R I B Rotary in Bloomington

Bloomington Noon November 16, 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

November 23 Preview: "My Friends Call Me Gaz" Guest: Daniel Gasner



A business teacher at Bloomington Kennedy High School with three decades of experience, Daniel Gasner has written a memoir titled "My Friends Call Me Gaz," which details his life growing up in Rochester, MN, and surviving significant loss and heartache. He will share about his own mental health struggles, including panic attacks. And how, despite the challenges, he has learned to celebrate life and emphasize the importance of living fully in the present.

Dan Gasner was inspired to write his book "My Friends Call Me Gaz" as a way to provide perseverance and inspiration through the challenges and grief of life. His personal experiences with family turmoil, including his sister's murder and his brother's suicide, prompted him to reflect on how tough times didn't keep him down. He uses stories from his life to encourage especially men to share their hardships and keep moving forward.

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 30 Preview: "Loaves and Fishes" 3:50 PM

Community Service, Christ the King Lutheran, 8600 Fremont Ave., Bloomington



There will be NO noon meeting Monday, November 30.

We are heading off site for a community service project with Loaves & Fishes. Rotarians will head to Christ the King Lutheran Church on Monday, November 30th.

We are NOT cooking the meal. We will cater the meal through Affordable Best Catering with the food delivered to the church for our volunteers to pack into individual meals.

These individual meals will then be distributed to community members as they drive up or choose to eat in. Volunteer through your Club Runner invite from Kathy Koehler. Family and friends can volunteer, too.

Recent Meetings... Veteran's Treatment Courts - Guest: Michael Hayek



On Monday, November 9th, we heard from Michael Hayek, who is an Assistant Scott County Attorney and represents the County on behalf of the public in Veteran's Court. Veteran's Court is a voluntary system that a veteran with chemical or mental health issues may be referred to if they qualify rather than being adjudicated through the regular court system.

Veteran's court is a more strenuous court process with a multidisciplinary team and post-adjudication requirements with unique referrals for social service needs specific to the Veteran involved. Michael works with Scott County Vets. Additional counties in the First District are considering joining the First District Veteran's Treatment Court as well. Hennepin County started a Veteran's Court in 2010.

A team from the court system made up of people who will be involved with the rehabilitation of the Veteran will evaluate the Vet and, if successful, the Vet is also assigned a personal advocate who remains outside the team but is integral to the process. This team will work with the Veteran while the advocate provides the Vet a safe place to discuss issues as they work through the processes required. The whole process lasts between 14 and 24 months. It includes very intensive supervision and court hearings two times per month.

The type of offenses involved are usually domestic in nature or DWI. And, without specialized treatment the person is likely to repeat the offense...high risk and high need. The process requires a significant level of engagement by the Vet to be successful. There are a couple alternatives to Veteran's Court which were discussed quickly like traditional probation or the Veterans Restorative Justice Act. For more informatiion of questions: Mike Hayek, mhayek@co.scott.mn.us or 952-496-8240.

Veterans Honored at Rotary Veterans Day Luncheon













The Veterans Day Luncheon was excellent! Our speaker, Jeff Griffith, who specializes in storytelling, has created a very moving video that he shared about USA's Medal of Honor recipients. It was narrated by Britz Slowinski, President of the Medal of Honor Society.

The luncheon also featured an excellent lunch, the Eden Prairie High School Choir, Mary Brindle and the Brass Quintet, plus a slide show honoring our own Rotarian Veterans.

Rotarians and Guests Enjoyed our Meet and Greet on Monday, November 16.





Monday, November 16th was another record setting Meet and Greet. Spouses who joined us included: **Ann Spencer, Mary Molzahn** (Jim Casserly)**, Mike Arazi, Leslie Stiles, Joy Drummond, Bud Nordstrom, and Betsy Lee**. We truly enjoy the conversations around the table.







Please note that it was decided to NOT have a Meet and Greet on December 21 because of the Holiday Party which is taking place earlier in December on Monday, December 7.

November Birthdays
5 Paul Niederberger
12 Diann Kirby
13 Karyn Arazi
26 Kurt Hagen
26 Deb Newman
27 Nick Basil
28 Robert Erickson

November Anniversaries
5 Carolyn Pratt 24 yrs
15 Chris Guarnera 16Yrs
22 Mahendra Nath 38 yrs
30 Bill Peterson 11 yrs

Greeters
Nov 23: Mike Helmick
Dec 14: Jane Fenton

Invocation/Pledge
Nov 23: Dan Klement
Dec 14: Mary Allenburg

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_y4tOcIjo

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

This week we honor these Bloomington Rotarians who are Veterans ...

