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Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon, June 8, 2026

June 15 Preview: "Meet and Greet" Hilton Olive Lounge

Please Join Us! June 15th
at the Hilton's Olive Lounge - 5:00 PM

Our next Meet and Greet meeting is Monday, June 15, 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.

Please join us this month. 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. Conversations are ongoing and the company is always great!



June 22nd Preview: "The Civic Thread: Why it Feels so Divided and What We Can Do About It" Guest: Karen Lundquist

As the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many Americans feel that the country is increasingly polarized, distrustful, and disconnected. But are we really as divided as it seems? Karen Lundquist will explore the systems, incentives, and historical forces shaping modern civic life—from dark money and social media outrage to declining institutional trust, government dysfunction, and the challenges of rebuilding a shared sense of civic responsibility. Blending history, law, public policy, and storytelling, this non-partisan talk examines how Americans arrived at this moment, why trust in institutions has eroded over time, and what it might take to strengthen democracy and move toward a "more perfect union."

Karen Lundquist is a Bloomington-based attorney and owner of Attenza Law, a law professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, and the founder of The Civic Thread Project. She brings more than 35 years of teaching experience across different settings and disciplines. Through her visual storytelling work and workshops at The Civic Thread Project, she creates spaces for people to think more deeply about democracy and how it actually works in practice. She is actively involved in animal advocacy and local civic initiatives, including serving on the board of Animal Folks, a nonprofit that works to reform the Minnesota civil and criminal justice systems to better protect animals, and the Bloomington League of Women Voters.



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

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

Recent Meetings... On June 1st, Rotarians and guests from our Bloomington Noon Club and a **Friendship Exchange** group from Brazil gathered for our **Community Service at VEAP**. VEAP provided an introduction to how food insecurity services worked here in MN. Then divided up the group into several work groups with some



helping to clean the grounds or equipment and some working inside sorting apples and pears into individual packages for distribution to VEAP shoppers.

After the work was complete, some Bloomington Rotarians hosted the group at the Mall of America where they had a brief snack at the food court, were fascinated with Lego Land, enjoyed a taste of Minnesota beer at Twin City Grill (photo left), and then visited with **President Kurt Hagen** at his MOA offices to view some historical slides of the mall.

Nancy and **Bob Erickson** hosted a dinner at their house for the Brazilian Rotarians and for the Friendship Exchange US Rotarians that had previously visited Brazil. It was a great day for all! You can see the photos of their day on page 3 of the RIB. Thank you to **Don Stiles** for making the arrangements. See more images from the day on Page 3 RIB.

Our first Rotary Rush day, June 8th, featured our special speaker, Bloomington **Rotarian Becky Amble** who spoke about **Using Artificial Intelligence Effectively Personally and in Business**. There is no doubt that “AI is already here! The question is whether we learn to use it.” Currently around 53% of people say they have tried to use or actually use AI. 80% of our club responded that they have used AI in some form.

Becky introduced herself and shared that helping people to improve their lives and businesses is what is driving her today to do all she can to help people integrate AI strategies to improve their lives. She introduced several AI applications and gave examples of their practical application in everyday use. It was fascinating seeing DESCRIPT edit a video just like you would edit a word document. Then we watched GAMMA actually create a full visual PowerPoint presentation in real time with just a few prompts. FATHOM is already being used by some in our group to take notes and summarize zoom meetings saving significant time. When Becky visited France, she wanted to create her business presentations in French. VEED took her regular presentation and translated it while also making her mouth move realistically. HEYGEN can create a realistic AI avatar for you.



To start using AI, just try one small task. Your prompt, or instruction, to AI should be specific. If you tell AI the role you want it to take, it can frame any output from that position. Example: “You are a member of my Board.” Then, tell it what you want as your output. Example: “Give me a list of common behaviors when interacting at a Board meeting.” Now, “corrective strategies based on the list.”

Also, Becky mentioned some cautions that you need to take as you use AI. Never upload personal or secure information to an AI application. Always verify any output from your AI applications. Because AI has every bit of information that is out on the internet, output can have errors. And, AI will make up an answer if it does not find information on your prompt. Your judgement is what will make use of AI successful.

AI is in its infancy. Applications of its use will continue to grow. Human oversight is critical to its use.

For more information: www.futurefocususa.com, 612-327-6318

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...

- 11/12/2026 “Transform Your Body and Your Life” - <https://youtu.be/dY1fkW0l8aY>
- 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>

Friendship Exchange with Brazilian Rotarians and VEAP Community Service



Distinguished Guests

What a successful **Rotary Rush** and fun meeting with our Brazilian guests! This week we hosted a **Friendship Exchange Group from Brazil** representing several Rotary groups/clubs. All total, we had 21 Visitors today. You may have seen **Jim Waldvogel** step into the meeting. He's back at the Hilton and **Aaron Slatery** is now downtown at The Lofton. Blue indicates member of the Friendship Exchange Group.

