



RIB

## Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, May 18, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## May 25th Preview: "NO MEETING"

Enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday

## June 1st Preview: "Community Service at VEAP" -11:00 AM



A group of 24 Bloomington and Brazilian Rotarians are scheduled to participate at **VEAP (9600 Aldrich Ave South, Bloomington)** on **Monday, June 1st** for our **June Community Service**. Our scheduled shift will run from **11:15 AM - 2:30 PM**. Park your car at the back of the parking lot in order to allow the VEAP clients to park closer to the food distribution doors. Please arrive about **11:00 AM** to get the initial instructions and assignments. Some need to leave before 2:30, so whatever time you can provide is appreciated. Feel free to leave when you need to.

Eight visiting Rotarians from Brazil are joining us. We are a large group, so VEAP is splitting us up, with the Brazil exchange Rotarians and a few others working in the food pantry, and the rest of us assisting VEAP with painting, power washing, deep cleaning, etc. We want the Brazil exchange Rotarians to be able to experience VEAP's primary service food model first hand. For those of you able to work painting or cleaning, please wear appropriate clothing that can get messy with paint or dirt. Contact Don Stiles with questions or plan changes, [stiles.don@gmail.com](mailto:stiles.don@gmail.com).

## June 8th Preview: "Using Artificial Intelligence Effectively Personally and in Business" Rotarian Becky Amble

**Rotary Rush Day** Please notify Mike Helmick at [jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com) if you have any changes in your or your guest's plans. We look forward to hosting many prospective Rotarians at our meeting. Be sure to share this newsletter with your invitee.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here and is permeating all parts of our lives. To be successful today and in the future, it will be important to understand its uses and how to capitalize on those uses in your every day life. Workers with AI skills can expect over 50% more earnings than those without. Only 25% of companies have clear guidelines for workers in using AI tools. Whether for business or personal use, AI has something useful to offer to everyone.

Becky Amble has spent the past 3 1/2 years studying AI and all of its variations while helping others use AI successfully. She is a successful publisher of eight books explaining in detailed and understandable terms the various ways that AI could be useful in your life. (Just recognized as a #1 best-seller on Amazon.)



**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=azZHeENQd2poLzY2VzBDZi9RNldNQTO9&omn=81223847594>

**Recent Meetings...**

On May 11th we hosted Dan Reed and Steve Eckhouse. Dan and Steve shared their story centering on a very special relationship. We

learned about the **Current State of Kidney Donations.**



Dan Reed & Steve Eckhouse

94% of people who have kidney disease don't know they have it. Dan Reed was diagnosed with a hereditary genetic disease that would end with kidney failure about 15 years ago. (Polycystic Kidney disease—PKD) Several members of his family also have the gene. He began his journey, knowing he would eventually need a kidney replacement.

Dan and Steve Eckhouse, a close friend of Dan's, lived lives shaped by volunteering and helping others. When Dan was eventually placed on a kidney donor list, many of his friends volunteered to be tested. Steve was the only one who passed all the physical requirements and

matched with a needed kidney patient. Within a short time, Dan was receiving his new kidney and Steve's kidney was on its way to his match. Dan was working through the National Kidney Registry. [www.kidneyregistry.com/consider](http://www.kidneyregistry.com/consider)

We learned there are two ways of donating a kidney, living or deceased. We learned that cousins are often the best match for a patient. We learned that the National Kidney Registry (NKR) is a national source vs a local source. If you need a kidney, you want to go through a medical group that is a member of the National Registry. Through their voucher program, you can donate a kidney and designate the donation to a specific person. A living donated kidney will last between 20 to 40 years and a match usually takes about 3 months with the voucher program. A deceased donation lasts about 8 to 15 years and takes between 2 to 10 years to find a deceased kidney donor match.

Through the NKR, there is reimbursement for costs incurred by the donor such as lost wages, travel, meals, dependent care, or pet care. A donor is given priority status on the Registry if ever they find their other kidney needs to be replaced. Physical tests can be done locally. Surgery can also be done close to the donor. The surgery is fairly simple and hospital stay is short. You can donate to a stranger or to benefit someone you know. There are also mentors assigned to a donor in case of questions or concerns. There is little effect on your health after donation and a donation can not affect your health insurance. The only restriction is no significant use of NSAIDs after donating.

