



R I B

Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon October 19, 2026

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

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:

Paul Niederberger

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, Abul Sharah

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20300
Bloomington, MN USA 55420

October 26 Preview: "Business Ethics" Guest: Martha Wellens

Martha Wellens has over 20 years of executive-level expertise in business planning, brand architecture, and strategic management. She specializes in guiding mature organizations through complex growth and transformation cycles.

Martha offers a concise workshop for building practical, value driven decision-making skills. The workshop is for professionals who want to strengthen ethical culture and lead with integrity.

She will discuss how ethics supports trust, accountability, and business performance. You will hear how to apply decision making frameworks to common workplace dilemmas. And, how to recognize risks tied to unethical behavior and weak organizational culture.

Martha's background includes experience as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker with Hennepin Healthcare and the Wilder Foundation where she gained insight into complex human systems and community stakeholder alignment. She is meaningfully engaged in the metro non-profit ecosystem as a long-term board member, organizational mentor and University of Minnesota Extension Volunteer Educator.

Join us for lunch over Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509290110?pwd=7zHeSv36PW74QQ70zhzG6XEsBBjkRE.1>

Meeting ID: 865 0929 0110 Passcode: 964634

email or text Debbie Belfry if you plan to sign in. She will open the link for you.
ddbelfry@gmail.com or 612-327-3488



November 2 Preview: "Mount Olivet Rolling Acres" Community Service, Noon to 1:30 PM 1603 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington

Don Stiles has set up a series of service opportunities for our club this Rotary year. On Monday, November 2nd, we will head to Mount Olivet Rolling Acres (MORA), a youth center at 1603 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431. Parking available in the St. Luke's church parking lot.

We will help decorate the outside of their home for the holidays by hanging lights and different decorations on the trees and pathway into the building. Rotarians who have volunteered are: **Mike Helmick, Don Stiles, Sara Tan, Dan Klement, Kurt Hagen, Eric Melbye, and Andrew Huss.**



Recent Meetings... Chef Antonio Cecconi, a Taste of Italy



On Monday, October 12th, it was a treat to meet Chef Antonio Cecconi and learn about Italian cuisine. Antonio came to the Midwest from Sardinia. He has been in the US since 1979. Antonio has worked with companies like Pillsbury and General Mills where he has helped to develop authentic Italian recipes. He is currently the Food Service Director at an Italian restaurant and winery, Villa Bellezza, in Pepin, Wisconsin. Villa Bellezza creates the feel of an Italian Piazza surrounded by the restaurant, the winery, a tasting room, and their fields of grape vines. Antonio also operates a corporate and home catering business in the Twin Cities. He loves teaching his Italian cooking classes in intimate settings, cooking stores, and at the Villa.

Antonio shared some of his philosophy on Italian cuisine. Sardinia is one of the blue zones of the world where people often live past 100 years of age. The foods they eat are simple using aromatic elements. It often includes sea food and locally grown ingredients. Few sauces are used. Antonio uses the basic recipes that he grew up with from his mother's kitchen. He augments them with naturally grown elements from the local area thus making each recipe slightly different depending on the elements available. 99% of Romano cheese comes from Sardinia. He mentioned unique ingredients like eggplant and fennel and cooking styles like boiled and au gratin and always with fresh ingredients.

Antonio noted that Italian cooks like to use durum wheat from North Dakota, fresh basil, and lightly browned garlic. Pasta is only a small part of a meal; 4 ounces is a normal serving along with a fresh vegetable. Conviviality is the reason for a meal, and a glass of wine is meant for spending time with others. Plus, meals include a small coffee and dessert.

Mike and **Karyn Arazi** had the opportunity to visit Villa Bellezza during the past week where they ran into Nancy and **Kurt Hagen** along with friends who were with them for the afternoon. The highlight of the meal was Antonio's home made baked lasagne and fresh beef barley soup finished off with dessert of tiramisu. It was a beautiful afternoon to walk around the piazza and enjoy the sun. Here are some photos of the piazza, restaurant, and wine tasting room.



