



RIB

Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, April 20, 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

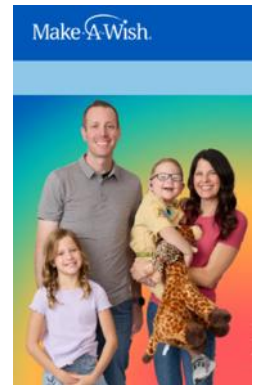
Directors: Adam Johnston, Jim Mortenson, Jane Fenton, Lori Rebers, David Drummond, Lee Mosher, Paul Niederberger, Abul Sharah

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

April 27th Preview: "Make a Wish Minnesota" Guest: Sierra Lyon

Make-A-Wish® gives children with critical illnesses renewed strength to fight their illnesses, bringing families closer together and uniting entire communities. Sierra Lyon, representing Make-A-Wish Minnesota and a former Rotarian, will share how the organization fulfills life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses across the state. Her presentation will highlight the lasting impact of a wish on children, families, and communities, as well as opportunities for Rotary members to support Make-A-Wish through volunteer engagement and community partnerships.

Sierra Lyon is the Manager of Corporate Partnerships at Make-A-Wish Minnesota, where she connects companies with opportunities to help grant life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. A former member of the Rotary After Hours Club of La Crosse, Sierra is passionate about community engagement and continues to live out the Rotary value of "Service Above Self" through her work.



[Zoom is now available for our Monday Noon Hilton meetings.](#) Meeting ID: 243 737 0314 Passcode: 4waytest Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2437370314?pwd=azZHeENQd2poLzY2VzBDZi9RNldlNQT09&omn=81223847594>

May 4th Preview: "Elementary School Lunch Assistance" Community Service Project

Angela Wandera has arranged for Rotarians to assist with the lunch program at two Bloomington Elementary Schools. The Volunteer Coordinator with the Bloomington Schools works with the schools to match up volunteer Rotarians and schools and position help where it is needed. When assigned, Rotarians simply check in at the appropriate building. The **Rotarians below** completed all background checks with the school district and were assigned to a school. **More Rotarians signed up than were able to be matched.** Thank you to all who did.



Rotarians help clear off tables alongside the students who bus their dishes and help wipe tables. There is ample opportunity to talk, laugh and enjoy the company of the students and the building staff during the time that you are there to help. Having extra hands to help staff during lunch periods and visit with students is a benefit for all.

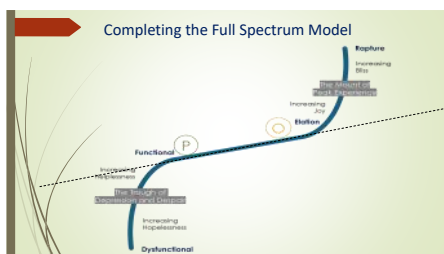
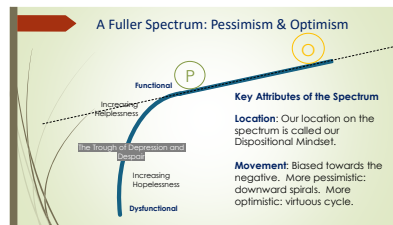
Normandale Hills Elementary (11:30-1:06p): 9501 Toledo Avenue
Angela Wandera, Don Stiles, Eric Dallmann, Jim Casserly, Paul Niederberger

Hillcrest Community School (Elementary) (11:00-1:10p): 9301 Thomas Road
Karen Nordstrom, Jaime Tsurusaki, Larry Lee

Recent Meetings... A Quick Course on Positive Psychology...

Our guest, William Farmer, gave us a quick course on the Evolution of Positive Psychology at our April 13th meeting. Classical psychology is the normal way that the medical field has treated depression...through the use of drugs. The cycle moves from hopelessness to helplessness which often leaves people feeling empty inside. Farmer introduced another way to look at your responses to life and possibly be able to take control of your feelings. Farmer has had first hand experience in managing his depression using these tools.

He called the above cycle the Addiction Cycle. He suggests using an Optimistic Cycle. To survive humans have needed to be aware of dangers which has led us to tend toward pessimism about our surroundings versus optimism. Everyone is somewhere on the pessimism vs. optimism spectrum. In the 1990's doctors became interested in identifying the position one was on this cycle. Thus, treatments began to use one's mindset to help move them to a more positive outlook.



