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Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon July 20, 2026

Noon Meetings Second and Fourth Mondays at the Hilton, France Ave & 494 Social Events and Club Service - See Calendar Meeting times Noon to 1:15

Mission

The Bloomington Noon Rotary Club unites leaders to improve our community and the world through service and philanthropy.

2026-2027 Officers:

President:

Valeria Camboni Miller
valeria@cambonimillerlaw.com

**Board Meetings - Monthly
Second Mondays, 11:00 AM,
Hilton Board Room**

President Elect:

Jane Fenton

Vice President:

Treasurer:

Sergeant at Arms:

Lori Rebers

Program Chair:

Sara Kleinsasser Tan

Past President:

Kurt Hagen

District Governor:

Leif Hagen

Executive Secretary:

Kathy Koehler

952-250-0476

kkoehler53@frontiernet.net

Directors: Adam Johnston, Jim

Mortenson, Lori Rebers, David

Drummond, Lee Mosher, Paul

Niederberger, Abul Sharah

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20300

Bloomington, MN USA 55420

July 27 Preview: "District Governor Leif Hagen"

Leif Hagen has held multiple leadership roles within Rotary, including two terms as President of the Eagan Rotary Club and serving as the two-year charter president of the MN Pride Rotary Club. He is currently serving on the District Foundation grant committee. He is a Paul Harris Society member, a Major Donor, and has attended Rotary International conventions in Birmingham, New Orleans, Bangkok, and Hamburg. He will serve as Rotary District 5950 Governor for 2026–2027.



Leif grew up in Stevens Point and graduated from St. Olaf College in 1988 with a BA in German and French. His early career included teaching languages in Zug, Switzerland, and high school English in Gero, Japan. In 1992, he entered the financial services field and now owns Achievement Financial in Eagan, Minnesota. Leif lives in Eagan with his partner, Valdir Oliveira, and has three daughters — Kajsa, Svea, and Britta. He enjoys foreign languages, international travel, collecting art, and attending art shows.

August 3 Preview: "Community Service at Wilderness Inquiry"

930 East 80th Street, Bloomington, MN 55420

Noon to 1:30, Free Parking available

Wear closed toe shoes and long hair tied up.

Rotary Club members will be visiting local nonprofit, Wilderness Inquiry, to prepare meal kits for summer/fall 2026 adventures on August 3, 12:00 - 1:30 pm. In 2025, Wilderness Inquiry served about 30,000 nutritious meals for participants as they fulfilled their mission to connect people of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities through shared outdoor adventures so that all people can equitably experience the benefits of time spent in nature.



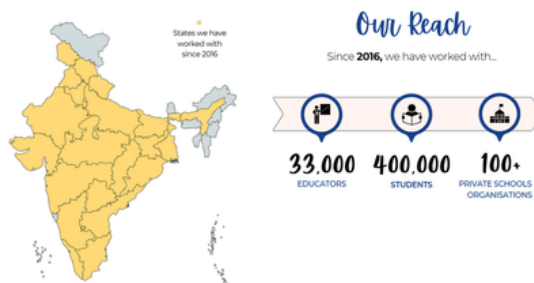
Recent Meetings... Aavishkaar Expanding Throughout India



As a Bloomington Noon Rotarian many years ago, **Sandhya Gupta** wanted to make a difference in the lives of the people in her home community. She began with a simple effort to expand the library in a girl's hostel, Nari Gunjun. Each year she added to what she did to help these Dalit girls become more empowered. Clean water, transportation, and learning sports added to their experiences.

She was still looking for her real calling. She moved to India and began a policy institute in her home province. By 2016, she finally discovered that math and science education was where she could make the greatest impact. She believed that poverty did not mean you were limited to a poor education. She developed teaching techniques that made STEM education fun, exciting, and practical. Then, discovered that by working with teachers and empowering them to teach other teachers, she could reach many more students, hopefully lifting up a whole generation of young women to be the drivers of their own careers and become decision makers in their families...a significant cultural change for these young women.

She partnered with over 100 organizations and has now expanded these efforts into each of the provinces throughout India. Today students attend their program learning new techniques for the first year, practice teaching for two years and then move out into the community to share techniques with other teachers: moving away from rote memorization to practical application and experiential learning. Five groups have now graduated the program (60 women) impacting 33,000 educators across the country, and 400,000 students, creating change in classrooms throughout India.



Recent Meetings Continued on Page 4 RIB

Paul Harris Major Donor Honor



Past DG Diann Kirby and Co-Assistant District Governor Debbie Belfry presented a special pin and award to Sandhya honoring **Sandhya Gupta and Sarit Sharma** as new Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation. Sandhya and Sarit live in Palampur, India. Sarit is a member of his home Rotary club there.

July Birthdays

27 Mike Helmick

July Anniversaries

No July Anniversaries

August Birthdays

12 Jim Mortenson

17 David Senness

18 Laura Schultz

24 Kathy Koehler

25 Andrew Huss

August Anniversaries

01 Mike Helmick 32 yrs

17 Diann Kirby 27 yrs

19 Lori Rebers 7 yrs

22 Eric Dallmann 3 yrs

29 Jim Waldvogel 10 yrs

Recent Program

Recordings...

