



## MAY 9, 2016

A bit of a gloomy Monday with gray skies outside...but we'll take it because we were blessed with sunshine and warm temperatures for our Track Meet last Friday. We had plenty of sunshiny smiles among the Rotarians as we sang "Happy Birthday" to those born in May since Law Day last week caused us to miss our first meeting of the month tradition.

### BIG ACHIEVEMENTS FOR JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT



core, the JA program is about teaching but teaching with a different voice and in a different way.

JA is about empowering young people to own their economic success by enhancing the relevancy of their education. At every grade level, JA's in-school programs expose students to basic business concepts and the skills that enable them to grasp real-life economics.

Delivered by caring adult volunteers, JA's programs are a gift from the business community to the education community in more ways than one. JA's economic education, workforce readiness and personal financial literacy programs are possible through contributions of financial resources from local businesses and individuals.

We were joined by Junior Achievement (JA) Board Chair, Harry Burritt and Executive Director Jennifer Zimmerman for this afternoons meeting. The first order of business was their offering of thanks for all the volunteers and supporters who make the program possible.

Jennifer shared that she sees this as her second career. She said she's a "lawyer by education but a teacher by personality." And at its

### IMPORTANT DATES

- ❖ 5/14: SWMSO Dancing with the Symphony Stars (featuring a few familiar faces)
- ❖ 5/16 Meeting: Track Meet Scholarships, RYLA Students & Interact Student Officers
- ❖ 5/23 Meeting: Ric Pawloski, Mosaic CCDA
- ❖ 5/30: Memorial Day // NO MEETING
- ❖ 6/27: Installation Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn at 5:30 p.m. // NO AFTERNOON MEETING



## The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

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

## JOKE OF THE WEEK



**"We're looking for someone who can stretch with the demands of this job. Are you flexible?"**

# Save the Dates

Our Installation Dinner, where we induct our new officers, will be held on Monday, June 27 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. There will be no noon meeting that day.

## HOST FAMILY NEEDED

We have a lovely Brazilian girl who will be arriving in July or August, but we have no home for her. We need your help! We need two families to give her room and board. The first family will get her until the middle of January and the second family will have her from the rest of January through her return home in July.

All that is required of a host family is 1) they be a kind, caring, loving family who will treat the student as if she is their own child, not a guest; 2) a bed to herself. She can share a bedroom with a like student (near same age and gender); 3) Three meals a day (you will pay for her school meals, or send her with a lunch). Other than that, there just isn't much more to do. Take her around the city, the state, or on vacation to other states. Enjoy her. Learn as much from her, as she will be learning from you. Treat her kindly. Make her do chores around the house so she will be part of the family. Make sure she gets to school or school activities.

This isn't hard. It is so much fun. Please, if you have never hosted before, give it a chance. Give yourself a chance to grow and learn as well. Contact Jennifer Kirsch, our new Youth Exchange Officer at 985-8517 or email her at [jennifer.m.kirsch@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.m.kirsch@gmail.com).



## VISITING ROTARIANS

Janet Drews from Benton Harbor-Sunrise  
Fern Hollingshead from Dowagiac  
Pat Marshall from Colleyville, TX

## ROTARIANS WITH GUESTS

Dwight Bowman brought Chad Jankoviak  
Bob Braman brought Melissa Lutz  
Emily Hosinski brought Shaina Scott  
Gyl Kasewurm brought Joanie Karpanty  
Debra Trapikas brought Bruno Trapikas



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Our club has just grown by two! Make sure to introduce yourself to our newest members Stephen Townsend and Brandi Smith-Gordon. Steve is being sponsored by his old college roommate, our Club President Mike Kinney and Brandi is being sponsored by David Burghart and is a new addition to both the Lakeland Foundation and Berrien County.



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## SPRING IS HERE, IT'S THE ROTARY TRACK MEET!

An enthusiastic crowd was treated to one of Southwestern Michigan premiere athletic events on Friday, May 6, with the 59th running of the Rotary Track Meet. It is the only event where high school athletes compete together regardless of school size. Rotary volunteers, along with school personnel, helped administer and operate this exciting event. Special thanks to Benton Harbor Athletic Director Fred Smith and his crew for hosting the meet in a great venue.

J.C. Anderson spearheaded the record sale of program advertising which helped provide funds for four college scholarships to participating athletes. Ben Agay, Abby Austin, May Brooks and Elise Jorgensen each received a \$2,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. In its 59th year of the event, Rotary has provided an unofficial amount of \$224,000 to participating athletes.

