



JUNE 30, 2015

SPECIAL EDITION

The end of another Rotary year is upon us and with many standing ovations, Rotarians celebrated the accomplishments of outgoing President Maria Kibler and welcomed new President Mike Kinney!

DON'T FIX WHAT ISN'T BROKEN

As Maria Kibler looked back on her term as President of the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor for the 2014-2015 year, she remarked that she doesn't feel that she's done anything particularly special and credits advice from past President Jim Marohn. Marohn, who received the same advice from his father Bill, said "Don't fix what isn't broken. Don't change for the sake of changing."



In recalling the accomplishments over the past year, Maria's leadership has clearly made a big difference in moving our club forward.

Financials:

- Annual Foundation Fund goal was \$10,000. \$13,602 was raised.
- Polio Plus Fund goal was \$1,500. Actual amount raised was \$2,221.
- Final Balance Sheet and Income Statement numbers were better than planned.
- Special thanks to Tom Chapmann for his leadership of the Foundation as well as to Gary

Bruce for his recommendation of Tom.

- Special thanks also to Steve Ross and Clay McCausland for NOT going to the International Convention which provided the club with a significant cost savings.

Membership:

- A goal was set to have five new members but the end of year net result was only two due to members that we lost this year.
- Positive trends can be seen in the male to female ratio for the club.
 - 2012/2013 & 2013/2014 both had a male/female split of 76%/24%.
 - 2014/2015 male/female split was 74%/26%.

The average age of our members is 54 for males and 55 for females. Overall age breakdown is as follows:

- 29 and Under 0%
- 30-39 7%
- 40-49 7%
- 50-59 21%
- 60-69 18%
- 70 and Over 26%

DON'T FIX IT (CONTINUED)

Special thanks also to Gyl Kasewurm for her work as Chair of the Membership Committee.

Grants:

- \$6,500 to the Berrien County Council for Children for AV equipment for mock courtroom/conference room.
- Inaugural Interact Scholarships of \$500 each to a Lake Michigan Catholic and St. Joseph High School student with an endowment created with the help of Lisa Cripps-Downey.

FUN!

- Monday morning emails from Maria to encourage attendance.
- Rotary Question of the Day to help members get to know each other.
- Two prizes offered with the 50/50 raffle with the help of Debra Trapikas.
- Great programs thanks to Clay McCausland.
- Better understanding of presentations thanks to the new microphone headset purchased by Gyl Kasewurm.

Maria also had many “thank yous” for the support she received over the year:

- Mike Kinney for support, his work leading the Communications Committee and for keeping the website updated.
- Clay McCausland for the fantastic programming and general support.
- Steve Ross for his patience and providing checks and financial information.
- Bob Peirce for keeping her in line and for creating the minutes, reports, new member packets, speaker gifts, etc...
- Gyl Kasewurm for her persistence, high energy and the great lunch at her Membership Meetings.
- Dwight Bowman for his beautiful singing voice, his positive attitude and his willingness to help in all areas and not just diversity.
- Wendy Edwards for her work as a counselor for the Rotary Exchange Program.
- Mike McKee and Mary Spiegel for staying on top of international efforts and ideas.
- Patti Kutz for her community service projects, particularly the Essay Contest, and most importantly, her friendship.
- Jackie Huie for her support of the Interact Club and her drive to get the Student Mentoring program in every city, state and country.
- Rick Villa for his management of the 50/50 raffle, his work with the Student Mentor program and his friendship.
- Gary Bruce for being a great sounding board and voice of reason.
- Charles Jespersen for his endless work on “End Polio Now”, biosand filtration project and for being the first Rotarian to inspire her confidence and provide encouragement.
- Dennis Bowen and Al Westmaas, the dynamic duo, for their musical gifts each week.
- David Kirshenbaum for maintaining our invocation schedule.
- Mike Ahern for managing the Sergeant at Arms schedule.