Bob Erickson - Army
Jim Mortenson - Army Reserve
Paul Niederberger - Navy
Dave Senness - Navy
Eldon Spencer - Army
Terry Stirewalt - Army and US Coast Guard



Announcements

Deb Newman is looking for **Silent Auction Items and Sponsors for our Trivia Night** in January for the Middle School Sports Campaign. If you can suggest a business that might be a sponsor, she will call on them, just give her the contact.

Please sign up for our upcoming January 4th Service project...Assisting with the lunch program at our Bloomington Elementary Schools. If you have not done this service project before, there is a quick background information form and background check that needs to be completed. **Sign up needs to happen in NOVEMBER** so there is time to complete the background check.
Questions to: **Don Stiles or Angela Wandera** stiles.don@gmail.com or angelawandera@hotmail.com

Welcome to our Newest Rotarians...Manda Herzing and David Peterson



We welcomed **Manda Herzing** this week to Bloomington Noon. Manda has been familiar for many years with Rotary as the daughter of longtime **Rotarian Mike Helmick**.

Manda's working career began as a meeting planner at MTV Networks in New York City, then moved into managing logistics for legal seminars for all District and County Attorneys throughout the state of Texas before moving ten years ago to Meritas, a global affiliation of independent law firms, where she works as the Meetings and Events Project Manager.

Manda moved several times with her family as she was growing up. Then, as an adult she continued her wanderlust before deciding to settle here in Burnsville right next door to her sister so their children could grow up knowing one another as cousins. Manda attended high school in Eden Prairie and college at St. Olaf.



Manda is a child of the arts, having performed extensively in her youth and singing in the St. Olaf Choir where she traveled to places like Australia and New Zealand. She enjoys supporting our local arts organizations and has joined a biweekly dance class. She likes challenging choreography; travel with her family; her cat; a crossword puzzle; and a good book. We are happy Manda has chosen to join us and look forward to getting to know her better.

The photo in the middle here is Manda and Dave with their sponsors. Manda with her father, **Mike Helmick;** Dave, with his friend, **Paul Niederberger.**



David Peterson is also familiar with Rotary as he was a member of the New Ulm Rotary from 1979 to 1989, where he served as their President. Dave grew up in Albert Lea, MN. He graduated from Macalester College and William Mitchel Law School. He practiced law in New Ulm for 20 years then moved to the Twin Cities and practiced law here for another 15 years. He is now Retired.

Dave is a natural Rotarian and enjoys community service. He has worked for Bridging collecting household goods for needy families. He has served as a traveler's assistant at the MSP airport and served as a boat captain for the fishing charity on Lake Riley, "Let's Go Fishing".

In retirement, he has biked, golfed, and played pickleball. He has also been a part of the Edina Chorale for 35 years. In his spare time, he likes to attend the theater and other entertainment and cultural events. Dave is married and lives in Eden Prairie. It is a great pleasure to welcome Dave to our group.

Opportunity to Join a Hands-On Rotary Service Project in Guatemala



Josh Sprague, Edina Rotary, invited any interested Bloomington Rotarian to join Edina Rotarians in a **Service Trip to Guatemala**. The trip's main purpose is to assemble and distribute water purification kits to residents in a small community in Guatemala. Bloomington Rotary was a collaborator in the District Grant that purchased these purifiers.

The trip will include several side trips to explore and learn about Guatemala and many areas of interest as noted below. Up to 30 travelers can be included in the trip. Deadline to sign up is January 1, 2027. See below for cost.

For questions or to Register for the Service Trip contact **Josh Spargue** at joshsprague7@icloud.com or 612-501-0252.Following is basic info for the trip...

2027 Trip

- 30 Travelers (Deadline Jan 1, 2027)
- Friday, April 23 - Sunday, May 2 (Itinerary)
- $1700 + Airfare (Double), +$425 (Single)
- Guatemala City, Coban, Botopo del Quetzal, Semuc Champey, Antigua & Escuintla
- Service Scope: $29,000 (654 units)
- 654 Households, or 6,540 People Served
- Village Clusters: Yikiche-Canau, Cantoloc, Santa Valeria (Northern Alta Verapaz)
- Includes Mobile Medical Clinic!

