

November 21, 2013

Editors: Tammy Broderick and

Char Luttrell

Meeting Thursdays

at Noon at the

Holiday Inn

Near the University of Michigan

Service Above Self

RCAAN Board

of Directors

*President:*

Keith Krings

*President Elect:*

John Arenz

*Past President:*

Laura Van Steenis

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Tammy Broderick

*Treasurer:*

Tamra Ward

*Director,*

*Club Administration:*

Matt Copeland

*Director,*

*Rotary Foundation:*

Gail Scott

*Director,*

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Char Luttrell

*Director,*

*Service Projects:* Manish Mehta

*Director,*

*Membership:*

 Bryan Schindel

Green-Baxter Court Kids

Need Sleds for Christmas

Past President Laura Van Steenis outlined our plans for Christmas gift-giving at Green-Baxter Court. She said the community center would like each of the 15 children living there to receive a sled for Christmas, so that they will get outside and exercise in the wintertime. Our club’s treasury will purchase the sleds and club members will be asked to buy gifts for one family at Green-Baxter Court, as we have in the past. Laura will coordinate the “adopt-a-family” gift buying and the sled buying. Stay tuned for more information.

Visiting Rotarians and Guests

We welcomed the following guests: John Rasmussen, Downtown Ann Arbor Rotary, and Dick Rosenfeld, Jackson Rotary.

Michigan International Festival Coming Up Nov 23 at Saline High

Tamra Ward reminded us that the Ann Arbor Rotary West fundraiser, the Michigan International Festival, is November 23 at Saline High School. Our club is a Gold Sponsor for the event. There will be seven dance acts and six food vendors, showcasing food and dance from different countries and cultures. Tickets are $15/person in advance, or $50 for a family four-pack. The first 15 people who purchase a ticket will be upgraded to a VIP ticket, which includes the food tastings.

Rotary Songs and Traditions

Scott Nelson offered our invocation and led us in singing “America” and a Thanksgiving song.

Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party will be Thursday, December 19, at the Holiday Inn. Get your white elephant gifts ready!

Butterfly Garden Plans

The Butterfly Garden committee will meet on Thursday, December 5, after our club meeting. Sofia Franciscus is working with students at the School of Natural Resources to see if we can have some interns to help us with the garden.

B.A.B.E.S.

President-Elect John Arenz, standing in for President Keith Krings, saluted Rick and Elizabeth Jarzembowski’s wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Happy Dollars

President-Elect John Arenz was happy that Tammy and Don Broderick helped him with a jump start for his car’s dead battery after Rotary last week.

Virginia Nordby happily reported that she has recently had eye surgery and it was successful! That’s why Gordon and Virginia were absent from Rotary for the past few weeks.

Gail Scott was happy that she got her car back. It works better than it did when she first bought it and she now has a three-year maintenance plan!

Vern Hutton offered a miserable dollar. Vern wasn’t happy this week.

Bob Greenough:

One Rotarian’s Story

Bob Greenough offered a short presentation about himself and his years in Rotary, as a personnel administrator and as an author of books about the afterlife and the soul.

Bob, who will be 87 years young next January, joined Rotary North in 1986. At that time, Bob said our club was more of a “knife and fork” club and didn’t really do very much. The club met at the Lord Fox in Dixboro, then on North Campus, then at the Holiday Inn on Washtenaw, before moving to our current location. Rotary North offered modest scholarship support and had speakers each week. Among the speakers were Tom Monahan, founder of Domino’s Pizza, and Don Canham, U-M athletic director. Bob said that when women were admitted to Rotary everything changed and the club became much more active. Virginia Nordby was the first female member of our club, followed by Gail Scott. Bob himself started the Butterfly Garden in Gallup Park.

Bob graduated from Michigan State University and worked for the S.S. Kresge Company, then Chrysler Corporation, first at the Chrysler Proving Grounds in Chelsea, and later to Chrysler in Detroit. Following a stint as an insurance salesman, he became personnel director for University Hospital in Ann Arbor. Later he worked in personnel for Washtenaw County and received an MBA from the U-M. Bob and his wife Fay raised four children and were married for 61 years until Fay passed away last year.

Bob Greenough is a World War II U.S. Army veteran who enlisted when he was just 17 years old. He has written two books on the afterlife and is working on a third, addressing the question: “What does the soul do for eternity?”

Sofia Franciscus:

My Path to Rotary

Following Bob Greenough’s presentation, as one of our oldest members, Sofia Franciscus, one of our newest members, told us a little about her background.

Sofia was born in Puerto Rico. Her father is a retired US Air Force officer. Her mother is an architect from Austria. Sofia was raised in a German-Austrian community in France. Her parents were both Rotarians, but Sofia only recently decided to join Rotary herself.

As a child, Sofia thought what she wanted to pursue as a career was landscape architecture, so she attended the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources. While there, a variety of international summer internships opened her eyes to the many opportunities in the field of environmental engineering. She learned about the life cycle of packaging by way of strict packaging laws in Germany. She learned that efficiency is not the ultimate answer; that there is always a human factor to take into consideration.

For ten years, Sofia was a compliance officer for Royal Carribean Cruise Lines. She helped the company comply with various nation’s rules and regulations about bilge water. Her travels taught her that each culture has its own way of work and doing business and that every county is its own fiefdom. Sofia said that she believes there should be more crossover among nations and cultures so that environmental challenges can be met with more realistic solutions.

Upcoming Programs

Nov 28 THANKSGIVING

 No Meeting

Dec 5 EMU Women’s Soccer

 Michael Miller

Dec 12 Trinity Health Breast Care

 Janet Burns

Dec 19 Holiday Party No noon meeting

Dec 26 No meeting