



R I B

Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon July 6, 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 13 Preview: "Aavishkaar Update" Rotarian Sandhya Gupta



Sandhya Gupta is a STEM education advocate and the founder of Aavishkaar, an organization dedicated to delivering high-quality STEM education to underserved communities throughout India and beyond and empowering educators to build communities of possibility and equality.

With Aavishkaar, Sandhya aims to close gaps in academic achievement and help all children, especially girls, gain the skills and confidence they need to enjoy and pursue stable careers in STEM fields.

Her degrees conferred include a master's in public affairs from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and a doctorate in electrical engineering from Iowa State University. She is a Ford Global Fellow 2025.

July 20 Preview: "Meet and Greet" Olive Lounge Hilton Hotel Join Us at 5:00 PM

Our next **Meet and Greet** meeting is Monday, July 20, 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 will continue these social evenings every third Monday throughout this rotary year. We encourage guests and always spouses are invited to join at these meetings. Please join us this month.

There is no set charge for attending the meetings. We all order ala carte from the bar menu. Many of us make this our dinner evening out. The company is great and you always learn something new about your Rotary friends! All are welcome!



Recent Meetings...

Contributed by Erika Rivers

Bloomington Noon Rotary Celebrates a Milestone Year

On June 29, 2026, the Bloomington Noon Rotary convened for its highly anticipated Year-End Club Assembly. The meeting served as both a reflection on a fantastic year of community impact and a celebration of leadership transition.

Year In Review: Shattering Records and Shorter Meetings

Outgoing President Kurt Hagen presented the 2025-2026 highlights, showcasing a year of growth, generosity, and structural efficiency:

- **Bloomington Middle School Sports:** A spectacular \$50,000 was raised to support Bloomington middle school sports, led by **Paul Niederberger** with matching funds generously provided by **Bob Erickson** and **Don Stiles**. John Born and **Erik Melbye** accepted the check on behalf of the schools.
- **Polio Plus Powerhouse:** Over the years since Rotary began its Polio Plus campaign, our club has reached a record-breaking \$36,000+ in Polio Plus donations.
- **Foundation Health:** The Bloomington Noon Rotary Foundation enjoyed an 18% investment return, bringing in \$76,000+.
- **Club Growth & Engagement:** Membership grew from 46 to 48 active members. Meanwhile, the club kept active with 13 completed service projects and 13 social events.
- **Rotary Mondays:** Embracing modernization, the club trimmed meeting lengths by 15 minutes using the new "Rotary Mondays" framework to ensure predictability and consistency with meeting times and weekly commitments.

Local and Global Grant Distributions

Through the stewardship of **Karyn Arazi** and **Kurt Hagen**, more than \$75,000 in total charitable grants were distributed, including the following:

- **Eric Melby** and John Born accepted the \$50,000 check for **Bloomington Middle School Sports**. 556 kids participated in middle school sports last year, and 37% of them participated in free and reduced lunch.
- **Eric Herr Mattson**, from **Artistry**, an arts after school program accepted a \$2,000 gift to bring musical theater to youth, many performances now provide sensory-sensitive audience members with sensory kits and volume levels attuned to sensory differences.
- **Emily Gagnon** of **Study Buddies**, accepted a \$2,000 gift for an after school study program that serves about 157 students, across 6 locations through 38 volunteers giving more than 1,000 hours of tutoring and homework help.

Continued on Page 3 RIB.

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?](https://reflect-bcit.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/search?channel=2&query=rotary)

[channel=2&query=rotary](https://reflect-bcit.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/search?channel=2&query=rotary)

Award Winners Group joined by presenters Karyn Arazi and Kurt Hagen.



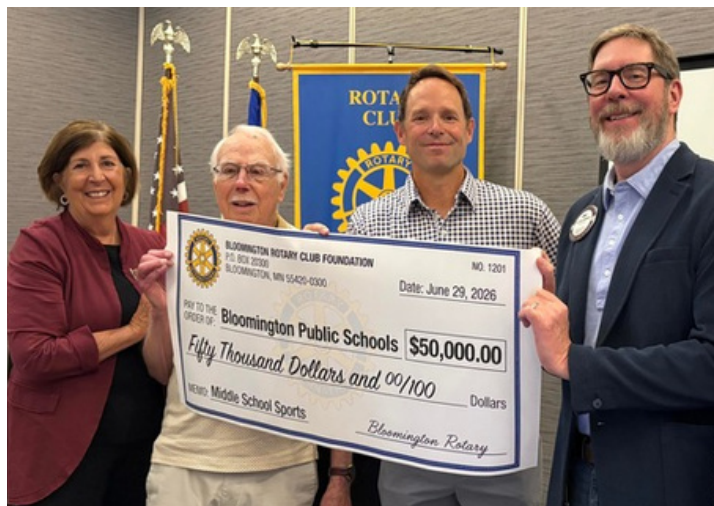
- **Sarah Tan** from **Bloomington Symphony Orchestra** accepted a \$1,000 gift to support sending musicians into high school classrooms to elevate the orchestra experience with professional instrumentalists. The funds will also support sending musicians to the Bloomington Orchestra Festival
- **Courtney Poya**, from **Cornerstone**, accepted a \$1,500 gift to support emergency services programming for families in imminent danger of violence. The funds support a 24/7 crisis line and 35-bed shelter, both of which help connect those in need with needed resources. Most Cornerstone families include children who are under age 18.
- **Tiffany Shermak**, from **Education Foundation of Bloomington**, accepted a \$1,250 gift for the Student Success Stipend Program, which allows staff and teachers to supplement student needs that aren't covered by the school district. More than 500 students are served through field trips, scientific calculators, and other community education needs.
- **Abby Morgan**, from **Mount Olivet Rolling Acres**, accepted a gift of \$1,300 to support mental health stabilization services for youth in need at a residence here in Bloomington. Much of the funding will go toward swimming lessons, and Abby described this as a grant that helps "kids be kids."
- **Jane Fenton** of the **Normandale Community College Foundation** accepted a gift of \$3,000 for the Academy of Math & Science, which now has so many graduates that the academy is starting an alumni mentorship program for these cohorts of students.
- **Jasmine Green** of **Oasis for Youth** accepted a \$3,000 gift to support youth experiencing housing insecurity. This gift supports the Mobile Outreach Program, which serves 9 area schools through police departments by providing basic needs for children in need, including transportation, housing and hygiene.
- **Jennifer Harrison** of **VEAP** accepted a \$4,300 gift to help our community reduce food insecurity and provide for rent relief and basic needs assistance. The need is particularly great this year as our community recovers from the metro surge over the winter.