The following “thank yous” were missed in Maria’s speech but she asked that we include them here:

- Lori Marciniak for her work with RYLA and Interact.
- Tom Chapman for his work with the Rotary Foundation.
- Bob Judd for keeping our local Foundation so organized.
- And then, Debra Trapikas, our 2014/15 Rotary Hero! She has spent so much time and effort with our Rotary Exchange Students, Interact, 50/50 prizes, club communications (with Emily Hosinski with e-wheel), PR, and now District Secretary!!!! Congratulations Debra on your recent appointment. We are so proud of your work and dedication to Rotary!

Maria also took this opportunity to thank her employer, Rick Dyer at Edgewater Bank and acknowledged that he’s

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DON'T FIX IT (CONTINUED)

likely pretty happy to be getting back a full-time employee. Her family always made a huge impact on Maria's ability to be so engaged with our club. She thanked her children Kayleigh and Quinn for their support and hoped that they'll look back at this time and have great memories of their experiences with Rotary. She expressed much pride for them and excitement for the young adults they are becoming...hoping that someday they too will be Rotarians.

Maria presented her final thank you to her husband Tom. She acknowledged his patience and support as she often left the house early or came home late from a Rotary function. "You always left room in our life for Rotary," most notable the recent trip to the Dominican Republic. Her husband was also thanked for rescuing Maria from a tiny town in Indiana without which she said she would not be standing here today in service to the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor.

In closing, Maria passed along both the President's Pin and one last piece of advice to Mike Kinney. "Don't fix what isn't broken. Don't change for the sake of changing."

AND NOW A COMMENT ON "DON'T FIX WHAT ISN'T BROKEN"

When the man in the street says: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," the lawyer writes:

"Insofar as manifestations of functional deficiencies are agreed by any and all concerned parties to be imperceptible, and are so stipulated, it is incumbent upon said heretofore mentioned parties to exercise the deferment of otherwise pertinent maintenance procedures."

OUR NEW SMOOTH OPERATOR

Our newly pinned President, Mike Kinney, started his

I was at a District Rotary Event last year...and one of their club had become too bureaucratic. When he lot of fun, goofing off, playing jokes on one another, following protocol, things had gotten a little dry.

He said he knew it had gone too far when, after having the hospital, he received a letter from the club. On signed by the club secretary, it read:

Dear Rotarian,

We wish to inform you that the Rotary Club of Saskatchewan, by a vote of 17 to 15, hopes you recover.

P.S. We were going to send flowers but the vote lost 5 to 27



remarks with a story:

the other attendees said that joined, he said they'd had a etc... But in the interest of

surgery, while bed-ridden in official club letterhead and

This story humorously illustrates one of the conundrums with which any organization is faced. Wisely put by our new club President, "It will always be a challenge, with constantly changing leadership and the many variables of the club, to maintain that balance between having fun and ensuring that everything operates smoothly."

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SMOOTH OPERATOR (CONTINUED)

Kinney noted that many of our Rotarians have a corporate background and have changed jobs many times in their careers and could relate to this feeling. When you take a new role and the person before you did a really poor job, it's not that hard to rectify some wrongs and really come out looking like a hero. However, when the person before you did everything right, you know you've got some huge shoes to fill. Kinney acknowledged the incredible leadership we've had, not just over the year with Maria, but even before that with Gary, Jackie, Charlie, Bill, Art, Nenette, Dick, Randy, Christine, Jim, Chuck, Char, John, Kurt, Lynn, Mike and on and on and on.

"I don't expect my term to particularly stand out when compared against a list of excellent past Presidents that stretches nearly a hundred years," Kinney shared. "I respect that I am a placeholder and that it is my job to help manage a complicated organization that my predecessors have run so well." Kinney promised to work his tail off to maintain what 97 Presidents before him and hundreds of members have built over the years.

Mike had a few "thank yous" for the crowd as well, including Steve Smith, Dan Maxon, Steve Murray, Jackie Huie, Charles Jespersen and Maria Kibler.

