



RIB

Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, February 23, 2026

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.

2025-2026 Officers:

President:

Kurt Hagen

Phone: 952-240-9338

kurt.hagen@moa.net

Board Meetings - Monthly

Second Mondays, 11:00 AM, Hilton

President Elect:

Valeria Camboni Miller

Vice President:

Jane Fenton

Treasurer:

Bob Erickson

Sergeant at Arms:

Lori Rebers

Program Chair:

Sara Kleinsasser Tan

Past President:

Laura Schultz

District Governor:

Mark Shockey

Executive Secretary:

Kathy Koehler

952-250-0476

kkoehler53@frontiernet.net

Directors: Adam Johnston, Jim Mortenson, Jane Fenton, Lori Rebers, David Drummond, Lee Mosher, Paul Niederberger, Abul Sharah

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

**March 2nd Preview: “Wilderness Inquiry Community Service”
Host: Nell Holden**

930 East 80th Street, Bloomington, MN 55420

Noon to 1:30, Free Parking available

Wear closed toe shoes and long hair tied up.

Rotary Club members will be visiting local nonprofit, Wilderness Inquiry, to prepare meal kits for spring/summer 2026 adventures on March 2, 12:00 - 1:30 pm. Nell Holden, the organization’s Director of Finance and Operations will host our group and share more about Wilderness Inquiry’s mission and operations. Nell has been with Wilderness Inquiry for more than a decade, and has been in the field of outdoor adventure for more than two decades.



In 2025, Wilderness Inquiry served about 30,000 nutritious meals for participants as they fulfilled their mission 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. Rotary members will be assisting Wilderness Inquiry staff as they do the pre-season work to measure and pre-package ingredients used in these custom meal recipes, packaging 192 meals.

**March 9th Preview: “Endurance Leadership”
Guest: Tony Loyd**

On April 29, 2025, Tony Loyd was diagnosed with lung cancer. As a non-smoking endurance athlete, the news was devastating. He knew he had to dig in and find his personal endurance. As a former Fortune 500 executive, he did what he has always done. He turned to the experts. Together with his partner, he scoured peer-reviewed research to discover what it really takes to endure. In September, 25 percent of his lungs were removed. Today, he is on a journey to find out what it takes to get 100 percent from the 75 percent of his lungs that remain.

In this brief talk, Tony shares stories and insights from his journey, connecting endurance to Rotary’s values of service and leadership. Participants will be inspired to see endurance in a new light, understand how it works, and walk away with practical ideas they can apply in their lives, their work, their service, and their Rotary club. This is *The Endurance Advantage*. Endurance is not an individual trait; it is embedded in the texture of organizations and communities.



Zoom is now available for our Monday Noon Hilton meetings. Meeting ID: 243 737 0314
Passcode: 4waystet Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2437370314?pwd=azZHeENQd2poLzY2VzBDZi9RNldNQTO9&omn=81223847594>

Recent Meetings...

On February 16th, 2026, a wonderful group of Rotarians and significant others gathered for our **Meet and Greet**. We hope to see more of you at the March gathering on Monday, March 16th, 5:00 in the Olive Lounge at the Hilton.



We welcomed **Jackson Thatcher, Jeff Knight, Mike Arazi, Leslie Stiles, and Bud Nordstrom** as our guests.

John Born, Middle School Athletic Director, along with **Rotarian Eric Melbye**, Superintendent, Bloomington Public Schools, Updated us on the **Middle School Sports Program** on February 23rd.

A little history: In 2019, Bloomington schools faced significant cuts necessary to “Right Size the Budget”. The middle school athletic programs of soccer and wrestling were cut. Then, in 2020, schools moved to remote learning because of COVID. When the schools opened back up to in-person learning, students had forgotten many social skills along with much learning. In 2021, Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation through a significant donation, helped the schools to bring back middle school soccer and wrestling for both boys and girls.

All three of our middle schools now have boys and girls teams in the three sports of soccer, wrestling, and track and field. Schools are continually facing budget shortfalls, so in order to continue to maintain these sports for our students, Bloomington Noon Rotary is working to raise funds to keep these sports in place at all three of our middle schools.

