

## OPENING

Time: 6:00 PM  
 Pledge of Allegiance  
 Invocation: Richard Yeager-Stiver

## GUESTS

Carolyn Graham

## VISITING ROTARIANS

## BIRTHDAYS

Richard Yeager-Stiver (3/3), Lisa Gandelot (3/4), Mark Cory (3/5), Johann Finkelmeier (3/7), and Doris Neal-Van Tiem (3/12)

## ANNIVERSARIES

John Minnis, 10 years.

## ROVING REPORTER

Lisa Gandelot  
 -- After two years of having “Covid birthdays, Lisa was able to enjoy her 77<sup>th</sup> this year.  
 -- Incoming president Mark Cory will be spending a couple of days in Kalamazoo attending PETS (President Elect Training Seminar).  
 -- Heather Mayernik’s daughter, Caitlin, is heading to New York to start a new job with Sesame Street. Congratulations!

## OIL CAN

-- Judy Masserang passed the oil can to Fiona Lacroix (our intern) for the incredible work she has done this year. Fiona said she could have received it for a faux pas as her hair “almost” caught on fire from the candles on the cake at the recent Rotary anniversary meeting.

## SUNSHINE NEWS

Steve McMillan  
 -- No news.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

-- The next Food Drive at GP Memorial Church for Second Mile Center will be from 10:00am to 11:00am on 4/2. Keep on stocking up on supplies.  
 -- As the humanitarian needs escalate in Ukraine, Rotary will be coordinating relief efforts so look for emails from President Liz on ways that we can help.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- District 6400 online Grant Management Seminars on 3/23 and 3/31, starting at 7:00pm. The Club needs at least two members to attend one of the meetings to be eligible to apply for grant money in the upcoming Rotary year. Attendees are under no commitment to write a grant request. Please contact President Liz if interested.  
 -- Congratulations to Steve Cornillie as he transferred from red badge to blue badge.

## TODAY’S PROGRAM

Lauren Knill, Development & Outreach Manager of Empowerment Plan. Since 2012, the Empowerment Plan’s mission has been to provide supportive employment for individuals experiencing homelessness through the production of sleeping bag coats for those in need around the world. The employment opportunity ensures that each person is able to earn a stable income, find secure housing, and regain their independence.

The Empowerment Plan pairs full-time employment with a wide range of supportive services. It works with other organizations to provide help with housing, childcare, transportation, education, and

mental health treatment. 60% of the work week is dedicated to coat production and 40% to these services. Each person’s path is unique, so each employee works with a programs team to create one that leads toward permanent change and success.

In building the coats, sustainably sourced materials are used. There are 12 stations of sewers making one line that produces 50 a day and one coat can be produced in 90 minutes, weighing less than 5 pounds. They are water resistant and can be transformed into sleeping bags or worn as over-the-shoulder bags.

In 2020, 7,388 coats were produced in Detroit and 9,553 were distributed in 41 states and 2 countries. Since its inception, 95 jobs have been created, 100% of its employees and graduates are stably housed, and 55,000 coats have been distributed globally.

The Empowerment Plan makes coats to hire people, it doesn’t hire people to make coats. The typical employee is there for two years before moving on to allow others to have the same opportunity. To learn more, go to [www.empowermentplan.org](http://www.empowermentplan.org).

## CALENDAR

Mar 16: Kim Towar: The Rotary Foundation – Doing Good in the World