



## DECEMBER 21, 2015

“Oh...dashing through the...” oh, never mind... Still waiting for that white Christmas but today marks the official first day of winter and our last Rotary meeting of 2015. Happy Holidays to all Rotarians and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



## IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 12/28 NO MEETING
- ❖ 1/4 Meeting: Dr. Loren Hamel, Lakeland Health
- ❖ 1/11 Meeting: Marianne Groth, Southwest Michigan Racers
- ❖ 1/18 NO MEETING for MLK Day

## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Rotarian and State Representative Al Pscholka closed out the year for us with a Legislative Review and a glance at the current hot topics in Michigan politics. He started out, however, with quite a few “thank yous.”

He thanked State Senator John Proos and extended gratitude for their positive working relationship--something that’s not always true between Representatives and Senators. He thanked Fred Upton for teaching him how to be Legislator, emphasizing sticking to a stance on an issue and avoiding “flip flopping.” He thanked Janet Zielke for showing him what it means to serve the constituency. He also had thanks for the Rotarians--for those who have supported him financially and through the offering of moral support. He also thanked the young people who work on his staff for

demonstrating the work ethic, professionalism and loyalty that he finds most important when hiring those positions.

This is Representative Pscholka’s last year in the legislature but first wanted to take a look back at the state of the State of Michigan in 2011. He reminded us that at that time we were in debt, losing jobs and losing population.

People often hear that Michigan has a \$54 billion budget and wonder why money can’t be properly allocated to serve the areas of most need. That number is a bit misleading though. Representative Pscholka gave us what he calls a “2 Minute Budget Bootcamp.”

43% of our budget comes from Federal funds which are earmarked for very specific expenditures.

Another 40% are restricted funds and have restricted use--moneys that go to schools, roads, etc... This brings us to about \$9.8 billion in the general fund for general use.

Now, we need to set aside \$3 billion for matching funds for Federal dollars received. \$2 billion is set aside for corrections, \$1.5 billion to higher education and \$1 billion to pay down debt which brings us down to just \$2.3 billion in general spending ability.

In 2011, we were in lousy shape and a CPA was elected as Governor. In Michigan, we now have more people working, we’re #1 in manufacturing jobs and #1 in paying down debt. In 2011, we owed \$76 billion and now that’s down to just \$48 billion. If we continue along the same course, we’ll be debt free in 2038.

## JOKE OF THE WEEK



thank  
you!

**Because of your generosity and a few reminders from Bill Marohn, \$9318 was raised for The Salvation Army! Thanks to all who contributed to this great cause.**



DOING THE  
MOST GOOD™



## ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Ken Wuerfel brought Julie Wuerfel  
Janet Zielke brought Mike Ryan and Corey Hansen



## WELCOME WHITNEY!

Welcome to new Rotarian Whitney Behnke, sponsored by Maria Kibler! Whitney is the new Executive Director of SJ Today and as of two weeks ago, a St. Joseph resident with her husband and 1-year-old son. She shared a quick story of her hectic move-in on the weekend of Light Up the Bluff/Live Mannequins to illustrate why she describes herself as a “get things done kinda girl.” Since she immediately volunteered to help with the Celebrate Rotary event in April--we’re gonna call that a pretty accurate description!

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## ANNUAL MEETING

Vice President Steve Smith led us in our Annual Meeting and proposed the slate of officers for the 2016-2017 year. Rotarians unanimously approved the following:

President: Steve Smith  
President-Elect: Rick Villa  
President-Nominee: Deb Trapikas  
Immediate Past President: Mike Kinney

Secretary: Bob Peirce  
Treasurer: Steve Ross

Returning Board Members: J.C. Anderson, Dwight Bowman, Wendy Edwards, Charles Jespersen, Lori Marciniak, Mary Spiegel

New Board Members: Matt Hanley, Emily Hosinski, Patti Kutz

Gary Bruce and Gyl Kasewurm have decided to step down from the board for the 2016-2017 year.

Administration Committee chair: Steve Smith  
Membership Committee chair: Dwight Bowman  
Public Relations Committee chair: Deb Trapikas  
Service Projects Committee chair: Patti Kutz  
Rotary Foundation lead: Tom Chapman  
Youth Services Committee chair: Jackie Huie

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## STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM

Sarah McCoy from Lake Michigan Catholic joined us to talk about her second time through the Student Mentoring program. Last year, she had the opportunity to shadow a lawyer and visit a courtroom but decided that career path was not for her. This time around, she shadowed a Physician's Assistant and has decided this is the path she'd like to take. She's also interested in working on international medical efforts! She is currently deciding between Hope or Calvin College for next year.



## LEGISLATIVE REVIEW (CONTINUED)



For 2015, the big story of the year was the state of our roads. But legislatively speaking, we had a really slow start to the year. 52 out of 110 Representatives this year were freshman. Representative Pscholka took a bit of sidebar to talk about the fallacy of his earlier thinking toward term limits. While he credits term limits with helping him be elected, he now refers to supporting that initiative as “the stupidest thing I ever did.” With younger/newer legislators all the time, it just seems to take longer to come to a decision.

Michigan currently has the youngest state legislature in the country. For many, this is either their first or their last job. There’s a large number of people who have zero work or life experience and are thrust into this arena of having to make very big decisions that affect the lives of those in our state. On the flip side, we have a large number of retirees, town doctors or lawyers who were very respected in their small communities and ran for elected office on a whim.