Anyone can be a donor through the NKR. There are around 100,000 people waiting, on dialysis, to receive a kidney. Only about 1/4th of them will receive a kidney in any given year. Many die waiting.

**Our May 18th Meet and Greet**

set another record. We had more guests than we had Rotarians! Guests included visitors **Jeff Knight**, guest of **Valeria Camboni Miller**; **Dario Bilardello**, interested in possibly joining our Rotary, and **Jim Eisenreich**, a former Rotarian and educator who follows us through the RIB. Our spouse guests included **Betsy Lee** with **Larry Lee**; **Mary Molzahn** with **Jim Casserly**, **Mike Arazi** with **Karyn Arazi**, **Bud Nordstrom** with **Karen Nordstrom**; and **Jackson Thatcher** with **Carolyn Pratt**. **Mary Kurth** joined us as well. Not pictured: **Karyn Arazi** and **Jackson Thatcher**. **Our next Meet and Greet will be on June 15th.** Please join us in the Olive Lounge in the Hilton Hotel at 5:00 PM. All are welcome.



**May Birthdays**

- 4 Dick Young
- 7 Eric Melbye
- 9 Meg Schnabel
- 12 Sara Tan

**May Anniversaries**

- 1 Jim Mortenson 33 yrs
- 8 Jim Casserly 18 yrs
- 23 Paul Niederberger 41 yrs

**Greeter:**

June 8: Erika Rivers

**Invocation / Pledge / 4 Way Test:**

June 8: Eldon Spencer

**Vocational Talk:**

**Recent Program Recordings...**

- 11/12/2026 "Transform Your Body and Your Life" - <https://youtu.be/dY1fkW0I8aY>
- 01/26/2026 "Bus Stop Mamas" - [https://youtu.be/u\\_GAfiWGT2M](https://youtu.be/u_GAfiWGT2M)
- 02/09/2026 "Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony" - [https://youtu.be/zTVFb\\_a3Yys](https://youtu.be/zTVFb_a3Yys)
- 02/23/2026 "Middle School Sports" - <https://youtu.be/YWs3ErP2G7M>
- 04/13/2026 - "Endurance Leadership with Tony Loyd" - <https://youtu.be/0LAuTvD9BOY>

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>

## Vocational Talk: Laura Schultz

Laura Schultz, by profession, is a Family Law Attorney. She represents clients going through divorce, custody disputes, adoptions, guardianships, and serves as a mediator. She received her law degree in 2006 from the University of Minnesota. She began her solo practice in 2014. Laura grew up in Plymouth, Minnesota. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice from Gustavus Adolphus College. Laura moved to Bloomington in 2018. She married her long time boyfriend, Christopher Corless, in 2020. Laura's sister lives in Germany, where she visits often.

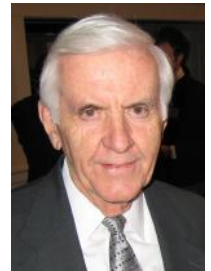


Laura joined Bloomington Rotary in 2016. She currently serves on our Foundation Board of Directors as Past President, taking over for Dwayne Lowman. She was President of our Club in 2023-2024. Laura is a Paul Harris Fellow and was Rotarian of the Year in 2024.

Laura's hobbies take up most of her free time. She has a bee colony and is interested in garden pollinators. Her garden has over 100 dahlias and other plants for which she has taken several first place and other rib-

bons at the Minnesota State Fair. Since her husband loves fishing, Laura has often accompanied him and between the two, Laura holds the record for the largest 57 1/4 inch fish. Other interests include hockey, broomball, golfing, hiking, travel, and Lego. It's great to get to know you better, Laura.

**Happy Bucks and Announcements** It is with sadness that we announce that longtime **Rotarian John Houle** passed away this past weekend. John was a Past President of our club, a Paul Harris Fellow, Major Donor and Paul Harris Society Member. He was Rotarian of the Year in 1993 and a mentor and sponsor of many new Rotarians. Joined Rotary on January 16, 1990. He is the retired owner of Lee Products, Bloomington.