His technique seemed to boil down to using positive self talk where one maintained control of the narrative versus negative self talk where blame seems to leave one with little control. His examples applied to three elements: the duration of an event; the scope of the event; and the cause of the event. The more positive self-talk says the situation is singular, a one time thing versus always. Positive thinking applies the scope of the situation to a singular event versus applies universally. And, the cause is situational taking into account external factors versus always thinking you, yourself, are to blame. Farmer indicated that the more one uses positive self-talk, the more likely one is to move along the spectrum toward optimism. An optimistic mindset biases positive aspirations towards success. More info: farmerbill@comcast.net 651-238-8003

Meet and Greet Numbers Hit New High

On April 20th, 17 Rotarians and guests crowded around our table for a lively conversation and a tasty dinner. Our guests included: **Leslie Stiles, Jackson Thatcher, Bud Nordstrom, Joy Drummond and Mike Arazi.**

Please join us at our next Meet and Greet, Monday, May 18, at the Hilton Olive Lounge. We might even have nice enough weather to take advantage of the patio. This is strictly a social evening. There is no expectation that you need to order food, just join the conversation. Come as you are. It makes a nice close to the day.



April Birthdays

- 01 Sharon Van Winkel
- 09 Lori Rebers
- 18 Becky Amble
- 18 Karen Nordstrom

April Anniversaries

- 01 Kathy Koehler 27 yrs
- 11 Bob Erickson 15 yrs
- 14 Warsan Artan 1 yr
- 14 Erika Rivers 1 yr
- 21 Debbie Belfry 26 yrs
- 27 Terry Stirewalt 22 yrs

Greeter:

- Apr 27: Mike Helmick
- May 11: Jane Fenton

Invocation / Pledge / 4 Way Test

- Apr 27: Diann Kirby
- May 11: Eric Dallmann

Vocational Talk:

- May 11: Laura Schultz

Recent Program Recordings...

- 11/13/25: "Veterans Day lunch" - <https://youtu.be/yDNba1ZgV6o>
- 11/12/2025 "Transform Your Body and Your Life" - <https://youtu.be/dY1fkW0I8aY>
- 01/26/2026 "Bus Stop Mamas" - https://youtu.be/u_GAfIWGT2M
- 02/09/2026 "Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony" - https://youtu.be/zTVFb_a3Yys
- 02/23/2026 "Middle School Sports" - <https://youtu.be/YWs3ErP2G7M>

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

Sherry Wells & David Yaki, E-Club of Esperanto, Traveling to spread the value of Esperanto; And, visiting Minneapolis Rotary Clubs to celebrate that it will be 100 years since the last Rotary International Convention took place in Minneapolis.

Happy Bucks and Announcements **Eldon Spencer** enjoyed his grandson's performance in the play "Harry the Horse". He and Ann will be traveling to Atlanta. **Jim Casserly** is happy to be home from Puerto Vallarta and away from the cartels. **Don Stiles** celebrated that **Angela Wandera's** Global Grant in Kenya has received Rotary International's support for a total of \$91,000 to build three computer labs. **Bob Erickson** and **Don Stiles** celebrated their wives' birthdays together. **Sara Tan** said the Bloomington Orchestra concert went very well. Joy and **Dave Drummond** hosted a dinner party for donors after the concert. It was a wonderful feast! Happy birthday to **Becky Amble** and **Karen Nordstrom**.

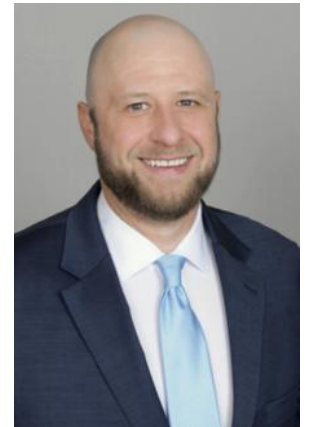
Diann Kirby celebrated receiving her dual citizenship with the Dutchy of Luxemburg. She will get her passport in June. **Paul Niederberger** announced the *Music of Fleetwood Mac* and the *Simon and Garfunkel Tribute* coming up with Artistry. **Jane Fenton** indicated the new President of Normandale Community College would be announced. She thanked all the Rotarians who helped during the interview process. **Deb Newman** secured a corporate sponsor for Middle School Sports: Morris Range Rover Richfield. **Mike Helmick** and **Jane Fenton** both enjoyed "Suffs" at the Orpheum. **Dave Drummond** thought the Symphony concert was great. **Lori Rebers** relaxed during her staycation.

