



Flint Rotary World

Charter No. 220 – *Rotary Club of Flint, Michigan* – Organized April 7, 1916

Rotary theme for 2020-2021 “Rotary Opens Opportunities”

Holger Knaack from the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg--Mölln, Germany, Rotary International President
David Elliot from the London, Ontario Rotary Club, Ontario, Governor, District 6330

**Coming up: 5th Friday – no noon meeting – meet us for Zoom Happy Hour!
Meet us on Zoom – the link is in the President’s weekly email.**

Speaker Round-Up – Oct 16 meeting:

Paul Rozycki was our speaker Oct. 16, and he provided a lot of insight. He said the upcoming election is likely the most divisive election in a long time. In his presentation he highlighted not only the polarization regarding the presidential candidates, but increased anxiousness about what happens in the days following the election and questions about the validity of the electoral college.

For the first time in the modern era, the electoral college results did not match the popular vote in 2000, and again in 2016. If that happens again this year, it could prompt pressure to reconsider the soundness of that method for determining the winner of the presidency. Another reason for the increased sense of division this year can be traced to everything else we have experienced in 2020-- impeachment, COVID-19, and the plot to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer, to name a few. And yet, Rozycki notes that through it all the support level of Trump has remained steady among his core supporters.

While most polls indicate that President Donald Trump trails former Vice-President Joe Biden by at least ten percentage points, there are several reasons why Trump could still pull out a victory. Those include:

- The power of incumbency.
- The economy, which as taken a tumble with COVID-19, but where voters still give Trump an edge in terms of perceived leadership.
- The power of court appointments to motivate evangelicals. There is also some sign that Latino voters are increasingly open to Trump, and he also has support from older white Reagan Democrats.
- The fact that Biden is leading in the polls may lead to complacency in Democrats, leading some to stay home or vote for third parties.
- A high degree of enthusiasm among Trump’s supporters as evidenced by rallies and his unparalleled ability to dominate the media.

Despite those factors, Joe Biden has several “pluses” in his corner as well. These include:

- Signs that he can rebuild the “Blue Wall” of Democratic support in upper midwestern states like Michigan.
- A strategy to recapture the votes of people who voted for Obama in 2012 and for Trump in 2016.
- Dissatisfaction with Trump among a subset of Republicans, including several prominent voices in politics and national security.

MEET YOU ON ZOOM!

While we are dealing with the Corona Virus, the Rotary Club of Flint will continue meeting via Zoom. There is no regular meeting Oct. 30 as it is the fifth Friday. Join us for Zoom happy hour at 4PM



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2020-2021

President – Ray Gist
 President-Elect – Kyle McCree
 Vice President – Fred Hinz
 Vice President – Elizabeth Jordan
 Director – Ann Marie Van Duyne
 Director – Patrick Naswell
 Director – Ellen Brothers
 Director –
 Past President – George Ananich
 Club Administrator – Amy van der Putte
 Treasurer – Stu Kelly

More Speaker Round-Up – Oct 16 meeting:

- A military vote, which traditionally leans Republican, but that may be up for grabs based on Trump's comments characterizing military personnel as suckers and losers.
- Fatigue with Trump's style of governing and a desire for normalcy.
- Suburban women and some older voters, who were key voting blocs in his 2016 success, now souring on Trump.
- Concerns about Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and access to healthcare concerns, which is a point where Biden generally scores much higher ratings among voters than Trump.

Rozycki cautions that we almost certainly will not know final results on election night. The process for counting an unprecedented number of mail-in ballots will take time, especially in places like Michigan where absentee ballots cannot begin to be processed until the day before election day, and votes cannot be counted until the day of. In addition, there is the potential for a variety of court challenges to contest preliminary results. And, as the plot against Governor Whitmer reveals, there is an increased sense of threat of violence. For all these reasons, it may take several days or longer to arrive at a final, complete count of the votes cast.