**Paul Niederberger** is celebrating 41 years as a Rotary member. Congratulations! **Sara Tan** is celebrating her son's and her birthday this week. She also wanted to thank Wooden Hill Brewing for their fundraiser benefitting the Bloomington Symphony. **Eldon Spencer** will be in Germany for two weeks. **Valeria Camboni Miller** will have surgery next week...short recovery as she is heading to the Rotary International Convention in Taiwan soon. **Lee Mosher** spent the last 2 1/2 months in Mexico where he had a chance to visit a couple of Rotary Clubs. **Mike Helmick's** granddaughter's team won their soccer tournament.

Guest Dan Reed was happy that his kidney is working great! **Don Stiles** noted that **Bob Erickson** was back from Holland. Plus, he was rooting for the Wild! Sorry, Don, there is always next year. **Deb Newman** is taking up a new sport, Beach Tennis. **Becky Amble** indicated that Marshall's surgery went well and her mammogram was negative. **Jim Casserly** spent his weekend watching his grandchildren in their sport competitions. **Bob Erickson** really enjoyed his Bike and Barge Tour in Holland and Amsterdam. The tulip gardens were just lovely.

## Announcements:

Our first **Rotary Rush Day** is set for **Monday June 8th** with a special program on Artificial Intelligence by our own **Becky Amble**. Rotarians. **Please notify Mike Helmick at [jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com) if you have any changes in your or your guest's plans.** This fall we will have another Rotary Rush Day with the program on organizational ethics.

Don Stiles is seeking new ideas for Community Service projects. If you have any ideas, please share with him. He has three projects left to fill for next year. [Stiles.don@gmail.com](mailto:Stiles.don@gmail.com)

## Distinguished Guests

**Dario Bilardello:** Financial Advisor and Research Professor at the University of Minnesota, Serves on the Placemaking Commission for Bloomington; an Italian British citizen, Interested in joining our Rotary Club.

**Jim Eisenreich:** Retired, Lives in Eden Prairie, Former Rotarian, High School Teacher

**Jeff Knight:** Guest of Valeria Camboni Miller

**Jackson Thatcher, Bud Nordstrom, Mike Arazi, Mary Molzahn, and Betsy Lee:** Spouses attending our Meet and Greet.

## 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**

- 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  
Some painting/deep cleaning-dress appropriately. Changes: [Stiles.don@gmail.com](mailto: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**
- June 15: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel, France and Hwy 494
- June 22: Monday **"Democracy and Civic Engagement"** Guest: Karen Lundquist
- June 29: Monday **"Annual Awards Luncheon"** Host: Kurt Hagen Guests: Charitable Partners
- July 6: Monday **"Community Service at Cornerstone"** Noon, Clearing brush similar to last year.
- July 13: Monday **"Aavishkaar Update"** Rotarian **Sandhya Gupta**
- July 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!

- 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 6: Monday **"Community Service at Cornerstone"** Noon, Clearing brush similar to last year.
- July 13: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- July 15: Wednesday **"19th Annual Aavishkaar USA Fundraiser"** 6:30 - 9:00 PM **Save the Date**
- July 27: Monday **"Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors Meeting"** 11:00 Hilton
- Oct 24: Saturday **"World's Largest Walk to End Polio"** at MOA - 7:30 - 9:30 AM **Save the Date**

- 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  
Bloomington Noon  
Rotary  
P.O. Box 20300  
Bloomington, MN 55420

## Rotary Meeting Calendar

Monday, May 25, 2026	Holiday, No Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2026	Service Project
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

Color Key
Service Project
Club Board Meeting
Regular Club Meeting
Meet and Greet
Foundation Board Meeting
Vocational Visit
No Meeting

**Middle School Sports...** 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. Thank you to all who have donated thus far. As of mid May, we have \$19,592 raised toward our \$25,000 goal. There have been 42 donations total, with 25 of those from Rotarians. We will close our accounting for the 2025-2026 year on June 1st. Dollars donated after that date will begin our 2026-2027 fundraising year.



Web Addresses:  
Bloomington Noon Rotary  
[www.bloomingtonrotarymn.org](http://www.bloomingtonrotarymn.org)  
Rotary International  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)  
Rotary District 5950  
[www.rotary5950.org](http://www.rotary5950.org)  
Find a Local Club  
[Club Directory & Contacts | District 5950](http://ClubDirectory&Contacts|District5950)  
[clubrunner.ca](http://clubrunner.ca)  
ClubRunner  
<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3537>

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