

Mount Clemens Rotary Club



"the spokesperson"

January 7, 2010

www.mountclemensrotary.org

Minutes by Eric Pierson



Next week's Rotary meeting is at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library on Romeo Plank Road.

Not sure who led us in the Pledge, but recalled that **John Walendowski** gave the benediction to start our meeting on this the first meeting of 2010.

Lunch today was chicken pot pie and I was disappointed to see that everyone around me finished their portion.

President Furest announced that our next meeting will take place at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

Guests

Dr. Kenewell and his fiancée - guests of the club and speaker

John Russi - guest of **Ray Glime**

Joe Russell - guest of **Phil Groh**

Tim Lamkin - guest of **Phil Groh**

Loran Coffman - guest of **Don Carnaghi** and Lake Orion Rotarian

Del Becker - guest of **Carl Becker**



Flowers

Carl Becker purchased a flower for our speaker.

Songs



Julie Huttenlocher led us in songs this week. As Julie appears to be somewhat infatuated with Texas Longhorn quarterback, Colt McCoy, we started with the song "Deep in the Heart of Texas." After singing this song, I thought hard about this and I came to the inescapable conclusion that this was, indeed, the goofiest song I have ever sung in Rotary. Apparently, it did nothing to help either McCoy or the Longhorns as McCoy went out injured and the Longhorns lost last night to Alabama. Roll Tide!

Sorry, I got a little sidetracked there, but since I found out **Mark Zuccaro** (HINT, Recognition) did not show up to write the bulletin today. I got a late start and needed to fill in all I missed. So after this song that sounded more like something out of Dr. Seuss, Julie recovered nicely with a crowd favorite, "Sing a Song to Rotary," where we all made the rafters ring.

Speaking of ringing . . . From **Bob Randolph**: Thanks for ringing the bell at our Rotary kettle: **Nancy Dedenbach, Jessica Cheshire Stone, Rolf Schroeter, Ray Hofner, Bill Lee, Larry Neal, John King, Dana Casson, Jaime, Todd and Trevor Fitzpatrick, Keith Lesperance, Sarah Lee-Ellena, Terri LeClair, Kris Miele, Ray Glime** and Bob Randolph



BRING FOOD BANK DONATIONS ON THE
THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
RECOGNITION FOR JANUARY

KEN KISH

JAN. 14

**MEET AT THE
CLINTON-MACOMB
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

ON ROMEO PLANK ROAD

(SARAH LEE-ELLENA) PAT BARBOSA
ROTARY AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLAR

JAN. 21

(PHIL GROH) PHIL GROH & ROLF
SCHROETER ROTARY AND THE
CRIPPLED CHILDREN PROGRAM

JAN. 28

(PHIL GROH) HOLSINGER/OCELNICK
COSMETIC CHANGES AT TURNING POINT

FEB. 4

(BOB CANNON)

FEB. 11

(BOB CANNON)

FEB. 18

(KRIS MIELE) BARBARA DAVID IRLIN
SYNDROME/SCOTOPIC SENSITIVITY

FEB. 25

(KRIS MIELE) DR. KARI HORTOS
STATUS OF MSU MEDICAL SCHOOL
MACOMB CAMPUS

MAY 16

SPRING ZING - AN AWESOME AND
ENGAGING EXPERIENCE FOR THE
SENSES TASTE-FEST AND AUCTION
ZUCCARO'S COUNTRY HOUSE

Recognition by Ken Kish

Art Mullen got fined for the Mount Clemens New Year's Eve celebration in downtown Mount Clemens that received broad coverage by the press and included about 4,500 guests. All MSU alums were fined \$2 for their team's loss in the Valera (Who?) Alamo Bowl. All Central Michigan Alums (OK, **Jessica Stone**) were (was) fined \$4.99 for their extraordinary win in the GMAC Bowl.

Julie Huttenlocher was fined \$4.99 because the Huttenlocher group was announced to be the largest something in something. OK, no excuse for this one, but I was trying to catch up. Bottom line is that Julie is related to the Huttenlocher group and thus should be fined for any good news they receive. That's just how it works. **Carl Becker** was fined for yet another favorable article regarding his daughter's burgeoning collaborative law practice.

Don Green was recognized for the cake we ate for dessert. As Don's birthday is during the holiday, he is never recognized for his birthday at a Rotary meeting, thus we had a birthday cake (it was really good too) chocolate with chocolate ice cream. The green topping left everyone with green teeth. For a minute there, I thought it was St. Patrick's Day. **Ray Glime** went out to eat with Don on his birthday and didn't even treat, in fact the opposite occurred. So at \$4.99 he was given just treatment.

Presentation

Our speaker today was Dr. Kenewell, a general practitioner. Dr. Kenewell is a bit of a rebel in Michigan in that he is perhaps, and to his knowledge the only, doctor who is actually taking advantage of the new laws that were passed more than a year ago and is actively writing prescriptions for medical marijuana to needy patients.

Dr. Kenewell started his presentation by stating that as a general practitioner he has a duty to act within the best interests of his patients and that he strictly follows this as his policy. What got him started was all the questions he was receiving from patients about medical marijuana coming on the heels of the passage of legalizing the same as a result of the November 2008 election. He did some research on the subject and felt that science strongly backed up claims about how effective medical marijuana was as a painkiller.