Villa Bellezza Piazza, Antonio firing a pizza in the wood-fired oven, the Tasting Room, and a grapevine field. They grow 13 varieties of grapes in several fields in the area and make all of their own varieties of wine right there on site.

A Unique Meet and Greet on October 19th...

Our Meet and Greet was unique this month as we had an Induction of a new Rotarian during the gathering. **Debbie Belfry** officiated at the Induction of **Dario Bilardello** with the group gathered around him. **Mike Helmick** presented Dario with his pin and has been serving as his mentor. Our guests at the meeting were Joy Drummond, Leslie Stiles, Betsy Lee, Mike Arazi, and Ann Spencer. **Jim Waldvogel** stopped by toward the end and announced that his retirement was set in stone now as he just had his retirement party. He will be bringing his replacement to our next Monday meeting to introduce him to the club. Best wishes, Jim, in whatever you choose to do going forward.



October Birthdays

01 Larry Lee
17 Jim Casserly
19 Mary Kurth

October Anniversaries

13 Deb Newman 18 yrs
16 Don Stiles 25 yrs
30 Adam Johnston 25 yrs

Greeters

Oct 26: Jane Fenton
Nov 9: Warsan Artan

Invocation/Pledge

Oct 26: Diann Kirby
Nov 9: Mike Helmick

Recent Program Recordings...

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/Db7QVCQggjs>

09/14/2026 – "Giving Voice" to
Dementia Patients -
https://youtu.be/6J_y4tOcljo

09/28/2026 – "Dustin Delfs -
Special Olympics" -
https://youtu.be/J78mhK_qbX4

10/12/2026 – "Chef Antonio
Cecconi" -
https://youtu.be/n_kidTrWNrY

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

Rotarian Jason Daly, Plymouth Rotary, Club President, Representing their Fundraiser

Rotarian David Yaki, E-Club of Esperanto - Brasil

Sherry Wells, E-Club of Esperanto - Brasil

Nancy Hagen, Spouse of Past President Kurt Hagen

Jeff Knight, Guest of Valeria Camboni Miller, Knights Software, Software Developer,

David Peterson, Guest of Paul Niederberger, Attorney, Former Rotarian, Application Pending for Membership



Announcements

Register NOW...Tuesday, November 10th will be the **Annual Veterans Luncheon RSVP through Club Runner**
See page 5 RIB for additional information.

Deb Newman will **Chair Fundraising**. Deb is looking for **volunteers to help with our Trivia Night** fundraiser in January for the Middle School Sports Campaign. Let her know how you might be able to assist.

The Board of Directors approved two new members to our club. **Martha Wellens** and **Manda Herzing** have both visited with us recently and will be inducted in the near future.

WALK to END POLIO this weekend with your Rotary friends. You can walk on your own or join the group at the Mall of America on October 24th. Registration is open. Register your personal walk to be included in the total or Register for MOA...Fee \$25 for ticket and t-shirt. At Mall of America. 7:30 to 9:30 AM. Questions to **Debbie Belfry** ddbelfrv@gmail.com.

Register:

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



Happy Bucks

Don Stiles led off celebrating the changing weather, leaves falling and the anticipation of the coming holidays. **Eldon Spencer's** granddaughter performed in "Singers of a New Age". Also, his 50th High School reunion was this past weekend. **Pakou Yang** was happy to be inducted today. **Debbie Belfry** celebrated our new and potentially new members, **Pakou Yang** and **David Peterson**. **Karen Nordstrom** attended the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra's concert at St. Michael's Lutheran Church yesterday celebrating American music. She also mentioned seeing *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* at Artistry. Fantastic performances that make you feel you are seeing the comics come alive!

Guest **David Yaki** honored his wife whom he met twenty years ago and married three years ago. **Lee Mosher** will spend four weeks in Mexico. **Andrew Huss** challenged everyone to match his \$100 donation to Middle School Sports. He noted that everyone encounters pain in their life. He is challenging himself to accept everyone on that basis. **Deb Newman** is heading to Louisiana to find and visit with her ancestors. After significant research she found two lost sisters of her mother, Hazel.

