaperones are needed for January 28.

Steve Francis - Salvation Army follow up. We raised over $2,000 this year. Nice job Rotarians and Interact students.

Good works - looking at how we can support Tart Trail

Connie – Rock-a-thon information will be presented at an upcoming evening meeting.

Laura - Chamber hosting Lunch and Learn series with Ann Bonney January 19

Let Laura know if you would like to register for the event.

Program –

Jill Donberg spoke about a 3 week medical service trip to the Nepalese Himalayas last September.   This trip served the indigenous tribe of Tibet, who carried the Bön religion, to the Humla region in the 7th century AD.

The organization, called the Humla Fund ([www.humlafund.org](http://www.humlafund.org/)), is led by a Tibetan Lama originally from this area, and two acupuncturists from New York.  Their vision is the protect the Bön culture through supporting their health and wellbeing.  They have already reconstruction two shaman temples, erected a traditional Tibetan medical clinic, and have received $500,000, for the construction of a school and stupa to teach boys and girls basic education through high school.

Jill returned with three major lessons.  Service, no matter where, or with whom, begins with a powerful excitement, enough to feel a tug to take the risk.  This should then lead to listening and with being fully present with the people served, like the way a loving father listens to his only child.  Ultimately, the giver and the receiver become one, the line blurs, and both walk away with a feeling of excitement and heart felt connection.

Next week Pete V – ER Fire Department update

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**January 17**

**Good Works update- Elk Rapids Fire Department will receive $500 to support their fire prevention program.**

Foundation match is underway to enhance our giving to the organizations we identified for our annual 2016 Christmas auction giving.

ERHS Honor students recently enjoyed activity with old folks (seniors) in our community.

Sherry shared that Harbor Days Association is beginning planning for this year’s festival.  Sherry also informed members that the series of three articles Rotary ran last year in the Elk Rapids News on the history of Rotary and the Harbor is now posted on the Harbor Days website.

Sherry indicated this year’s Scholarship planning is underway. The application is being updated and will be posted to the Rotary website soon. Sherry invited members who would like to be part of the selection committee to share their interest with her. We have four scholarships available this year.  Sherry encouraged members to begin thinking of students they may want to reach out to regarding our program.

Our last year recipient Catarina (Sunrise Academy) made the Dean’s list!

President Gary reminded members the Variety Show will take place this fall.  We are still in need of a director for the show.  Reach out to Gary if you feel you would be able to help in this area.

Program –

President Gary introduced Fire Chief, Pete Vandenberg.

Chief introduced fire fighters, Rafael Medina, Joey Fischer, Ken Williamson and Chris White.

Pete’s presentation included the bullet point timelines of the fire departments history as follows.

1889 first news story found on Fire Department (reasonable date for the original organization of the department but not 100% accurate)

In the earlier year’s, it was more about saving the town.

200 buckets and ladders purchased

1887 hose company (Cedar St and Brand St) both sides of town. Wagon pulled by hand with noses, nozzles ladders…..

Iron company would blast the whistle when a fire was reported around town - the number of blasts would indicate the section of town where the fire was located.

1897 the Iron Company burned down

1918 Village purchased an outdoor electric siren that was installed on Traverse St

1926 coats and hats were purchased for the men

1930 hose cart was purchased

1949 first truck purchased and fire station built (the station they came down in 1994)

Second truck built by volunteers in 1951

1990 Fire Department was turned over to a Township department that continues to serve the Village as well.

4 trucks and 2 additional vehicles

ISO rating of 6 for Village and 7 for Township. With the best rating being a 1 - outside of our area most are 9 or higher.

Currently we have 24 volunteers

Smoke detector program currently in place for our community - cheapest device for saving a life.

Member asked, why do you volunteer as a firefighter?

Ken - giving back to the community I live in

Chris - opportunity to give back

Rafael - giving back - retired here - just love the community

Joey - good way to serve and to meet new people

Pete - like father like son – god’s grace looking down on us when I landed and job here, we could only find a house in elk rapids and our first home was across the street from the chief……

Big thank you to our volunteer fire department men and women!

President Gary reminded everyone of next week’s program (His House) and the fact that the meeting is our target night for new members to come and learn more about the club.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**January 24, 2017**

Morning meeting –

Connie opened with a great kid & cat joke. (Curiosity-seekers, ask Connie to tell you.)

Variety Show - Friday October 6 and Saturday October 7, 2017 at Peterman Auditorium

Thank 12 person committee –

     JIM & VERNA SAK

     STAN & KATHLEEN SHERIDAN

     CRAIG & LAURA CAMERON

     LORNA & MIKE CORSO

     GARY & MARY CHENOWETH

President Gary will coordinate ad sales again, however we need a chair person for the show. Please contact Gary if you can help in this capacity.

BBQ -

George S. and Scott D. will head up the BBQ again this year.  Thank you!

President Gary is encouraging all members to participate in some way to help ensure both the Variety Show and the BBQ are successful.  Reach out and express what you would like to do to help are ask how you can. There is plenty of fun tasks available for both fundraisers.

Interact is having a sock hop at the HERTH on February 18th, to raise funds for their community service.  We are urged to attend.

The Good Works Committee, GWC, agreed to submit the application to the Community Foundation for the $3,000 Club Match for:  Good Sam His House; ACTS; and the AC Baby Pantry.  Jeff Lane will follow up on this.  This will double the club’s efforts from $3,000 to $6,000 for these community services.

ROBOTICS update -

Following a meeting yesterday with Steve Prissel, Dean Branson, and Jim Nothoff, Bill Donberg outlined the following to improve member awareness, and alert the GWC what may be requested going forward:

1. A monthly cash flow projection for the program by the schools to:
	1. Show monthly cash needs by line item, and all sources of revenue
	2. Include all capital and operations costs
2. Dean, Bill, and Steve will prepare grant requests to Rotary Charities and RCER GWC
3. A June strategy meeting to develop plans for the 2017/2018 Robotics to include submersibles and aerial robotics will take place
4. Steve, with staff and our concurrence, will develop methods of communication to keep Rotarians and other stakeholders informed of the “remarkable progress and plans for the Robotics programs”.

Evening meeting -

Marcia Billings, ADG extended a congratulations to Tom Stephenson as our President elect.