City will Award Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award to Bloomington Mutual Aid

It was recently announced that the City of Bloomington is awarding the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award to Bloomington Mutual Aid (BMA) this fall. The Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award is presented annually by the City of Bloomington's Human Rights Commission to individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to advancing human rights and equal opportunities in Bloomington. BMA raised $860,000 to help families needing help covering rent or mortgage commitments while not able to meet their obligations due to Operation Metro Surge. **Bloomington Noon Rotary** contributed $5,000 toward their work. It is an honor to have been a part of their work directly assisting members of our community.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing in Honor of Rotarian Lee Helms Saturday , December 5 , 11:00 AM - to 1:00 PM

Bloomington Noon Rotary has committed to two hours of Bell Ringing on Saturday, December 5th. We have divided the time into two sessions with two or three Rotarians each session ringing for One Hour. We will ring from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Sign up by emailing either **Karyn Arazi or Don Stiles**. We need up to four more volunteers.

11:00 AM to NOON **Don Stiles, Larry Lee, and** _____

NOON to 1:00 PM _____

_____

_____

Happy Bucks

Lori Rebers volunteers frequently and this past week was with Hope's Portage transitional Housing. **Mike Helmick** mentioned the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. **Debbie Belfry** reminded everyone that the City of Bloomington Veteran's Memorial will be dedicated this week. **Bloomington Noon Rotary** was an early donor to the project. **Deb Newman** was part of the Cystic Fibrosis fundraiser recently. She was very proud that they raised $1,100,000 at their recent gala. Bailey, Deb's granddaughter, has CF and is playing Hockey this year and scored her first goal!

Paul Niederberger welcomed our new members. He spent Halloween in California where he witnessed a Witches Parade which was "quite amazing". Paul also shared that in Bloomington the Constitutional Amendment passed with 82% of the vote. It passed Statewide also. **David Peterson** was grateful to be a new member and impressed at this club's energy. Ann and **Eldon Spencer** went to Ann's 50th Law School Reunion and on the way visited many sites from their youth. **Bob Erickson** thanked **Mike Helmick** for all the energy around our new members. **Don Stiles** remarked about the fun all had at Mount Olivet Rolling Acres decorating for the holidays. **Jim Casserly** reflected on the word "longevity". In a recent trip to Egypt, most of the sights they visited were 4000 years old. The US is 250 years old this year.

Trivia Night - January 11, 2027 to benefit Middle School Sports - Register Today

Monday, January 11th - 6:00-8:30pm.

Join us for a community Trivia Night
to support
Bloomington Public Middle School Sports Programs!

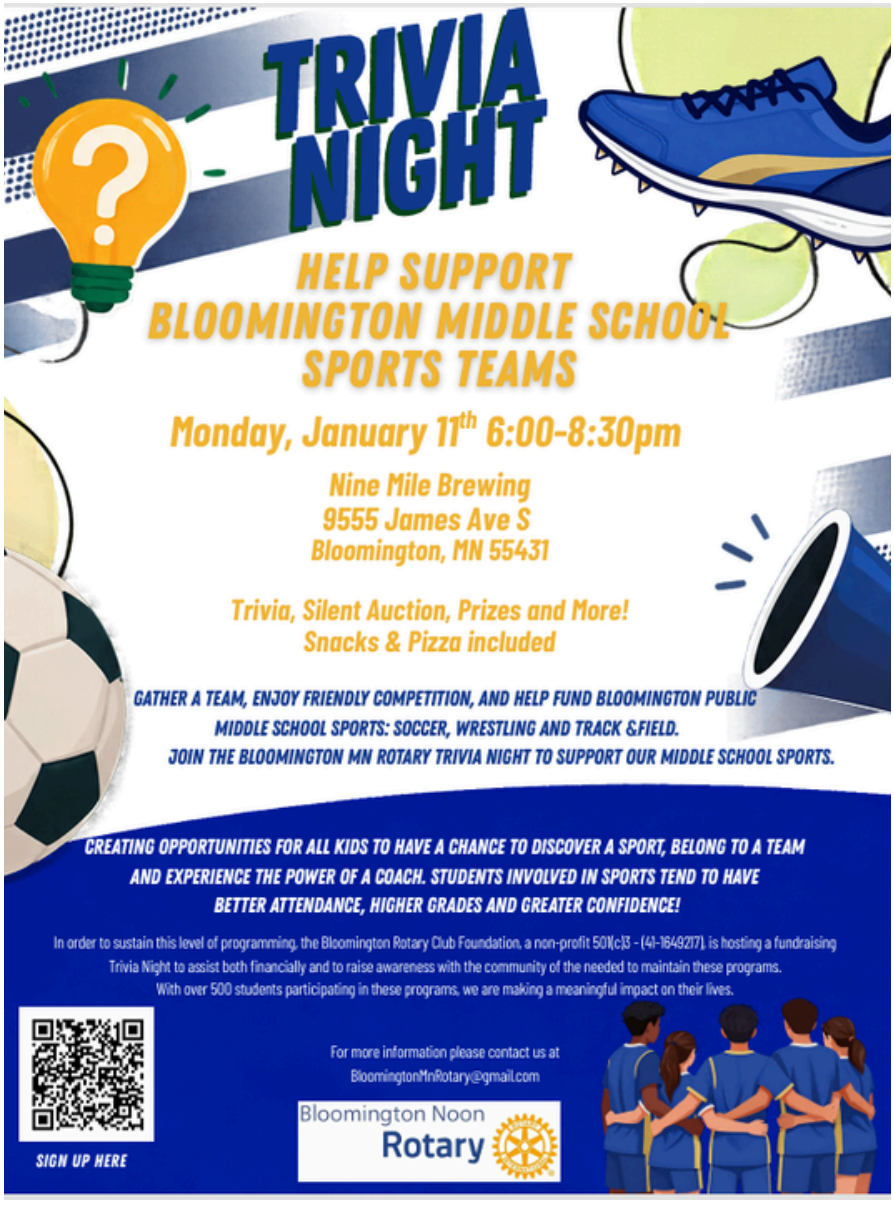
Bloomington Rotary Club Foundation is hosting this fundraiser to help raise funds to keep sports in our middle schools. Over the last 4 years Bloomington Rotary Club has funded Soccer, Wrestling and Track & Field to give our students a chance to play, grow, and thrive. There will be Trivia, Silent Auction/Raffles, Prizes and more!