Chairpersons Randy Bettich and Jay Haynes led the way for the many volunteers who are the lifeblood of our signature event. Jim O'Malley once again supervised the meet. Jim and Ron Waldvogel, MHSAA registered Starters started and refereed the meet.

Our Honoree for 2016 is Maria Kibler. Maria served as President of our Rotary Club and inaugurated the Rotary Interact club for high school students. She helped students develop this program into a resounding success.

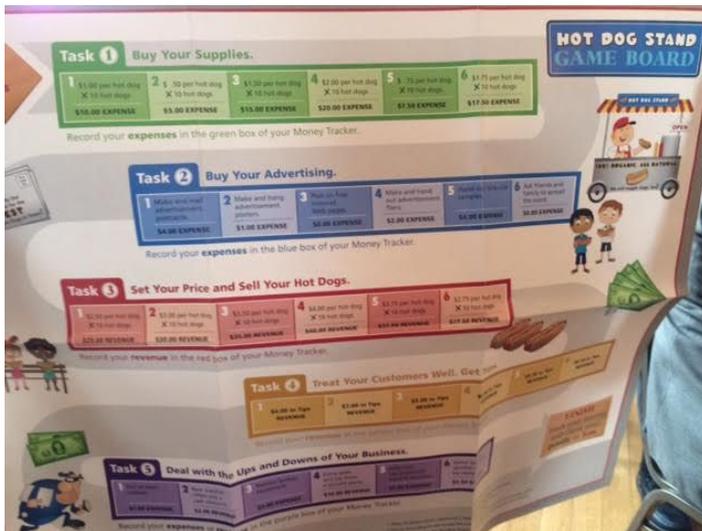
Special guests included members of the Filstrup family whose patriarch was honored by the naming of the Benton Harbor High School's athletic field.

The Rotary Track Meet is a special event, eagerly anticipated by Rotary Club members, school athletes, and track fans throughout Southwest Michigan. Plans are already underway for our 60th signature event.

Submitted by Jim O'Malley

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (CONTINUED)

Volunteers are provided with all materials necessary to teach the curriculum and activities are meant to be very “hands on.” Rotarians were provided with some neat examples of how JA uses games and simulations to help teach their lessons.



Programs are currently being offered in the following schools:

- Benton Harbor Area Schools: Benton Harbor High and STEAM Academy at MLK
- Brandywine Public Schools: Merritt Elementary
- Bridgman Public Schools: Bridgman Elementary
- Buchanan Community Schools: Moccasin Elementary and Buchanan Middle

- Coloma Community Schools: Coloma Elementary
- Lakeshore Public Schools: Hollywood Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary and Lakeshore Middle
- Niles Community Schools: Ballard Elementary and Niles New Tech High
- St. Joseph Public Schools: Brown Elementary, EP Clarke Elementary and Lincoln Elementary
- Sodus Public Schools: River School
- Watervliet Public Schools: Watervliet South Elementary
- Dowagiac Union Schools: Justus Gage Elementary, Patrick Hamilton Elementary and Kincheloe Elementary
- Non-Public: Benton Harbor Countryside Academy, Bridge Academy, First Tee at Boys & Girls Club, Lake Michigan Catholic, Michigan Lutheran High

Jennifer shared that a current major focus of the program is on metrics. This can be problematic based on the program recipients and subject matter. For example, how do you measure success when you're teaching second graders about personal financial literacy? Second graders don't have jobs or income nor do they have bills so there's a long period of time between the education and the practical application of the skills. So, it can be hard to measure success.

JA is currently piloting a professional study with a focus on belief change for participants. They want to make sure that the investment is doing what it's supposed to be doing and that their work is making a difference.

Harry Burrirt has a long history with Junior Achievement as a volunteer for over 30 years. He noted that they are experiencing a period of rapid expansion. This year, JA had a 25% increase in the number of participating classrooms and they anticipate another 15% increase next year.