All of our teams are part of a south suburban conference that includes 8 communities, and 13 schools. The teams play away games and home games throughout the season. There are 134 Boys and 61 girls participating in soccer. There are 31 boys and 4 girls participating in wrestling. A significant portion of these students are from families who experience economic hardships and thus do not have the opportunity to participate with the number of traveling sport teams here in Bloomington.

Big Suburban Conference

Bloomington	Burnsville	Lakeville	Prior Lake
Farmington	Northfield	New Prague	Faribault

Students who participate in these sports are learning teamwork; finding new friends; learning their personal strengths; receiving support and encouragement; feeling pride of accomplishment; learning to set goals; and improving their mental health. The schools each celebrate their teams with Pride Boards full of photos and statistics. Students shown are members of the Iron Club. These students have each achieved specific goals and maintained them through the year. John shared videos of several students speaking to their experiences with the teams and what they have gained by being a part of one of these teams. Quotes like: “I learned how to lead.” or “I’m now a new person.” were heard.



February Birthdays

- 01 Dwayne Lowman
- 01 Abul Sarah
- 02 Jane Fenton
- 14 Terry Stirewalt
- 19 Dave Drummond

February Anniversaries

- 01 Mary Kurth 24 yrs
- 01 Dwayne Lowman 10 yrs
- 11 Greg Worthen 7 yrs
- 12 Sharon Van Winkel 23 yrs
- 14 Sandhya Gupta 20 yrs
- 18 Dave Senness 40 yrs

Greeter:

- Mar 9: Jane Fenton
- Mar 23: Erika Rivers
- Apr 13: Warsaw Artan

Invocation / Pledge / 4 Way Test

- Mar 9: Dave Drummond
- Mar 23: Carolyn Pratt
- Apr 13: Jim Casserly

Recent Program Recordings...

- 9/08/2025: “Chaska Rotary Film” - https://youtu.be/67G1Ma_g50
- 10/13/25 “Crypto and Blockchain” - <https://youtu.be/GTreckX2NLC>
- 10/27/25 “Mount Olivet Rolling Acres” - <https://youtu.be/rLXSv549CPQ>
- 11/13/25: “Veterans Day lunch” - <https://youtu.be/yDNba1ZqV6o>
- 11/12/2026 “Transform Your Body and Your Life” - <https://youtu.be/dY1fkWOI8aY>

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

Mary Murphy, Sister-in-Law of Karyn Arazi, interested in the Middle School Sports program

Jason Olson, Guest of Paul Niederberger, Sports Editor at the Sun Current Newspapers

Jeff Smith, Guest of Paul Niederberger, Past Rotarian, with Presbyterian Homes Foundation



Welcome to our Newest Rotarian: Andrew Huss

We welcomed **Andrew Huss** as our newest Rotarian on Monday. Andrew was born and raised in Jordan, Minnesota, on a 4th generation dairy farm. His parents still raise Angus beef on that farm today. He graduated from Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa, with a double major in Finance and Business Management. Today, he is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. Leading up to this position, he held management roles in the technology and software space with Pearson VUE, SAP Concur, and SAP Revenue Operations.



Andrew and his wife, Angie, live in Savage, Minnesota with their three kids, all under the age of 4. Plus, their dog, Moose, a GSP/Black Lab mix who keeps things lively. Andrew indicates that service has been a part of his life since childhood as he grew up watching his parents sacrifice their time to create opportunities for kids through sports, church and community. He is active in his community as President of the St. Benedict Baseball Board serving youth baseball and the adult league. He also participates in the Alzheimer's Walk in honor of his grandpa. Andrew likes spending time with family, traveling, playing golf, and back yard grilling with friends and family.

Happy Bucks

It is with sadness that we share that **Kurt Hagen's** younger brother passed away this week. Prayers go with him as he travels to be with family. **Erica Rivers** is joining a Rotary Friendship Exchange trip along with Nancy and **Bob Erickson** and several other Rotarians. Their exchange is heading to Recife, Brazil from March 2 to March 11, 2026. Safe Travels all! **Bob Erickson** celebrated that Erika was joining the Friendship Exchange. **Lori Rebers** was just Happy today. **Don Stiles'** son competed in the Birkebeiner and finished in three hours and 5 minutes.

