

OPENING

Time: 6:00 PM
 Pledge of Allegiance
 Invocation: Susan Mozena

GUESTS

None.

VISITING ROTARIANS

None.

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Masserang (2/5) and Richard Solak (2/9).

ANNIVERSARIES

Kevin Cox, 1 year. Sherry McRill, 2 years. Kim Towar, 30 years. Mark Zmyslowski, 36 years. Ted Hadgis, 44 years.

ROVING REPORTER

John Mozena
 -- Congratulations to Lynne Strickler, daughter of Diane and Ron Strickler, who is now the head of marketing in Canada for Conagra Brands.
 -- Little in the way of member news so John entertained with jokes and informational tidbits.

OIL CAN

-- John Mozena passed it to Judy Masserang for being an integral part of the potential new member process in the virtual ½ hour interviews they conduct with each person.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- Diane Strickler dropped off stationary to the GP South Interact Club today for their Arts & Scraps project. While there, she picked up 37 Valentine's Day cards, bringing the total to well over 100 for The Helm's Meals On Wheels recipients.
 -- Michigan Humane Society Telethon on 2/10. 7 Rotarians will be taking part in this event in Bingham Farms.

-- The Food Drive on 2/5 collected two vehicles full of items. Thank you to all who took part. The next one will take place on 4/2.

SUNSHINE NEWS

Steve McMillan
 -- Florence Seltzer is suffering from lung issues, recently spending four days in the hospital. She is now at home with portable oxygen. Please keep her in your thoughts.
 -- Roger Hull's wife, Jean, is undergoing knee surgery on 2/10. Wishing her good luck and a speedy recovery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- Per Roger Hull, the Club Foundation has issued an \$8,000 check to the South Sudanese Leadership & Community Development (Dino Valente's project). \$2,000 came from our Club and the rest were funds collected from other clubs.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

John C. Mozena, President of The Center for Economic Accountability – How to Grow an Economy: Lessons from Watching it Done Wrong

What should a government be looking to achieve through economic development? The economy should be growing, resilient, provide opportunity, inclusive, provide a desirable quality of life, and be able to support public services. Trying to achieve this, sometimes subsidies are awarded. There are 10 potential incentive programs, including tax credits, tax rebates, sales tax abatements (which Dan Gilbert receives for his downtown construction), utility discounts, and tax-free zones.

John is a proponent of the free market system, which does not include subsidies. He says that research shows, with very little argument, that they do not create jobs, don't grow economies, harm a state's long-term fiscal health, artificially increase inequality (only large companies receive them), discourage innovation, and increase the burden on other taxpayers. In the best-case scenario, only 25% of companies base their site selection on financial incentives and it barely ranks in the top 10 of the factors considered.

Going with in-state small businesses is the best way to grow GDP, personal income, and employment and it helps if governments are not too burdensome in the process. For example, to start a restaurant in Detroit, the City requires 15 license/permit fees totaling \$6,545, dealing with 9 different agencies, 12 in-person activities, and filling out 20 different forms. In all there are 77 separate steps. (This is not out of line with other major cities).

Using a garden vs. meadow analogy, John favors the meadow where nature (the free market) dictates its growth. The government steps in only when necessary.

john@EconomicAccountability.org.

CALENDAR

Feb: 23: Kim Towar & Paul Rentenbach – Happy 117th Birthday Rotary International