



The Rotary Club of Elmhurst *District 6450*
Fellowship – Understanding – Service – Ethics

www.elmhurstrotary

March 13, 2025

Guests: Alison Dondlinger, chair of the Public Arts Commission, and guest of Mary Ann Gorsky, and former Elmhurst mayor and PACE board member Tom Marcucci, guest of Ken Bartels.

Thought for the Day: Two quotes from Theodore Roosevelt: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." "Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength."

Polio Plus: **Art Pitz had his ticket fetched from the fishbowl today. Unfortunately for Art, his pick left three cards, including the king of clubs, in the deck for next week's drawing.** We are closing in on a \$3,000 pot.

Fines: Joe Nilles continued the theme of the Academy Awards in his fine session, fining us for not answering some of the lesser-known facts about Jack Nicholson, John Ford, Laurence Olivier and Meryl Streep. \$5 bills came in abundance.

Announcements

- Board meeting: Wednesday, March 19 at the Library, 5 to 6 pm.

- April 3 is Turnout Thursday. *Make this meeting if you possibly can.* Let's see how many Elmhurst Rotarians can show up and set a post-Covid attendance record!

- Fundraiser April 17 at the *Modern Plate, 119 N York Street, Elmhurst* (the former bowling alley). Format and venue are both a change from the last couple of years. The idea is to get more in-person participants to bid up the auction items and buy raffle tickets. Sit-down tables, heavy hors d'oeuvres, live auction (i.e. a real auctioneer), a professionally led Trivia game, and yes, a cash bar. Bring your friends. The more we have, the more money for our charitable activities.

- Elmhurst Rotarians will be assisting the UCCA mobile food truck delivery at Churchville School from 9:00am to 10:30am, March 22.

- Club wins awards (see page two)

Program

Former Rotarian and past Elmhurst Rotary Club president Wes Becton brought us highlights of Metra's operations. Wes represents DuPage County on Metra's Board of Directors. With Wes was Demetri Skoufis, Metra's Senior Legislative and Community Affairs Liaison.

Metra: moving people in to and out of metro Chicago while skipping highway congestion, parking fees, and burning less fuel. A map of Metra's 11 commuter rail lines looks like the left half of a bicycle wheel, with all spokes (rail lines) leading into the hub (downtown Chicago).

Metra owns four of those rail lines outright and uses freight railroads for the other seven. Elmhurst is on Metra's Union Pacific West Line and is that line's highest passenger boarding location.

Metra is the second largest commuter rail organization in the US, with an operating budget this year of \$1.1 Billion and a capital program of over \$360 million. Metra has no debt but that may change in order to replace some of its 200-plus bridges that are over 100 years old.

The real challenge for Metra is its operating revenue. Although ridership continues to increase, it has yet to reach pre-pandemic levels. So far, Metra has met the revenue deficit by judicious use of federal Covid relief funds, but those funds will run out next year. The Illinois legislature is considering bills to address this funding gap for Metra (and for PACE and the Chicago Transit Authority as well). Lacking a new funding source, all three agencies will have to make service reductions, with Metra anticipating a 40% service reduction to operate within budget. In turn, less frequent train service leads to even lower ridership, a downward spiral that is very difficult to reverse.

Also briefly covered: a dispute regarding Metra's right to operate over three of Union Pacific's freight lines, including the UP West line through Elmhurst. This matter is being adjudicated before the courts and the US Surface Transportation Board.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

3/20 Business meeting
3/27 Farr + Switt watches (Elmhurst, IL)

4/3 Turnout Thursday-Jon Kosrow, JK Strength & Fitness

FINER-THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

3/20 Joe Weigel
3/27 Rob Kopecky
4/3 Ken Bartels

ROTARY 2024-2025

The Magic of Rotary

Rotary International President

Stephanie A. Urchick – McMurray, PA

District 6450 District Governor

Rachael Ossyra – Aurora United

Rotary Club of Elmhurst Officers

President	Marilyn Boria
President-Elect	Greg St. Laurent
Secretary	Joe Weigel
Treasurer	Jim Clohessy
Past-President	Frank Troost
Directors	Al Spada
	Dave McKenna
	C. J. Merrill
	Garry Vaccaro

<u>Member</u>	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Bartels, Ken	Marge	Civic Leader
Bergheger, Brian	Carol Doyle	Retired-Museum Director
Boria, Marilyn	Phil	Retired-Library Director
Cahill, Valerie	Hal	Risk Mgmt. Director-YMCA
Carroll, Larry	Carlotta	Post-Secondary Education
Clohessy, Jim	Vanessa	Accounting-Small Business
Gorski, Maryann	Ron	Resident Artist
Harper, Mary Beth	Jim	Library Director
Hill, Collin	Megan	Retail Jewelry
Hostetler, Harry	Marie	Retired-Manufacturer
Kopecky, Rob	Cheryl	Retired Photographer
Kosik, Marilyn		Residential Real Estate
Kunesh, Dan	Paula	Industrial Supply Distribution
Laliberte, Charlie	Betty	Education-Children UP-Uganda
Libovicz, Elaine		Retired-City Treasurer
Linson, Curt	Nancy	Retired-Packaging
Lyman, Bill	Linda	Retired-Railway Management
Mason, Rachael		Business Services – Pub. Library
McKenna, Dave	Tammy	Home Construction
Mehta, Shazad		Auto Repair Service
Merrill, C. J.	Alice	Retired-Music Educator
Nichele, Joe	Kelly	Attorney
Nilles, Joe		Property Management
Pitz, Arthur	Suzanne	Retired-International Relations
Robinson, Jody	John	Financial Planner
Sakash, Bill		Retired-Industrial Distribution
Shanklin, Bill		Retired-Packaging
Slone, Joyce	Russ Weigand	Commercial Real Estate
Spada, Al	Beth	Non-Profit Management
St. Laurent, Greg	Brenda Lee	Retired-Retail Packaging
Studebaker, Scott	Mary	Healthcare Development
Sukowicz, Mark	Joan	Accounting
Troost, Frank	Patricia	Retired-Monument Company

Turnbough, Eli		Funeral Director
Tyburnski, Susan	Paul Wcisel	Hospital Development
Vaccaro, Garry	Debra	Warm Coats for Cool Kids
Weigel, Joe	Aileen	Retired - Commercial Lending

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ELMHURST meets for lunch at 12:00 noon at the *Elmhurst Public Library, 125 S. Prospect Avenue*, Elmhurst, followed by a program and ending by 1:30pm. **Lunch is catered except for a beverage.** The BrewPoint Coffee bar, located just inside the library, has a limited supply of drinks in addition to coffee your way.

THE FOUR WAY TEST of the things we think, say, or do:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
- No. 5: "Is it any fun"? [Ted Arey]

"Rotary International is the world's leading humanitarian service organization", Cliff Lyda, Past Pres. of Elmhurst Rotary & Past District 6450 Governor.

21: The number of Elmhurst Rotarians in attendance today.

Awards: At Rotary District 6450's annual Rotary Foundation Dinner on Thursday, March 6, our club received two awards:

A Certificate of Appreciation for our financial support of Rotary's End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign, and

A banner for achieving over \$100 per capita donated to The Rotary Foundation for the 2023-2024 Rotary year.

Also, Bill Lyman received a Rotary Hero Award for his ten years on the Stewardship Committee for the District Grants Subcommittee.

Send announcements and (corrections) for next week's F.U.S.E. to wclyman2@gmail