Erik Dallmann highlighted the Men's and Women's Hockey wins at the Olympics. **Karen Nordstrom** was extremely proud of the Norwegian teams' wins at the Olympics. **Deb Newman**, who was at the Olympics and was able to watch the US in speed skating and team figure skating, noted the 40 medals for the US. **Debbie Belfry** congratulated our newest Rotarian, **Andrew Huss**. Plus, she shared her pride in our club for all it does for our community. **Paul Niederberger** celebrated his guests and shared that the Middle School Sports fundraising campaign was now at 31% of its original goal. He also reminded everyone to share the information cards, post the flyers, and make your donation to the effort soon. We heard from **Jim Casserly**, in Puerto Vallarta, that he is OK.

Jeff Smith thanked everyone for their hospitality. He felt welcomed. **Dave Drummond** turned 85 last week and noted that he still enjoyed political discourse with his friends. **Mike Helmick** still has not gotten used to the cold. It makes him angry when cold...he was happy to be inside where it was warm. **Eric Melbye** was happy to have John Born here as our speaker today. John Born was happy to be able to share about sports at our Middle Schools!

Announcements: We are looking forward to inducting two more new members in the near future. Welcome!

Zach Walker, Bloomington City Manager.

Jaime Tsurusaki, Executive Director & Head Coach at RGC Gymnastics, Rebels Gymnastics, a non profit Gym, her father is an Apple Valley Rotarian

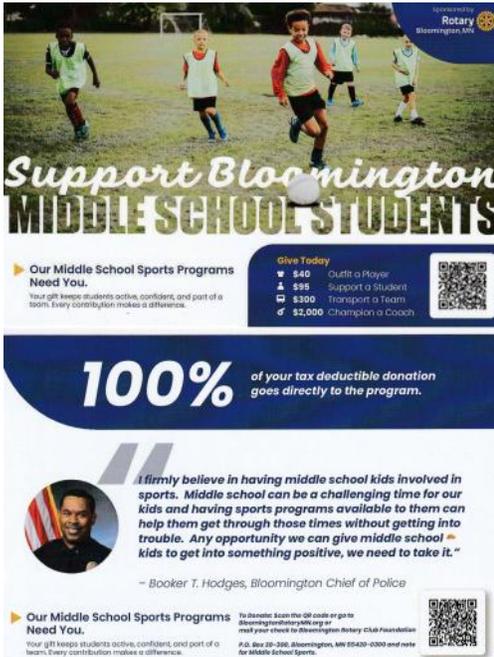
Every Rotarian Every Year ...

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR



Debbie Belfry and Diann Kirby will be heading up the **Mahendra Nath Rotary Foundation Challenge** this year. This is the twentieth year our club will be working to achieve 100% participation in giving to The Rotary Foundation's Every Rotarian Every Year effort! Every Rotarian is assigned to a team. Your team Captain will be contacting you this week. Please respond to them with your pledge and then make sure that you get your donation posted to the club before April 30th. Any donation you make to The Rotary Foundation designated for any effort will count toward your total pledge.

Middle School Sports Fundraiser: Have you shared the flyer or post card?



Your Fundraising Committee has created a flyer and a post card notice that are available for you to either post to a network bulletin board or to pass along to your contacts. You can even receive the flyer via email to share with your network electronically. Mention your Rotary Club's efforts to help maintain Middle School Sports in our three Middle Schools here in Bloomington and ask your connections to consider making a donation. **Those who have asked are seeing responses!**

Background: As you might remember, during the Covid pandemic, afterschool middle school sports were discontinued except for track and field. When in-person learning came back, Bloomington Noon Rotary helped the school system to restart the soccer and wrestling teams for boys and girls with a significant donation.

Today, our purpose is to help the schools maintain these teams, giving our students something positive in which they can participate.

The Fundraising Committee has chosen to work with Zeffy to offer a platform for the public to use to donate to our Middle School Sports effort. Zeffy does not charge us for this service. They rely on voluntary donations given by the donors. If giving through Zeffy's QR code for Middle School Sports, please consider leaving a tip to cover their expenses for providing this free service to our Foundation. Or, one may make direct donations to this effort via check made out to the **Bloomington Rotary**

Club Foundation and mail to the Foundation address at **P.O.Box 20300, Bloomington, MN 55420**. All gifts are tax deductible.