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>

03/23/2026 - "How to Make a Bronze Statue" -

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, an Italian British citizen, Interested in joining our Rotary Club.

Dan Klement, Retired Pastor, 48 Year Rotarian and Paul Harris Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, moved back to MN from New Jersey.

Allina Wilson, Works at the Legislature, was a Youth Exchange Student in Australia, 2010-2011, from International Falls.

Several spouses and a significant other attended our recent Meet and Greet: **Joy Mortenson, Mike Arazi, Bud Nordstrom, Betsy Lee, and Jeff Knight.**

Announcements

Valeria Camboni Miller recently returned from her first Rotary International Convention. It was in Taiwan and hosted 37,000 Rotarians from all over the world. She invited members of our club to consider attending the 2026-27 Rotary Convention in Barcelona next year! And, be thinking about the Twin Cities RI Convention in 2027-28.

Mike Helmick reminded everyone to sign up for Invocation/Pledge/4 Way Test on the sign-up sheets that are at your table each week. He would like to fill out the 2026 calendar year.

19th Annual Aavishkaar USA Fundraiser a Success



On Wednesday, July 15th, supporters of Aavishkaar gathered for their 19th annual fundraiser at Bay Leaf Indian Cuisine.

Enjoy photos from the evening. If you want to support the work that **Sandhya Gupta** is doing throughout India, a donation can be mailed to Aavishkaar USA, 1350 Rosemary Court, Hastings, MN 55033, or by credit card at <https://bit.ly/DonateAavishkaarUSA26>.

Recent Meetings Continued... Rotarians Gather for July Meet and Greet



We hosted seventeen attendees with 5 guests. Continuing this year, one meeting each month will be devoted to a social Meet and Greet. Join us on August 17th for our next gathering at the Olive Lounge in the Hilton Hotel.

Happy Bucks

Valeria Camboni Miller was happy to start her first meeting of her Rotary Presidency. Her son is on a motorcycle trip to Wyoming. She also mentioned her friend who is raising funds to send care packages to US soldiers. **Mike Helmick's** grandson, who is a theater arts student at Emerson College in Boston, was performing at the St Louis Park Amphitheater. He has been performing in Shakespear's Tempest. **Sandhya Gupta** is happy to be "home" and is looking forward to her dinner fundraiser this week.

Bob Erickson shared that **Dave Drummond's** brother passed away recently. Dave and Joy, you will be in our prayers. **Becky Amble** had a bad virus for about 10 days and is now feeling much better! **Jane Fenton** honored our new **President Valeria Camboni Miller**. And, **Debbie Belfry** added **Sandhya Gupta**, and our two guests to the list of honorees. Dan Klement, our guest, was happy to connect again with a Rotary Club. We hope to see you again soon, Dan.

Recent Loss of a Great Rotarian

We are sad to share that **Lee Sundet** (Leland) passed away on July 16th at the age of 98. Lee joined Bloomington Rotary in our early years, served as President and was very active helping to start our major fundraiser, the Harold Larson Party, in 1966. He was awarded the Harold Larson Distinguished Service Award. Lee left our club for several years then returned in 2006 as an Honorary Member. Lee is a Paul Harris Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation.

Several members shared memories: **Karen Nordstrom** remembered Lee as a fellow Norwegian. **Larry Lee** remembered Lee donating a battery charger from his company, Century Manufacturing, every year for the Harold Larson Silent Auction (HLP). **Dick Young** remembered the lobster parties at Lee's home and the car that was auctioned off at the very first HLP. **Jim Mortenson** shared that Lee more recently lived at Flagstone here in the Twin Cities and was always participating in their activities with a smile!



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

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 and President Dr. Pakou Yang
Aug 17: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge,
Hilton Hotel, France and Hwy 494
Aug 24: Monday **"Rotarian Zach Wilson, Bloomington City Manager"**
Rotary Rush Day, Invite a Guest to meet the new City Manager
Sept 7: **NO MEETING** - Enjoy the Labor Day Holiday
Sept 14: Monday **"To Be Determined"**
Sept 21: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel

Calendar of Events

July 27: Monday **"Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors Meeting"** 11:00 AM Hilton
July 28: Tuesday **"District Governor Art Pop Up"** St John's Bible Gallery,
4:00 to 6:00 PM, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
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 20: Thursday **"Taste of Lakeville"** Info: <https://tasteoflakeville.org/>
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
Oct 24: Saturday **"World's Largest Walk to End Polio"** at MOA -
7:30 - 9:30 AM Save the Date
Oct 26: Monday **"Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors Meeting"** 11:00 AM Hilton

Middle School Sports...2026-2027

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**. This is our Club's ongoing 2026-2027 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 with Debbie
Belfry, Don Stiles,
and Becky Amble on
photos

ADDRESS

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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)
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	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
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	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 Greet - 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 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	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 Greet - 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 Greet - 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 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	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 Greet - 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 Greet - 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 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	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 Greet - 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 Greet - 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.