Registration: https://www.zeffy.com/en-us/organizations/bloomington-rotary-club-foundation

OR To Donate:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/support-bloomington-middle-school-sports.

If you are interested in becoming an event sponsor, please contact us at bloomingtonmnrotary@gmail.com.

Copy / paste the above links to use them.



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

Nov 23: Monday **"Mental Health and Grief"** Guest: Dan Gasner
Nov 30: Monday **"Loaves and Fishes"** Community Service 3:45 PM Christ the King Lutheran
Dec 7: Monday **"Make a Wish - Assemble Winter Wish Kits"** Community Service
Dec 7: Monday **"Holiday Party"** Minnesota Valley Country Club, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Dec 14: Monday **"Barbershop Quartet"** Guest: Jeff Knight
~~Dec 21: Monday **"Meet and Gre**~~ **Cancelled** ~~Olive Lounge, Hilton Hotel~~ **Cancelled**
Dec 28: Monday **"NO MEETING"** Have a safe Holiday
Jan 4, 2027: Monday **"Bloomington Elementary School Lunch Program Assistance"**
Jan 11: Monday **"Bloomington 2050 Plan"** Guest: Dakota Kastenday, City of Bloomington
Plus **"My Camp Enterprise Experience"** Guest: Lila Zamora

Calendar of Events

Nov 30: Monday **"Loaves and Fishes"** Community Service 4:00 PM Christ the King Lutheran
Dec 5: Saturday "Salvation Army Bell Ringing" Loehmann's Plaza 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
RSVP to Don Stiles - stilesdon@gmail.com or Karyn Arazi - karynarazi@aol.com
Dec 7: Monday **"Make a Wish - Assemble Winter Wish Kits"**, Community Service
Noon to 1:30 at Bloomington Center for the Arts, Rehearsal Hall
Dec 7: Monday **"Holiday Party"** Minnesota Valley Country Club, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
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"**

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

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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:

Here are a few Thank You Notes relating to the many scholarships and Charitable Partner Grants that we sponsored last year each changing the life of someone in our community. Watch this space each issue for more.

From John Born, Oak Grove Middle School, for $1,500 as part of the Student Stipend funds Rotary donated to the Education Foundation of Bloomington which are providing wrestling sweatshirts and a bus for this year's wrestling tournament in Owatonna.
From Isaac Bolden, a student at Hennepin Technical College in the AAS Fluid Power Engineering program for the $1,000 Scholarship.
From Leon DeBoze-Blackmon, a Hennepin Technical College student in the AAS Cyber Defense program for the $1,000 Scholarship.
From Cornerestone for the $1,500 Grant supporting Cornerstone's Emergency Services Program helping survivors of Domestic Violence.

2026-2027 Bloomington Rotary Club Meeting Calendar

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