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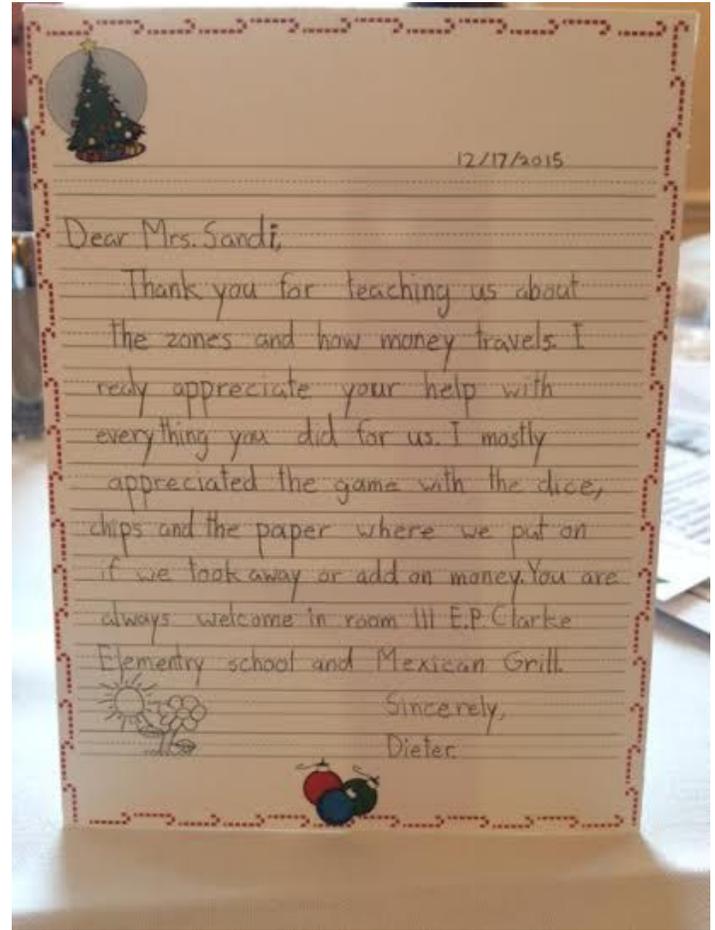
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## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (CONTINUED)

Harry shared that they really focus on understanding what classrooms need and what's relevant to the existing curriculum. He did also note that there are challenges with the current focus on standardized testing and that this limits the teacher's flexibility.

They also have some interesting short-term and long term goals. This summer, they will provide a "JA in a day" event in collaboration with Boys & Girls Club. This will be a presentation of the curriculum in a one-day event at a local business. The host business will provide volunteers.

In the long-term, Harry shared that in Ft. Wayne, the JA program actually has a facility to simulate a whole town called "Biztown" as well as a version for older kids and teens. There is currently a trip being planned to visit this facility if you are interested in learning more.



For their participants, the goal is simple. They want the impact to be that kids feel like it is worthwhile to get good grades and to understand how that can affect their future. They want kids to understand the free enterprise system and how to be successful within that system. And finally, they want to facilitate that exposure between business professionals and young people in our community. The power of a positive role model is an immeasurable thing.



## DANCIN' ROTARIANS!

The Dancing with the Symphony Stars smack talk has hit Rotary! We've got several Rotarians represented this year. Good luck to Whitney Behnke, Lisa Cripps-Downey and Randy Reimers!



## PURCHASING TICKETS?

Consider [purchasing through St. Joseph High School](#). A portion of the sale will be donated and split between SJHS Key Club and Interact.



## TWO GREAT ROTARY COMMITTEES ARE IN NEED OF YOUR HELP!

We've got a few Rotary committees who are eager to recruit some new members. It's a great way to stay engaged and to serve the efforts of Rotary.

### 50/50 Committee

Here's a great opportunity to meet other members of our club, help with fundraising for the Interact students, become engaged by joining a committee and receive a makeup if you meet the requirements. Talk to Rick Villa if you are able to help or send him an email at [rvilla@villaenv.com](mailto:rvilla@villaenv.com).



### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking for a few members to help out in the following areas:

1. Website and Facebook Page, a great opportunity if you enjoy working on websites, or want to learn how to work on a website.
2. Writers and lay-out artists needed for the e-Wheel, our weekly newsletter. Because the e-Wheel is so frequent we need several more writers to help balance the load. You get to use your creative, artistic talents, and the membership will appreciate you so much!
3. A photographer is needed to take pictures at all of our events for the e-Wheel. Can you, or someone you know do it?
4. People with press release skills are needed as well. We try to get at least seven big stories in the paper each year, and as many small items as we can.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Debra Trapikas, Committee Chair at 861-0718 or email her at [tawana53@aol.com](mailto:tawana53@aol.com) and let's discuss it. Also, if anyone has any information they think should be published, contact Debra as well. If you are a new member to the club, this is a great way to get the yellow ribbon off.

## WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE E-WHEEL?

Your weekly email is brought to you by Emily Hosinski, Debra Trapikas, Jennifer Kirsch, Lisa Cripps-Downey and Jim O'Malley. If you have an announcement, a bit of news you wish to share, or a story you wish to see featured, please write to [tawana53@aol.com](mailto:tawana53@aol.com).

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



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