Marcia also shared that the Twilight Rotary Club is holding their annual Super Bowl Raffle. To purchase tickets you can visit [traversebaytwilightsuperbowlraffle2017.eventbrite.com](http://traversebaytwilightsuperbowlraffle2017.eventbrite.com/)

1 for $35 or 2 for $60

Tom Vranich shared we have new stage lights, cable and so on for HERTH. Rob Bachi will run provide a demo on how to use the new lighting.

Sherry announced the 2017 Scholarship Application is now available and asked members to share this information with our local students they are aware of in need of funds to attend Northwestern Michigan College. Visit our website for an electronic copy.

Since this was a special membership development Rotary meeting, President Gary provided a brief overview about high-profile Rotary’s service projects.  Thank you Don Watkins for arranging for about 20 possible prospective new members to be invited.  We were very pleased that nine people accepted the invitation, and that five of those who accepted the invitation are viable candidates for membership at some time in the near future. Several of the prospective new members who were unavailable to attend Tuesday’s meeting, are still very viable candidates.

Thank You Mel Matchett for very effectively announcing this special Rotary meeting at this week’s meeting of the Interact Club; about 15 Interactors also attended this meeting, which further impressed our invited prospective new members.

Dean introduced Stacey Nelson Program director for Good Samaritan's HIS HOUSE

Program notes -

About 50 people heard Stacy Nelson provide an overview of a new, trail-blazing program associated with Good Samaritan’s Family Services.  The new program is call HIS HOUSE and is designed to assist absentee fathers to become more involved in the lives of their children.

Stacy Nelson forecasted that their new building in Ellsworth, which is being built by the Building Trades Class at Charlevoix High School, will be moved to its permanent location in Ellsworth by May 2017.  By the fall of 2017, HIS HOUSE expects to be functional, which will include a cookout deck, and a workshop so fathers can work on projects with their sons and daughters, including building bird houses and fixing bikes.  HIS HOUSE’s wish list includes shop tools, materials, volunteer mentors, and donations. This presentation was very well received this audience and guests.

President-Elect Tom Stephenson presented a $1,500 check to Stacy Nelson (Director of HIS HOUSE) from Rotary’s 2016 Christmas Party/Auction, which corresponds to 50% of the proceeds from the auction.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**January 31, 2017 meeting notes**

Morning meeting – no items to report this week

Evening meeting –

President Gary presented a Paul Harris Fellow pin to Jim Notoff.

Tom S reminded members of the opportunity to participate in the Twilight clubs Super Bowl Fundraiser. Visit [traversebasytwilightsuperbowlraffle2017.evenbrite.com](http://traversebasytwilightsuperbowlraffle2017.evenbrite.com/)

Tom K will have back surgery on Friday.  Card was sent around the room to send Tom hugs and best wishes.

Rotary Night – every Tuesday evening after our meeting and program everyone is invited to take part in Rotary Night at Elk Rapids Fitness (just off Cherry Ave in Kewadin). Enjoy getting a little exercise with friends. There is plenty of equipment for everyone to do some strength training or cardio.  The cost is $5.00 per Tuesday night for a drop in workout.  Wear you sweats or bring your gym bag on Tuesday nights and join in this group activity each week.

Tom S shared a Bio sheet on 2017-18 Rotary District 6290 Governor Edward Cl Swart, PhD

Tom Bowes introduced Jed Mooney from Champion S.A.I.L program.  The SAIL Champion Program is a sailing program created by Maritime Heritage Alliance and [Mental Wellness Counseling](http://www.mentalwellnesscounseling.com/) that combines traditional sailing skills with onboard counseling sessions. The program strives to teach leadership, responsibility, and self-awareness in at-risk youth in Northern Michigan.

Jed did a nice job of recapping this past year and the opportunity this program provided for Elk Rapids students who participated.

Additional information about the program -

About SAIL Champion

SAIL Champion(Success Always Involves Learning) is a hands-on sailing experience that teaches leadership, team-work, and responsibility in conjunction with onboard, one-on-one therapeutic counseling sessions.

Sailing a tall ship requires teamwork, patience, and responsibility. Participants transition into crew and develop the physical, mental, and social skills required to sail Champion. Their experience is both challenging and therapeutic.

Who is involved?

Youth (ages 12-19) become the crew for Champion, a 39-ft. classic wooden Great Lakes sailboat in Traverse City, MI. The program is  Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Over the course of the week, youth are responsible for the safe operation of the boat under the tutelage of a professional USCG Captain, volunteers from the Maritime Heritage Alliance (MHA), and a licensed therapist.

How is SAIL Champion unique?

Experience-based therapy programs like SAIL Champion allow for far greater results than therapy alone. There are currently no other experiential therapy programs conducted on sailboats that include one-on-one therapy with a licensed counselor. What Maritime Heritage Alliance has developed is unique. Youth that participate are primarily referred by nonprofit agencies in the Traverse City area, such as Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan. The youth generally have experienced a past that included neglect and abuse.

Sailing on Champion for a week is often the best event of their lives.They love the new experience of learning to sail, learning to work as a traditional crew, seeking out anchorages, hiking, swimming, and more. Moreover, the kids meet with a therapist onboard for their daily therapy session.

Results?

Because the program is so concentrated and intense, the kids are quite changed by the end of the week. SAIL Champion uses several metrics to measure the results. A few of them are:

70-80% drop in the intensity of the symptoms in one week (how intense they are)
65-75% drop in the frequency of the symptoms in one week (how often they happen)
100% of youth report being more likely to go to college as a direct result of the program
100% of youth report being more interested in maritime history and sailing as a direct result of the program

The lasting result of experience-based therapy is remarkable. The principle is that as the youth think back on their exciting experience on Champion, they realize (either consciously or subconsciously) that therapeutic progress was made.

How can you help?

* Become a member of Maritime Heritage Alliance and volunteer to help maintain Champion
* Volunteer on Champion with the youth
* Sponsor a group, youth, or other aspect of the program
* Tell other people about the program
* Charter Champion for a private event in Traverse City, MI to support the program
* Donate to Maritime Heritage Alliance's SAIL Champion program

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**February 7, 2017**

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids Meeting notes –

Morning mtg – no notes to report this week

Evening mtg –

Tom Vranich invited everyone to Business After Hours hosted by HERTHA Februaryl 16.