Announcements: The **June community service** will be at **VEAP** on June 1st over the lunch hour. **We could use several more volunteers**. You will be working with our Brazilian guests. **President Kurt Hagen** will be starting our business meetings 15 minutes earlier so we can end our meetings by 1:15 PM beginning in May and going forward. The purpose is to keep our meetings shorter for those who are working on Mondays. Rotarians are welcome to stay a few minutes after the meetings to socialize.

Vocational Talk: Andrew Huss

Andrew Huss was born and raised in Jordan, MN on a 4th-generation dairy farm. His parents are still on the farm today, raising Angus beef and growing what might be one of the biggest gardens in Scott County. He graduated from Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa with a double major in Finance and Business Management and over the last 10 years, he has held several leadership roles in the technology and software space. Today, Andrew is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. His office is in Valley West. He and his wife Angie live in Savage, MN with their three kids plus their dog Moose, a GSP/Black Lab mix who keeps things lively. Spending time with his family is number one. Beyond that, he loves traveling, playing golf, firing up the grill and hosting friends and family.

Why Rotary? Service has been a part of Andrew's life since childhood. Andrew wants to support his community by building relationships while working with others. This is where Rotary seemed like a natural fit. He wants to help identify needs within the community and work to find solutions to those needs. He is President of the St. Benedict Baseball Board and active at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Andrew is jumping in with both feet and has accepted to be nominated to a leadership role within our club.



Middle School Sports...Have you shared our Facebook link with your network?



The best way to increase our visibility in the community and tell our story about Middle School Sports is to share about it on Facebook. If each of us shares our page, hundreds more people will be encouraged to make a donation. Also, something else you could share...here is a link to the recent article in the Sun Current newspaper. [Revitalizing middle school sports in Bloomington shows promise of programs | Bloomington | hometownsource.com](https://www.suncurrent.com/story/news/2019/05/15/revitalizing-middle-school-sports-in-bloomington-shows-promise-of-programs-bloomington-hometownsource-com/111111111)

All Bloomington Rotarians are encouraged to support our Club's effort to assure that Bloomington Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in a sport program after school. Both girls and boys have extracurricular teams available in soccer, wrestling, and track and field. Bloomington Rotary is working to assure that these sports will continue to be available throughout the coming years by raising funds to supplement the costs of coaches, uniforms, and transportation. Any amount helps. Donate through Zeffy, see QR code. Or, by issuing a check to Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation and mailing to P.O.Box 20300, Bloomington, MN 55420-0300.



Nath Challenge for Every Rotarian Every Year!

We're sprinting to the finish line of the 2026 Mahendra Nath Rotary Foundation Challenge. As of today, 85% of our membership — 41 Rotarians — have donated to The Rotary Foundation.

As a reminder, members can donate in one of these ways:

- CHECK: Give to your Team Captain, **Debbie Belfry or Diann Kirby** or mail to Bloomington Rotary Club, P.O. Box 20300, Bloomington, MN 55420 (make checks payable to **The Rotary Foundation**).
- ONLINE (the easiest way to give!): If you would like to donate and track your Rotary International (<https://www.rotary.org/en>) giving online, follow the steps below:
 1. At the top, click on **My Rotary**. This will take you to a page to sign into your personal Rotary account. This is different from your Club Runner account that is used for registrations, etc.
 2. You can create your own login using your email and setting a password (if you have never done this before.)
 3. If you have set up an account previously (using your email) but have forgotten your password, you can use the Need Help Signing In which will take you to an option to reset your password.
 4. Once you have logged in, you can click on My Account in the upper righthand corner and click on My Donations. This will allow you to view your lifetime giving to Rotary. By reviewing your report you can determine your next step to another Paul Harris Foundation level.
 5. You could also set up (if you choose) any amount and chosen time frame for your donations. All these donations count toward the Nath Challenge between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026 of the Rotary year.

Our goal is to have all Nath Challenge donations completed by April 27.

We hope to continue our club's tradition of 100% giving in this 20th anniversary of the Mahendra Nath Rotary Foundation Challenge.

