



Flint Rotary World

Charter No. 220 – *Rotary Club of Flint, Michigan* – Organized April 7, 1916
Rotary theme for 2008-2009 – “Make Dreams Real”

Dong Kurn Lee, Seoul, Korea, President, Rotary International, - Carl "Kelly" Fotheringham, Mildmay, Canada Governor, District 6330

Economic Forum offers the good, the bad and the ugly news.

The day after the U.S. Senate rejected the bailout of the American auto industry, Flint Rotarians gathered in the ballroom at the University of Michigan-Flint’s Northbank Center for “The Economic Forum” to hear the latest forecast for the economy in the next few years. The information offered included the good, the bad and the ugly.

President **Roxanne Caine** opened the meeting by saying that we had so many guests in attendance that we weren’t going to try to introduce them all. She then gave the large crowd a quick history of Rotary and the many good works it performs locally and internationally.

Our newest Rotarian, **Dr. John A. Helmuth**, a professor of economics at the University of Michigan-Flint (who had been inducted at our last meeting) introduced the panel of experts; Dr. Mark J. Perry and Dr. Christopher Douglas (both economics professors at UM-Flint) and Samuel D. Kahan, Senior Economist at the Federal reserve Bank of Chicago’s Detroit Branch.

Professor Perry reviewed the regular claims by media and politicians that we were in the “worst economic climate since the Great Depression.” Those claims appeared silly when he showed comparisons of such statistics as bank failures, unemployment rates and other measures, clearly showing that we were far from the conditions during the Great Depression. As cheering as he presentation was, the presentation by Professor Douglas quickly brought the mood back down. He reviewed the astronomical levels of debt and impending liabilities facing the federal government. As bad as current government deficits appear, they are dwarfed by the coming liabilities presented by Social Security, Medicare and state pensions.

Kahan finished the presentation with a range of statistics showing that the economic decline in Flint and Michigan has actually been underway for decades. But his presentation wasn’t all gloom and doom. He outlined the “Future Drivers” of our recovery; 1) Brain Power, 2) Technology, 3) Venture Capital, 4) research and Development, and 5) the Quality of Life in Michigan.

The wealth of information provided one of the most compelling programs we’ve had in a long time and one that directly impacts us all.

VITAL STATISTICS

From the December 12 meeting:

Stacey Doyle led us in song for the second week in a row while **Tim Shickles** offered the inspirational message. Set up and take down in a rather different environment was handled by **Don Barrow** but several of the usual functions didn’t occur because of the different location.

Upcoming Programs

December 19, 2008 – Holiday Celebration

The meeting will be back at the Sarvis Center

Dec. 26 – No Meeting

Sarvis closed for the holidays – see you in 2009!

Officers and Directors

President.....	Roxanne Caine
President Elect.....	James Franklin
Vice President	Jerry Johnson
Director	Joe Fioroni
Director	Don Rockwell
Director	Tiffany Flynn
Director	Joy Martinbianco
Past President	Michael Dach
Secretary/Treasurer	Richard Cordell

**Quote from French
historian Alexis de
Toqueville,
cited by Samuel Kahan
at the Economic Forum:**

“The American has no
time to tie himself to
anything.

He grows accustomed
only to change, and ends
by regarding it as the
natural state of man. He
feels the need for it, more
he loves it; instead of
meaning disaster to him,
it seems to give birth only
to miracles all about
him.”

Where to make up:

Monday

Saginaw Valley 12:15 p.m.
Horizons Conference Center

Tuesday

Clio 7:15 a.m.
Roger's Lodge

Durand Noon
Papa Joe's Restaurant

Grand Blanc 7:15 a.m.
Sophie's Kitchen

Fenton 7:15 a.m.
Spring Meadows Country Club

Genesee Valley (Flint) 12:15
Old Country Buffet, Miller Road

Lapeer 12:10 p.m.
Lapeer County Center Bldg.

Columbiaville 6:30 p.m.
Rotary Building

Wednesday

Greater Flint Sunrise 7 a.m.
Sarvis Center

Owosso 12:15 p.m.
Owosso Memorial Hosp. Annex

Saginaw Noon
Saginaw Club

Davisburg 7 p.m.
Don Hart Community Center

Thursday

Flushing 7 a.m.
Sorrento's Restaurant

Burton 12:10 p.m.
Brookwood Golf Club

Frankenmuth 12:10 p.m.
Zehnder's Restaurant

Corunna Noon
United Methodist Church

Make-ups:

10/1/2007	Daniel Crannie	South Ft. Myers, FL
11/13/2007	Daniel Crannie	Fenton
10/21/2008	Joe Fioroni	Board Meeting
11/12/2008	Michael Lindemann James Richardson Richard Warmbold	Flint Sunrise
11/14/2008	Michael Bourke	Brighton, MI
11/18/2008	Richard Cramer	Palm Beach Gardens FL
11/18/2008	Lawrence Cywin Richard Fortner Peter Kleinpell	Genesee Valley
11/19/2008	Michael Lindemann James Richardson	Flint Sunrise
11/20/2008	Curtis Collier	Flushing
11/20/2008	Gerald Hill	Burton
11/20/2008	Robert Wright	Port Huron
11/21/2008	Jennifer Acree, Willis Anderson, James Angle, James Bettendorf, Melissa Butts, Roxanne Caine, Michael Chaffee, Lennetta Coney, Richard Cordell, Elizabeth Cummins, Dayne Davis, Gene Dennis, Lewis Driskell, Sherlynn Everly, Tiffany Flynn, Richard Fortner, Kenneth Halter, Lynne Hurand, Steve Jadwin, Robert Jewell, Jerry Johnson, James Kennedy, Jerry Knoodle, Albert Koegel, Amy Krug, Donald Lada, Colin Linsenman, Joy Martinbianco, Hanumanthaiya Marur, Rebecca Millsap, Heather Morolla, Linda Moxam, John Musgrave, Milton Panzer, Michael Pifer, Katherine Saunders, Dick Shaink , Howard Shand, Robert Sibilsky, Kristen Skivington, David Smith, Douglas Speck, Sandra Staffne, Reta Stanley, Michael Thorp, Kenneth Vavra, Paul Wenstrom, Lindsey Younger	Interservice Lunch
11/21/2008	Roxanne Caine, Richard Cordell, Michael Dach, Tiffany Flynn, Jerry Johnson, Rebecca Millsap, Donald Rockwell	Board Meeting
11/24/2008	Richard Cramer Palm	Beach Gardens, FL
12/2/2008	Richard Fortner, Peter Kleinpell	Genesee Valley
12/3/2008	Richard Warmbold	Flint Sunrise