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Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, June 22, 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

**June 29 Preview: “Annual Awards Luncheon”**

**Host: Past President Laura Schultz**

Join us to celebrate another successful year! **Past President Laura Schultz** will host our annual Award Luncheon. She will introduce **Debbie Belfry** and **PDG Diann Kirby** to honor our Paul Harris Fellows and our special Rotary Foundation’s donors. **President Kurt Hagen** will summarize the many successes we have had from the past twelve months, then move to honor our Charitable Partners as we distribute our annual grants.



Our club will present a special check to the Bloomington Public Schools that will guarantee that Middle School Sports will continue for another year. Laura will finish our program as she announces our **New Rotarian of the Year** award and our **Rotarian of the Year** award.

You can be very proud of your club and the many accomplishments this year has seen. Make sure not to miss this celebration. Buffet lunch will be available at noon with our program beginning early so we have time to recognize all the great work each of you put into the past year.

**July 6 Preview: “Community Service at Cornerstone”**

**1000 East 80th Street, Bloomington, 55420**

Our first Community Service project of this Rotary year will be at Cornerstone Advocacy Service. On Monday, July 6th, we will be helping to clear up the outdoor space at their main facility from Noon to 2:00 PM. Plan on bringing your gardening gloves and water bottle. Cornerstone will provide tools and yard bags. Don Stiles is coordinating the project. Email Don to add your name to the volunteer list or for any last minute changes. [Stiles.don@gmail.com](mailto:Stiles.don@gmail.com)



If there is inclement weather, we will be working inside with indoor needs. Community Service is one of the main reasons members stay with our club. Upcoming service projects include: Wilderness Inquiry, Closet of Hope, Mock Interviews at Normandale Community College, VEAP, and lunch service at our Bloomington Elementary Schools. There will be a sign up sheet at your lunch table each Monday noon meeting. Make sure that you sign up for the projects in which you wish to participate. Each project is fulfilling and gives you a sense you are giving back. Plus, they provide many wonderful interactions with Rotary friends and an opportunity to learn more about our community.

Cornerstone’s advocates specialize in supporting people who have experienced trauma as a result of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking or general crime. They help empower injured persons to take their next steps. They listen without judgement.

**Our Zoon Link is changing:** Adam Johnston’s Zoom Link ....Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509290110?pwd=7zHeSv36PW74QQ70zhzG6XE5BBjkRE.1>  
Meeting ID: 865 0929 0110 Passcode: 964634

**Recent Meetings...** The June 15th **Meet and Greet** saw fewer attenders than our recent spring dates, but was still a great evening. You could tell summer has arrived as the hotel was quite busy. The every Monday schedule will continue next year with our next **Meet and Greet** set for Monday, July 20th, 2026, in the Olive Lounge at the Hilton Hotel, France and Hwy 494. Please consider joining us at 5:00 PM.



Here are a couple of photos of our most recent group.

On June 22nd, we welcomed Karen Lundquist, founder of the Civic Thread Project to speak about **The Civic Thread: Why it Feels so Divided and What We Can Do About It**. Karen is a Bloomington-based attorney and owner of Attenza Law. She is active with the League of Women Voters.

Karen noted the fragmentation that our country is feeling currently, mostly rooted in our political beliefs and feelings. She reminded us that DEMOCRACY is about structures and institutions. We are being misdirected. A majority of Americans agree on many things like: stricter gun laws (56%); abortion should be legal in many cases (60%); favor a pathway to legal status for immigrants (64%); and oppose cuts to social security (79%). Our discord is being shaped.



**Outrage is a Business Model**

A citizen can whisper. A Super PAC can shout.



Much of this began with the passing of Citizens United legislation which allowed Super PACs to be able to spend unlimited dollars toward specific political messaging as it is not associated with a specific candidate. PACs work with individual candidates with spending governed by specific laws. Because our system rewards outrage by grabbing our attention, it has become a business model for this messaging.

Government is necessary because humans are imperfect and need some guides for living together to protect our health and safety. Our trust in government has been eroded over many decades issue by issue, happening by happening. People decide whether institutions are working for them or against them. In the 1960's, 70% of people trusted in their government. Today, surveys show only 20% trust government. Our public projects often cost more today because of regulations and public protections and the system is becoming overwhelmed and often stops operating effectively. An example can be seen with the national system of EV charging stations. Due to regulations, only a few have been installed within the past three years.

Our media has also become fragmented, often speaking with a consistent voice to individual viewpoints seeking a specific end.

Democracy is not self-executing, it depends on people to uphold it. It is meant to be a changing institution. Trust can be rebuilt through improvements in our institutions. We have seen it a number of time throughout our US history. We have seen it through the Civil Rights Act; the Voting Rights Act; Medicare and Medicaid. Our task is to "form a more perfect union" in our time, not a perfect one.