Now the doctor explained this as to how it attached certain things attached to gene and cell receptors, but I am sure only Carl Becker knew what he was actually talking about, so I am not going to even attempt to write all of it out, but let me say that it sounded like sound science to me.

Delving into the history of marijuana, that has been used for medicinal purposes for at least 5,000 years. Its use in the U.S. was abruptly stopped about 70 years ago with the passage of the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937. This law required that all marijuana sold in the U.S. would require a tax stamp. To this day, a tax stamp has never been issued. In effect, it has made it a federal crime to have marijuana. This is still the federal law even though several states

are changing their laws, in particular, as respects medicinal marijuana. This law was started through Congress at the height of Prohibition when it became clear the prohibition of alcohol was not going to last, Congress was hoping to avoid a similar problem with marijuana before its use could become widespread.

There is little doubting that this was passed by painting a dishonest picture of what marijuana was and what its effects were. The base element of marijuana that causes both the buzz and gives it its medicinal quality is THC as it is the THC that actually works on the receptors.

Dr. Kenewell, pointed out that the groups that are pushing for the legalization of marijuana such as NORML (being the most popular), are often regarded as freaks, but the message that they are sending really does make sense. They really show how propaganda used in the past to vilify marijuana was really misleading. For instance, many people even today still feel that one could overdose from too much THC as this was one of the early scare tactics employed by the government in passing the tax act. This is not true. It is impossible to overdose on THC. Another popular myth at this time is that it is a gateway drug, this has also been proven to be a fallacy. And there is . . . Oh I'm sorry, Shane Brown's phone just rang, I got distracted and missed something there (HINT, HINT)

Evidence has shown that in states that have passed legislation for legalization, they have actually seen decreases in both use of alcohol, street drug and



marijuana usage. The latter due to it no longer being cool to use, as it is so readily available.

This pretty much concluded the presentation, but many great questions were asked. One was the way in which it must be taken as smoking anything is not a healthy pursuit. While there is not really a pill to take, people can use vaporizers. What this does is it heats the plant to just below its flashpoint, this causes the THC to release from the plant where it is collected into a vessel of some sort and inhaled without any of the harmful carcinogens. There are also ways of making topicals and to render butter so that it can be baked into anything that would require butter and then consumed.

Another concern was the cost to patients as all of the insurance companies have made clear that they won't cover the costs for it. The bill included a provision allowing patients to grow their own which would significantly control costs.

In terms of availability, if the patient does not grow their own, growers may register as caregivers who may grow and supply patients; although such must be done indoors and in a locked environment. There is currently a case going through the courts right now with a caregiver who was arrested for growing outdoors. It should be interesting to see what happens with that. My suspicion was confirmed that no taxes were being collected on this activity, which Dr. Kenewell says has been estimated at about \$24 billion nationwide. I guess it is a good thing the government doesn't need any money.

The winner of the 50/50 was not **Cecilia Moloney**.



12/20 DELPHINE (CARL) BECKER
12/22 DAVE (SUE) DIENER
12/22 DIANE (KEN) KISH
12/20 BOB CANNON
12/24 ALLAN NESS
12/26 JIM (MARY) SPAULDING
12/26 LISA (PAUL) WOODRING
12/30 DON GREEN
12/30 MICHAEL O'CONNOR
12/31 CHRISTINE LATOUR

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

01/02 DON & CAROL TORLINE (42)
01/14 JULIE & JAMES HUTTENLOCHER (14)
01/07 GLENN & TERRI BURTON (15)

CLUB ANNIVERSARY

PATTY MCKAY (17)

Jeffrey Furest
President
Sarah Lee-Ellena
First Vice President/President-Elect
Eric Pierson
*Second Vice President/
President Nominee*

Julie Huttenlocher
Treasurer
Penny Schulwitz
Secretary
Nancy Dedenbach
Immediate Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kristine Miele & Rolf Schroeter (*one year*)
Jessica Stone & John Walendowski (*two years*)
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Birthdays & Flowers
Lynn Davidson
Boat Outing ~ Valerie Miller
Bulletin ~ Eric Pierson
Community Projects
Eric Pierson
Fund-Raising ~ Sarah Lee-Ellena
House ~ Jessica Stone
House Committee Assistants
John Hart, Don Torline, Ray Hofner,
Cecilia Moloney, Bob Randolph



COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Music ~ Bob Selwa
Membership ~ John Walendowski
Public Relations
Nancy Dedenbach
Recognition ~ Julie Huttenlocher
RI Foundation Development
Jeff Furest & Bob Baker
RI Liaison ~ Rolf Schroeter
Speakers Program
Kristine Miele & Sarah Lee-Ellena
Wheelchair Project ~ Larry Neal

Mount Clemens Rotary
Club 2992 of
Rotary District 6380
of Rotary International
Meets 12:15 p.m. Thursday at
Zion United Church of Christ
Serving the community since 1920
(586)468-2000
schfam94@yahoo.com
View your newsletter online at
www.mountclemensrotary.org
District 6380 newsletter is posted
at www.rotary6380.org
Announcements & bulletin
submissions
lindamay@ameritech.net
(586) 791-8116 phone/fax