Tom S shared information regarding the World Peace conference being held in Ann Arbor March 31 to April 1

Tom S shared the upcoming Grant Application Seminar will be held on May 4.  Our club is required to have two people attend in order to qualify for applying for a grant.

President Gary shared information on District 6290 50/50 Raffle to benefit The Rotary Foundation. Tickets are $20.00 and available through February 28. Contact Gary to purchase your ticket. Tickets will also be available at club meetings.

Don W shared a nice photo of Earl Rafferty and his beautiful bride.  They are looking great and doing well.

Jim N announced Tom V as a new member on the Public Relations Committee.  Thank you Tom!

President Gary passed out our SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges) from June of 2016 for review and possible updates.  Members were presented with a video from a PETS conference in California a few years back that was very enjoyable.  President Gary encouraged members to jot down their ideas on the blank sheets of paper available at each table for collection and consideration.

Next week – no meeting - However, everyone is encouraged to attend Valentines Party – 5:30pm Siren Hall and then the movie at the cinema!

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**February 21 Mtg. notes**

Paul F and Edson are celebrating birthdays!

Club anniversaries include Erin B 2 yrs., Rick M 10 yrs., Clinton 2 yrs., Don W 11 yrs. So glad you are all part of the Rotary family!

Sherry announced her youngest son’s wife is expecting their second baby.  Sherry cannot wait to be grandma of her fourth grandchild in July!

Phyllis and Bob are excited their daughter is expecting her second baby.  Congratulations Grandma and Grandpa!

Jim announced Carol will retire from ACTS the end of March. Our wonderful Carol will now be able to spend time with her family. Thank you Carol for all your work and dedication over the years supporting families in need throughout our region. Big hug from your Rotary family.

Bob shared that following thought…………the left hand should not know what the right hand is doing. Bob indicated he has competed one of his bucket list items and only the right hand knows what he did.

Bob had the following quiz for us. What has 24 teeth and 6 Ribs?  \*Answer below.

President Gary is celebrating that Brooklyn is coming to see Grandpa and JuJu is coming as well. Enjoy!

Jim N informed members that the Public Image Grant funds are intended for - recruiting, retaining and engaging members.

Steve P shared Robotics is in the thick of the season at the high school. Steve encouraged members to feel free to visit the HS and see Robotics in action. Simply email Matt Carter or Steve if you would like to visit. Matt and some of the team may be visiting Rotary soon to show the Club what they are working on. Steve concluded with the fact that there are over 100 kids in the Robotics program at Elk Rapids Schools.

President Gary announced this is our last chance to participate in the 50/50 raffle for The Foundation.

Tom V – HERTHA update –

* Attention focused on the new curtains we all enjoyed during the meeting. Phase one has been installed with the sheers and the drapes with more additions to come. Very nice. Tom thanked the committee headed up by Sara and Terry Miller. HERTHA will be offering sponsorships for windows. A full window will be $2,000.  There are more options available.

* After-hours event turned out 150 people.

* Board Retreat took place to look at event options - possible farmers market for a month after they finish up at Rotary Park. Art Rapids considering bringing their operations to HERTH and so on.

* Possible demonstration of the new lighting in the near future to show what the potential is of the new lighting.

President Gary shared membership update - application turned in by Rob Cook, Tom V has joined and others are considering. We have good momentum going.  Fireside chat will take place April 13.

President Gary had fun with Rotary history challenge and passed out Dove chocolate treats to the person answering the question correctly.

President Gary reminded members that he and Mary are taking off for 6 weeks.  Past Presidents will be running the meetings. Thank you to this team of past leaders, thank you Joe Y for all you do, Tom for serving wine, Chris for grabbing the mail, Jeff for helping with Sargent duties and secretarial needs. A lot of people helping out.  Really appreciate the work everyone has done and continues to do.

Next week’s meeting - Tom Kern from the Chamber of Commence

\*Rotary Wheel

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**February 28 mtg notes**

Acting President Bill Donberg welcomed everyone.

Tom V provided an update on the window treatments for HERTH and had a display set up providing more information.

Laura shared her excitement in Tom K doing so well and is close to being able to keep up with her.

Acting President Bill D shared a proud father moment with the announcement of his Daughter in Law, Jaina, wife of son Ben. Both Air Force.  Jaina was just appointed Aide to General Joesph Dunford, Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff under a former President Obama and now President Trump. Congratulations!

Bill also provided an update on Robotics activities at the high school after his recent visit.  The team has finished construction on their competitive unit.  Mon, Tues and Thurs of next week would be good days to check out their work. Bill will be sending confirmation of days and times for you to visit the team and see their work in action during their practice/work sessions.

Jim N shared a tid-bit from this morning’s meeting that Mel had announced – Interact Sock Hop raised $1,000!  Interact regular meetings are on Tuesday’s.  Feel free to stop in.  Their meetings are very efficient.

Tom S introduced Tom Kern, Executive Director for the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

Tom shared the four main strategies the Chamber Board had identified –

Business and Economic Development

Tourism

Events

Member Value Proposition

Activities and meetings taking place to support the strategies include but have not been limited to –

* Housing – employees of our local businesses need local housing options.
* Market Elk Rapids it potential business.
* Helping businesses solve their problems through conversation, action and partnerships established.
* Getting the story out about Elk Rapids
* Utilizing signage in the region to promote activities
* Partnership with the Traverse City tourism website

Tom and Laura have been investing time in meeting with businesses on the out skirts of Elk Rapids and meeting with current members and businesses to support some of the items noted as well as strengthen the member’s numbers and support current members.

Educational business opportunities are priority as well to ensure businesses have the information and knowledge they need to help them be successful.

Next week's meeting - Update on TART trail connecting Acme to Elk Rapids

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

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Next week's meeting - Update on TART trail connecting Acme to Elk Rapids

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**March 7, 2017**

Morning notes -

Tom Vranich updated the group on the window treatments at the HERTH. Valances will soon be fabricated by Ron Schmidt and prepared for installation.  He also reminded us that window sponsors can be made as donations any time.

Jim Nothoff updated the group requesting feedback on a new Membership document designed to inform new members of the committee activities which can be selected from as they seek ways to get involved with Rotary Club of Elk Rapids.

Tom Shelder shared his trip to Mexico, and seems ready to go back.

Tom Stephenson reminded us of the grant training on Thursday May 4th at Crystal Mountain.  Those interested please see Tom about carpooling and details.

