



Weekly eWheel for the

Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

DECEMBER 19, 2016

After a snow day on 12/12/16, we enjoyed a festive last Rotary meeting of 2016 with snow piled up outside and the St. Joseph High School band playing some festive classics. We hope you have a very Happy Holiday season and we look forward to regrouping again in 2017.

MEET ISABELA!



Rotarians had the opportunity to get to know our youth exchange student a little bit better this week. Isabela Seixus is 17 years old and is from Sao Paulo, Brazil. She noted immediately that St. Joseph was a huge change just because it is such a small town compared to what she's used to. In fact, the whole country of Brazil is much larger than most of us realized. Brazil is actually only a little smaller than the U.S. in terms of square mileage (Brazil at 3.2 million vs. U.S. at 3.7 million).

Continued on page 4

IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 12/25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
- ❖ 12/26: NO MEETING PER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
- ❖ 12/28: Board Meeting at 7:30 AM at Area Agency on Aging
- ❖ 1/1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
- ❖ 1/2: NO MEETING PER NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY
- ❖ 1/9 Meeting: Jack Kinney, Benton Harbor Shipping Channel

Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JOKE OF THE WEEK



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Membership Committee for putting together a great Holiday Party earlier this month!

Thank you also to all Rotarians who volunteered to ring bells for The Salvation Army last weekend!

Speaking of The Salvation Army, it's not too late to make a donation and have it matched by Linda Upton. In order to be eligible checks are to be made out to The Salvation Army and sent to Bill Marohn at 101 Lighthouse Dunes Path, St. Joseph. **Mailed donations MUST be received before Christmas.**



DOING THE MOST GOODSM



VISITING ROTARIANS

Terry Bush, South Bend Rotary Club

ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Jackie Huie brought Alloyd Blackmon

Mike Huie brought Kevin Udy



NEW SERVICE PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

We will be adopting a stretch of Red Arrow Highway between Maiden Lane and Cleveland Avenue. This project will provide multiple clean-up day projects throughout the year. We are also researching participation in a project in Benton Harbor to create a community fitness park, along the Columbus corridor, in collaboration with local church groups.

ANNUAL MEETING

This meeting also served as the Annual Meeting for the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor. The only piece of business was the approval of the proposed board for 2017-2018. The board was unanimously approved with no discussion and is as follows:

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Club President - Rick Villa

President-Elect - Debra Trapikas

President-Nominee - Wendy Edwards

Immediate Past President - Stephen Smith

Secretary - Robert Peirce

Treasurer - Steve Ross

Directors: Nicole Beltz, Dwight Bowman, Matt Hanley, Jackie Huie, Emily Hosinski, Charles Jespersen, Maria Kibler, Lori Marciniak and Mary Spiegel

Stepping down from the board are Patti Kutz, Mike Kinney and J.C. Anderson.

IT'S BEGINNING TO FEEL A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!

As a special holiday treat, the St. Joseph High School band performed a medley of holiday hits. This quickly turned into a sing-along which got all of us in the holiday spirit. As a grand finale, our own Dennis Bowen stepped in to conduct the song "Sleigh Ride" while Ann Cardon played the wood blocks.



MEET ISABELA (CONTINUED)

In Sao Paulo, Isabela lives in a high rise apartment building which is not common around here. She lives with her 11-year-old brother who enjoys golf and running. She says her Dad is the most wonderful person she knows and that he's sad that she's gone but is always encouraging. Isabela's mother is only 37 years old and she jokingly says that they fight a lot and that her mom is often jealous of the close relationship that Isabela has with her dad.

Isabela also has one dog and two birds. When she was little, she told her parents that she wanted a sister but she got a dog instead.

Isabela also shared some pictures of friends. Her best friend, who she's known since she was two years old, will actually be visiting here in January...which will be good weather practice for her since she'll be an exchange student in Canada next year.

School is very different in Brazil. She said that there is not the emphasis on sports in school as there is here. Students also have the same schedule each year and don't have the opportunity to choose electives. Their school year runs January-December vs. September-June which actually makes sense because December marks the beginning of summer in the Southern Hemisphere. She also added that it is very difficult to go to college in Brazil because there's a difficult test they must pass to be eligible.

Isabela admitted that the U.S. was not her first choice of location. She was hoping for Germany or somewhere more "different" but said she is really liking it and that the U.S. is more "different" than she expected. She did also admit that she is FREEZING and that this weather is certainly a lot different than what she's used to in Brazil.

Isabela expressed her thanks to her host family and our Rotary Club for making this experience possible for her. She participated in a flag exchange which brought the Rotary Club 4540 of Brazil flag into our collection. We will be hearing again from Isabela again before she returns home to Brazil in the summer.



WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE eWHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Jennifer VanBeck, Brandi Smith-Gordon and Lisa Cripps-Downey with photography by Jen Cole. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to RotarySJBH@gmail.com.

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