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.

Dan Klements, guest of Mike Helmick, neighbor of Mike's

Mary Murphy, guest of Karyn Arazi, Sister-in-law of Karyn, Chair of the Scholarship Committee of the Education Foundation of Bloomington

Tsewang Ngodup, guest of Debbie Belfry, Physician at Hennepin County Medical Center

Nathan O'Keefe, guest of Jane Fenton

Laura McGuire, guest of Jane Fenton

Mark Rosenkranz, guest of Jane Fenton

Sara Durhman, guest of Kurt Hagen, Corporate Social Responsibility at Mall of America, promoting Soles4Souls initiative at MOA

Jeremy Kromer, guest of Jane Fenton

Mary Wellens, guest of Sara Tan, with Woodland Strategies, Strategic Planning

Deepak Nath, guest and son of Mahendra Nath, with Nath Companies

Dave Walia, guest and son-in-law of Mahendar Nath, with Nath Companies

Roberta Melo, member of Recife Rotary

Laurie Mucciacciaro, e-Travel and North Star Youth Exchange coordinator

Gabriel Cavalcanti Neto, member of Recife Rotary

Gabriel Cavalcanti Filho, member of Recife Rotary

Sam Dalal, e-Travel and former Eagan Rotarian

Deb Vander Waal, former Eagan Rotarian

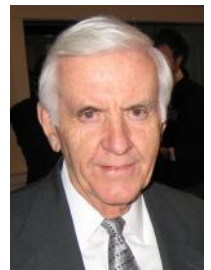
Alexandre Camara, member of Natal Rotary

Rose Vanderlinde, member of Natal Rotary

Lynn Arbogast, Sam Dalal's wife, member of Rotary Club Serves Food Internationally (Illinois)



Happy Bucks and Announcements Longtime **Rotarian John Houle** passed away on May 17, 2026. John's memorial service is scheduled for **Friday, June 19** at Normandale Lutheran Church (6100 Normandale Rd) in Edina. Visitation at 10:00 AM and the **service at 11:00 AM** with a luncheon immediately following. [John A. Houle Obituary | 1933 - 2026 | Minnesota Star Tribune](#)



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 July 6: Cornerstone; Aug 3: Wilderness Inquiry

Soles4Souls Back to School Campaign sponsored by the Mall of America will run from July 13, 2026 to September 30, 2026. The campaign goal is to raise \$150,000 to provide a new pair of athletic shoes to students in need across the Twin Cities. There will be a Mall Launch Event, a Shoe Distribution Event; Promotion across Mall of America digital channels, and engagement opportunities at the special events. For more information, to volunteer, or offer donations, contact Sara Durhman. sara.durhman@moa.net.

Or, to donate go to their web page [Soles4Souls | Creating opportunity for people through shoes and clothing](#).

NATH CHALLENGE...Every Rotarian Every Year Bloomington Rotarians have achieved their goal of 100% donations to The Rotary Foundation this year. These dollars support Rotary International and its many District and Global Grant projects. The total raised through our club's donations is \$37,650. Thank you to **Mahendra Nath** for his major donation to this effort. This year Bloomington Rotarian **Angela Wandera** and Bloomington Rotarian **Sandhya Gupta** are both sponsoring different RI Grant Projects together totaling over \$120,000 (one in India and one in Africa). You are making a difference throughout 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**
- Green Denotes a planned Zoom Meeting**

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 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 **NO NOON MEETING**, **“Community Service at Loaves and Fishes”** 4:00–6:00 PM
 Sept 7: Monday **“NO MEETING”** Enjoy the Labor Day Holiday Weekend

Rotary Meeting Calendar

Monday, June 15, 2026	Meet and Greet
Monday, June 22, 2026	Regular Club meeting
Monday, June 29, 2026	Regular Club meeting

2026-2027 Rotary Calendar—See page 5 RIB for full year

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 Greet - 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

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



Middle School Sports...2026-2027 Campaign

Begin: 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

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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 \(clubrunner.ca\)](http://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”

2026-2027 Rotary Club Calendar

Date	Speakers
Monday, July 6, 2026	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 Greet - 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	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, August 24, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, August 31, 2026	VOCATIONAL VISIT/OTHER
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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, September 28, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, October 5, 2026	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 Greet - 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	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, November 23, 2026	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, November 30, 2026	VOCATIONAL VISIT/OTHER
Monday, December 7, 2026	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, December 28, 2026	No meeting - holiday
Monday, January 4, 2027	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 Greet - 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	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, February 22, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, March 1, 2027	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, March 22, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, March 29, 2027	VOCATIONAL VISIT/OTHER
Monday, April 5, 2027	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 Greet - 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	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, May 24, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon
Monday, May 31, 2027	No meeting - Memorial Day
Monday, June 7, 2027	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 Greet - 5:00 PM
Monday, June 28, 2027	Regular Club Meeting - Noon

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