Mike then presented Maria with a special gift. It may not have been as noticeable in the general dining room but from Mike's seat at the head table, he can firmly attest that she "hit the hell outta that thing" in reference to our signature starting bell. In remembrance of her time as President, Kinney had the gavel, with all its chips and dents, mounted and personalized for Maria.

In looking to the future, Mike did share his goals with the group. For membership, Mike initially stated that his goal was to have 153 members which is our number at the close 2014-2015 year. Gyl Kasewurm, however, told him we could do better so he upped that to 155. Mike then challenged each Rotary member to bring at least one potential member to our club this year.

For the Rotary International Foundation, the total goal is \$10,000 for this year however Kinney's focus will be more on participation. Even if it's only \$5, \$10 or \$20, he encouraged each and every one of us to support the "Every Rotarian, Every Year" initiative.

Kinney also acknowledged that our Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Foundation is becoming a major player in our community. With over \$1,500,000 in assets and over \$55,000 given in grants each year, our impact is growing but will only continue to grow through our continued support.

Mike also shared a scary reality. Last year, more healthcare workers and volunteers were killed trying to prevent the spread of polio than the number of people who actually died from the disease. We are down to only three countries, one of which has not had a reported case in the last six months, and being "this close" for so many years, Mike asked if we could just go ahead and eradicate this disease so we could move on to a new goal. Last year, our club gave \$2,200 to "End Polio Now" and Mike's goal is to nearly double that figure with \$4,000 to be raised.

In the interest of time, Kinney saved his list of committees for a future meeting but did express his gratitude for all who serve in whatever capacity they are able. Char Wenham had told Mike that "as President, you don't have to DO everything, but you do have to OWN everything." Mike promised to own everything and is very grateful to have the committees to rely on.

Our current Board of Directors for 2015-2016 is as follows:

President:	Mike Kinney
President Elect:	Clay McCausland
President Nominee:	Steve Smith
Past President:	Maria Kibler

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Secretary: Bob Peirce
Treasurer: Steve Ross
At Large: Dwight Bowman
Charles Jespersen
Gyl Kaswurm
Gary Bruce
Wendy Edwards
Lori Marciniak*
J.C. Anderson*
Debra Trapikas*
Mary Spiegel*

**New additions*

In looking to the future, Kinney asked, “What is Rotary?” Historically, it was started in Chicago by Paul Harris in 1905. Our club has been around for almost 100 years. We have been meeting for lunch since 1918. We have a future and that can be whatever we choose for it to be. Mike asked that if we have a project we’d like to pursue or a change we’d like to see implemented, to speak up and that he’s open to trying new things.

In reference to concerns about attendance, Mike also shared that, in his mind, participation is more important than weekly attendance. He acknowledged the value of attending a board meeting, serving on a committee or traveling to the Dominican Republic, etc... He asked that we not let weekly lunch meeting attendance be a barrier to continued or new membership.

In close, Mike stated that he has no intention of making any drastic changes but hopes to continue to fine-tune what has been built over the last hundred years. He promised to keep reminding us when there is an opportunity to get our hands dirty, how we can contribute to the foundations, which committees need help and how each of us can serve the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor.

With an intention of maintaining a good balance between tradition and progression, to Mike, Rotary is really about having a good time with good people and doing good work.

Connect with the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor online at www.sjbhrotary.org



If you, or someone you know were at the Installation Dinner and took pictures of the evening, would you please share your pictures by sending them to Debra Trapikas at tawana53@aol.com? We would appreciate it and we thank you in advance.

BACK ON SCHEDULE

Our next Rotary meeting is this coming Monday. Mike Kinney will be owning this meeting. We want to say again, a big thank you to Maria for her dynamic leadership and dedication she put into leading us this past year. She is now “up for grabs” as to which table to sit at, although she has already stated where she wants to sit. Read the article inside to find out.