



Ossian Rotary Weekly Update

Meeting Date: September 1, 2022

Attendance

Beth McConn
Carol Keplar
Casey Robbins

James Beetham
Jeff Keplar
Jeremy Penrod

Matthew Gullion
Mike Springer
Paris Fetters

Guest:

Glenn Ryan

Prayer, Inspirational Moment:

Paris Fetters

Rotary Minute:

Carol Keplar shared about Polio. Polio is a paralyzing and potentially deadly infectious disease that most commonly affects children under the age of 5. The virus spreads from person to person, typically through contaminated water. It can attack the nervous system. Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of Polio is closer than ever. Polio cases have decreased by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. At that time, polio paralyzed more than 350,000 children annually in more than 125 countries.

Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it is crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

World Polio Day is October 24. Ossian Rotary will have a speaker on October 27 who suffered from polio as a child. We will also be taking up a collection and sending the funds to Rotary International Polio Plus to help continue Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Carol will be getting with everyone to update the Rotary International Club Runner system to make sure everyone's info is current so we can make sure everyone receives all communications.
- Old Ossian Cemetery grant has been approved to be used to help refurbish the gravestones.
- We have been invited to sponsor an international grant for heart surgeries in India again this year with Dr. Kollipara.
- For Ossian Days we will not have a table this year but will make a donation to help sponsor the event. Ossian Rotary will be listed on the banners as a sponsor. We will also help Ossian Revitalization by serving at their Pork Chop Dinner the Thursday of Ossian Days.
- We heard from Jame and she is doing well after the long plane ride to get to Germany. The time change is a challenge. She also mentioned that Haldrup will be hiring a civil engineer to work in the Ossian location.

OUR SPEAKER THIS WEEK (thanks to Beth for this recap)

Colin Andrews, Wells County Deputy Prosecutor.

Colin was born & raised in Elkhart and his grandfather was a big influence in his life. When Colin graduated with his law degree, he knew he wanted to be part of a small practice where he could be very hands on with his clients. He was a deputy prosecutor in Fort Wayne for a while and had a private practice as well. He had some cases in Wells County where he was brought in to help, especially when there were multiple defendants and not enough public defenders in Bluffton. Eventually he moved to Bluffton and now has private practice here as well as being Deputy Prosecutor and running for Prosecutor he also owns Wells County Land Title.



He wants people to know more about what the prosecutor does because most people just think he puts you in jail. The prosecutor's number 1 job is to protect the health and safety of the citizens. The prosecutor is actually the chief law enforcement officer, goes to crime scenes and is a part of the investigations, not just involved at the end of a case. They also help with child support enforcement and work hand in hand with local law enforcement. The prosecutor's office also works with the Attorney General when there are old cases where someone was convicted and now, they want to sue their lawyer.

Colin really enjoys working in Wells County because the prosecutor and law enforcement work very well together and support each other. He also explained that in some communities, like Fort Wayne, there is a lot of undermining and politics between the police and prosecutors. He also enjoys being active in the community and has joined many organizations and efforts in Bluffton.

Colin said some of the differences between working in Allen and Wells counties is that Fort Wayne has a lot more gang violence, drug trafficking, and sex trafficking as well as more of a distrust of police and the justice system. He also noted that the diversity in Fort Wayne also presents some unique challenges that we don't see as often in Wells County. Some of the ethnic groups, especially refugees, in Fort Wayne are distrustful of other groups or of authority because of what happened in their home countries which makes it harder to get justice for them when a crime is committed.

For the prosecutor's race this November his current boss, Andy Carnall, recently decided not to run for re-election but his name will still appear on the actual ballot due to the timing of his decision. Colin has been very happy to see the support he has received from the community all through his campaign. His goal as prosecutor isn't to make a bunch of changes but to help preserve our small-town life here in Wells County.

We recited the 4-Way Test.

Next Week's Assignments – September 8th

Greeter: Kathy
Prayer / Welcome Thought: Jeremy
Member / Rotary Minute: Paris
Wrap-up: Beth

Upcoming Speakers

- September 8 – Audry Dudley, Wells County Economic Development
- September 15 – Rhonda O'Reilly, Karing for Kids
- September 22 – Dillion Traynor, Matt Matters
- September 29 – Donald Steininger, Craigville Depot
- October 6 – Jody Heaston, Quabache State Park
- October 13 – Belinda Zinko, Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Funeral Home
- October 20 – District Governor Tim Gibson

Executives & Directors

President	Jeff Keplar	Director	Kathy Boles
President Elect	Jeremy Penrod	Director	Matthew Gullion
Treasurer	Carol Keplar	Rotary Foundation	Jeremy Penrod
Secretary	Paris Fetters	Membership	Carol Keplar
Assist Secretary	Beth McConn		

Club Information

Meetings Thursdays at 7:30 am
First Baptist Church of Ossian
1001 Dehner Dr
Ossian, IN 467777