



Gusto for August 18, 2020

A publication of the Rotary Club of Appleton

District 6220 Club 2656

August 25th Program: Induction of President Tony Annual President's Meeting

Join us as we formally install President Tony and enjoy some Rotary fun!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85868002361?pwd=ZWRQaDM3bEkySndLZDN2eWs3Ujc1QT09>

Or by phone: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 858 6800 2361
Passcode: 907924

August 25th Program

Installation of President
Tony

Thought of the Day

Barb Merry

Sept. 8th Program

Imagine Fox Cities Belong-
ingness Initiative

Thought of the Day

To Be Determined

2020-2021 Board of Directors

President

Tony Gonzalez

President – Elect

Alan Blake

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Amy Flanders

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Ron Altenburg

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Directors

Karen Cain

Blake Doss

Paul Hillmer

Dawn Nowakowski

Egide Nimubona

Kelly Radandt

Erin Schultz

Eric Welhouse

Club Meeting Information

(In person meetings on hold at this time)

Location: Riverview Gardens
1101 S Oneida St
Appleton, WI 54915

Assistant Governor Area 5

Nancy Leipzig

Global Grant Scholarship Recipients

Anna DeWitt

<https://annadewittglobalscholar.wordpress.com>

Keyla Higa

Rotarian of the Year

Wayne Defferding

TAKE ACTION: www.appletonrotary.org

Gusto Editor: nancy.leipzig@communitycareinc.org

Want to invite a guest to join our Zoom meeting?

Send President Tony and Kathy their name and email address. We'll be sure to let them into the meeting as our guest!



Chief Todd Thomas, Appleton Police Department

Today Chief Todd Thomas from the Appleton Police Dept. presented on challenges he could have never anticipated in his 35 years of policing.

Racial Justice

Looking back, Chief Thomas has distinct memories of the Rodney King incident and the impact that made to him as a young officer as well as what police have learned from incidents like Ferguson where the police community didn't respond quickly enough in response to the community. Chief Thomas reflected that many of his officers are so young that they weren't in policing when Michael Brown was shot in Ferguson.

Since the murder of George Floyd, the Chief has engaged with many local leaders, including many young, emerging leaders who are interested in coming together. APD works closely with the City's Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator, Karen Nelson, as well as the Mayor. Karen has helped with opening doors between the organizers of some of the demonstrations and our police department to mitigate potential issues and ensure that demonstrations are helpful to what they want to accomplish.

APD is looking to promote social justice and healing by reaching out to people who have been a part of the demonstrations and has joined those discussions *when they are invited* to their meetings. In the past, policing agencies have mistakenly imposed themselves on these conversations, which they now realize is not the best approach. Appleton has been blessed by a legacy of progressive leadership which positions us to be significantly ahead of communities such as Minneapolis where recently in use that haven't been used here for many years. APD releases an annual report on their use of force and the Chief is a strong advocate of body cameras. Body camera recordings are reviewed after incidents and audited to be sure they are being used appropriately. APD recently released a 10 year report on use of force. Use of force is reviewed by supervisors, leadership and use of force trainers. Frequency of use of force is tracked and officers with repeated use of force are reviewed to monitor and provide additional training in de-escalation.

The Chief stressed that elected officials need to be a part of conversations around racial justice as systemic inequities compound these issues. Locally, our Mayor has been present but it has been a struggled to get many other policy makers to the table.

The Pandemic

The pandemic has been a challenge. Police and municipalities learned about state executive orders at the same time as the public giving them no ability to prepare or put systems in place to enforce mandates. Law enforcement does not criminalize the mask mandate but works with the health department to educate businesses in the wearing of masks.

The non-profits, social services and police are facing a shadow pandemic with mental health issues, increasing suicide rates, alcoholism and drug use. APD has many Crisis Intervention Trained officers as well as a Behavioral Health Officer and they are looking to embed a social worker in the police department since not every call requires an officer and in many cases these calls would benefit from a social worker being the first response.

Membership Corner

**Zoom Coffee Meetings*

Thursday at 9am

Coffees will be held via Zoom

Email Alan Blake at

alanblake628@gmail.com

for Zoom meeting details.

Club Membership = 102

Provide Feedback to Chief Thomas

The Chief understands our need to help people voice concerns. Not everyone is comfortable sharing criticism, especially to the police. He is open to suggestions. Chief Todd and the Mayor are reviewing over 100 applications for a Citizen's Advisory Board. Their goal is to ensure representation includes people who weren't represented in policy making previously. This committee will learn about how the police responds to issues and ask for feedback to inform decision making. He welcomes getting this outside perspective to help the police get out of their silos. Anyone can mail a question/concern, the Chief will answer directly. apdfeedback@appleton.org

The Chief said the best thing a citizen can do to support the police is to write a note, smile, say thank you or find another way to let them know you appreciate what they are doing. A kind word or a small gesture can make their day.