



## SEPTEMBER - Around the District - DG Glenn Bowers

In July and August, I visited 20 clubs for my Official Visits. Our clubs are quite varied in many factors, including club size, member growth (unfortunately, members decline in a few instances), project types, use of grant funds, and partnerships. However, all clubs are having a positive impact on the lives of people in their communities. I look forward to visiting the other 35 clubs over the next few months.

In the Rotary calendar, September is Basic Education and Literacy Month. Having a good ability to read is required to be successful in today's world. Without a good education, most doors are closed.

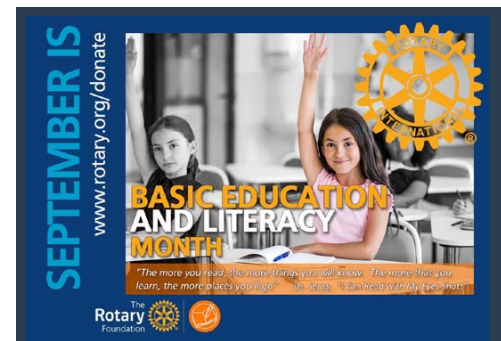
Many clubs have projects that address these needs. Some clubs still do a Dictionary Project. If not dictionaries, other types of books are given to young students. In some cases, these are the first books these children receive. In many communities, Rotarians give their time to help young readers improve their skills. Not all adults are proficient readers. There are clubs that work to help these people improve their abilities. If you presently have projects in this area, thank you. If your club does not, this would be a good time to plan a project.

Financial literacy is a needed skill for young adults. Many of them lack skills required to manage their finances and understand credit. A few clubs have programs to help these people. However, there are opportunities for more effort in this area.

Often, clubs support education by providing scholarships. Sometimes these are given to the best students in their community. Other times, scholarships are used to motivate and improve the education of struggling students, such as with the STRIVE program.

Then there are the international projects impacting education. Schools are built, dormitories constructed for teachers, clean water and restrooms provided, and books purchased for schools, to name a few efforts made by clubs in our District.

Whatever you are doing, thank you and keep up the great work. If you do not presently have projects in this area, consider what you might do to improve the lives of others.



## Events



**Welcome to Rotary**  
District 5960 - 2159 members

**RAY STURM**  
Prior Lake Rotary

**JODY THOMSON**  
August 2025  
Jody is retired from many careers including yoga and a restaurant business

**JEFFREY STUKEL**  
August 2025  
Jeffrey is a Trust Officer at Merchants Bank

**Welcome Mike Carr**

**Cumberland Rotary Impact Club**

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

# **Week #1 BELRAG September Webinar Series - September 1-6, 2025**

**Rotary BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY**  
Rotary Action Group and

**BELRAG Webinar Series Week #1 Schedule**  
September 1 - 6, 2025  
All times are Eastern Daylight Time (UTC -04:00)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 PM - DR. RANDALL DYCK EDUCATION QUALITY	2	3 9:00 AM - LADONNA WICKLUND, I CAN READ SONGS 9:00 PM - PETER TANNER EXPERIENCE RUNNING LARGE RACHEL PROJECTS	4 9:00 AM - BOB KONCERAK BEL DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION CENTER	5 9:00 AM - VASANTHI RANGANATHAN, GLOBAL GRANTS - TEACHER TRAINING	6

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81754713798?pwd=gyB7Tnb2ObgHbWm8mscvx15PRBedHN.1>  
(please copy and paste into your browser)

In celebration of Basic Education and Literacy Month, BEL is excited to present their second September **Webinar Series** promoting **BEL Around the World**. We invite you to attend these daily webinars highlighting impactful and inspiring BEL projects. We aim to raise awareness about BEL initiatives and inspire you to support or replicate these beneficial projects for children and adults. **Please share this email** with your fellow Rotarians and network, and help us raise awareness about BEL initiatives.