You are Invited to the State of the City



Join us for the 2026 Bloomington State of the City with Mayor Tim Busse on Thursday, March 12, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, 5601 W 78th St. Individuals: \$50.00 Table: \$500.00

This presentation will spotlight notable accomplishments from 2025 and will share some of the ways we are composing Bloomington's next chapter in the year ahead.

You received an email invite to register on February 25th from Kathy Koehler through Club Runner. Sign up through this invite and you will be billed through your Rotary Billing. Or, you can register through the Bloomington Minnesota Travel and Tourism invite you received on January 27th.

Upcoming Meetings -

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

Mar 2: Monday **“Wilderness Inquiry – Meal Kit Prep”** 12 Noon – 1:30 Host: Nell Holden
 Mar 9: Monday **“Endurance Leadership”** Guest: Tony Loyd
 Mar 16: Monday **“Meet and Greet”** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel, France and Hwy 494
 Mar 23: Monday **“How to Make a Bronze Statue”** Guest: Mike Knudsen
 Mar 30: Monday **“Vocational Visit to the Mall of America”** Host: Kurt Hagen
 April 6: Monday **“Closet of Hope”** Community Service, Arranging Clothing
 April 13: Monday **“Making the Case for Optimism”** Guest: William Farmer
 April 20: Monday **“Meet and Greet”** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel, France and Hwy 494

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

Mar 2: Monday **“Wilderness Inquiry – Meal Kit Prep”** 12 Noon – 1:30
 The Month of March: **“Mahendra Nath Rotary Foundation Challenge: Every Rotarian Every Year”**
 Mar 9: Monday **“Rotary Club Board of Directors Meeting”** 11:00 Hilton
 Mar 9: Monday **“Club Foundation Board in Joint meeting with the Club Board”** 11:45 AM
 Mar 12: Thursday **“State of the City”** Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, 5601 W. 78th Street, 11:00 AM
 April 6: Monday **“Closet of Hope”** Community Service, Arranging Clothing
 April 13: Monday **“Rotary Club Board of Directors Meeting”** 11:00 Hilton
 April 17: Friday **“Pancakes with a Purpose”** Cornerstone Community Networking Event, Perkins Restaurant, 4201 W. 78th Street, 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM
 April 27: Monday **“Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors”** 11:00 AM Hilton

Rotary Meeting Calendar

Date	Event	Color Key
Monday, March 2, 2026	Service Project	Service Project
Monday, March 9, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Club Board Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2026	Meet and Greet	Meet and Greet
Monday, March 23, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, March 30, 2026	Vocational Visit	Vocational Visit
Monday, April 6, 2026	Service Project	Service Project
Monday, April 13, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Club Board Meeting
Monday, April 13, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026	Meet and Greet	Meet and Greet
Monday, April 27, 2026	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00-12:00)	Foundation Board Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, May 4, 2026	Service Project	Service Project
Monday, May 11, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Club Board Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026	Meet and Greet	Meet and Greet
Monday, May 25, 2026	Holiday, No Meeting	No Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2026	Service Project	Service Project
Monday, June 8, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Club Board Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2026	Meet and Greet	Meet and Greet
Monday, June 22, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, June 29, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Regular Club Meeting

- 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?*

RIB Editor:
 Karyn Arazi
 Backup Contributors:
 Erika Rivers, Eldon Spencer, Larry Lee, and with Debbie Belfry, Don Stiles, and Becky Amble on photos

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www.bloomingtonrotarymn.org
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 Rotary District 5950
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 Find a Local Club
[Club Directory & Contacts | District 5950 \(clubrunner.ca\)](http://ClubDirectory&Contacts|District5950(clubrunner.ca))
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<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3537>

“Like; Follow; Join; Share” us on Facebook and Join our group on The Rotary Club of Bloomington MN: Posts | LinkedIn . Also on Instagram. In all cases the search keyword is “Rotary Club of Bloomington Noon MN”