



The Rotary Club of Elmhurst *District 6450*

Fellowship – Understanding – Service - Ethics

www.elmhurstrotary.org

January 27, 2022

Announcements

With president Brian and president-elect Mary Beth unable to attend today, past president Charlie Laliberte led our Zoom meeting. Thank you, Charlie!

Joyce Slone introduced Marilyn Kosik, once a member of the former Elmhurst morning Rotary Club. This was Marilyn's second visit to our club. Welcome, Marilyn!

Our next **service project** will be from 9 am to noon, Tuesday March 1 at the McCormick YMCA. Volunteers will repackage fruits and vegetables and deliver them to those in need from the surrounding neighborhood. Sign up to help with this food pantry project by emailing Valerie at (vcahill007@gmail.com).

Several past issues of the F.U.S.E. are now posted on the club's website.

Election of club officers for 2022-2023 will take place during our Feb. 10 meeting. The slate is:

President: Mary Beth Harper
 Pres. Elect: Frank Troost
 Secretary: Bob Villiard
 Treasurer: Jim Clohessy
 Past Pres.: Brian Bergheger
 Board of Directors: Eli Turnbough,
 Marilyn Boria,
 Joe Nichele,
 Bill Sakash

Fundraiser: Mary Beth needs a photo and description of your auction item(s) by Feb. 18: Email them to her at (marybeth.harper@elmlib.org).

Program

[Editor's note: 'Supply chain' is a relatively new term in business, a function once mostly thought of as the moving of materials and product, or 'transportation'. Today it is much more than transportation. IBM defines supply chain management as the handling of the entire production flow of a good or service to maximize quality, delivery, customer experience and profitability.]

Dr. Roby Thomas, Professor of Business & Economics and Director of the Master's program in supply chain management at Elmhurst University, described the masters degrees the university offers in supply chain management, noting that the student has several options and more than one degree from which to choose. The program is tailored to those already in the workplace, offering students the ability to stay fully employed while attaining a master's degree in less than two years.

All classes have group work and give students experience in presenting before a live audience. Dr. Thomas noted that supply chain management has evolved significantly as business continues to refine management processes.

Asked about the backup of container vessels off the west coast, particularly near the largest ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Dr. Thomas explained that many factors were at work, leading to delivery delays and product shortages. With little slack in the delivery system, a 25% surge in demand for imports (as office workers shifted to working at-home) and factory shutdowns limited supplies, the movement of containers simply could not keep up.

On a long-term basis, US port infrastructure is inefficient compared to Asian ports that can load/unload containers in half the time as in the US. Until recently, unions would only work two shifts a day, six days a week compared to 24/7 operations in Asia and Europe.

Dr. Thomas also explained that companies have become too large leading to a stifling of competition, a point that is discounted by the increased productivity gained from economies of scale.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2-03 Patrick Yanahan, Entrepreneur in Residence at Elmhurst University on: The Entrepreneurship program at E. U. (Email Larry Carroll (larryc@elmhurst.edu) with specific questions you would like either speaker to address.)
 2-10 Club fundraiser planning & election of officers
 2-17 Business meeting

FINEMASTER (Thought for the Day)

2-03 Bill Lyman
 2-10 Dave McKenna