

Rotary Motto

*Service Above
Self*

4-Way Test

*Of the things
we think, say
or do:*

Is it the truth?

*Is it fair to all
concerned?*

*Will it build
goodwill and
better
friendship?*

*Will it be
beneficial to all
concerned?*

Avenues of
Service

Club Service

*Vocational
Service*

*Community
Service*

*International
Service*

Youth Service

ROTARY NOTES

A publication of the Rotary Club of Warren

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

ASSIGNMENTS

GREETERS

February, 2024 - Terra O'Brien
March, 2024 - Dallas Woodall

REGISTRATION

February, 2024 - Don Powers & Ray Sinchak
March, 2024 - Barry Dunaway & Ray Sinchak

INVOCATION

February, 2024 - Joni Gawne
March, 2024 - Janet Schweitzer

FELLOWSHIP (1st & 3rd Wed.) & MAGAZINE REPORT (2nd Wed.)

February, 2024 - Ted Stazak
March, 2024 - Judy Masaki

CAREER AWARENESS (4th Wed. of the Month)

February, 2024 - To Be Announced
March, 2024 - To Be Announced

SPEAKERS

2/21/24 - The Solace Center & Someplace Safe
2/28/24 - Sheriff Paul Monroe, Trumbull County Sheriff's Dept.
3/6/24 - Social Event/No Meeting at Trumbull Country Club
3/13/24 - Nat Mazur, All About the Paws

Areas of Focus

Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution

Disease Prevention & Treatment

Water & Sanitation

Maternal & Child Health

Basic Education & Literacy

Economic & Community Development

The Environment

Club Officers

*President
Ken LaPolla*

*President Elect
Cindy Matheson*

*Vice-President
Tony Iannucci*

*Secretary
Judy Masaki*

*Treasurer
Cheryl Oblinger*

*Assistant Treasurer
Mike Bollas*

*Past President
Ted Stazak*

Board Members

*Bill Beinecke
Lauren Kramer
Marilyn Pape
John Perdue
Lorilyn Shandor
Julia Wetstein*



Standing in for Ted Stazak this week, one of Warren Rotary's sweethearts, Denise May, shared the following Valentine's Day trivia with our members:

- * Before "X" stood for a kiss, it represented the cross at the end of a letter.
- * Cupid has the name, Eros, in Greek mythology.
- * In Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of Venus.
- * The Valentine's Day candy, Sweethearts, were first created on equipment made for lozenges.
- * Sweethearts first got their shape in 1901.
- * In the Victorian era, mean-spirited Valentine's Day cards were called "Vinegar Valentines".

**Rotary Club
Foundation
Board**

*President
Ted Stazak*

*Vice-President
Tony Iannucci*

*Secretary
Judy Masaki*

*Treasurer
Cheryl Oblinger*

*Andy Bednar
Ken LaPolla
Denise May
Kim Straniak*

Contact us at:

*Rotary Club of
Warren
P.O. Box 68
Warren, OH
44482*

Our Website:

Warrenrotary.org

**If you have any
suggestions
about our
newsletter, or if
you would like
to become a
sponsor, please**

contact:

Judy Masaki

- * The oldest known Valentine's Day message was written by The Duke of Orleans.
- * The oldest known Valentine's Day message was sent from prison.
- * The oldest known Valentine's Day message was written in 1415.
- * 50 million roses are sent for Valentine's Day each year.
- * The first Valentine's Day candy box was invented by Richard Cadbury.
- * On average, 220,000 marriage proposals take place every Valentine's Day.
- * Letters to Juliet are sent to Verona, Italy every year.
- * Yellow roses symbolize friendship.
- * Kissing increases most people's heart rate to at least 110 beats per minute.
- * William Shakespeare mentions Valentine's Day in his play, *Hamlet*.
- * 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are typically sold each Valentine's Day.
- * The insanely popular website, YouTube, debuted on Valentine's Day in 2005.
- * Saint Valentine was said to be martyred in the year 269.
- * February 14th was first declared to be Valentine's Day in 1537.
- * In Finland, Valentine's Day is known as "Friends Day".
- * Besides Valentine's Day, Mother's Day is the holiday for which most flowers are sent.
- * 9 million people typically buy Valentines for their pets.
- * California produces most of America's red roses.
- * The notorious gangster, AL Capone, orchestrated the St. Valentine's Day massacre.