Karen has more information on her Civic Thread page. Feel free to visit the [Civic Thread Project](#). Check out her "Portfolio" for additional workshops. Visit League of Women Voters web site at [Bloomington — League of Women Voters Minnesota \(LWVMN\)](#).

**June Birthdays**

- 11 Mahendra Nath
- 18 Valeria Camboni Miller
- 19 Don Stiles
- 21 Zach Walker
- 22 Jaime Tsurusaki
- 25 Sandhya Gupta

**June Anniversaries**

- 08 Kurt Hagen 17 yrs
- 12 Sara Kleinsasser Tan 3 yrs
- 23 Aaron Slattery 1 yr
- 28 Bonnie Carlson 38 yrs
- 30 Karyn Arazi 26 yrs

**Recent Program Recordings...**

- 01/26/2026 "Bus Stop Mamas" - [https://youtu.be/u\\_GAfWGT2M](https://youtu.be/u_GAfWGT2M)
- 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>
- 03/23/2026 - "How to Make a Bronze Statue" - [https://youtu.be/u3PPI9\\_BfBE](https://youtu.be/u3PPI9_BfBE)
- 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

**Dario Bilardello**, Guest of Valeria Camboni Miller, 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.

**Katharine Hustad**, President of the Bloomington Chapter of the League of Women Voters

## Happy Bucks

**Don Stiles** was gifted a special belt for Fathers Day...It is embroidered all the way around with symbols of his life. **Becky Amble** is recovering nicely from her heart attack 3 weeks ago. She is following her rehab religiously. **Nick Basil** was in Minnesota for Fathers Day and spent time with his kids and grandkids. He also attended his class reunion at Notre Dame. **Lee Mosher's** grandson accidentally broke a window which they have successfully repaired. Ann and **Eldon Spencer** were treated to a river cruise on the St. Croix by their family for their anniversary. They are also celebrating a new grand niece!

**Sara Tan** announced that the Bloomington Symphony will offer two summer concerts at the Normandale Lake Bandshell (**Summer Fete, July 3, 8:45 PM and Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 PM**). Several Rotarians mentioned the memorial service for **John Houle** and the chance to honor his legacy here with Bloomington Rotary. He was most often mentioned for his support of women in leadership. He sponsored or encouraged many of our current members to join Rotary. **Deb Newman** attended a family reunion in Austin, Texas, and discovered that she was the family matriarch, so whatever she said was what they did. **Debbie Belfry** mentioned that **Chris Guarnera** is currently recovering at home from a torn Achilles tendon.

**Announcements** **Don Stiles** has established our Community Service Schedule for next Rotary Year. You will find sign up sheets at your tables during our Monday meetings. Check your calendar and sign up for the service projects you would like to attend. You can also email Don. [Stiles.don@gmail.com](mailto:Stiles.don@gmail.com) **July 6: Cornerstone; Aug 3: Wilderness Inquiry.**

**Global Grant Update...Bloomington Noon** is the International Club in Partnership with Host Club **Nairobi-Lang'ata Rotary** and six additional collaborating clubs for a **Rotary International Global Grant**. The grant was written/applied for by **Angela Wandera**.



Giving Underprivileged Children the Gift of Digital Literacy

Presentation to: ROTARY CLUB OF BLOOMINGTON

There is a huge gap between the haves and the have-nots in Kenya. This grant will build a new digital learning lab in 3 schools...Moody Awori Primary; Kholera Primary; and Ralak Girls Secondary Schools near the Western border of Kenya. With the District match and The Rotary Foundation match to the money contributed by all the collaborating clubs, the total grant for the three schools is \$91,650. We are the stewards of these dollars with construction bidding beginning now.

These are you're **The Rotary Foundation** donations through the **Mahendra Nath Challenge** at work. Your **Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation** donations are supporting Middle School Sports right here in Bloomington.

## Rotary Minute ... The Object of Rotary

Area 3 ADG **Debbie Belfry** shared the following:

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
2. High ethical standards in business and profession; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life.
4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## 2028 Rotary International Convention Volunteer Opportunities



The 2028 Rotary International Convention — Minneapolis looks forward to working with volunteers like you.

Interested?

Send your name, email and club name to  
[ri2028volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ri2028volunteer@gmail.com)

We will follow up to keep you in the loop as details are available.

The dates for volunteer participation at the Minneapolis Convention are May 26-31, 2028.

A few notes:

\* Many volunteers will start their duties May 26, a day prior to the Convention's start on May 27.

\*Volunteers will need to register for the Convention in order to attend the sessions.

\*Convention registration will start in June 2027.

We look forward to working alongside you in 2028 — it will be great!