Representative Pscholka admits that there’s no easy answer to this problem but finds it odd that with this career path--the better you get at the job through more experience, the closer you are to getting kicked out.

Looking to the future, Representative Pscholka focused on three big issues for 2016:

- **Energy Policy:** The Federal Government is requiring that we close coal plants. He stressed that we need to pass an energy plan at the state level before the Federal Government does so for us.
- **Prison Reform:** In Michigan, we jail people 18-36 months longer than other states for the same crime and we simply can’t afford it. We spend \$2 billion a year on prisons.
- **Distressed Schools:** The Detroit school district is currently \$2 billion in debt and if they go bankrupt, the state is on the hook for that money. We need a solution that works, not just for Detroit, but for struggling schools across the state such as Flint, Benton Harbor, Saginaw Heights, etc... The Governor currently has a plan but it still needs a lot of work.

Overall, Representative Pscholka says that being in the legislature has been the greatest learning opportunity of his life and is incredibly grateful to Rotary and to our community for the support he has received.

When asked “what’s next” for him after his time in office is complete. Representative Pscholka shared that whatever he does, he sees himself staying here in Southwest Michigan and that if you ask his wife, her answer is simply “get a job.”

For more information on Representative Pscholka, you can visit his Michigan House Republicans page at <http://gophouse.org/representatives/southwest/pscholka/> or you can contact him directly at:

**PHONE:** 517-373-1403

**TOLL FREE:** 888-656-0079

**EMAIL:** [APscholka@house.mi.gov](mailto:APscholka@house.mi.gov)



**MICHIGAN HOUSE  
REPUBLICANS**

## WILL YOU CELEBRATE ROTARY?

As we approach our 100-year anniversary for the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, we want to create the momentum to have a large community celebration at that time. To accomplish this, we have decided to build upon our annual spring evening event and reimagine it.

We've set the date for April 13 and that evening at Shadowland on Silver Beach, we'll be opening the doors to the general public for a prestigious, once-a-year event and inviting the community to learn more about what Rotary does both locally and globally.

You'll be hearing more and more about it as that date draws closer but we wanted to put the bug in your ear now for a few reasons:

1. We want you to put 4/13/16 on your calendar and attend the event.
2. In order to actually raise awareness of our work, we'd like to have a number of booths at the event representing some of our various projects such as the Track Meet and Clean Water Project so we may be asking some of you to help support this effort.
3. Because we're inviting the general public to this event, we want to make sure we're making it easy to attend--so we do not want to have to charge a fee at the door. We'll continue to do a cash bar but we want to eliminate that entrance fee. To offset that loss of revenue, we will be seeking sponsorship for this event. We're only looking to raise around \$750 with sponsorship levels at \$100 and \$250 with an additional "member support" option at \$50. See the back of the eWheel for a copy of the sponsorship form and details.
4. And finally, if you are interested in being involved in the planning process for the event or you have any questions about the changes, please email Emily Hosinski at [emily\\_m\\_hosinski@whirlpool.com](mailto:emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com)



## WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Debra Trapikas, Jennifer Kirsch and Lisa Cripps-Downey. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to [emily\\_m\\_hosinski@whirlpool.com](mailto:emily_m_hosinski@whirlpool.com).

Connect with the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor  
online at [www.sjbhrotary.org](http://www.sjbhrotary.org)



[Like us on Facebook!](#)

## Thank you for considering sponsorship of the Celebrate Rotary event!

We want to make it easy for the community to learn about Rotary and encourage event attendance by hosting this event without a cover charge. By sponsoring this event, you're helping to raise awareness for the work of Rotary both locally and globally.

*Please complete the form on the back to select your sponsorship level.*



*Sample marketing image for reference only--final version may vary.*

### Gold Level // \$250

*Sponsorship includes:*

- Company logo included on marketing graphics for facebook event, direct email, and Rotary website and eWheel as well as where possible in other community marketing materials.
- Company mention in community marketing including press release to local media, Cornerstone Chamber and SJ Today event calendar and member newsletter, internally at Whirlpool Corp., and on the Social Network with Denise & Johnny on 98.3 The Coast.
- Company logo on “thank you” sign at event and digitally on event screens.

### Silver Level // \$100

*Sponsorship includes:*

- Company name included on marketing graphics for direct email, Rotary website and eWheel as well as where possible in other community marketing materials.
- Company mention in community marketing including press release to local media, Cornerstone Chamber and SJ Today event calendar and member newsletter, internally at Whirlpool Corp., and on the Social Network with Denise & Johnny on 98.3 The Coast.
- Company name on “thank you” sign at event and digitally on event screens.

### Member Support // \$50

*Sponsorship includes:*

- Individual's name on “thank you” sign at event and digitally on event screens.



*Sample image for Facebook event for reference only--final version may vary.*

**Sponsorship Level (select one):**     \_\_\_Gold // \$250   \_\_\_Silver // \$100   \_\_\_Member // \$50

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*If you've selected the Gold level sponsorship, please email your logo to emilyhosinski@gmail.com.*

Make check payable to:

The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

*Submit paperwork & payment to a member of the Celebrate Rotary planning committee:*

Emily Hosinski

Charles Jespersen

Nicole Beltz

Bob Peirce

Maria Kibler

Amy Zapal

Matt Hanley