



RIB

Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, September 5, 2024

Noon Meetings Two Weeks Per Month, Mondays at the Hilton, France Ave & 494 Social Events and Club Service - See Calendar

Mission

The Bloomington Noon Rotary Club unites leaders to improve our community and the world through service and philanthropy.

2024-2025 Officers:

President:

Dwayne Lowman

Phone: 952-270-3691

dwayne.lowman1@gmail.com

Board Meetings - Monthly:

Fourth Mondays, 11:00 AM, Hilton

President Elect:

Kurt Hagen

Vice President:

open

Treasurer:

Bob Erickson

Sergeant at Arms:

Lori Rebers

Program Chair:

Sara Kleinsasser Tan

Past President:

Laura Schultz

District Governor:

Sharon Bloodworth

Executive Secretary:

Kathy Koehler

952-250-0476

kkoehler53@frontiernet.net

Directors: Adam Johnston, Jim Mortenson, Terry Stirewalt, Chris Aldrich, Jane Fenton, Lori Rebers, Valeria Camboni Miller, David Drummond, Lee Mosher,

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20300 Bloomington, MN USA 55420

September 9 Preview: “Wilderness Inquiry”

Guest: Erica Rivers

Wilderness Inquiry’s mission is to connect people of all ages backgrounds, identities, and abilities through shared outdoor adventures so that all people can equitably experience the benefits of time spent in nature. They are headquartered in the Twin Cities, but operate globally. They collaborate with hundreds of local, national and international organizations to assure they are accessible, inclusive and eco-friendly, all while helping every participant engage with the outdoors.



Erica Rivers is the Executive Director of Wilderness Inquiry. She joined them in 2021. She is passionate about breaking down barriers to accessing the outdoors and connecting all people to the health, wellness and social benefits of active, nature-based recreation. She oversees a \$6.9 million annual budget and a staff of 90+ full and seasonal employees. Prior to joining Wilderness Inquiry, she was Director of the Parks and Trails Division at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 17 years as a conservation biologist. In 2021, she was elected president of the National Association of State Park Directors. She holds a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology and a B.A. in Journalism/Russian Studies from the UofM. Her outdoor interests include hiking, camping, hunting and fishing..

[Zoom is now available for our Monday Hilton meetings.](#) Meeting ID: 243 737 0314 Passcode: 4waytest Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2437370314?pwd=azZHeENQd2poLzY2VzBDZi9RNldNQOT09&omn=81223847594>

September 19 Preview: “Meet and Greet” Hilton Olive Lounge

Thursday, September 19th is our next Meet and Greet at the Hilton’s Olive Lounge (Next to Chop House) 5:00 PM

We are continuing our third Thursday evening Meet and Greet meetings throughout the coming Rotary year except December. December will be a special Holiday gathering. **We gather at 5:00 PM** at the Hilton on France Avenue and Hwy 494 in the Olive Lounge just outside the Chop House Restaurant. We have sometimes used their patio, so if nice weather check there as well.

We hope everyone will have a chance to join us sometime throughout the year. We encourage guests and always spouses are invited to join at these meetings. There is no set charge for attending the meetings. We all order ala carte from the bar menu, either the Happy Hour special price items or from the regular menu. Many of us make this our dinner out evening. The company is always great! Here is a photo from a recent Meet and Greet.



Our Recent Meetings...

On August 26th, Dr. Abul Sharah shared about the work he is doing at **International Village Clinic**.

Dr. Abul Sharah has spoken to us many times about his work in India. The program in India started in 1999 with a mobile unit serving a couple of villages, and today, is working with about 60 villages. They provide a nutrition program for children and pregnant women; a vaccination program for polio, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis, cholera and other diseases. Their maternity services include doctor visits, nutrition and hygiene instruction. Their work with the children who are born under this program monitors the child's growth for at least the first five years. This preventive program has made a significant difference in the lives of the children in these villages.