Tom Gump

2028 Rotary International Convention — Minneapolis  
Host Operations Committee Chair

Get your name in now to be assigned to a volunteer position at the 2028 Rotary International Convention here in Minneapolis to be held from May 26 to May 31, 2028

Email: name, email, and club name to [ri2028volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ri2028volunteer@gmail.com)

## 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**
- Green Denotes a planned Zoom Meeting**

June 29: Monday **“Annual Awards Luncheon”** Host: Kurt Hagen Guests: Charitable Partners  
 July 6: Monday **“Community Service at Cornerstone”** Noon to 2:00, Clearing brush outdoors.  
 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  
 July 27: Monday **“District Governor Leif Hagen”**  
 Aug 3: Monday **“Community Service at Wilderness Inquiry”** Noon to 1:30, Meal Kit Prep  
 Aug 10: Monday **“Update on Minnesota State College & University System”** Chancellor Scott Olson  
 Aug 17: 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!

June 30: Tuesday **“District Governor Leif Hagen Installation”** Burnsville Ames Center 4:00 to 6:00  
 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  
 Aug 3: Monday **“Community Service at Wilderness Inquiry”** Noon to 1:30, Meal Kit Prep  
 Aug 10: Monday **“Club Board of Directors Meeting”** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM  
 Aug 31: Monday **“Community Service at Closet of Hope”** Noon to 1:30 PM  
**Sept 7: Monday “NO MEETING”** Enjoy the Labor Day Holiday Weekend  
 Sept 14: Monday **“Club Board of Directors Meeting”** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM

## Rotary Meeting Calendar

Monday, June 15, 2026	Meet and Greet	Color Key
Monday, June 22, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Service Project
Monday, June 29, 2026	Regular Club meeting	Club Board Meeting
2026-2027 Rotary Calendar—See page 5 RIB for full year		Regular Club Meeting
Monday, July 6, 2026	Community Service	Meet and Greet
Monday, July 13, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)	Foundation Board Meeting
Monday, July 13, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon	Vocational Visit
Monday, July 20, 2026	Meet and Greet - 5:00 PM	No Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2026	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)	
Monday, July 27, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon	
Monday, August 3, 2026	Community Service	



**Middle School Sports...2026-2027 Campaign Begins:** 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. We are beginning our 2026-2027 fundraising year for Middle School Sports. This is our Club’s ongoing fundraiser.

- 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

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 \(clubrunner.ca\)](http://clubrunner.ca)  
 ClubRunner  
<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/3537>

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# 2026-2027 Rotary Club Calendar

Date	Speakers
Monday, July 6, 2026	Community Service
Monday, July 13, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, July 13, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, July 20, 2026	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, July 27, 2026	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, July 27, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, August 3, 2026	Community Service
Monday, August 10, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, August 10, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, August 17, 2026	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, August 24, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, August 31, 2026	Community Service
Monday, September 7, 2026	No meeting - Labor Day
Monday, September 14, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, September 14, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, September 21, 2026	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, September 28, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, October 5, 2026	Community Service
Monday, October 12, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, October 12, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, October 19, 2026	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, October 26, 2026	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, October 26, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, November 2, 2026	Community Service
Monday, November 9, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, November 9, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, November 16, 2026	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, November 23, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, November 30, 2026	Vocational Visit / Other
Monday, December 7, 2026	Community Service
Monday, December 14, 2026	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, December 14, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, December 21, 2026	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, December 28, 2026	No meeting - holiday
Monday, January 4, 2027	Community Service
Monday, January 11, 2027	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, January 11, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, January 18, 2027	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, January 25, 2027	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, January 25, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, February 1, 2027	Community Service
Monday, February 8, 2027	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, February 8, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, February 15, 2027	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, February 22, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, March 1, 2027	Community Service
Monday, March 8, 2027	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, March 8, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, March 15, 2027	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, March 22, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, March 29, 2027	Vocational Visit / Other
Monday, April 5, 2027	Community Service
Monday, April 12, 2027	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, April 12, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, April 19, 2027	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, April 26, 2027	Foundation Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, April 26, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, May 3, 2027	Community Service
Monday, May 10, 2027	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, May 10, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, May 17, 2027	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, May 24, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, May 31, 2027	No meeting - Memorial Day
Monday, June 7, 2027	Community Service
Monday, June 14, 2027	Club Board Meeting (11:00 to Noon)
Monday, June 14, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, June 21, 2027	Meet and Great - 5:00 PM
Monday, June 28, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon

KEY
COMMUNITY SERVICE
CLUB BOARD MEETING
REGULAR NOON MEETING
MEET AND GREET
FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING
VOCATIONAL VISIT/OTHER
NO MEETING

This is our proposed calendar of meetings for our 2026-2027 Rotary Year.

Keep this page with your calendar.