



RIB

Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, May 4, 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

May 11th Preview: “The Current State of Kidney Donations” Guests: Dan Reed and Steve Eckhouse



Steve Eckhouse's life has been shaped by volunteering—whether tutoring students in Chicago, working at a muscular dystrophy camp, assisting building and teaching in Tanzanian elementary schools, or teaching adaptive skiing. When his close friend of over 40 years, Dan Reed, needed a kidney, Steve learned about the National Kidney Registry's voucher program. Though not a direct match, Steve chose to donate his kidney to help a

very good friend in need and secure a future transplant for Dan. It was a decision rooted in a lifelong commitment to service—and one he's proud to have made.

Dan Reed, 71, lives in Saint Paul Minnesota. He is now retired from his job of supporting people with disabilities and helping them find vocational opportunities. He is an advocate for people with disabilities and on several advisory councils and nonprofit boards of directors.

He was diagnosed with Polycystic Kidney disease (PKD) about 15 years ago, facing kidney failure and needed a transplant. It is a genetic disorder that runs in his family. Most of his siblings also have it, so he had to reach out and find a potential kidney donor. That is where his good friend, Steve Eckhouse, came in. **Join us to hear their inspiring story!**

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=azZHeENQd2poLzY2VzBDZi9RNldNQT09&omn=81223847594>

May 18th Preview: “Meet and Greet” Hilton Olive Lounge, 5:00 PM

Meet and Greet set for Monday, May 18th at the Hilton's Olive Lounge - 5:00 PM

Our next Meet and Greet meeting is Monday, May 18th, 2026. **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 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! Please join us this month.

May 25th Preview: "NO MEETING" Enjoy the Memorial Day Holiday

Recent Meetings... April 27th Review: "Make a Wish Minnesota"

Our guest, Sierra Lyon, the Manager of Corporate Partnerships at Make-A-Wish Minnesota, introduced us to the life-changing opportunities that Make-A-Wish offers to children with critical illnesses. Sierra was a former member of the Rotary After Hours Club of La Crosse.

Make-A-Wish® gives children with critical illnesses renewed strength to fight their illnesses, giving them something to look forward to, trauma relief and a hope that that can change everything. These wishes bring families closer together as they plan and look forward to the wish. And, the medical team sees better compliance with treatments and an increase in a child's quality of life.



We heard the first hand story of Aaron Vanek from his father, Charles. Aaron was just 18 months old when he first faced surgery for a tumor. Multiple surgeries and repeated returns of the tumor over the next few years, plus chemo treatment brought him to the attention of Make-A-Wish. His wish was to meet Buzz Lightyear. His trip to Disneyworld and Cape Canaveral in Florida changed his world. Aaron is thriving

today as a graduate from NYU School of Art. 70% of the children live five years past their wish and many even longer like Aaron.

About 250 wishes are granted in Minnesota each year. Wishes like "I want to Have..." or "I want to Meet...", or "Go to...", or "Be..." are the most popular. About 450 volunteers annually help to grant these wishes. Volunteers are part of every team. There are still almost 300 wishes waiting to be granted today.

Opportunities abound to help. A "Walk for Wishes" is planned at Vikings Lakes in Eagan for September 12th. If you would like to be on a wish team or donate airline miles, visit the Make-A-Wish website or connect with Sierra at slion@mn.wish.org or see opportunities on their website at wish.org/Minnesota

Upcoming Wishes

To Go	To Have	To Meet
to Hawaii	a treehouse	Justin Jefferson
to Disney	my aunt visit	Tom Cruise
to Caribbean	a bedroom makeover	Chicago Bears
to LA Lakers game	a wheelchair swing	Lionel Messi
to Bruno Mars concert	a hot tub with a lift	Minnesota Vikings

May 4th Review: "Elementary School Lunch Assistance"



From the smiles on everyone in these photos, it appears that these Rotarians really enjoyed their time at two of our Bloomington Elementary Schools as they helped with the lunch service. Rotarians worked with the students to help bus dishes and wipe down tables.



Thank you to the two groups who volunteered at Normandale Hills and Hillcrest Schools. **Angela Wandera, Don Stiles, Eric Dallmann, Jim Casserly, Paul Niederberger, Karen Nordstrom, Jaime Tsurusaki, Larry Lee, and Eric Melbye.**

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:

May 11: Jane Fenton

June 8: Erika Rivers

Invocation / Pledge / 4 Way Test

May 11: Eric Dallmann

June 8: Eldon Spencer

Vocational Talk:

May 11: Laura Schultz

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

02/09/2026 "Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony" - 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>

Distinguished Guests

Charles Vanek, His son, Aaron, was granted a wish through Make a Wish, MN
Rotarian Dave Tsurusaki, Apple Valley Rotary, Jaime's father.

Happy Bucks and Announcements **Sara Tan** is proud of her daughter who just got her Driver's License. **Bob Erickson** and Nancy will be in Holland for the tulips. Jean and **Mike Helmick** really enjoyed the Fleetwood Mac tribute at Artistry. **Debbie Belfry** is celebrating 26 years as a Rotarian. **Deb Newman** encouraged everyone to wear their Rotary pins or clothing. It encourages people to ask about Rotary and might lead to a great new Rotary member. **Jim Casserly** reiterated how the Rotary insignia has gotten people to talk to him!

