



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

Monday, October 30th, 2017

**LIVONIA ROTARY
CELEBRATES
WORLD POLIO DAY**



With a big attendance of almost 40 Rotarians & Guests, and with **President Laura Perlowski** back from her synchronized swimming competition in Florida, the Livonia (noon) Rotary Club celebrated World Polio Day (observed). World Polio Day is October 24th, but we recognized this important day at our Monday, October 30th meeting with special guest speaker and well-known Livonia writer & publicist, **Bill Joyner**, and in our Rotary International effort to eliminate the scourge of polio from the face of the earth. More on Bill's tremendous presentation later.

Bravo to Rotarians who assisted in today's luncheon meeting: including **Bob Moore and Mike Vokal** for setting up for our meeting. **Bob** also received luncheon money and **Marty Talty** collected for the 50/50 drawing, won by **Bill Joyner (\$24)**, with **Conrad Schwartz** winning the side-pot. Hoorays to **Will Lindley**, for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance, **Barb Lewis**, for the thoughtful invocation, and **Dale Coller**, who had his work cut out in introducing numerous guests and visitors, including: Maiga Friess, Betty Moore, Connie Vokal, Bill Joyner, David DeLano (new member-to-be), Robert Legell (President of the Livonia Historical Society), Dr. Peggy Gaskell (President of the purple-shirted Livonia Civic Chorus), and Rotarians Russ Lunn and his son Joey (Russ is a former Livonia Rotarian and now a member of the Shelby, MI Rotary Club), Bob Carris (Livonia A.M. Rotary), President Scott Loney and President-elect Cynthia Hill of the West Bloomfield Rotary Club), and Ernie Gangle (from the Naples, FL Rotary Club, himself a retired sheriff and a victim of identity theft).

Kudos to the 18 Rotarians who participated in this past Saturday's LCSO (Livonia Community Service Organization) **Kids Against Hunger meal-packing event**, hosted by St. Edith's Roman Catholic Church. This service project was headed up in our Club by **Bob Moore**. Over 30,000 meals were assembled – WOW!



Janet Haas reported that **18 of our 36 Livonia Rotarians had perfect attendance** this past Rotary year! She also again introduced Scott and Cynthia, who invited our Rotary to the December 3rd 1:30-4:00 p.m. Holocaust Museum tour and a presentation by Holocaust survivor, Martin Lowenberg (contact Janet if you wish to attend). We were also invited to this Thursday's (November 2nd) evening program by the Rotary Club of West Bloomfield in support of a Zambia project (\$50 per person, includes top drawer entertainment, wine, etc., at the Steinway Music Store, M-5 and Maple Rd.) Again, contact Janet, if you are interested).

Announcements:



The **Euchre tournament** is November 11th. The sign-up sheet was being circulated. Contact **Denman Curry** for details!

- ➔ **Laura** still needs help with Fellowship events leadership. If you have a favorite event or a new event, volunteer to organize it.
- ➔ **Bob** is still seeking volunteers to house RYLA students for the November 16th-18th RYLA Conference at Schoolcraft. See below.
- ➔ **Dave Stechholz** announced about the up-coming **Livonia Civic Chorus Christmas Concert** on Sunday, December 17th at 3 p.m. at Clarenceville High School. See **Dave** for tickets at reduced prices! He paid the "advertising fine"!
- ➔ **Laura** reminded us to sign up for the Beer and Wine tasting event, November 4th (\$20) and also for the Rotary District 6400 Foundation and Membership Dinner in Windsor at the Caboto Club, November 9th.
- ➔ **Janet** has absentee ballots for Livonia Rotary Club board elections next Monday, November 6th, if you cannot be present.
- ➔ **Dave Cash** is putting a schedule together for *Rotarian Member Spotlights*. Tell the club something special about yourself in less than 5 minutes. Volunteer to **Dave C.**



OLD KING COLE STRIKES AGAIN!

Sergeant at Arms **Art "King" Cole**, was limited in time by **President Laura**, who gave \$5 for her celebrity synchronized swim in Florida last week. He was assisted by Collectors **Bob Moore and Marty Talty**. **Art**, a humorist of sorts, napped **Gary Deschenes**, for being late; he extracted \$1 from each Rotarian not wearing purple and also for not having a Halloween decoration at their homes. **Art** also zapped **Deanna Gafney** (something about clothing?!), **Dave Cash** for calling **Art** "Bob," Ron Gafney (for dropping a Rotary badge), and **Marty** & a few others. *A few happy bucks from Bob Hardies and others!* (Scribe could not write fast enough!!)

