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Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon August 31, 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

Sept 7 Preview: "No Meeting" Enjoy the Labor Day Holiday Sept 14 Preview: "Giving Voice Chorus" Guest: Eyleen Braaten



Eyleen Braaten is the Executive Director of Giving Voice Initiative, where she leads a growing national movement to create dementia-friendly choruses that bring joy, connection, and purpose to people living with dementia and their care partners. Since joining the organization in 2017, Eyleen has been supporting the growth of the mission through innovative programming and building strong partnerships.

Giving Voice Initiative is a Twin Cities-based nonprofit that inspires and equips communities in Minnesota and around the world to start dementia-friendly choruses that change lives and shift public perception through the power of song. Today, more than 200 singers participate in GVI's five flagship choruses in the Twin Cities. Beyond Minnesota, a growing network of over 75 choruses across the U.S. and Canada are working together to create inclusive musical experiences that center the voices and dignity of people on the Alzheimer's journey.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509290110?pwd=7zHeSv36PW74QQ70zhzG6XEsbBjkRE.1>
Meeting ID: 865 0929 0110 Passcode: 964634

Sept 21 Preview: "Meet and Greet" Hilton Hotel - Olive Lounge 5:00 PM

Our next Meet and Greet meeting is Monday, September 21. 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. The company is always great!



Recent Meetings...

Zach Walker, Bloomington City Manager joined us on August 24th. His topic was "Leading Bloomington: A New City Manager's Perspective".



Zach began by sharing a little bit about himself. He grew up in Missouri. His father served on the school board and his mother was a teacher. This is where he got his interest in community and serving community. He is a credentialed City Manager. He brings with him a long history in government having served in multiple leadership positions with several communities. His final stop before coming to Bloomington was as a City Manager in Independence, Missouri.

As City Manager, Zach works alongside the mayor and city council to implement community priorities. He oversees an almost \$300 Million budget and about 1000 employees with the help of two Deputy City Managers. Bloomington has a strong staff culture and strong resident satisfaction with basic services and quality of life. A growing concern is affordability which is a priority that Zach mentioned. Property taxes make up the majority of revenues along with lodging and admission taxes, permit and licensing fees, and grant revenue. On the expense side, public safety is the largest share of the General Fund with police and Fire Accounting for almost half.

Residents rate Bloomington very highly on surveys. We have a solid commercial base, leading the state in lodging occupancy. The city has received multiple awards for workplace culture, financial reporting, communications, and planning highlighting our excellent and creative staff. Bloomington was among the top 200 places to work nationally.

Priorities going forward include continuing the work that is currently started. Stay financially strong. Be disciplined on taxes and align our budget with planned strategies. Continue moving the Fire Department to goal of 78 Full-time Firefighters and 75 Part-time firefighters. And, staff all 6 Fire Stations 24/7. With goals to expand the Fire Prevention Division. Our Police Department staffing is average for cities of similar size. All three of the voter approved city improvement projects are moving forward excellently. The community center should open in November 2027. The sales tax is working well and we may pay off bonds early.

Bloomington is very progressive in their city planning and environmental stewardship, and is currently working on a master plan. A forestry plan is in progress as well. The Council is discussing their two-year budget. Hatch Bloomington is emphasizing small business in the city, helping several small businesses to expand or improve this year.

Conclusions

- The City should:
 - Prioritize completion of the many initiatives already underway.
 - Enhance and improve excellence in service delivery.
 - Build upon the strong financial foundation that has been set.
 - Strategically pursue development opportunities.
 - Develop and adopt a two-year budget that sits at the intersection of priority-based budgeting, performance measurement, and strategic planning.

Save the date: "Trivia Night" - January 9, 2027 to benefit Middle School Sports

Deb Newman is leading a group planning a fundraiser for our effort to support Middle School Sports. The Idea is to have a **Trivia Night** with teams of four which will be held locally. Let your friends know and encourage them to build a team. This will be a fun, nonthreatening event for all. Start planning for your own team, too. More details will be coming in the near future.

September Birthdays
29 Bonnie Carlson
30 Bill Peterson

September Anniversaries
17 Karen Nordstrom 19 yrs
19 Laura Schultz 10 yrs
24 Abul Sharah 24 yrs
27 Eric Melbye 5 yrs

Greeters

Sept 14: Sara Tan
Sept 28: Mike Helmick

Invocation/Pledge

Sept 14: Becky Amble
Sept 28: Don Stiles

Recent Program Recordings...