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- * Americans spend \$1 billion on chocolate for Valentine's Day each year.
- * Women purchase 85% of all Valentines sold.
- * The telephone was patented on Valentine's Day.
- * 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged every year.
- * The tomato was once known as a "love apple" for its alleged aphrodisiac properties.
- * The first recorded speed dating event was held in 1998.
- * The oldest living love poem was written on a clay tablet.
- * The Guinness World Record for the longest marriage ever recorded is 86 years, 290 days.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Sleep in Heavenly Peace is seeking volunteers to help build 76 beds that will go to families in need in Trumbull County. The "Build A Bed" event will take place on Saturday, February 24th, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Jefferson PK8.

THE NORTH CANTON ROTARY CHILI OPEN will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arrowhead Golf Club (1500 Rogwin Circle, North Canton). Tickets are \$15. For more information, visit: www.rotarychiliopen.com

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CAREER AWARENESS DAY has been rescheduled for March 13, 2024 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m at Harding High School and will be held in collaboration with the City of Warren. If you would like to participate by sharing information about your field of work with the students, please contact Tony Iannucci.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 14th, at Saratoga Restaurant. Our hostess for the evening will be Lauren Kramer. Fellowship will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the business meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

PETS TRAINING: President Elect Cindy Matheson and Vice-President YTony Iannucci will attend this year's All Ohio training for Rotary Club President-Elects in Columbus, Friday, March 15th and Saturday, March 16th.

OHIO P.E.T. PROJECT - The five RI Ohio District Governors are partnering with and fundraising for "On Our Sleeves", a non-profit organization committed to breaking stigmas and helping families talk about mental health issues with their children. On Our Sleeves designed a custom made kindness kit for teachers to use in their classrooms, and they are free to teachers who request them. For a gift of \$25, you can provide resources for one classroom to encourage children to build a kinder world together. You can donate at: www.onoursleeves.org

SAVE THE DATE: Join the Sugarcreek Rotary Club for their Annual Pancake Meal Fundraiser and Health Screening on March 22, 2024 at Garaway Belden Community Center (221 Dover Road, NW, Sugarcreek, OH). More details will be available soon.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Our 2024 Slice of the Valley Pizza Challenge is scheduled for April 7th at the Eastwood Event Centre!! We'll need as many Rotarians as possible to volunteer at the event in order to make it a success. Also, if you have any possible basket themes for the basket raffle, forward them to Cindy Matheson.

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THE 2024 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION will be held 5/25/24 through 5/29/24 in Singapore, "the Garden City". You can attend inspiring breakout sessions, exchange ideas about service projects, and make meaningful connections with global individuals. Register today @ convention.rotary.org. This year's theme is "Sharing Hope with the World".

PROGRAM:

MIKE WILSON,
PRESIDENT MCKINLEY
& THE WIZARD OF OZ



Mike Wilson is a Warren Rotarian and the Director of Scope Senior Services of Northeast Ohio serving over 4,000 senior citizens.

Mike began presenting William McKinley 33 years ago. He has performed as our country's 25th President all over the nation. His furthest trip to conduct a program was to Massachusetts.

Mike has been a featured performer for the National Travel Writers Association. He is a lifelong member of the Friends of the National McKinley Birthplace

Memorial and Library in Niles, Ohio.

Mike was filmed for C-Span giving a McKinley Front Porch Speech as part of their TV series on the Presidents. He believes in bringing

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history to life.