Connie introduced Elizabeth Murrell, from Chemical Bank Mortgage dept. as a potential new member to be sponsored by Erin B. and Connie N.

Connie also gave an update on Rock-A-Thon, and Mel asked her to contact Thom Ault, who is back in town, to coordinate with the Interact students for entering their own chair in the contest.

Evening notes –

Acting president Dean Branson welcomed everyone.

Keith, Rick M and Wes are celebrating birthdays!

Don W shared his excitement about his daughter being schedule for her dissertation on June 10th.

Tom V announced an upcoming event at the HERTH, Sunday, March 12 @ 7pm Jigjam in Concert

Tom S - reminded us of the grant training on Thursday May 4th at Crystal Mountain.  Those interested please see Tom about carpooling and details.

Bill D - Trianon Haiti - grant awarded last week! Four years ago the first phase took place. When all done, $140,000 was raised across the country for this project. Well done team!

Clinton introduced Chris Kushman -Planning and Management Director @ TART

Chris shared an update on the non-motorized trail project from Traverse City to Charlevoix. For the Elk Rapids leadership group the Maple Bay to Winter road is the focus section at this time. Visit the TART website to review updated resources pertaining to the project.

Next week’s program - Joe Woods - maple syrup farming.

March 21 we will induct two new members, Tom V and Bob Cook March 21

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

March 13, 2017

Rotary Meeting notes

Acting President Mel welcomed members.

Jim N – shared a letter from Jim S regarding Rick M, Stan S and Jim S participating in the 19th annual SaddleBrooke fundraising event. Ronald McDonald was also in attendance for the golf outing with proceeds to benefit the Ronald McDonald house, scholarships for local students or distributed to local youth centered organizations.

Dick Bach – celebrating a birthday

Dean has a club anniversary as well as Steve

Tom V thanked everyone for attending Jig Jam. All had a great time.

Cornices for windows are coming tomorrow!

Ralph has arrived in California just fine.  He is receiving great care. He says hi to everyone.

Bob introduced Joe and Bobbi Woods from Out of the Woods Farm

Members of the Michigan Maple Syrup Association

Joe is a Board member on the International Syrup Association

Bullets points from the presentation -

* First production of a very small batch took place in 1997
* First sales were corporate gifting.
* 2013 switched to a cherry pit burning evaporator from a wood burning evaporator
* Sales now are retail and resale for sweetener or bulk
* Other items available include -
1. Cherry maple syrup (made with cherry concentrate)
2. Maple cream
3. Maple sugar
4. Maple candy
5. Maple cotton candy
6. BBQ sauce
7. Vinaigrette dressing
8. Maple donuts

* New maple grades all A's = Fancy Golden, Medium Amber, Dark, Very Dark
* They try to hit 600 to 700 gallons a year
* Joe is the initiator of Michigan Maple Week-end

Acting president Mel closed out the meeting.

Next week’s meeting - Paddle across the straights.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

March 28 mtg. notes

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

Acting president Julia shared a joke to open the meeting.

Julia called on Joe to share a moment of Elk Rapids Rotary history.

Catarina stopped in to thank the club for her scholarship and provide an update on her progress at NMC. Her comments included -

* Grateful for everyone who is helping me reach my goal.
* I never dreamed to be in college.  Now with the money I am in college.
* Putting in lots of work.
* Thank you with all my heart.
* Grateful for everything.
* I studied hard first semester and made the Dean’s list.
* Putting in every single effort.
* I wake up every day and enjoy learning.

Julia asked members to send Patty Bach a hug.

Julia thanked those who set up.

Tom S shared the board approved Dave Martin, Cathy Farmer, Brad Pierson and Susan Sweet as members. Welcome!

Sherry reminded members to encourage students to apply for our scholarships. To date we have one applicant and four scholarships available.

Acting president Julia turned the mic over to Jim to announce the Hammered group.

Rob Rich, Diane Plow, Jackie Rutherford, Sharon Fiddler, Genevieve Seating and Jan Meyer

Member and guests enjoyed wonderful music from a very talented group.

Don W presented a happy dollar for Bill Donberg. Bill is happy for Dean’s presentation to a church group regarding clean water for Haiti.

Julia is celebrating her daughter’s engagement!

Next week – Steve Prissel will present information regarding the upcoming School Bond

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**April 4 meeting notes**

Acting President Jim N welcomed everyone.

Don Watkins announced fireside chats will take place April 13 and April 20 for new and current members.

Welcome back snowbirds!

Bill D informed members that ACTS is in need of volunteers.  Please do what you can to help.

Bill also shared how Victoria Garrow, one of our interactors is a candidate for the presidential scholarship and has received a full ride scholarship to continue her education.

Sherry encouraged members to mark their calendars for April 26 to 29 for the 75th Annual Rotary Show of Traverse City Rotary Club. Please consider attending and show your support for our local clubs.

Induction of new members Cathy Farmer sponsored by Jim N, Dave Martyn sponsored by Joe Yuchasz and Sue Sweet sponsored by Dean Branson took place.

Bill D assisted with the inductions. Sponsors placed a Rotary pin on the new members.

Steve Prissel took us through a power point presentation on the upcoming bond request - May 2 Information is available on the school website or by contacting Steve.

Next meeting will be a member forum.

**April 25, 2017**

President Gary opened the meeting by having Green ER provide an update on their projects.

Royce shared a 2016 summary and how they collaborated with 16 local organizations.

2017 includes 15 scheduled events and 2018 has two projects underway with Smithsonian and Dennis museum.

Christine shared Johnny and team completed the labeling of 116 drains on Sunday. Nice partnership project with Green ER for Jonny’s Eagle Scout project.

Christine also noted clean up at the old bathing beach is taking place not only by Green ER volunteers but by other community members as well by simply being good stewards of the beach.

Toni pointed out the art (spirals) created from water bottles on display at the HERTH as well as the octopus at tennis courts.

Visit [www.greenelkrapids.org](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.greenelkrapids.org&d=DwMCaQ&c=s_qrfillwjMFekKE6c2C44vrQ0H7PMSDUl9OhCCQ7eI&r=UPrcfeRrV420_GH_3aV5UUQwj6r6FEr0uNpU7xA7GL1lIMj_LSUdndhQy6tBo0Sl&m=Xu7vH8XPYDmqzUCrDxt_n4wCiy_tPpT51pvygWGswmM&s=5hKosENq6fdILwrlurXvVxcnPRHoG2OfsHR22tCukU8&e=) for calendar of events

Joe informed members that HERTHA  would like a piano. Rotary will lend one of our piano’s to HERTHA.

