



COMMUNITY MIXER 2016 The big question of the evening – how many in attendance? – was finally posed to veteran Muskegon Heights Police Chief J.E. Thomas. The learned and experienced answer, "at least 6,000," has become the final definitive answer. So let it be written. So let it be what it is.







Our Derby Connection

After an impressive Landon Fortenberry re-introduction last week (see page 4),

citing scholar Landon's four-year relationship with Rotary and its possible foretelling of achievement potential, John Snider, right, felt inclined to share a related story, this



one featuring the Sniders' fascinating exchange student connection with the Kentucky Derby. John and his wife Kathy have sponsored or hosted almost 100 students over the years.

"In 1973, my wife and I were approached by Rhody Kleaveland to host a Swedish exchange student through the "Youth For Understanding" student exchange program. That student was Fredrik Nyquist. He was with us a year and attended Reeths-Puffer.

"Fredrik ultimately returned to Sweden, and became a physician. He returned to visit several times and was the Swedish team physician in the 1982 Atlanta Olympics.

"We continued to stay in touch. He told us his oldest son, a hockey player, was drafted by the Red Wings. He played in Grand Rapids for a couple of years and moved to Detroit. There he befriended the owner of this year's Kentucky Derby winning horse by the name of Nyquist; thus, the name of Nyquist and the Derby connection to Muskegon. Justin Abdelkater from here and Gus Nyquist often plan on the same line."

According to media reports, Detroit Red Wings forward Gustav Nyquist is a fan of the winning horse named after him. President Susan following up on John's remarks appealed to the Club to become engaged in the Rotary Youth Exchange in 2017. We have no out bound or inbound students this year and it is a missed opportunity. Please contact Susan if you can help.

Last Week's Program Law Day Winners by Frank Marczak

The program featured the winners of this year's Law Day, April 29, 2016. In 1957, Charles S. Rhyne, American Bar Association President envisioned a special day to celebrate our legal system. A year later, Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day USA to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the law. In 1961,

Congress designated May 1 as the official date for celebrating Law Day USA and programs are held nationwide on or around that date.

Alisha Riedl, right, Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and Chair of the Law Day Committee introduced winners of some of the Law Day contests held in this

area. Three awards were presented: the Golden Apple Award to a teacher, Mike Dunnuck from Ravenna; the Frank D.Scott Award to Scott Collins who is a probation officer with the State of Michigan; and the Liberty Bell Award to former Rotarian and community activist, **Barb Wenk**.

Alisha read the reason for the awards as well as some of the contributing statements about why these individuals won their award. Community good and



attention to our system of government and justice were the overriding themes. These three individuals are ordinary citizens who give of themselves to make the society we live in and this city a better



place to live. Thank you from an appreciative Rotary Club for what you have done for our community and its citizens.

Four contests are held for students in grades K-12 in the county. The contest consists of essays that are written and argued, based upon a certain law or privilege that citizens of this country enjoy. We

had the pleasure of hearing three very capable and well-spoken high school students describe their essay about the Miranda Rights that has now become a part of the American system of justice. Each of these students took a position in support of or opposed to the use of Miranda Rights as they affect students in grades K-12.

Kyleah Sutherland, from the Calvary Christian 9-11th grade group, gave an impassioned speech on the position of



From left, Barb Wenk, Scott Collins,

Mike Dunnuck and Alisha Riedl

From left, Kyleah Sutherland, TyJuan Thirdgill and Megan Mitchell.



not permitting

students access to the use of Miranda for non-criminal acts or behavior while enrolled in and attending a grade school, be it high school, middle school or elementary school. In her words: "School is not a democracy" and constitutional rights do not pertain to students under the guidance and direction of teachers and school administrators. If a student is accused of a transgression in school, he/she has the opportunity to call a parent or guardian to be present when the incident or proposed discipline is being discussed. And Kyleah believes that is adequate and any further step into using the Miranda law does not apply to schools.

Megan Mitchell, another senior attending Calvary Christi

an took the same approach. She does not believe that Miranda should be an option for schools to use when confronting a student about an act or behavior that is non-criminal in nature. Two other issues; bullying and being able to confront an accuser were described as they occur in schools vs in the society outside of schools. She expressed her belief that the administration of the schools must act on behalf of all students and keeping schools safe is one of their main responsibilities and use of Miranda would interfere with the process in a negative fashion.

The third senior, Mona Shores' TyJuan

Thirdgill, took a completely different approach to the issue. He expressed the opinion that students rights do not stop at the door of the school house. Confronting a bully or knowing one's accuser are parts of the system that he believes need to be part of a school system of justice.

It was quite clear why these three articulate and open-minded students were winners. Scholarships of \$2000 were won by both seniors; Ipads were available to 9-11th grade contestants. The Law Day event has many local sponsors from lawyers, the courts, Rotary clubs, restaurants, and the list goes on. A very special day, this was, and very special students. Thanks and commendations to the winners.

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President Susan got the Club off to a good start last week by announcing that over 600 people attended the Community



Mixer at Mona Lake Park on Wednesday night. The previous (and first) Mixer (October 2014) only some 200 attended, so this year's attendees are to be thanked and congratulated. Kudos all the way around.

Landon Fortenberry, below on right with introducer **Phil Friedrick**, an outstanding young man who was an outbound exchange student four years ago, attended the meeting and thanked the Club again for sponsoring his year in Brazil. The life lessons he learned about different cultures and ways to see the world convinced him that if we all see the world as one big melting pot, peace would be easier to reach. He commented that he thought this to be especially true for the millennials who will be the next generation of leaders for this country and Rotary.

Susan displayed and described cards and certificates from Senator Debbie Stabenow; Rotary International, Rotary District 6290 and the State of Michigan, congratulating the Club for achieving 100 years as viable community club and offering "Service above Self."



Tom Powers returned in good spirits and good health after spending some time in an ICU in

Charleston, SC. Welcome back Tom. He reminded and asked Club members to assist with the placement and pickup of American flags that adorn the city roadways on Memorial Day. Five times this year, the flags will be proudly displayed along Seaway Drive and the Causeway, and many hands are needed to make it work. Please help.