Thanks! **Diann Kirby and Debbie Belfry**

2026 MAHENDRA NATH ROTARY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

4/23/26

Phase 1: Pledges

TEAM	Total Members	# Pledged	% Pledged	Pledge Amount
TEAM BELFRY	4	4	100%	\$2,850
DALLMAN	4	4	100%	\$3,950
STILES	4	4	100%	\$2,450
NORDSTROM	5	5	100%	\$3,425
NEW TEAMMATES	6	6	100%	\$1,900
TOTAL	23	23	100%	\$14,575

TEAM KIRBY	6	6	100%	\$3,925
BASIL	4	4	100%	\$1,250
CASSERLY	4	4	100%	\$3,225
FENTON	4	4	100%	\$1,625
GUARNERA	4	4	100%	\$2,400
MOSHER	4	4	100%	\$1,860
TOTAL	26	26	100%	\$14,285

100% of our club has Pledged to Every Rotarian Every Year.

2026 MAHENDRA NATH ROTARY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

4/22/2026

Phase 2: Pledges Paid

TEAM	Total Members	# Members Paid	% Members Paid	Amount Paid
TEAM BELFRY	4	4	100%	\$2,850
DALLMAN	4	3	75%	\$2,950
STILES	4	2	50%	\$450
NORDSTROM	5	5	100%	\$3,425
NEW TEAMMATES	6	4	66%	\$1,150
TOTAL	23	18	78%	\$10,825

TEAM KIRBY	6	6	100%	\$3,925
BASIL	4	3	75%	\$1,200
CASSERLY	4	3	75%	\$3,000
FENTON	4	4	100%	\$1,625
GUARNERA	4	3	75%	\$2,000
MOSHER	4	3	75%	\$1,610
TOTAL	26	22	85%	\$13,360

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**

- April 27: Monday **"Make a Wish MN"** Guest: Sierra Lyon
- May 4: Monday **"Elementary School Lunch Service Assistance"** Various schools
- May 11: Monday **"The Current State of Kidney Donations"** Guests: Dan Reed & Steve Eckhouse
- May 18: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel, France and Hwy 494
- May 25: Monday **"Holiday—NO MEETING"** Enjoy the Memorial Day Weekend
- June 1: Monday **"VEAP Service Project"** 11:15 to 2:20 Joining with the Brazilian Rotary Visitors
Connect with Don **Stiles** to sign up! Stiles.don@gmail.com
- June 8: Monday **"Using AI Effectively Personally and in Business"** Rotarian Becky Amble
Rotary RUSH Day...Invite a Possible Potential Rotarian—RSVP with guest name by May 18

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

- The Month of April: **"Mahendra Nath Rotary Foundation Challenge: Please pay Pledge by Apr 27"**
- April 27: Monday **"Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors"** 11:00 AM Hilton
- April 27: Monday **"All Mahendra Nath Challenge Pledges Due"**
- April 28: Tuesday **"Democracy With Conditions"** Civic Plaza, Black Box, 6:30—8:30 PM
- May 11: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- May 16: Saturday **"Rotary EPIC Day of Service"** Pair up with another Rotary Club - The **Eagan Rotary Club** is planning an event. Here is their link: <https://www.epicdayofservice.org/clubs/united-states-5950-eagan/projects/epic-day-of-service-street-clean-up-tree-planting-4857409ae>
- May 25: Monday **"Holiday—NO MEETING"** Enjoy the Memorial Day Weekend
- June 8: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- June 8: Monday **"Using AI Effectively - Personally and in Business"** Rotarian Becky Amble
Rotary RUSH Day...Invite a Possible Potential Rotarian—RSVP by May 18
- July 15: Wednesday **"19th Annual Aavishkaar USA Fundraiser"** 6:30—9:00 PM **Save the Date**
- Oct 24: Saturday **"World's Largest Walk to End Polio"** at MOA - Morning...**Save the Date**

Rotary Meeting Calendar

Monday, April 27, 2026	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00-12:00)	Color Key
Monday, April 27, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Service Project
Monday, May 4, 2026	Service Project	Club Board Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Meet and Greet
Monday, May 18, 2026	Meet and Greet	Foundation Board Meeting
Monday, May 25, 2026	Holiday, No Meeting	Vocational Visit
Monday, June 1, 2026	Service Project	No Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	
Monday, June 8, 2026	Regular Club meeting	
Monday, June 15, 2026	Meet and Greet	
Monday, June 22, 2026	Regular Club meeting	
Monday, June 29, 2026	Regular Club meeting	