Rotary Fellowships, you can join one, too!

Sherry Wells and **David Yaki** introduced us to Rotary Fellowships. These are groups of Rotarians who have a unique interest in a specific subject and want to explore that interest with other likeminded Rotarians. Sherry and David are members of the Esperanto Fellowship. Rotary Fellowships began informally in 1928 when Rotarians with a shared interest in the language Esperanto joined together.

There are 120 different Fellowships over 149 countries. Total membership all together is greater than 80,100. Membership is open to any interested individual, including Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors. Fellowships provide opportunities to collaborate on projects, attend global meetups, participate in webinars, and co-create service initiatives, fostering friendships and professional connections beyond local club meetings. You can join a fellowship by contacting the group directly or exploring their website and/or social media channels. **Check out Rotary International to find contact info.**

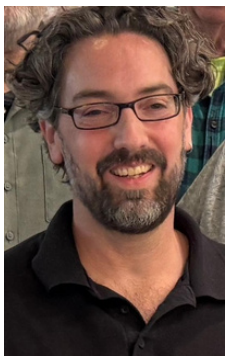
If you have a special interest, there is probably a fellowship with others that you could join.

New Rotarians Welcomed... Pakou Yang and Dario Bilardello



Pakou Yang joins us representing Normandale Community College as its new President. This is her first Rotary membership and she says, "It is an honor and a privilege to become a Rotarian, and she hopes to be a lifer!" Dr. Yang has a long history serving students at Minnesota State colleges and Universities both in the classroom and in leadership roles on campus and in the system office. She is the sixth person to hold the office of President of Normandale Community College and the first Hmong American college or university president in the United States.

Academically, Pakou holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, a master's from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and her doctorate from the university of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus.



Dario Bilardello holds another first for our club. He is the first Rotarian to be inducted at one of our alternate meetings. Dario has been anxious to join our Rotary for several months now but was unable due to his new job. He recently took a position in administration for the Metropolitan Council while he also builds up his financial advisor business with Thrivent.

Dario is a man of many interests. His education has centered on geology and geophysics. He is an author of many publications in this area most recently a newsletter, *Rock Paleo Magnetism*, which is read around the world. His favorite topics are tectonics, volcanology, climate and environmental change, and meteorites. Besides the scientific, another passion for Dario is dance, specifically the Argentine Tango. Dario lives in Bloomington with his wife, daughter and two dogs. He serves on the Bloomington Creative Placemaking Commission and really enjoys community service.

Save the date: "Trivia Night" - January 11, 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.

Monday, January 11, 2027 at Nine Mile Brewing, Ste 290

9555 James Avenue, Bloomington Register at this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/trivia-night-225>

\$200 for a four Person Team, PopCorn and Pizza and lots of fun!

Deadline for Bachman's Gift Card Fundraising! - November 1st

Orders for **Bachman's Gift Cards** for the upcoming Holiday season are now being taken:

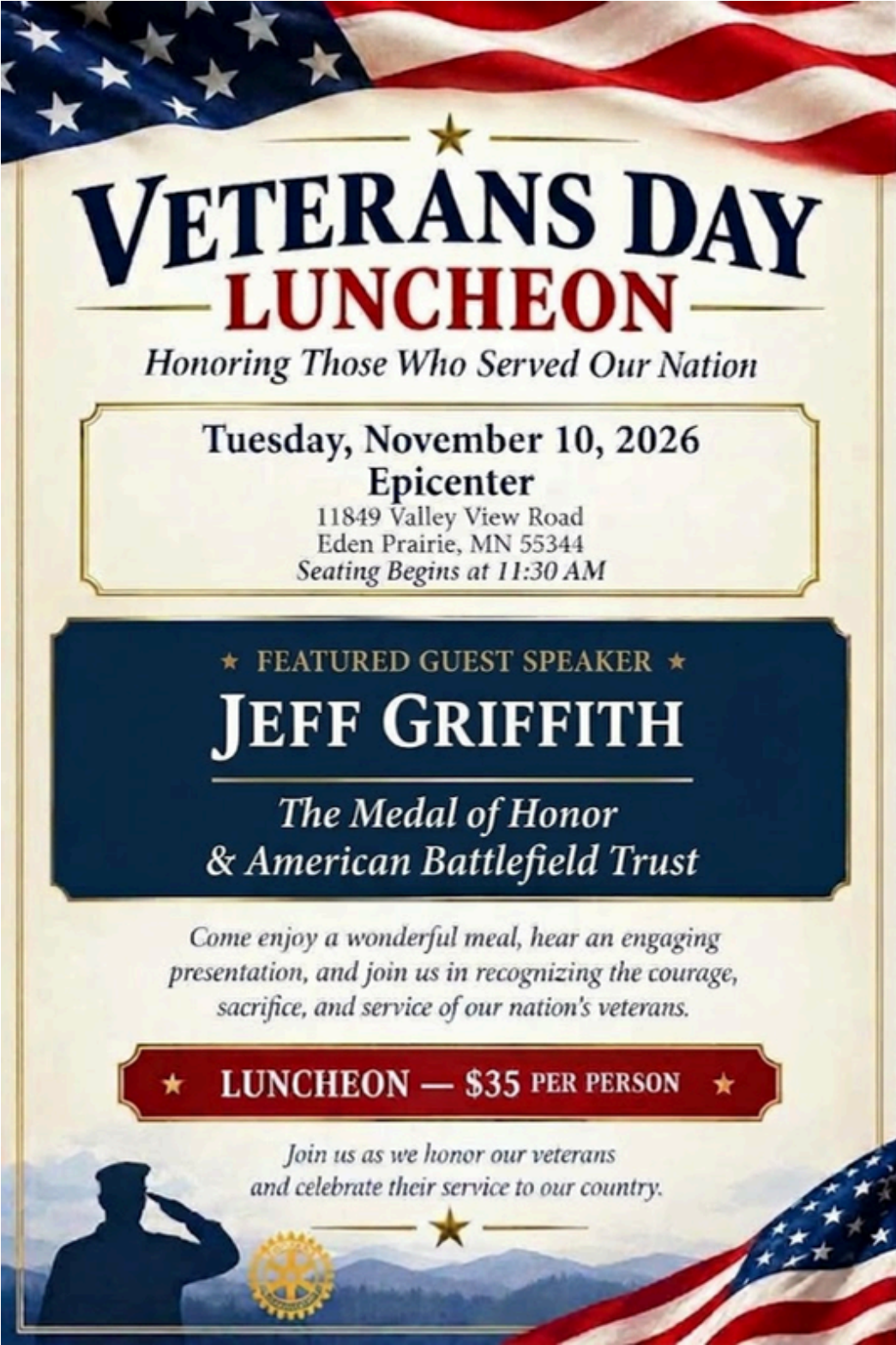
You can use the gift cards as gifts, or use them on yourself for you own holiday shopping needs. Bachman's Garden Center has everything from spruce tops, to birch branches, to wreaths, to garland, holiday lights and ornaments, poinsettias and holiday trees. As a reminder, we get **20% back** for our Rotary Club from all orders placed.

Laura Schultz is taking your orders. laura@lauraschultzlaw.com Gift cards can be ordered in any amount from \$5 to \$500 and as many as you wish to order. Place your order with Laura or email her the details and bring a check for your total order made out to **"Bloomington Rotary"** to any of the next meetings. Please put "Bachman's" in the subject line of the check. Just let Laura know how many and in what amounts. Orders must be placed by **November 1st, 2026**, in order to get the gift cards distributed before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Bachman's



Reserve your seat for the Veterans Day Luncheon through the email sent by Kathy Koehler on Club Runner.