Turning to statewide races to watch:

- Most polls give Senator Gary Peters a slight edge over his challenger John James, but James has shown himself to be a formidable candidate. Peters is known as a "work horse" rather than a "show horse," which means he has less name recognition than is typical of an incumbent senator. However, although John James identifies as African American, there is doubt as to how many African American votes he will be able to peel away from Democrats.
- The State Supreme Court race will fill two seats on the state's highest court and could determine the balance of power on the court. (While supreme court judges are listed as nonpartisan in Michigan, they are nominated by political parties.) The state supreme court has recently garnered additional attention since the court overturned Governor Whitmer's authority to

- take executive action on COVID-19.
- Two ballot measures relate to the use of state revenues from lease of public land for oil and gas. This relatively complex measure is vaguely worded and is likely to cause confusion for voters. The other ballot measure relates to requiring search warrants for personal electronic data on cell phones and similar devices.

With respect to local races, the most hotly contested state house race in the area is between incumbent Democrat Representative Sheryl Kennedy and Republican challenger David Martin. Although incumbents generally have an advantage, the 48th district voted for Trump in 2016, so the race may be close. In terms of the county sheriff, Chris Swanson is the favorite to retain his seat, but Republican Stephen Sanford is likewise putting up a solid effort. The sheriff seat stands in contrast to many county positions, where the Democrat may be running unopposed in the general election or face nominal opposition.

Election Day is on November 3, and voters may cast their ballots at their polling place on Election Day or vote early by absentee. To ensure that absentee ballots arrive in time to be counted, voters may vote in-person at their clerk's office or drop off completed absentee ballots at official drop boxes. In the City of Flint, official drop boxes are located in front of City Hall and at fire stations. For more voter information or to check the status of your absentee ballot, please visit the Michigan Secretary of State Voter Information Center at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>.



Remembering John Mott



Our friend and colleague John D. Mott passed away Oct .20 at the age of 87. John married Patricia Ann McGrail on June 6, 1970, a union that lasted for 50 years. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force and retired from Genesee Packaging after a long career. At one time or another, John was president of the Flint Institute of Music, Flint Rotary Club, United Way, Flint Golf Club, and the Flint City Club, and served countless other organizations in and around the Flint area. He loved to cook and enjoyed sharing his talents with his guests. John was also an avid skier, introducing his children and grandchildren to the sport.

All of us will remember his sharp wit and way with words. He will be greatly missed. The family has indicated that those wishing to remember John could make contributions to Flint Rotary Club or Flint Institute of Music.

Coming Up –

11/06/20: Manal Saab & Rashal Zureikat, Lebanon Relief Project
 11/13/20: Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, Update From the COVID-19 Task Force
 11/27/20: NO NOON MEETING - Thanksgiving Holiday - Join us @ 4 pm for a Zoom Happy Hour!

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Where to make up:

AFTER COVID QUARANTINE

Monday

Saginaw Valley NOON
Horizons Conference Center
 Grand Blanc (1st & 3rd Monday) NOON
Aubree's Pizzeria and Grill

Tuesday

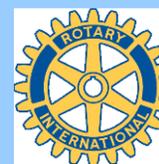
Clio 7:30 AM
Roger's Lodge
 Durand 11:30 AM
Durand Union Station
 Fenton 7:15 AM
Spring Meadows Country Club
 Genesee Valley (Flint) 12:15 PM
Redwood Lodge, Hill Rd.
 Lapeer 12:10 PM
Lapeer County Center Building

Wednesday

Greater Flint Sunrise 7:00 AM
Foodbank of Eastern Michigan
 Owosso 12:15 PM
Owosso Memorial Hosp. Annex
 Saginaw NOON
Saginaw Club

Thursday

Davisburg (1st & 3rd Thursday) 7:00 AM
4H Fair Grounds Community Room
 Burton 12:15 PM
IMA Brookwood Golf Club
 Corunna NOON
Corunna Community Center
 Flushing 7:00 AM
Sorrento's Restaurant
 Frankenmuth 12:10 PM
Zehnder's Restaurant



The Rotary Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?"