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**ATTENDEES:**

Petra Croneigh, John Croneigh, Nancy Shepherdson, John Casper, Subbarao Mandavilli, Doug Ahlgrim, Sam Martinez, and Barbara Barker

**NEW MEMBERS:** Kera Radke and Tem Huelsman co-owners of Lake Zurich Family Martial Arts

**GUESTS:** Gabby Stopka, Scholarship recipient

**PRESENTER:** Rick Harnish, Executive Director of High-speed Rail Alliance. Accompanying him was W.C. Porter.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Petra Croneigh, President. The meeting was held via Zoom.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**\* Scholarship Recipient:**  Gabby Stopka gave an update on her use of the scholarship Rotary presented to her. She is in an elementary education program through Illinois State University. Because of COVID 19 school has been on-line but she found it easy to adjust to the new format. Next school year she hopes to have in-class education.

**\* Member Induction:** Ted Huelsman and Kera Radke from Lake Zurich Family Martial Arts were formally inducted as new members of Lake Zurich Rotary. This is a shared membership. Welcome Ted and Kera! We look forward to working with you on service projects and fundraising programs which serve the local and global communities.

**\* Presenter:** Rick Harnish is the executive director of the Chicago-based High Speed Rail Alliance. It was incorporated in 1993 on the north side of Chicago. The Alliance advocates for integrated rail and transit networks connected by 200+ mph high-speed lines. By connecting cities, towns, and airports, the high-speed trains will dramatically expand economic opportunities and slash carbon emissions.

There are three program areas: Research, Education and Tools.

The advantage to a high-speed rail system is energy and safety. There is low friction and it is self-guiding. A high-speed rail can carry approximately 1200 people.

Three reasons for developing a high-speed rail transit are:

1. Builds stronger communities

2. Lowers carbon emissions

3. Reduces government spending (same capacity of ten highway lanes)

A high-speed line travels from 125-250 mph. There would be a separate line for freight.

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A shared-used line can travel up to 125 mph. High-speed lines can carry 30 million people within three hours to a destination that by vehicle would take approximately ten hours.

State Action needed:

a. Modernize Metra

b. Statewide integrated network plan

c. Design railroad station at O'Hare airport

Federal Action needed:

a. Surface transportation program reauthorization

b. FY 2022 appropriation

c. Emergency appropriation?

Rick encourages Rotarians write in support of High-speed rail on their website: HSRail.org

**\*Blue Star Electronic Recycling:**

The Blue Star van will be parked at Casper True Value Hardware for the recycling event on Saturday, January 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to cover a one hour shift, two members per hour. Nancy Shepherdson will be sending out a sign-up genius to all members. We will have cozies to give away and other information about Rotary. A list of the type of items that can be accepted and the cost, if any, will be provided. No lifting is required. Notices have been sent out on social media and through the Chamber.

**\* Kuechmann Kove Update:**

Petra said she is still in the process of reaching out to Barrington Breakfast Club in District 6440. If we are able to get a $500 commitment from them, then we may be will be able to apply for the matching District grant. If that will not be possible, then our club may consider a single donation to the Ancient Oaks Kuechmanm Kove Natural Playscape project. A decision will be made by next Monday, January 25th.

\* **Book Donation:**

John Croneigh announced that a company was donating books. They plan to give us 465 books, most of which will be children and self-published books. They are located in New Jersey so we would only have to pay for shipping. The cost of shipping will be included in the grant request.

**\* 2020 Lake Zurich Chamber of Commerce Member Award:**

Casper True Value Hardware was nominated for Business of the Year. The Rotary Club of Lake Zurich was nominated for the Community Impact Award. Winners will be announced on February 9, 2021.

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**\* Grant Management Training:**

On February 6th, there will be a training meeting via Zoom on Grant Management. Those interested in the program, please contact Petra.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. The next Zoom meeting will be on Monday, February 1st, at 6:30 p.m. A presenter will discuss the CASA of Lake County.

Barbara Y. Barker

Secretary