For our invocation, **Diann Kirby** had a special message on the importance of vaccinations. **Karen Nordstrom** mentioned she remembers all the kids who had to stay away from school sick with the diseases vaccines now prevent. **Eldon Spencer** agreed. **Jaime Tsurusaki** was pleased her father could join her today. **Dave Tsurusaki** thanked everyone who participated in the Apple Valley raffle today. **Becky Amble** had a successful trip to Toronto. She asked for prayers for Marshall who was having prostate cancer surgery on Friday. (Surgery went well, awaiting lymph biopsy evaluation.)

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 Rotary guests. Email Don Stiles at stiles.don@gmail.com.

On May 16th from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, both Eagan Rotary Clubs are planning an event at Cornelian Park in Eagan for the Epic Day of Service. All Rotarians are welcome. [Here is their link: https://www.epicdayofservice.org/clubs/ united-states-5950-eagan/projects/ epic-day-of-service-street-clean-up-tree-planting-4857409ae](https://www.epicdayofservice.org/clubs/ united-states-5950-eagan/projects/ epic-day-of-service-street-clean-up-tree-planting-4857409ae)

Our first **Rotary Rush Day** is set for **Monday June 8th** with a special program on Artificial Intelligence by our own **Becky Amble**. Rotarians are encouraged to invite a guest that they believe might make a good Rotarian to this meeting. **Please RSVP with your guest name to Mike Helmick at jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com by May 18th.**



The **Bloomington Rotary Club Board of Directors** along with the **Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors** approved a \$5,000 Donation to Bloomington Mutual Aid (BMA) from our Foundation designated to help families in our community impacted by Operation Metro Surge to cover housing expenses. The May 4th statistics shared by BMA show \$752,395 has been distributed to keep families housed based on 440 housing requests covering 254 households. We received a recent Thank You from BMA. As a Rotary Club, you have helped real

neighborhood families remain in their homes and find stability. Thank you!

Save the Date! October 24th will be a Walk for Polio Plus at the Mall of America. It will start at 7:30 AM and go to 9:30 AM. A \$25.00 donation to Rotary's Polio Plus is requested for each household. There were only 4 cases of endemic polio last year in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We are this close!



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 our Rotary program on Middle School Sports. "**Middle School Sports**" - <https://youtu.be/YWs3ErP2G7M>

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—20 Years Strong!

We're nearly 100% complete with the 2026 Mahendra Nath Rotary Foundation Challenge. As of right now, the Belfry and Kirby teams are in a dead heat, with 96% of donations submitted for each team. At this rate, we're hoping to have this year's Nath Challenge wrapped up very soon.



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to The Rotary Foundation during this 20th anniversary of the Mahendra Nath Challenge. Please know that your donation is doing good both locally and around the world.

Thanks!
Diann and Debbie

2026 MAHENDRA NATH ROTARY FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

5/6/2026

Phase 2: Pledges Paid

TEAM	Total Members	# Members Paid	% Members Paid	Amount Paid
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TEAM BELFRY	4	4	100%	\$2,850
DALLMAN	4	4	100%	\$3,950
STILES	4	4	100%	\$1,475
NORDSTROM	5	5	100%	\$3,425
NEW TEAMMATES	6	5	83%	\$1,650
TOTAL	23	22	96%	\$13,350

TEAM KIRBY	6	6	100%	\$3,925
BASIL	4	4	100%	\$1,225
CASSERLY	4	4	100%	\$3,225
FENTON	4	4	100%	\$1,625
GUARNERA	4	4	100%	\$2,400
MOSHER	4	3	75%	\$1,610
TOTAL	26	25	96%	\$14,010

Your donations in action! Currently, **Bloomington Noon Rotary** is a lead club in two Rotary Grants. **Sandhya Gupta** is submitting a Small International District Grant for 2026-2027 providing a STEM Bridge Camp for middle school students and training for teachers in Ahmedabad, India. The grant is requesting \$28,333 to cover the efforts outlined in the grant.

Angela Wandera has just received final grant dollars for a Rotary International Global Grant in Kenya. This grant has received \$91,650 to equip three schools with digital labs and training for teachers in 3 counties near Nairobi, Kenya.

These are efforts pioneered by Bloomington Noon Rotarians. Your effort to fund The Rotary Foundation is coming back directly to innovative projects sponsored by our club. You can be very proud of the change you are making in the world.

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 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
- 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"** Guests: Charitable Partners
- July 6: Monday **"Community Service to be Determined"**
- 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 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 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**

Rotary Meeting Calendar

Monday, May 11, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Color Key
Monday, May 11, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Service Project
Monday, May 18, 2026	Meet and Greet	Club Board Meeting
Monday, May 25, 2026	Holiday, No Meeting	Regular Club Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2026	Service Project	Meet and Greet
Monday, June 8, 2026	Club Board meeting (11:00-12:00)	Foundation Board Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Vocational Visit
Monday, June 15, 2026	Meet and Greet	No Meeting
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:
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Erika Rivers, Eldon Spencer, Larry Lee, and with Debbie Belfry, Don Stiles, and Becky Amble on photos

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