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Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon October 5, 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:

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

kkoeher53@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

October 12 Preview: "Chef Antonio Cecconi" Restaurateur Specializing in Italian Cuisine

After six years with Pillsbury, Antonio Cecconi launched his first restaurant, *Bravo!*, establishing a firm reputation in the Minneapolis food scene. By introducing authentic Italian cuisine with Bravo!, he received widespread acclaim in local media reviews, followed by numerous consulting engagements, both locally and on a national level. The Darden Restaurant Group (the parent company of the Olive Garden restaurant chain), Carlson Companies, Brinker International, and other major companies relied on his creative expertise. Antonio's major achievement has been to author the Betty Crocker Italian Cookbook series



Antonio, known as the Italian Gourmet, was born in Sardinia learning Italian cuisine in his mothers kitchen. He brings nearly 4 decades of experience to the table. He has developed concepts and ideas pertaining to Italian foods and regional specialties of Italy, written recipes, and consulted with the food industry on Italian food trends and changes. Today he operates a home catering business locally. He loves to teach cooking classes in schools, at private cooking parties, in cooking stores, and since 2017, at Villa Bellezza as their Food Service Director.

Join us for lunch over Zoom [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509290110?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509290110?pwd=7zHeSv36PW74QQ70zhzG6XEsBBjkRE.1)

[pwd=7zHeSv36PW74QQ70zhzG6XEsBBjkRE.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86509290110?pwd=7zHeSv36PW74QQ70zhzG6XEsBBjkRE.1)
Meeting ID: 865 0929 0110 Passcode: 964634

October 19 Preview: "Meet and Greet" Hilton Olive Lounge Join us at 5:00 PM

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. Spouses are always invited to join at these meetings. We encourage other guests as well.

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 evening out. You do not need to order anything if you prefer. The company is great and you always learn something new about your Rotary friends!



Recent Meetings... Olympian Dustin Delfs and the Special Olympics



On Monday, September 28th, we were joined by an impressive young man, Dustin Delfs, who has the elite distinction of being an Olympic medalist. Dustin joined us with his coach, Ashley Lawson. Dustin is a Global Ambassador for Special Olympics and has traveled around the world speaking about Special Olympics. He is married and works as a server at Founders Ridge here in Bloomington during the year. Several of his followers at Founders Ridge were guests at our meeting supporting Dustin.

Dustin plays sports all year around. He plays defense in basketball and quarterback in football. He also plays golf and flag football. His medal this year was in basketball where his team took the Bronze medal. His Basketball team,

the Minneapolis Eagles, has been together for many years and feels like family. All teams are unified teams where they play a 5 on 5 game with three special athletes and two partners. They played five games total over a three day period and took the Bronze medal.

Special Olympics are held all over the world with Minneapolis being the location of the 2026 USA games. Olympians are treated to many special perks as part of the games. They receive free health screenings, with shoes, eyeglasses and hearing aids being distributed to those who need them. In advance of the games, the team was able to visit the Timberwolves practice facility. Dustin shared that he was surprised at how far a three-point basket was in NBA play. Plus, there was lots of swag, his favorite, the tennis shoes. Dustin really enjoyed meeting people from all over the United States. His friend, John, had the privilege of lighting the Olympic Cauldron after the ceremonial coast to coast torch run (10,000 miles). There were special entertainers and a chance to meet well known professional athletes from different sports.



In the US Games for 2026, there were 16 sports with Pickleball and Cornhole being two new sports. More than 3,000 athletes from 52 delegations participating in 163 competitions came together. They awarded 4,200 medals. There were 20,000 tickets for the opening ceremony with media coverage on ESPN, Disney, and ABC. 16 Unified teams represented Minnesota. Dustin said, "It was nice to see people from all over the US come together for one reason, Inclusion."

To donate: <https://support.specialolympics.org>

Top photo courtesy: Becky Amble

September 21st: "Mock Job Interview - Normandale Community College"

A great group of Rotarians participated in Normandale College's Mock Job Interviews. There were many positive comments from the students who all indicated they picked up some good pointers. Normandale provided an excellent workshop in advance of the interviews so the students received additional pointers before they practiced with the Rotarians. Many of the students took advantage of multiple rounds of interviews, so they realized the value of practicing their skills with Rotarians. Even the interviewers had fun and were able to provide good feedback to the students.

Thank you to all the Rotarians who participated: **Jane Fenton, Don Stiles, Valeria Camboni Miller, Andrew Huss, David Drummond, Paul Niederberger, Bob Erickson, Debbie Belfry, Sara Tan, Eric Melbye, Dave Senness, Jim Casserly, Jean and Mike Helmick, Lee Mosher, Eldon Spencer, and Mary Kurth.** And, thank you to Beena Cook and Megan Shakow of Normandale who organized the interview workshop and the interview assignments. All went very smoothly and students' skills grew!



Photos courtesy: Don Stiles and Jane Fenton



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 12: Warsan Artan
Oct 26: Jane Fenton
Nov 9: Warsan Artan

Invocation/Pledge

Oct 12: David Senness
Oct 26: Diann Kirby
Nov 9: Mike Helmick

Recent Program Recordings...