Mike reported that he actually started portraying McKinley by accident. While living in Marion, Ohio and working as the Director of the Ohio JC's, he began dating his wife, Bonnie. Bonnie wanted to move to the Warren area, and Mike naturally followed. They visited the McKinley Memorial in Niles and thought it was so beautiful. So, Mike wanted to get involved and joined the Friends of the Memorial and Library. One day, he was standing by the statue of McKinley, and a young boy said, "Is that you!?" Having known someone in Marion who portrayed Warren G. Harding, Mike began to study William McKinley.

On February 14th, following recitation of a brief quote from President McKinley, Mike educated Warren Rotarians about McKinley's life and the Presidential Election of 1896. William McKinley was born in Niles, Ohio and had a boyhood home in Poland, Ohio. He graduated from Poland Seminary High School. He later lived in Canton, where his tomb is located.

In 1892, the second Great Depression of our nation was taking place. The following year, two of the nation's biggest employers, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and the National Cordage Company, collapsed and set off a stock market panic. Thousands of businesses closed and America's unemployment rates increased.

Amidst this economic downturn, a battle between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan ensued. By mid-1896, the Democrats made free silver a central theme of their platform. Bryan was an outspoken champion of silver. He called for an end to government favoritism towards business interests and the wealthy, a platform which appealed to America's farmers and the working class. He clinched the Democratic presidential nomination. During his campaign, he traveled thousands of miles by rail, giving hundreds of speeches to huge crowds.

Meanwhile, then Governor William McKinley of Ohio won the Republican presidential nomination. He stayed home in Canton, Ohio and addressed large delegations of Republican supporters from his front porch. Thousands of speakers stumped elsewhere on McKinley's behalf. Cleveland businessman, Mark Hanna, solicited major contributions from fellow industrialists. McKinley's platform of economic protectionism and support for the Gold Standard spoke to the interests of those whose livelihoods were linked to urban institutions.

In the end, McKinley won the election of 1896 and began an era of Republican dominance and economic prosperity that lasted nearly four decades. The election also marked the triumph of urban interests, such as banking, manufacturing and industry, over farming interests of the past.

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Throughout the election, the Populist Party also supported the Free Silver Movement. The Populist Party of America was led by a woman from liberal Kansas, Leslie Kelsey. She didn't run for President but was a traveling orator. In 1896, she started the "Occupy Wall Street Movement" and spoke against economic inequality, corporate greed, and the influence of money in politics. Her theme was, "There's No place Like Home", which focused on encouraging bankers to quit destroying lives by foreclosing on their homes.

Fast forward to about 10 years ago. Mike Wilson's wife and son went on a field trip to the Federal Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio. There they saw huge pictures of William McKinley and the characters from *The Wizard of Oz* on the building's walls. So, Mike started to study the connections between McKinley and *The Wizard of Oz*. This is where Mike's presentation to Rotary got really interesting! Think about it.

L. Frank Baum, author of the book, edited a weekly paper in South Dakota prior to moving to Chicago in 1896. He lamented the decline of the Populist Party and the alliance between the farmers and the urban workers. He started writing children's books in 1900. Although *The Wizard of Oz* was written as a children's fantasy, many see it as an allegory with Populism's misfortune and the issues surrounding the 1896 election in mind. Here are the connections outlined by Mike Wilson:

1. "Oz" is the abbreviation for ounce, the standard unit of measure for gold and silver.
2. In the story, Dorothy and her farmhouse are swept away from Kansas in a tornado, and she ends up in the Land of Oz. Dorothy, like Leslie Kelsey, had an idealistic attitude and was naturally good. Kelsey wanted to help the farmers. Dorothy wanted to get back to her family and make sure they were alright.
3. Dorothy begins her journey in Oz wearing a pair of slippers (ruby colored in the movie, but silver in the book, representative of farming communities in Kansas - silver country).
4. Dorothy travels the Yellow (Gold) Brick Road, supposedly the road to prosperity, which was also McKinley's theme.
5. Along the way, Dorothy meets the tinman who is "rusted solid". Could this be a reference to the industrial factories that shut down during the depression of 1893? However, the tinman's real problem was that he didn't have a heart, and his arms had been frozen for four years - like the men who worked in factories and were dehumanized and turned into machines, and the industrial employers who didn't have the heart to reinvest after the depression.
6. Farther down the road, Dorothy meets the Scarecrow, who has no brain, like the farmers who Baum suggested didn't have enough brains to recognize what their political interests were.