A mark your calendar card was distributed to members in attendance. Fist date to make note of is  June 24 Rockathon. Proceeds to benefit our Good Works fund.

April 29 is highway clean-up day.

Dean shared that Ellen and Ruth have announced a donation to His House. They felt it very appropriate they support the new shop being set up at the new facility in memory of Leonard Kline. Dean encouraged members to look forward to helping with this project.

Jeff announced the Good Works committee approved a donation of $1,250 to the Chamber for building foundation repair.

President Gary encouraged members to read the most recent Rotary magazine. Some of the articles Gary pointed out include, Mentorship program, The Case for Helping Others, and Rotary Foundation rating article as good reads.

Gary, Tom S and Jim will attend the grant training seminar next week.

Tom V, Gary and Tom S will be attending the district conference at Crystal.

Contact Terry Starr for more information and if you can provide a room/bed for Ethan an Intern working in our area.

Member forum - Susan Sweet

Some bullets points from Susan’s comments

* 1/2 marathon 2014
* 1/2 marathon last year
* 10 mile race - in training now
* retired from government after 35 years (18 in congress)
* love Banking
* Real Estate appraiser - in training
* Attend St. Paul - Dean approached me about Rotary - I said yes, this makes sense - I have been in public service for years……

 Next week’s program –

Linda Alice Dewey

Kassel Mission Historical Society-WWII pilots who fought against each other in September 1944

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**May 2, 2017 mtg notes**

Craig and Laura - 32 yr. anniversary

Camille - 5 yr. club anniversary

Ron and Stan want a report from Jim as to when it is safe to come back to Northern Michigan. Members encouraged Jim S to stretch the truth just a little.  They are missed and needed.

Jim H shared a story from the Friday night Tigers game.  Jim has been a real joy the last couple meetings with either a joke or story to share.  It is great to hear the laughter and see members having a fun evening.

President Gary shared that his family gathered in St. Louis and attended the Cardinals game. They had a great time especially with the Cardinals winning the game.

President Gary commented how thrilled he was to have members back form their winter home.

President Gary also provided a membership update noting the induction of Elizabeth Murrell (Chemical Bank) and is hopeful that Don Kessell will join Elk Rapids Rotary by transferring his membership.

Tom V provided a HERTH window treatment update - Ron has completed three cornice’s.....they are looking beautiful.

Tom V also encouraged those in attendance to invite prospective members to the May 16 club meeting with it being a Robotics presentation this would be a good opportunity.

Norm V gave a happy dollar for he and Judy – they are hoping for cold weather ....we might have too big of a cherry crop…….

Jim N – Introduced our quest speaker Linda Alice Dewey

 - singer, author, jingle writer etc. Linda shared a story of World War II pilots. Her father served during this time. A couple bullet points from her presentation -

* Kassel Mission Historical Society-WWII pilots who fought against each other in September 1944
* Alice father passed away 10 years  ago. He prepared a program to present to a Birmingham men's club
* Memorial stands in the forest where the lead B24 bomber crashed.
* Germany and Americans came together to unveil the memorial and honor those lost.

President Gary and President elect Tom S reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings

Next week - Right Tree Program, testimonials from participants

Following week - At ERHS - Robotics

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

 **May 9, 2017 Mtg notes**

Rotary Anniversaries –  Jo Kreag 12 years, Tom Stephenson 2 years and Chris White 4 years

President Gary asked members to volunteer to help move the piano to HERTH.  We need a trailer and about four guys.  Please let President Gary know if you can help.

President Gary also shared it looks like Don Kessell from 5/3 Bank is a go for membership.

Tom V announced a ribbon cutting at the new/expanded Milton Township park on May 24 at 10:00a.m. for the Kayak Launch.

Scott Dennis mentioned that he used his matching Rotary Foundation donation to support Project Cherry Tree which is a new organization based in Traverse City that is working to “Create an integrated, full service Veterans care community in Northern Michigan.”  He mentioned that several of the Project’s board members met with Congressman Bergman to discuss a Veterans Rural Health care pilot proposal for Northern Michigan that Project Cherry Tree is hoping to develop in conjunction with the VA to prevent the long travel times currently required to visit Saginaw VA Hospital for care.

Norm had to share an experience he had while attending the District Conference. His Canadian friends noticed he and Judy and insisted they join them at their table. I (Sherry) do not recall if it is the current president or past president of the Sault Club but Norm said to members “this woman is so beautiful a man should not look at her directly.”   Leave it to Norm………………. still young at heart…………

Jim N thanked Tom V for the feather flag input and for helping with the PR committee.

President Gary insisted we take up a collection for Bill Donberg to help him clean up the plane that ended up in the lake.

Tom S shared the Maritime Heritage Alliance will take 19 members out for a sail in August. There will be a raffle to determine which 19 members will get to go.

Tom S also commented that scholarship interviews will take place this week.

Craig Mosher provided an update on Right Tree activities.  A couple of students and parents were in attendance and shared comments as well.

Next week’s meeting will be held at the High School and provide a presentation on the Robotics program.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**May 30, 2017**

President Gary shared with members that he learned from Pat Stit (?sp), daughter of  Edward C Grace that Elk Rapids will receive 50 trees to plant throughout the Village. The planting will take place Saturday, June 17. Volunteers will gather at the DPW garage at 8:30am for doughnuts and coffee.

Jim N informed members that the Public Image grant has been turned into the District.

Jim S – asked everyone to make note on their calendars that two weeks from today our meeting will be at Rotary Park so we can hold our annual honor night to recognize this year’s honorees. The brick walk way presentation will begin at 5:30pm with our meeting to follow.

Inland Seas provided an update on their activities and shared they have a scholarship available for an Elk Rapid student who would like to participate in the three day session this year.

Next meeting will be an update on Harbor Days with others around town invited to meet the new Executive Director.

Please keep Roy’s wife Marge in your prayers as she continues to receive medical attention with the hope they can soon get back to us for the summer.

Also keep previous Rotarian Than Pressman in your prayers as he fights an infection.  ICU for a few days and now in regular care at the hospital. Carol is tired from the running and the stress but holding up well.