Abul is hoping for similar results with a new clinic in the small villages surrounding San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala where they have created the same program. Abul always dreamed about expansion of his work and he has finally been able to achieve this dream.

Abul also reported on World Class English School established near IVC which he started in 2018 with one nursery class. Having added one grade level each year, they now have classes through grade 5. Children at school (photo).



Happy Bucks

Debbie Belfry was happy that Pack to School was in full swing. Remember to pledge to support student's who need school supplies. Don Stiles mentioned the Birth with Dignity project. Dave Drummond honored our diversity remembering the words, "one nation under God" in the Pledge. Bob Erickson saluted Mahendra Nath and the guests he invited today. Don Stiles had a great day at the State Fair. See photos page 3.

Sara Tan enjoyed her family week in Denver where they visited the Denver Mint. Deb Newman has returned from her month in Europe, the Olympics and a visit with her brother. Terry Stirewalt is looking forward to an extended vacation with his wife. Nick Basil is happy for the baseball season. Jim Casserly enjoyed his fishing weekend. Larry Lee noted the restoration of the art on city hall. Eric Melbye was pleased with the beginning of the school year and welcoming back all of the staff today and noted it was the first time in years Debbie Belfry was not there having retired. Several of our guests donated as a thank you and to support Pack to School.

Sweat Equity Opportunity September 16th

"Birth with Dignity" is working to do something about the birthing crisis in Uganda where so many babies are still born and the mothers are dying from birth complications. Because electricity is so unreliable in many parts of Uganda, the doctors and midwives are delivering babies using the flashlight on their cell phones, and missing the hemorrhaging of mothers during birth. How do you solve this crisis?

Your Rotary Club put together a District Grant project with the collaboration of 9 other 5950 Clubs to provide 131 hospitals with headlamps as well as educational material for mothers to reduce the issues resulting in stillbirths. It is time to assemble the "Birth Bundles" with headlamps, etc. We are planning our "Birth Bundle" assembly as follows: (Snacks and drinks will be provided)

Date: **Monday September 16** Time: **6:30 PM**

Location: Home of **Lynn Zdechlik** at **10607 Maple Blvd**, Woodbury, MN 55129

We will be removing the headlamps from their clamshell, adding straps, testing each headlamp, boxing headlamps for shipping, and stamping the Rotary logo on these bags. Please let **Don Stiles** know if you are available that evening to help. The more Rotarians we have, the faster the assembly will be completed.

Phone: 952-212-0228 email: stiles.don@gmail.com



September Birthdays

- 29 Bonnie Carlson
- 30 Bill Peterson

September Anniversaries

- 17 Karen Nordstrom 17 yrs
- 19 Laura Schultz 8 yrs
- 24 Abul Sharah 22 yrs
- 27 Eric Melbye 3 yrs

Recent Program Recordings...

05/21/24 - "STRIVE Awards" - https://youtu.be/hv7JBMP_s-Y

07/08/24 - "Aavishkaar" - https://youtu.be/5ECPY9_JiO4

07/22/24 - "DG Sharon Bloodworth" - <https://youtu.be/HrGiZiXdqZ0>

08/12/24 - "Bravo Zulu House" - <https://youtu.be/r6GqhNh8pPE>

08/26/24 - "International Village Clinic" - <https://youtu.be/J22Vgoy1SWc>

These and other Rotary programs are also available to stream on the city website here: <https://reflect-bcit.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/search?channel=2&query=rotary>

Distinguished Guests

- Roshan Rajkumar, Guest of Dick Young, Trial Attorney
- Eric Holthaus, Community Outreach, City of Bloomington, Approved for membership
- Deepak Nath, Son of Mahendra Nath, Nath Companies
- Shalini Nath Walia, Daughter of Mahendra Nath, Nath Companies
- David Walia, Son-in-Law of Mahendra Nath, Nath Companies
- Satya Garg, Guest of Mahendra Nath, SM Engineering
- Ramesh Wahi, Guest of Mahendra Nath, from Burnsville, T Shirts
- Kul Kacra, Guest of Mahendra Nath
- DJ Sikka, Guest of Mahendra Nath, Real Estate, Minneapolis
- Ram Gada, Guest of Mahendra Nath, Retired Engineer, Minnetrista