WORLD POLIO DAY (observed) SPEAKER & PRESENTATION

Janet Haas introduced our speaker, **Bill Joyner**, a near-life-long Livonian. Our speaker is the author of "*Friday Musings*" and is a huge advocate for all that is good in Livonia and the world. Bill is a Franklin High School graduate. He has taught communications at several area colleges. Bill started the Livonia Hall of Fame and recognized two who were recently inducted, Dr. Peggy Gaskell and **Art Cole**.



Bill's "prop" said it all. His & brother Bob's late mother, **Geraldine Joyner, was one who had infantile paralysis (polio)**. The "prop" was Geraldine's polio leg brace, which she wore all her life since age 13. She died at age 90 due to polio. Geraldine's brace was emblematic, though, for California-born Geraldine was a "fighter." She did not give in. She served her community as the first woman on the School Board, having moved a few years earlier with her husband (Bill's Dad) and family from North Carolina in 1959. She also loved to bake and gave baked goods to people in need. She did not talk to Bill & Bob about her polio until she was 70, nor did her husband talk about his World War II Pacific Theatre experiences. That was common for their Great Depression-era generation. They were "fighters."

Bill shared a touching story about the Joyner's next door neighbor children who were told that Geraldine was a "witch," (time Halloween!), because she had polio and wore a leg brace. But Geraldine was determined to win their friendship and respect, and she did. What a lesson for us! Back in the earlier years of polio, victims living with infantile paralysis were not allowed in certain buildings. Thankfully, the Jonas Salk vaccination (1955) changed things in America and around the world, and Rotary is doing a yeoman job.

Bill Joyner shared that only 12 people (children) still have polio in the world, 7 in Afghanistan and 5 in Pakistan. **He commended our Rotary Club**, the Livonia A.M. Rotary Club, Rotary International, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for taking on the fight against polio (since 1984). He also **thanked us for Rotary Park** and recalled the tremendous work of our Rotarians in "building" the park. After well-deserved applause, **Ron Gafney** shared the reason for purple. **Purple** is the color of the dye put on the pinky finger of children who have been immunized so that they don't need it again.



Dave S. led the Rotarians in singing a "pumpkin carol," **"The Great Pumpkin's Coming to Town,"** to a carved & lighted jack-o-lantern. Then **Dave C.** took a group picture of our Club and guests, even sporting **purple** polio wristbands & **purple** dinner cloth napkins. Note that, **DG Rick Caron!** President Laura ended our meeting with the ringing of the "closing bell," with thanks to **Austin Keathley, Bob, Mike, and others** for take down duties!

Meetings, Special Events, Fellowship, Service, and More!!

- 11-4 Beer and Wine Tasting
- 11-6 Economic Development
- 11-9 Membership & Foundation Dinner
- 11-11 Euchre Tournament
- 11-13 DG Rick Caron Visit
- 11-13 Board Meeting
- 11/16-18 RYLA
- 12-3 Livonia Christmas Parade and Light Up Celebration
- 12-4 Christmas Lunch

12-11 Noon meeting at Patriot Inn/Franklin High School
 12/25, 1/1 NO Meetings
 1-22 Foundation Board Meeting
 3/15-17 PETS
 4-14 District Assembly
 5-3/6 District Conference Grand Hotel Mackinac
 6/23-27 International Convention in Toronto

Volunteers	November	December
Set Up	Mike Vokal	
Cashier	Bob Moore	
Greeter	Cam Cruickshank	
Pledge	Will Lindley	
Song	4-Way Test	
Invocation	Barb Lewis	
Visitors/Guests	Dale Coller	
50/50	Dave Cash	
Take Down	Dave Stechholz	

"You have to get rid of the (polio) virus everywhere, or it can come back, re-infecting places where it was eliminated."

Dr. Jay Wenger (Director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's polio eradication program). from ***The rotarian***, October, 2017, pg. 49.

Our Goal: A World Without Polio