Previous Rotarian for over 15 years and Past President, Jim Merenda lost his wife of 50+ yrs in April.  Camercy was having back pain and when diagnosed it was cancer. It was three weeks then her passing.

As always keep Patty Bach in your thoughts and prayers as well.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**June 6, 2017**

Connie reminded members of the Rock A Thon. June 24 – please get your sponsorship papers turned in. Connie does have the form in electronic format if you would like to email to friends and family.

Dan is looking for a signing partner.

Norm shared…… two grandsons (6th grade level and recruited for soccer club team) made it to the final game in play-off.

President Gary shared his excitement of Joe Y buying his first house

Bob Cook introduced Kaylee Bean a Sunrise graduate. Kaylee shared her appreciation for the members providing her scholarship funding to attend NMC.

George announced he would appreciate any support you can provide for the BBQ on August 5 during Harbor Days. Please let George know if you would like to be part of the committee.

President Gary informed members of the opportunity to be a volunteer for ACT’s List of opportunities was made available on each table for you to consider.

President Gary thanked greeter Susan, Joe for providing music, voted Tom V as the best bar tender and welcomed back Paula from the British Virgin Islands.

Sherry introduced Harbor Days Executive Director, Chuck Goossen and provided an update on Harbor Days.

Visit [elkrapidsharborday.org](http://elkrapidsharborday.org/) to stay up to date on this years festival activities.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**June 20, 2017**

Happy Birthday Jo Kreag.

Happy 64 years Keith and Rosanne Hubble.

Club Anniversaries include George Seifield and Jim Hockin. Thank you for another year of membership and dedication to making a difference in other people’s lives.

Camille and Connie advertised the Rock-A-Thon by rocking in their chairs as they provided an update. Please sponsor a rocker or stop by the Village Market this Saturday and rock yourself between 10am and 6pm.  Funds raised to date are around the $3,000 mark.  Great job ladies!

Help is needed at 5Pm Friday night to take the tents down used for Vacation Bible school.

President Gary informed members the water filter that has been in his garage will be placed upstairs at HERTH so it is easily available to anyone who may need this filter sample for a presentation. He also announced the planting of four trees at Rotary Park and asked members to close the gates, should they notice they are open in passing, to prevent the geese from living in the pavilion.

Elk Rapids Garden Club President, Ellen W complimented Rotary for the wonderful story boards at the Rotary Park.

President Gary informed members that Bill D’s heart procedure went well and Bill is coming home.

Bob Cook announced that there is a $6.00 shortage in funds to provide an additional scholarship this year to Kaylee Bean. Bob asked members to reach out to him if they would like to contribute.

Norm reported the Life Leadership attendees will share their experience at an upcoming meeting. Early report is…………students had another very productive and enjoyable event.

Norm introduces Francis Otto, from Cherry Bay Orchards in Suttons Bay.

Francis, a pest management specialist shared Challenges and Resources a Crop Protection Specialist faces.

 Bullet point comments from Francis include but were not limited to the following –

* 1,600 acres of cherries
* Job includes, risk management, logistics and science
* Chemical residue removal from the fruit is important
* Pests can build resistance to chemicals – it is important to switch up what is used
* H2A labor has been successful (temporary guest work program)
* Cool nights and calcium based soil are two things that help create flavor in the fruit
* To detour deer from damaging the fruit use dryer sheets, flash tape, pig blood bags…

Next week meeting will be the induction of 2017 officers.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**July 18**

President Tom opened the meeting with a welcome.

Scott shared the BBQ planning is going great. Scott asked members to thank Rick Young for his wonderful partnership.

Sign-up sheets available.  Please do what you can to help.

President Tom encouraged members to review the committee sign-up sheet being passed around the room.

Stan shared the variety show update an encouraged members to offer their talent and participate in the show.

Gary will head up ad sales.

Post cards sent to 2016 advertisers

Wrap up sales by Sept 16

Tom V agreed to design our program book again this year

Show Dates are Oct 6 and 7

Bill Donberg – introduced presenters from Northern Michigan Angels & TC New Tech Initiative

Enhance the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem of the Grand Traverse Region….. to learn more visit the following websites – [www.startupcommunity.org](http://www.startupcommunity.org/) [www.northernmichiganangels.com](http://www.northernmichiganangels.com/) and [www.tcnewtech.org](http://www.tcnewtech.org/)

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**July 25, 2017**

Scott - BBQ sign-up going well - working on confirming football team, Interact is committed as well as Robotics...... sign-up sheet available for members.

Jim – displayed the parade banner and encouraged everyone to walk in the parade with the float.

Assembly of the float - volunteer to help at Keith's next week if you can.

Variety show - t-shirts - pick up tonight - wear your shirt for the BBQ and help promote the show!

Ad sales forms, stationary and 2016 books available for everyone on the back table.

10:00 pm show picture - gathering under the marquee at Joe's tomorrow night.

President Tom shared hard copies of the new budget. He informed members the board voted on the budget during the meeting that took place earlier this evening. President Tom noted that with the main funding coming in October instead of June this year - will be cautious with spending to start out this year.

President Tom answered questions members had as they reviewed the budget.

Committees – President Tom asked that members make sure they review the committee participation options and sign-up accordingly.

Maritime Alliance sail will be on Sept 24 - raffle tickets will be available for purchase soon. 19 members will be able to attend.

Social events will be on the agenda for this coming year. Group meetings with spouses or guest. Committee will be formed and will determine outings after input is received from members. Suggestion form available with handouts on tables.

Norm shared a story about the mentor program (through Elk Rapids school) he participated in. He was assigned to an 8th grade student.

This young man ended up signing up for the ROTC program - went on to love college, graduated almost a 4 point - now in Kalamazoo area and is a member of the Rotary Club. Great story.

Sherry read members a Thank You received by one of this year’s scholarship recipients….

Dear Rotarian's,

I am so incredibly thankful for the extremely generous scholarship that you have awarded me with. I cannot express the pure happiness that I have received from knowing that I have selfless, kind, and genuine community members who care about the importance of financial needs of Elk Rapids Graduates and just the community of Elk Rapids as a whole! I was so honored and humbled to have been chosen to receive this scholarship! This will help me tremendously as I pursue my dreams in the Dental Field at Northwestern Michigan College. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that the Rotary does for the community of Elk Rapids and for the Rotary Scholarship!