Rotary on a Stick at the State Fair



Almost 300 Rotarians along with Youth Exchange students were at the State Fair for Rotary on a Stick. Bloomington Noon Rotary was represented by President, **Dwayne Lowman, Don Stiles and Debbie Belfry**. We were a part of the all day service project organized by Rotarians, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the U of M. The project involved interviewing Fair vendors, monitoring waste bins at various locations and data collection by way of counting trash items from bins. The data collected will help find solutions to excessive waste that could be recycled. We also heard from the CEO of the Fair, Renee Alexander and had a backstage tour of the Grandstand. A highlight was Rotarians in the State Fair parade, including Dwayne. They also achieved a district high participation in a District Conference. *Debbie Belfry contributed this article and photos.*

Pack to School Club Service Project

Our Club is once again working to help students be ready for learning by providing school supplies for students whose families find it difficult to afford the general supplies every student needs as they arrive at school. Today, our club is collecting donations that we will give to the Bloomington Public Schools to purchase supplies for students in three schools. Indian Mounds Elementary, Valley View Elementary and Valley View Middle School are all very diverse schools in the Eastern part of Bloomington.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of our Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation, the Board passed a policy that the Foundation “can accept direct pass through donations which are designated to one of our Rotary club projects or to another Rotary club’s project” which will be sent forward for that project. Rotarians have asked about using their Required Minimum Distributions as charitable donations.

This is now another way to support Pack to School or any of our designated projects.

You may print this page and cut off the bottom section and turn it in with your check at the next meeting or use one of the other options available.



I, _____, agree to donate _____ pack(s) at a cost of \$30 each to Bloomington Rotary Club for the 29th Annual Pack to School community service project. My preferred method of payment is:

I have included a check for \$_____.

I request that at my next invoice cycle an additional cost of \$_____ be added to my billing amount.

If paying by enclosed or attached check, please make checks out to Bloomington Rotary Club.

Thanks for supporting Pack to School!

Upcoming Meetings -

- Black Denotes In Person Meeting At the Hilton Hotel**
- Blue Denotes Club Service, Meet and Greet, or a Vocational Event**
- Red Denotes No Meeting at the Hilton**
- Green Denotes a planned Zoom Meeting**

- Sept 5: Thursday **“Community Service at VEAP”** 2:15 to 5:00 PM [Email Dwayne to Volunteer](#)
- Sept 9: Monday **“Wilderness Inquiry”** Guest: Erica Rivers [Zoom Available](#)
- Sept 19: Thursday **“Meet and Greet”** Hilton Hotel, Chop House Bar area, 5:00 PM
- Sept 23: Monday **“End Human Trafficking”** Guest: Karen Walkowski [Zoom Available](#)
- Sept 30: Monday **“Loaves and Fishes”** Club Service Project, Christ the King Lutheran, 4:00 to 7:00
Register through your Club Runner invite.
- Oct 10: Thursday **“Community Service at VEAP”** 2:15 to 5:00 PM [Email Dwayne to Volunteer](#)
- Oct 14: Monday **“Educating Youth About Human Trafficking”**
- Oct 24: Thursday **“Meet and Greet”** Hilton Hotel, Chop House Bar area, 5:00 PM
- Oct 28: Monday **“How to Use AI”** Rotarian Becky Amble

Calendar of Events - SAVE the following DATES on your calendar!