**VETERANS DAY
LUNCHEON**

Honoring Those Who Served Our Nation

Tuesday, November 10, 2026
Epicenter
11849 Valley View Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Seating Begins at 11:30 AM

★ FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER ★
JEFF GRIFFITH
*The Medal of Honor
& American Battlefield Trust*

Come enjoy a wonderful meal, hear an engaging presentation, and join us in recognizing the courage, sacrifice, and service of our nation's veterans.

★ **LUNCHEON — \$35 PER PERSON** ★

*Join us as we honor our veterans
and celebrate their service to our country.*

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

- Oct 26: Monday **"Business Ethics"** Guest: Martha Wellens **Rotary Rush Day - Invite a Guest who would make a great Rotarian.** Send your guest name to Mike Helmick. jeanandmikehelmick@yahoo.com
- Nov 2: Monday **"Mount Olivet Rolling Acres"** Set up Christmas Decorations Noon to 1:30
- Nov 9: Monday **"Veterans's Treatment Court"** Assistant Scott County Attorney Mike Hayek
- Nov 16: Monday **"Meet and Greet"** Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel, 5:00 PM
- Nov 23: Monday **"Mental Health and Grief"** Guest: Dan Gasner
- Nov 30: Monday **"Loaves and Fishes"** Community Service 4:00 PM Christ the King Lutheran

Calendar of Events

- 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 Board Meeting Room
- Nov 2: Monday **"Mount Olivet Rolling Acres"** Set up Christmas Decorations Noon to 1:30
- Nov 9: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- Nov 10: Tuesday **"Veterans Day Luncheon"** 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Epicenter,
11849 Valley View Road, Eden Prairie, 55344
- Nov 10: Tuesday **"District Art Pop Up"** 5:00 to 7:00 PM, at Robbin Gallery, Robbinsdale
- Nov 30: Monday **"Loaves and Fishes"** Community Service, 4:00 PM Christ the King Lutheran Church
- Dec 7: Monday **"Make a Wish"** Assemble Wish Kits, Noon - 1:30
- Dec 14: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- Jan 4, 2027: Monday **"Bloomington Elementary School Lunch Program Assistance"**
- Jan 11, 2027: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- Jan 11, 2027: Monday **"Trivia Night"** for Middle School Sports at Nine Mile Brewing
Register at this link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/trivia-night-225>
\$200 for a four Person Team, PopCorn and Pizza and lots of fun!
- Jan 23, 2027: Saturday **"Rotary Education at the District 5950 Mid-Term Assembly"**
Plymouth Community Center - [Save the Date](#)
- Feb 1, 2027: Monday **"Mount Olivet Rolling Acres"** Take Down Holiday Decorations
- Feb 8, 2027: Monday **"Club Board of Directors Meeting"** Hilton Board Room, 11:00 AM
- April 23, 2027: **"District Conference, McNamara Alumni Center"**
- May 1, 2027: **"Club Assembly for Incoming Club Leaders"** [Save the Date](#)
- May 27, 2027: **"Road Trip to Evanston, RI Offices and Paul Harris House"**
- June 26 - 30, 2027: **"Barcelona: Rotary International Convention"**

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"

Middle School Sports...2026-2027

Are you thinking about your RMD for 2026. You can donate to the Rotary Foundation for Middle School Sports by having a check issued to **Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation, Tax ID 41-1649217, and mailing it to P.O.Box 20300, Bloomington, MN 55420-0300.**

You may also donate individually through Zeffy, see QR code. This is our Club's ongoing 2026-2027 fundraiser.



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.

*Recognition of our collaboration with Chanhassen Rotary for the \$500 to provide two updated classrooms in South Africa.
From Bloomington Public Schools for the donation of \$2,195 to the District Learning Support Services program for the purchase of school supplies for students in need.
From Oasis for Youth for the grant of \$3,000 to help provide resources and pathways to stability for young people in the community.
From Issaac Bolden, a Hennepin Technical College student, for the \$1,000 scholarship to assist with his education.*

2026-2027 Bloomington Rotary Club Meeting Calendar

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

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