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/ReiHQA0xHl>

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

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 Steven Olson, Eden Prairie Noon, Clergy

Ashley Lawson, Guest of our Speaker, Special Olympics Coach

Jeff Smith, Guest of Paul Niederberger, Hopkins, Former Rotarian, Presbyterian Homes Foundation

Jen Blodahl, Guest of Paul Niederberger, Founders Ridge Campus Executive Director

Pakou Yang, Guest of Jane Fenton, President, Normandale Community College, Board Approved her membership

David Peterson, Guest of Paul Niederberger, Attorney, Former Rotarian, thinking of joining

Erin Gonyea, Guest of Deb Newman, Working on planning for the TRIVIA NIGHT to support Middle School Sports



Announcements

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

Paul Niederberger has volunteered to serve as **Treasurer** for our Club, and 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.

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 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



Register:

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

Eric Melbye informed our club about the upcoming **Constitutional Amendment** that will be on the ballot in November. The Minnesota Permanent School Fund has grown into the billions and distributes from 2 to 2.5% annually to the schools on a per student basis. The Amendment would allow an increase to 4.5% and it is felt that the increase will allow the fund to remain stable into the future. It is important that you cast your vote. **Any vote left blank counts as a NO vote. Please VOTE.**

Happy Bucks

Valeria Camboni Miller is taking a SWING Dance Class. She is having a lot of fun. She also attended a Barbershop Quartet concert. **Don Stiles**, **Dave Drummond**, and **Sara Tan** enjoyed a special Bloomington Symphony Orchestra Prelude Concert over the weekend held in a private home. **Jim Casserly** was finally able to register for Barcelona! He is not a tech person, and it was very technical to register! Guest **Steve Smith** was happy to have finished his carpeting in his home. **Andrew Huss** participated in a golf event for First Responders, plus walked in the Alzheimer's Walk. He is a sports fan, and it was a great sports week!

Dave Drummond was happy to have his oldest son home visiting even though it was only for the day! **Paul Niederberger** was happy to welcome his three guests today. He also thanked **Kurt Hagen** for arranging for **all the coins in the fountains at Mall of American during the Fourth Quarter of this year to be donated to the Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation to benefit Middle School Sports**. **Jane Fenton** registered for Barcelona, too!

Pakou Yang is happy to be joining Rotary. Plus her 14 year old son made the B1 Hockey Team. Quite an achievement! **Becky Amble** has released her 18th book. It is titled *Customer Gold* and is about how to get the best out of your Customer Advisory Board. She is also trying to get registered for Barcelona. **Sara Tan's** 9th Grade son attended Homecoming. It was quite nice to see him and his friends all dressed up in suits and ties. Guest Erin Gagne shared that her son was in school in Austria right now.



Are you thinking of Barcelona in 2027. Register now! <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us>

Bloomington Noon "Rotary Rush" Featured in the District Newsletter...



Debbie Belfry was a Guest Editor in the District 5950 Newsletter this week. She is part of the District 5950 Membership Committee and highlighted our effort to increase our membership. Here is Debbie's article:

The Bloomington Noon Rotary Membership Committee created a membership event called Rotary Rush. Likely prospective members were invited by our members they do business with, know on a first name basis, are recognized as leaders in their organizations or are representative of the community. Fourteen guests have attended our two Rotary Rush meetings.

This meeting is in a traditional meeting format, but with an emphasis on why and/or how Rotary can help members personally and professionally. The program for these meetings focuses on topics of local interest such as AI, development of small businesses in Bloomington and organizational ethics. The presenters are club members, to acquaint the guests with the caliber and knowledge of member Rotarians. The meeting is closed with a short but direct invitation from our members providing more information about Bloomington Noon Rotary.

Current members are crucial to our success in recruiting new members. We are able to show our pride in being Rotarians and in meeting needs in our communities and in our worldwide community, through Rotary.

Our club holds traditional meetings with speaker programs twice a month at noon. Once a month we do a hands-on service project, and once a month, we meet for our informal 5:00 meeting with Rotarians, family members, friends and prospective members. We continue to review the structure of our meetings in order to meet the needs of our members. We have Inducted 4 new members from Rotary Rush invitations and have 2 more applications in progress!

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

Make a note on your calendar today!

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



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 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

Nov 2: Monday **"Mount Olivet Rolling Acres"** Set up Christmas Decorations Noon to 1:30

Nov 9: Monday **"To Be Determined"**

Calendar of Events

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 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 1:00 PM

Nov 10: Tuesday **"District Art Pop Up"** 5:00 to 7:00 PM, at Robbin Gallery, Robbinsdale

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

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"**

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.



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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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 Mount Olivet Rolling Acres for the \$1,300 donation supporting their housing program for youth with special needs.

An interesting tidbit of information...in June, MORA had nearly 200 members of their community including individuals they support and their families, volunteers, donors, and staff come together to celebrate the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Special Olympics Games in Minnesota. Many of the people they support participate in these adapted sports. On November 2nd, we will again volunteer with MORA to help decorate their youth home here in Bloomington for the holidays. SIGN UP to help!

2026-2027 Bloomington Rotary Club Meeting Calendar

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