- Sept 5: Thursday **“Community Service at VEAP”** 2:15 to 5:00 PM
- Sept 16: Monday **“Sweat Equity Project for Birth With Dignity”** 6:30 PM [Email Don Stiles](#)
- Sept 19: Thursday **“Meet and Greet”** Hilton Hotel, Chop House Bar area, 5:00 PM
- Sept 23: Monday **“Board of Directors Meeting”** Hilton Hotel 11:00 AM
- Sept 23: Monday **“First Annual Artistry Benefit”** Hilton Hotel 5:30 –9:00 Tickets \$125 [RSVP](#)
- Sept 24: Tuesday **“International Village Clinic Fundraiser”** [Register Today](#) Courtyards by Marriott Edina/Bloomington, 6:00 - 9:00 PM
- Sept 30: Monday **“Loaves and Fishes”** Christ the King Lutheran, 4:00 to 7:00
- Oct 10: Thursday **“Community Service at VEAP”** 2:15 to 5:00 PM
[Email Dwayne to Volunteer](#)
- Oct 24: Thursday **“Meet and Greet”** Hilton Hotel, Chop House Bar area, 5:00 PM
- Oct 28: Monday **“Rotary Club Foundation Board Meeting”** 9:30 AM [Zoom](#)
- Oct 28: Monday **“Club Board of Directors Meeting”** Hilton Hotel 11:00 AM
- Nov 25: Monday **“Club Board of Directors Meeting”** Hilton Hotel 11:00 AM
- Dec 7: Saturday **“Salvation Army Bell Ringing”** 11:00 to 5:00 Lunds & Byerly's

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Honoring Lee Helms

On December 7, 2024, our club will be Ringing a Bell for the Salvation Army in honor of **Rotarian Lee Helms** who organized this opportunity for many years. Today, **Rotarian Adam Johnston** is our contact. We ring from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We set up volunteers for three two hour sessions and ring at the Lunds and Byerly's at 5159 W. 97th Street, in Bloomington.

Save the date and volunteer when you get the invitation. It is always fun. And, family or friends are welcome to join you. Here are **Jim Mortenson, Henry Dolopei and Terry Stirewalt** ringing last year.



- The Four-Way Test*
1. *Is it the TRUTH?*
 2. *Is it FAIR to all concerned?*
 3. *Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*
 4. *Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

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Rotary District 5950
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clubrunner.ca
ClubRunner
<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3537>

Shop the internet through:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1649217>

“Like” us on [Facebook](#) and “Join” our group on [LinkedIn](#). In both cases the search keyword is “Bloomington Noon Rotary MN”

Photos from our Annual All Family Picnic - August 22, 2024

It was a lovely evening with a cool breeze and great food. Rotarians and their families gathered around the picnic tables and enjoyed the conversation. We had a great variety of choices thanks to the marvelous cooks within the club. A special thank you to **Laura Schultz** and **Chris Aldrich** for the chopped turkey and pulled pork options for the bar-b-que. Below are photos from the evening. Smiles all around!



1st Annual Artistry Benefit Dinner



Join us for the 1st Annual Artistry Benefit

SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 5:30-9 PM AT THE HILTON BLOOMINGTON.

5:30-6:30 PM: COCKTAIL HOUR

6:30-9 PM: DINNER, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,

FUND-A-NEED

CLICK TO RSVP BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH!

The evening will celebrate and support the impact Artistry makes in the community every day by showcasing highlights of our work and sharing plans for the future. By attending this event, you'll help ensure Artistry can continue to create vibrant arts experiences for years to come. Single tickets begin at \$125. Attire is business casual.

International Village Clinic 10th Annual Fundraiser



International Village Clinic

[Register Today](#)

You are invited!

To an evening of celebration and support of the work of
International Village Clinic & World Class English School

Tuesday, September 24th, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Courtyards By Marriott, Edina/Bloomington
4460 West 78th Street Circle
Bloomington, MN 55435

Come & enjoy an Indian buffet,

Cash bar, SAATH Bollywood dancers, Henna artist, & a live auction!

Click the link below to purchase your tickets now! \$75.00 Per Person. Table of 5 for \$325. Table of 10 for \$650.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-international-village-clinic-world-class-english-school-fundraiser-tickets-958608392507?aff=oddtcreator>