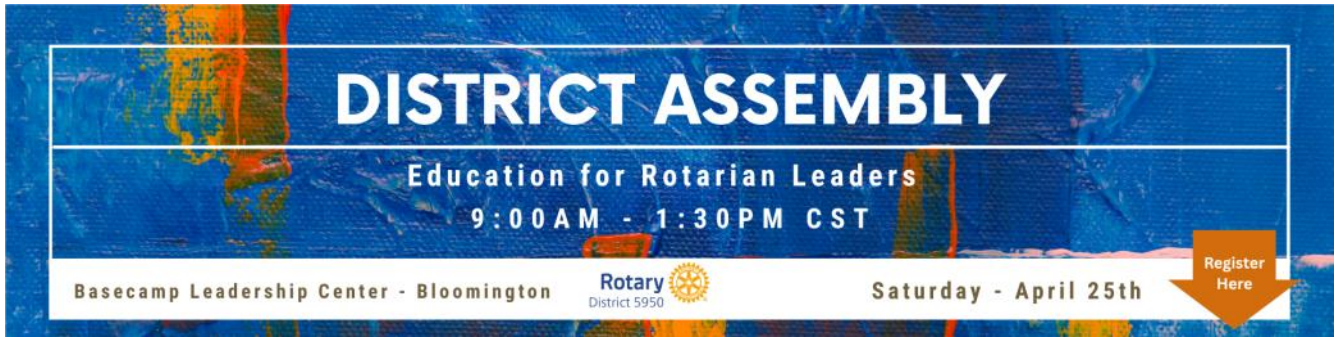
- The Four-Way Test*
1. *Is it the TRUTH?*
 2. *Is it FAIR to all concerned?*
 3. *Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*
 4. *Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

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

ADDRESS
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Rotary
P.O. Box 20300
Bloomington, MN 55420

Web Addresses:
Bloomington Noon Rotary
www.bloomingtonrotarymn.org
Rotary International
www.rotary.org
Rotary District 5950
www.rotary5950.org
Find a Local Club
[Club Directory & Contacts | District 5950](#)
clubrunner.ca
ClubRunner
<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"**



Join your Fellow District 5950 Rotarians for the District Assembly—your annual boost of leadership energy, inspiration, and practical know-how. The program brings together Rotarians from across District 5950 for an engaging day of stories, strategies, and real-world takeaways to help you thrive in your club leadership role. All Rotarians are encouraged to attend, with a special emphasis on current and incoming Club Presidents, Presidents-Elect, committee chairs, and anyone stepping into a leadership position. With ten breakout sessions offered during two sessions, we strongly encourage each club to send at least five participants, so no insight, tool, or opportunity is missed. Come ready to learn, connect, and strengthen your ability to lead. This event is no cost for attendees. This event is limited to 150 attendees.

[District Assembly - Education for Rotarian Leaders | District 5950](#)

Leadership Center at Base Camp 6202 Bloomington Road Fort Snelling, MN 55111

8:15 am	Registration Open with Light pastries and coffee
9:00 am	Welcome and Announcements
9:15 am	A Rotarian Moment
9:25 am	Update on Rotary Insurance with Andy Schmitz
9:40 am	From Ordinary to Impactful: Choosing the Right Story Pieces by Jake
10:10am	Multiple Stories: One Organization - A Rotarian Panel
11:00 am	Lunch Provided
11:30 am	End Polio Now Walk and Update
12:00 pm	Break Outs - Session One
12:40pm	Break
12: 50 pm	Break Out Session Two
1:30 pm	Final Comments with Dessert to go

Breakout Session – Session One	101 potential members you could invite to you're to your Club <i>Tom Gump and Alexa Rundquist</i>	Hitting a Big Goal – How St. Cloud Raised over \$100,000 for The Rotary Foundation <i>Ken Bellicot</i>	Enhance Your Clubs Website – Using Club Runner Website Tools <i>Mark Shockey</i>	Treasurer Toolkit: Running a Strong Club <i>Bob Baker</i>	North Star Youth Exchange Beyond the Traditional Exchange <i>Elaine Hanson</i>
	Breakout Session – Session Two	The Future of Rotary <i>Tom Gump</i>	Starting Interact Strong: How Rotary Clubs Build Youth Leaders <i>Ken Bellicot</i>	Membership Satisfaction: What the Data Tells Us <i>Mark Shockey</i>	Club Runner Essentials for Club Leaders <i>Alexa Rundquist</i>