Much appreciation,

Kaylee Coy

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

**August 1**

Happy Birthday Norm.

Gary reported that Steve Stargardt was hired to direct this year’s Variety Show. There will be a five piece band and 8-10 singers

President Tom announced the Board approved new member Karl Whittbold

George shared the BBQ pit is set up, tent going up tonight, all volunteers slots are filled.

Jim asked members to bring family and friends to walk with float.

Float is all set - thank you Keith and family

President Tom presented the budget and asked for membership support.  All members present were in favor of the budget presented.

Variety Show photo shoot in front of the theater went well. Thank you Tom V for the great advertising idea.

Tom V encouraged members to turn in the renewal ad sales by the end of August.

Sherry Steffen

Rotary Club of Elk Rapids

August 15 mtg notes

Happy Birthday Camille and Phyllis!

Jim Hockin announced his retirement from Charter after 52 yrs.

Ton V proudly pointed out the Cornice's now in place after years of planning.

Jim N is pleased with how the posters for Variety Show turned out and again thanked Tom V for his creativity.

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| President Tom complimented everyone on a successful BBQ.Scott praised Rick Young, Ben Carpenter, football team, robotics and Interact for their support provided to the BBQ. The speed lane concept seemed to work and may have played a big role in the early BBQ income reporting indicating we made good money….. about $1,000 more than last year Jeff Lane reported that Good Works has approved $1,000 for Back Packs for Kids. This request will now go to the board. Gary C encouraged everyone to go after their ad sales. Carolyn Meub, Executive Director for Pure Water for the World, presented the business model for PWW reflection my on the changes that have been made since its inception in 2003. Beginning as an organization that simply installed biosand water filters, PWW now offers a comprehensive and sustainable solution to waterborne illnesses that includes hygiene education, sanitation (toilets) water source protection and water filtration. Education leading to behavioral change has become the dominant strategy. Bill Donberg then reported on the progress of the first phase of the Limonade project Haiti project that she included doing hygiene education, sanitation and water filter installation in 15 Schools in the Limonade area. The project is nearing completion. The next phase will be to provide the same solution to 500-600 homes the areas surrounding the schools. This project will be the beneficiary of a multi District global grant.   Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids**September 5**  Happy Birthday Tom K and Julia! President Tom reminded members of the Gulf Shore Relief Fund opportunity.  Handouts with more information are available on the tables. Payment can be made to The Rotary Foundation DAF. In the memo line indicate The Gulf Coast Disaster Relief Fund #608 or you can contribute online at [https://www.your-fundaccount.](https://www.your-fundaccount.com/rotary/HowToContribute.asp)If you need assistance with your donation, please send a message to plannedgiving@rotary.org or call 847-866-3100 Gary provided an update on Ad Sales.  We have 95 ads to date. Posters are available on the back table. Tickets will be going to print soon. Salvation Army update - Amy Evans and Greg ErwinPetoskey’s Salvation Army location is the one who provides services to our Elk Rapids area.  In the Petoskey area they are supporting activities such as the Friday night Community Dinner and the Thursday night Addition Support Dinner. They also work to provide; scholarships for Day Care, after school snacks, assistance with field trips, clothing and medical transportation vouchers and support to families willing to take the next step to improve their lives.  It was noted with the holiday season coming that holiday food vouchers will be provide as well as gifts for families in need. For more information about the programs or to contact the Petoskey location visit [www.SAPetoskey.org](http://www.sapetoskey.org/) or call 231-347-3531 Warm Hearts Foundation update – Paul Brink, Russ Parker, Anne Bonney and Jawemwe (sp?) KapondaWarm Hearts is Michigan based and ran by a volunteer board of directors. Currently their efforts are focused on Malowi and Kenya with the main needs of wells, schools and solar lights.Anne informed members of the Days for Girls project.  There will be an article in the GT Women magazine and also in the Rotary magazine or newsletter.Paul talked about the micro loans for women to start a small business and the positive impact the loans have made.Paul also stressed that clean water is the key to everything they do. Russ shared how they interviewed approximately 80 villagers and the results showed the improvement in the quality of life, health and morale to mention a few.Rotary Club of Elk Rapids has supported Warm Heats with the following projects for 2017 –* Purchase of 56 solar lights and lanterns to outfit 5 schools for evening programs
* 30 desks for the Nasenga Elementary School
* Contributions toward micro-loans for 2 irrigated farming plots

Note: The school we have supported with open September 18 Currently Warm Hearts is piloting a Goat Project…………..more to come. 2018 needs include –* Desks for Namakango HS and Kazembe Primary
* Science Labs/Libraries for Koche HS and Namakango HS
* Micro-loan for irrigation project
* Contributions for the construction of Kazembe School

  Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids **September 12** President Tom welcomed everyone.Stan thanked the members who have been partnering up and going out and selling ads. Practice begins tonight for the choir. Tomorrow at 6pm there will be a meeting regarding skits.  All members participating or those who would like to participate should attend.Don shared that he reached out to Earl due to him living in Florida. Don learned that Earl and his wife are in Alabama and headed for Europe so they are safe and far away from the storms.Assistant DG Marcia shared her experience with Healthy Harvest.  Volunteers from the area assisted with the gathering over 4,000 pounds of potatoes for the local Food Rescue program.  DG Ed expressed how glad he was to be at our meeting.Scott shared how he just returned from a 10 year reunion of the members of the 2nd Iraq tour.Dale announced his place in Florida is still there!Roy shared how happy he was to have a roof over his head, electricity and so on. His comment put in perspective how fortunate we are to not be in the path of such storms and conditions.Gary provided an update on ad sales.  To date we are at 175 ads sold.  Deadline is next Tuesday. Push hard to sell and do what you can to confirm repeat ads.President Tom made available ticket purchase for your chance to be one of the lucky members to attend an afternoon on the Madeline Sept 24 for 1 to 4pm. Tickets will be available next Tuesday at both meetings. The drawing will take place at the end of the night.Next week’s meeting will be held at Townline CiderPresident Tom shared that Rotary has also started the opportunity for you to donate to a Florida relief fund.October 14 Summit is fast approaching. Please consider attending.  Carpooling with President Tom is available. Contact President Tom if you can attend.District Governor Ed Swart – The following bullets points are some highlight from the DG’s message to us.• Elk Rapids Rotary gets it.• We understand what Rotary is all about.• We have captured the essence of what service is about.• Your challenge is to attend the Summit and participate in this strategic planning event.• This year’s Rotary theme is “Rotary Makes a Difference”• Making connections helps us to do good in Rotary.• Foundation Magic…………multiplying funds to accomplish goals…………• The fifth Four –Way is “Having Fun” Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids**October 3 mtg notes** Dean Branson noted HERTHA is pursuing endowment fund option for money to complete technology needed at the hall. Gary shared that member’s “done good” with ad sales. Gary presented fun little trophy’s to various members for their efforts with this year’s sales. Left over tickets need to be turned into Laura before Friday night. Brad informed members of the ability to now pay dues electronically. Brad noted you can still pay via paper check if preferred. Corporate membership – potential businesses are very interested.  Will have approximately three onboard very soon. Business Women will host the first community organization fair at HERTHA this Thursday October 5 Help is needed to hang the back drop curtain for the show tonight. Lisa reported on the Facebook promotion for this year’s Rotary show. Partners John and Emily are helping us with content. Harbor Days, HERTHA and Chamber are part of the information sharing partnership. All organizations are posting on their Facebook and website pages to promote the show. Instagram and Twitter have also been launched for Rotary. Thank you Lisa! Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids**Oct 31 meeting notes**Scott D has been assigned to the selection committee for the academy. He had the privilege of reviewing thirty plus applicants this week…..Scott stated he is very impressed with youth in this area. Jeff L has a new dog named Brady! Gary C happy he was able to complete the Haiti trip. Gary stated it was a pleasure to travel with Bill D. Presentation to members will be scheduled soon. People in homes where filters placed were so appreciative. Marcia Billings – promoted the annual Rotary fundraiser. $15.00 per calendar. This is run as a raffle. During the drawing process your ticket gets put back in for multiple chances to win. Reach out to Marcia for more details or to purchase a calendar. Inductions - Corporate Members –Up North Properties - Lisa Worsley Matthews was inducted for the business. Tom Wiltse (Owner) and Ann Morrison Perry are also members for Up North Properties. Sponsored by Brad Person. Elk Rapids Engineering - Doug Swartz and associate member Jason Walter. Sponsored by Norm Veliquette. Welcome new members!  Project Cherry TreeScott Dennis provided an update on Project Cherry Tree. Bullet points from Scott’s update include but are not limited to: * The program has moved from Grand Traverse to Northern Michigan Veterans plan to expand in the northern area.

 * Healthcare, jobs, education, burial services and housing are the main focuses of the PCT.

 * The goal is to try and close the gap between services and support for the rural areas.

 * We are engaged with legislators.

 * Working toward a common agreement and advance veteran support in the north.

 * Steering committee consists of medical providers and businesses.

 * Website is up and continues to be work in progress.

 * Hoping to take government written program and let northern Michigan ‘pilot’ the program instead of an immediate roll out across multiple states.

 * The hope is that the ‘pilot’ would include an administrator to manage store front in northern Michigan to evaluate Veteran’s medical needs and send them to the right partners and resources.

 * Project Cherry Tree is a 501C3

 Please visit [www.projectcherrytree.org](http://www.projectcherrytree.org/) for more information  President Tom S reminded member if they are going to take advantage of the $250 match, the donation to the organization of your choice is due by December 1 President Tom S shared that Good Works and the board approved 3,500 request from HERTHA for a screen. Due to the dollar amount approved, this will need to be voted on by members at the next meeting. President Tom S was pleased with the success of this year’s Rotary Show. Committee did a great job!  Numbers are still coming in. We are at about $41,510 so far. Upcoming Social  outing will take place November 14 – Morning group and evening group coming together at Royal Farms.  Reminder to invite spouse and friends.  Watch for sign-up for meal and bus transportation.  Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids**November 28, 2017** Tom B celebrating a seven year club anniversary Happy November Birthday – Erin, Mike and George Norm introduced the newest locally produced beverage, Cherry Bay Orchards single-strength Montmorency cherry juice, available at the Village Market. Samples were enjoyed my members. Thank you Norm! Bell ringers needed December 8 and 9 at Village Market – please let Tom S know if you can help out. Village Market Giving Tree – about six tags left. Please pick one up off the back table if you can help. Interact reported they are supporting a school in Texas that was devastated by the hurricane by sending care boxes with learning supplies. Bill D reminded everyone of Giving Tuesday opportunity. Please see Bill’s email dated 11.28.17 at 6:55am for details Program - Norm Veliquette gave a travelogue of his and Judy’s recent powerfully sentimental journey to Brazil. Norm was an exchange student there in 1965. He reunited with several of his exchange classmates and connected with the remnants of several of his 1965 host families. Fernando Venancio who the Veliquettes hosted as an RYE in Elk Rapids in 1983 provided travel with his family car to Norm and Judy for two weeks.Then-and-now pictures of people and places emphasized the vast development that has taken place, with electricity and good roads being the most noticeable infrastructure facilitators.  Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids **December 5, 2017** December Birthday’s - Susan Sweet, Steve Prissel, Joe Yuchasz, Bob CookClub Anniversary - Norm is celebrating 35 years!President Tom gave an updates on Interact activities, he also mentioned how the clubs upcoming sky diving fundraiser is gaining popularity.Jim Sak reported on the our annual recognition of previous club members -The unveiling of the following named bricks at Rotary Park will take place June 12, 2018Jim SakDean BransonMel MatchettJim NotoffTom WiltseRon YocumMeal program update – Committee of Don Pond, Jim Hockin, Stan S and Bob CBoard approved the following rate adjustment -Cost per evening meal will move from $11.65 to $14.00Note: Morning meal (order from menu options) will remain at $10.00Tom V shared some of the evening program survey results he is collecting from membersPhotographerTax preparationShortsSculptingTorch Conservation CenterCross HatchHealth and WellnessPaddle AntrimVisit Corporate Membership’s Fireside Chat was a nice evening for three of our new members.  Thank you Tom and Laura for your hospitality!  Happy holidays!  Hugs and best wishes to each of you, your family and friends. Celebrate and enjoy!  Next meeting will take place January 9, 2018 Sherry SteffenRotary Club of Elk Rapids  |
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