04/27/2026 - "Make-A-Wish Minnesota"
https://youtu.be/Q5G1_X5E_MjM
06/08/2026 - "Using Artificial Intelligence Effectively" Rotarian Becky Amble
https://youtu.be/xU_ZjKRrh_XY
06/22/2026 - "The Civic Thread Project" Karen Lundquist
https://youtu.be/bKszG3z_7ow
08/10/2026 - "MNSCU Update" Scott Olson and Pakou Yang
https://youtu.be/_ReiHQa0xHI
08/24/2026 - "Zach Walker Bloomington City Manager"
https://youtu.be/Db7QVCQg_gjs

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, Financial Advisor and Research Professor at the University of Minnesota, an Italian British citizen, Approved for membership.
Don Klement, Retired Pastor, 48 Year Rotarian and Paul Harris Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, moved back to MN from New Jersey, Approved for Membership
Pam Pommer, Sun Current Columnist, Guest from our newsletter
Ashley Harness, Guest of Karen Nordstrom, VEAP representative
Amanda Herzing, Daughter of Mike Helmick, Event Planner
Angie Huss, Spouse of Andrew Huss
Erin Gonyea, Lakeville, Volunteer helping with Middle School Sports, Guest of Deb Newman
Sara Logan, Bloomington, two students at Oak Grove Middle School, Guest of Deb Newman.

Announcements

Mark your calendar...November 10th will be the Annual Veterans Luncheon

We need several more Rotarians to sign up for Mock Job Interviews on October 5th at Normandale Community College. No special skills needed. This is our Community Service event for October.

President **Valeria Camboni Miller** is still looking for a volunteer to serve as Treasurer for our Club, plus we also need a Fundraising Chair to help **Deb Newman** with our Middle School Sports Campaign.

Debbie Belfry wanted to remind all who want to **WALK with Rotary for the Walk to End Polio** on October 24th that the registration is now open. Fee \$25 for ticket and t-shirt. At Mall of America. 7:30 to 9:30 AM. Questions to **Debbie Belfry** ddbelfry@gmail.com.



<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50084/events/world-s-largest-polio-walk-in-district-5950-at-moa>

Happy Bucks

Don Stiles and four other Rotarians complimented our guests. **Terry Stirewalt** was glad to be back after hip replacement three weeks ago. **Valeria Camboni Miller** is proud of her son who is starting school at Normandale in Criminal Justice. Plus, she visited the Como Zoo and brought back several stuffed giraffes (her favorite animal). **Karen Nordstrom** was happy to be back for the fall from their summer at the lake. Bud had a huge garden that produced very small carrots. **Kurt Hagen** honored Zach Walker. **Eric Melbye** spent the morning with all his Bloomington staff for the school year kickoff! Thank you to Rotary and Education Foundation for your generous gifts this past year. **Becky Amble** was pleased to see **Don Stiles** back from London.

Angela Wandera was excited to announce the first of the three Digital Literacy Labs was recently launched in Nairobi. **Debbie Belfry** was happy to hear about better health for several members. **Lori Rebers** thanked the folks who helped with the set up last meeting when she was in Chicago visiting her family. **Deb Newman** attended the John Paulet (LuAnn's husband) funeral. He was a member of the choir, and all the choir members added lovely music to the event. **Mike Helmick** was happy his surgery went well and was pleased that Amanda and her family are back from their trip to Switzerland.

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

Sept 7: **NO MEETING** - Enjoy the Labor Day Holiday

Sept 14: Monday **"Giving Voice Chorus"** Guest: Eyleen Braaten

Sept 21: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel

Sept 28: Monday **"Dustin Delfs and Friend - Special Olympics"**

Oct 5: Monday **"Mock Job Interviews at Normandale Community College"**

Mark your calendar - sign up...all Rotarians are needed! Community Service

Oct 12: Monday **"Italian Chef Antonio Cecconi"**

Oct 19: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** 5:00 PM Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel

Oct 26: Monday **"Business Ethics"** Guest: Martha Wellans **Rotary Rush Day - Invite a Guest who would make a great Rotarian. Send your guest name to Mike Helmick.**

jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events

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

Sept 23: Wednesday **"Rotary Community Forum"** Minneapolis Club 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Register at this link: <https://colrc.org/events/resilience-in-our-uncertain-times-community-forum/>

Oct 5: Monday **"Mock Job Interviews at Normandale Community College"**

Mark your calendar - sign up...all Rotarians are needed! Community Service

Oct 12: 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 AM

Register: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50084/events/world-s-largest-polio-walk-in-district-5950-at-moa>

Oct 26: Monday **"Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation Board of Directors Meeting"** 11:00 AM Hilton

Nov 9: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM

Nov 10: Tuesday **"Veterans Day Luncheon"** 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

April 23, 2027: **"District Conference, McNamara Alumni Center"**

May 27, 2027: **"Road Trip to Evanston, RI Offices and Paul Harris House"**

June 26 - 30, 2027: **"Barcelona: Rotary International Convention"**

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

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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"

Thank You Notes: We are receiving Thank You Notes relating to the many scholarships and Charitable Partner Grants that we sponsored last year. Here are just a few. Watch this space for more.

From Normandale student Naaida Ahmed for the \$1,500 scholarship to the Academy of Math and Science.

From Kristin Berg at Hennepin Technical College for her \$1,000 scholarship.

From the Bloomington School District for \$1,000 in support of the Student Achievement Awards event.

From Bloomington Mutual Aid at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church for the \$5,000 in support of families in need.

2026-2027 Rotary Club Meeting Calendar

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

This is the listing of our remaining meetings for the 2026-2027 Rotary Year.

Keep this page with your calendar.

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