Continued on page 4 RIB

Global Impact through Grants...

Abul Sharah accepted a \$5,000 check to continue his work with **International Village Clinic** in rural India. These dollars will aid in the disease prevention and nutrition programs for children ages birth to five in 60 small villages that surround the clinic.

The club also expanded its international horizons with District and Global Collaboration Grants, directly funding STEM training in India through **Sandhya Gupta** and **Aavishkaar** (\$3,000), technology labs in **Kenya** (\$2,250), smart classrooms in **South Africa** (\$1,000), and university classroom connections in **Tanzania** (\$500).



Assuring Middle School Sports will continue in 2026-2027.

To formally commemorate the occasion, **Paul Niederberger** and **Deb Newman**, members of the Bloomington Noon Fundraising Committee present a giant check to **John Born, Behavior Interventionist - Oak Grove Middle School** and **Eric Melbye, Superintendent**, representing the Bloomington Public Schools.

Distinguished Guests

We welcomed back some Rotarians who are not able to attend often:

Dwayne Lowman, Mahendra Nath, and Terry Stirewalt.

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.

Salah Tan, son of Sara Tan, he is a Junior at Minnetonka High School, he drove them here today.

Individual Laurels



PDG Diann Kirby and **Co Area 3 ADG Debbie Belfry** presented **The Rotary Foundation** recognitions. Dozens of members were recognized as cumulative Paul Harris Fellows and Society Members. Significant congratulations to **Dave Drummond, Sandhya Gupta, Jim Mortenson, Paul Niederberger, and Karen Nordstrom**, who all capped off the year at a +8 giving level! Pictured: **Diann Kirby** and **Debbie Belfry** congratulate each other on their new pin levels. Our club has 23 Paul Harris Society members pledging \$1,000 annually.

Five club members committed ongoing annual contributions to the **Polio Plus Society: Debbie Belfry, Don Stiles, Terry Stierwalt, Karyn Arazi, and Kurt Hagen**. Each received a certificate and special pin.

Honoring our Members and Passing the Torch to Unite for Good

The **New Rotarian of the Year** award was presented to **Mike Helmick**. This award is given to a new Rotarian (less than 18 months) who has an 80% attendance record and service to community projects and a rotary committee. *Pictured upper right.*

Kurt Hagen accepted the **Rotarian of the Year Award** for his service to Bloomington Noon Rotary Club as the president in the 2025-2026 year. *Pictured Lower right.*

The finale of the assembly marked the official officer transition. **Kurt Hagen** stepped down as President, symbolically passing the torch to **Incoming President Valeria Camboni Miller**.

Looking Ahead: Valeria will guide the club forward under the inspiring new Rotary International theme: **"Unite for Good"**. As a club, our goals for 2026-2027 will include the following:

- Continue our campaign to contribute of \$50K to Bloomington Middle School Sports
- Distribute at least \$25,000 in Rotary grants
- Host one student on a Short-term Exchange
- Grow the club by at least 5 new members
- Identify a sustainable ongoing fundraising opportunity to pursue
- Update our bylaws

Thank you to all the officers, directors, committee chairs, and members who made this year an unforgettable success! Here's to another phenomenal year ahead.

Rotarians Help out at Cornerstone

On July 6th, Rotarians spent their lunch break helping out at Cornerstone raking and clearing weeds and overgrown foliage. Thank you to these Rotarians for helping out: **Kurt Hagen, Sara Tan, Debbie Belfry, Dario Bilardello, Jim Casserly, Dave Senness, Jim Mortenson, and Lee Mosher.** *Enjoy our photos.*



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 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

Aug 24: Monday **"Rotarian Zach Wilson, Bloomington City Manager"**
Rotary Rush Day, Invite a Guest to meet the new City Manager

Calendar of Events

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

Oct 24: Saturday **"World's Largest Walk to End Polio"** at MOA -
7:30 - 9:30 AM Save the Date

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

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

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 28, 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.