



Weekly eWheel for the

# Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor



Michigan, USA • District 6360 • Chartered 1918

## FEBRUARY 6, 2017

We're already into the second month of 2017 and you know what that means--celebrating February birthdays! That's not the only celebrating on the agenda. We also got to celebrate a Paul Harris Fellow Presentation, we're talking about our Celebrate Rotary event coming up next month and we're planning for our big Centennial Celebration in 2018!

## ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS - THE GOOD & THE BAD



Our speaker for the day was our own Ann Cardon who is the Superintendent of St. Joseph Public Schools. She kicked

“Beating the Odds” schools are those that are overcoming traditional barriers to student achievement and are outperforming schools with similar risk factors and demographic makeup.

things off by sharing a marketing video and explained that SJPS is considered a “destination district.” Ann made note that that the video featured subtitles which is a requirement for ADA compliance, along with things like computers that speak text and pictures on facebook with robust descriptions.

E.P. Clarke received Reward School status for high achievement, being ranked among the top 5% of all schools in Michigan. Last year, E.P. Clarke was listed as a Focus School. A Focus School consists of the 10% of schools on the school rankings with the largest achievement gaps between its top 30% of students and its bottom 30%, based on average scale score.

Four of the five schools within the SJPS system are designated as Reward Schools. Reward Schools are those that did not receive a red overall scorecard status and have achieved one or more of the following distinctions:

1. Top 5% of schools on the Overall Schools Ranking
2. Top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric)
3. “Beating the Odds” by outperforming the school’s predicted ranking and/or similar schools

Lincoln Elementary received Reward School status based on both high achievement and “Beating the Odds.” Upton Middle School and St. Joseph High School received Reward School status for “Beating the Odds.” Brown Elementary did not receive Reward School status this year but is in the 93rd percentile and Ann expects that they will achieve Reward School status next year.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 2/13 Meeting: Lee Scherwitz, Youth Exchange Program
- ❖ 2/14: Centennial Committee Meeting at 12:00 PM at Villa Environmental Consultants
- ❖ 2/20 Meeting: Matt Cooper, The Service Members Civil Relief Act
- ❖ 2/22: Board Meeting at Area Agency on Aging at 7:30 AM
- ❖ 2/27 Meeting: Rick Dyer, Banking in the 21st Century
- ❖ 3/20: Celebrate Rotary!

# 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



## ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Char Wenham brought Julie Duensing

## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Centennial Steering Committee will be hosting an open meeting at Rick Villa's office (Villa Environmental Consultants at 215 Colfax). If you are interested in attending, please send Rick a quick email at [villa@villaenv.com](mailto:villa@villaenv.com) so he can plan accordingly. The meeting is at noon and you are welcome to bring your own lunch. If you are interested in helping with the logistics of the event, you can also let Rick know and he will include you in email updates about the planning progress.



### 10+ YEAR ROTARY ANNIVERSARY

- 14 Years - Jerry Reimann
- 15 Years - Paul Bailey & Randy Bettich
- 17 Years - Patti Kutz
- 21 Years - Char Wenham



### ROTARIANS WITH FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2/3 - Stu Boekeloo             | 2/16 - Jack Porritt    |
| 2/7 - William Rahn & Rick Dyer | 2/19 - Wendy Edwards   |
| 2/8 - Steve Banyon             | 2/20 - Bob Starks      |
| 2/9 - Burt Pearson, II         | 2/26 - Bill Dillingham |
| 2/10 - John Carter             | & Jennifer Gardner     |



Congrats to Mary Knast who was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow at our meeting this week!

## CELEBRATE ROTARY: PRESIDENTS' NIGHT TO END POLIO

The date has been set for Celebrate Rotary - 3/20/2017! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend as the event will take place in lieu of our Monday meeting that day. Please also consider [sponsoring the event](#) so that we can continue to offer this event free of charge and spread awareness of the work of the club in the community.



### PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARD FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

In 2016, our Rotary Club recognized Coach Elliott Uzelac by making him a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Foundation for the work that he did in remodeling the Benton Harbor High School football team into a championship team.

This honor that is being bestowed is funded by Paul Harris Fellow/Rotary Foundation points that a local Rotarian has donated for this purpose. A "blue ribbon committee" is preparing criteria for this year's nominees and we will share it with you at that time and then you can share your thoughts about nominees at that time, with thoughts about their qualifications.

The presentation will be made at the Celebrate Rotary! after hours event when we recognize Past Presidents, showcase the progress being made to "End Polio Now"!

Questions? Contact Charles Jespersen at [czj1270@sbcglobal.net](mailto:czj1270@sbcglobal.net).



## ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

Taking a closer look at what the school is doing, Ann broke it down into four parts:

- What do we want the students to learn?
- How will we know if they have learned?
- What will we do if they don't learn?
- What will we do if they know it already?

Ann also explained WINN (What I Need Now) time and Go Time. Each Wednesday is a "late start" day. During that time in the morning, teachers are calibrating where their students are with a particular subject and then differentiating the student's path based on what they need. This allows more advanced students to be pushed and challenged and allows for remediation for students who need that support.

Go Time is basically extra study time or it's an opportunity to learn something new if the student doesn't need the extra help. National Honor Society students also use this time to tutor other students. Students also enjoy that this time lets them move around and that they're not stuck in the same room all the time.

Ann shared a video of a young student with their Data Folder. The use of a Data Folder allows the student to know where they are, know where they're going and know their status at all times. In the video of a kindergarten student, the Data Folder consisted of her letters, numbers, shapes, etc... Things were highlighted as they were completed so even as young as kindergarten, the student has a clear view of where they're going.

As promised in the title, Ann also shared more informations about the challenges that the school faces. Diversity is an area of concern as it is within our larger society. Ann shared that what happens in the world comes into the schools and that they don't shy away from those issues. Kids can be mean and words can hurt. They have counselors talk to kids about labels and try to help them understand that we are all more alike than we are different.

On this topic, Ann shared the video "I am not black, you are not white" which was shared recently with middle school students. The video asks the question "who would you be if the world never gave you a label?"

Drug and alcohol use is also an area of concern. There is a statewide survey every two years and the results are frightening. It's surprising that kids have exposure to drugs and alcohol at such a young age and how available these substances are.

The School Reform list was also something that Ann touched on. This is basically a list of all Michigan schools ranked from top to bottom and the ones listed at the bottom are at risk of being closed. There is currently an initiative to overhaul the law that allows failing schools to be closed and Ann urged us all to look into this and talk to our legislators on the topic as resources are not made available to help schools on the bottom of the list to improve.

In closing, Ann expressed gratitude for the passing of the Safety/Security, Technology & Transportation Bond. Because of this funding, the following purchases have been made:

- 40 new iMacs in each Elementary
- 30 new iPads in each Elementary
- 220 new Chromebooks in each Elementary
- Enhanced Access Controls in High School and Middle School
- Added Access Controls to all Elementary Schools
- Enhanced video surveillance in all buildings
- 3 new buses



### 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](mailto:RotarySJBH@gmail.com).

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