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Let's continue down the yellow Brick Road:

7. Dorothy comes upon the Cowardly Lion, who is in need of courage. William Jennings Bryan had a loud roar when he gave his speeches, but no power. The largest newspaper man, William Randolph Hearst, who was very pro-gold, called Bryan the "Cowardly Candidate".
8. Off all of the characters go to the Emerald City (Washington) in search of the wonderful Wizard of Oz and what he might give them. The Wizard of Oz speaks to them eventually from behind a curtain, just as McKinley spoke to crowds behind the curtain of his home. And Mike indicated that if you look at the illustrations in the book, The Wizard of Oz looks like President McKinley!
9. The Munchkins, the people who populated much of Oz and greeted Dorothy after the twister, are said to represent the common American citizens that were practically enslaved by the factory owners.
10. The Wicked Witch of the East was killed when a house fell on her. She represents the Mortgage Bankers who were hated because of frequent foreclosures and economic turmoil.
11. The Wicked Witch of the West represented drought or the land barons who exploited the drought to eat up the land of small farmers. That is why Dorothy was able to kill her with water (the drought was ended).
12. The government (Oz) couldn't help Dorothy. Rather, Glenda, the Good Witch of the North, taught Dorothy that she could only help herself. How? By clicking the heels of her magic silver slippers and repeating three times, "There's No Place Like Home". (Again, a reference to Kelsey's theme.)
13. It should also be noted that in the movie, the beginning scenes in Kansas were in black and white - silver country. However, after the tornado, the movie is in technicolor (gold country).
14. Emerald City is designed like a castle, perhaps based on the Trumbull County Courthouse where McKinley once spoke to thousands of spectators.

In closing, Mike Wilson noted that during William McKinley's term as President, tariffs were protected, factories re-opened, and the Gold Standard was set. In his final speech, he predicted there would be the following developments in the world in the future: communication capabilities, transportation like rapid transit and airplanes, modern medicine, and the x-ray light machine. He also encouraged all of us to read *The Wizard of Oz*, do our own research, and judge for ourselves the connections to William McKinley.

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TRIPLE JACKPOT

This week, the Grand Jackpot totaled \$225.
Congratulations to Daily Winner Robin Martorana!

HAPPY BUCKS



*** **Robin Martorana** was a happy winner and donated her winnings back to the club.

*** **Janet Schweitzer** loved hearing Mike Wilson speak about President McKinley. Her grandfather was just feet away from McKinley's assassin at his final speech.

*** **Terra O'Brien** offered a Happy Buck for Mike Wilson and *The Wizard of Oz*.

*** **Patti Augustine** was so happy to get her W2 from Cheryl Oblinger for her grand jackpot win!

*** **Ray Sinchak** enjoyed Mike's presentation. He also offered a Happy Buck in honor of Randy Gradishar who got inducted in to the Football Hall of Fame. Randy and Ray have been friends since the 1950s.

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*** **Cindy Matheson** thought Mike Wilson was amazing as President McKinley!

*** **Tom Angelo** enjoyed Mike's presentation and told him he ought to change his career.

*** **Mike Wilson** reported that his high school football team nominated Randy Gradishar for the Hall of Fame.

*** **Ken LaPolla** offered a Happy Buck for Mike's portrayal of President McKinley. Ken was ill all of last weekend and is happy to be feeling well again. He was glad Julia Wetstein was watching our meeting on Facebook and asked a question about McKinley's connection to Harriet Upton. (McKinley met her during his trip to Warren for his speech at Trumbull County Courthouse.) Finally, Ken wanted to note that the political signs with the LaPolla name on them are not his!



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**