Webinars will be presented almost daily at 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (UTC -04h). Each webinar is only 30 minutes. Below is the schedule for Week 1, September 1-6. Each Friday in September, the following week's schedule will be posted on our website and emailed.

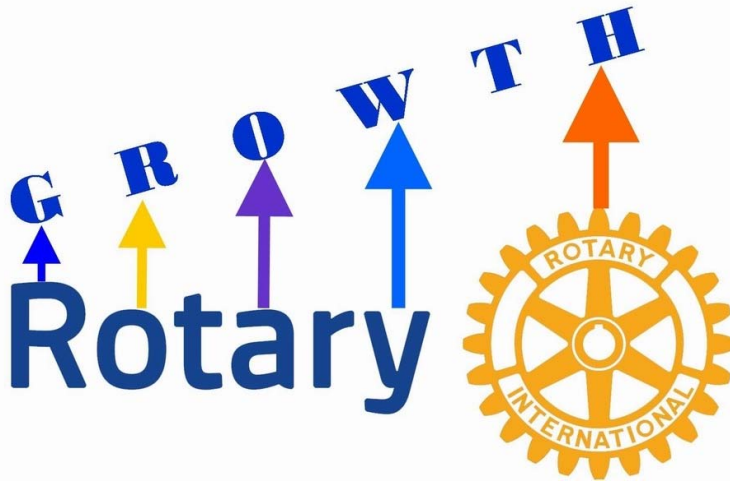
The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81754713798?pwd=gyB7Tnb2ObgHbWm8mscvx15PRBedHN.1>. No registration is required to join the webinar.

You can find more information about each webinar [here](#).

**There are still dates available** if you want to share your club or district's BEL

project. Click [here](#) to register.

## Zone 25B and 29 Monthly Membership Webinar



**WHEN:** 3rd Tuesday of Each Month @6pm – 7:00pm CST

**ZOOM** Registration Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R7QD2z8\\_Qm2pUol5X9MJ1w?amp\\_device\\_id=afbc9908-1e42-4170-90b9-e2a948725a67](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R7QD2z8_Qm2pUol5X9MJ1w?amp_device_id=afbc9908-1e42-4170-90b9-e2a948725a67)

**How Membership Fosters Basic Club Education:** Discover how joining a club is more than a transaction—it's a transformative journey into learning, leadership, and lasting community. We'll walk through how new members are supported from day one, with mentorship, resources, and a clear path to participation. When members are informed and inspired, clubs thrive. This session highlights how education elevates engagement and fuels future success.

## Rotary Membership Leads!

# MEMBERSHIP LEADS REDESIGN

What is changing?  
Why?



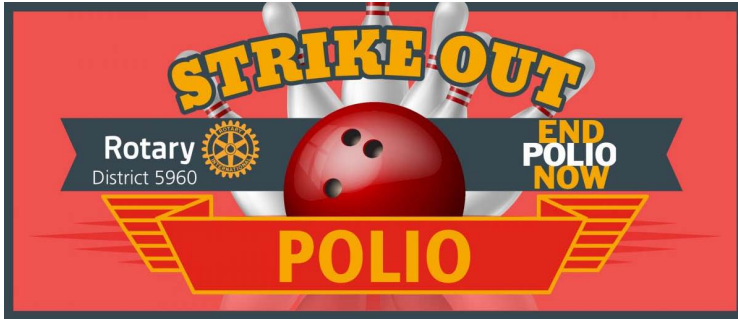
Rotary International's Membership Leads Program is undergoing an exciting transformation.

**Current Process:** When prospective members express interest in Rotary through [rotary.org/join](https://rotary.org/join), Rotary International staff assign the inquiry to district leaders, who then pass it along to a local club.

**New Process:** Rotary is flipping the system. By partnering with Salesforce, a best-in-class technology solution, the new Membership Leads Management System will allow prospective members to take the lead. When someone shows interest in joining Rotary, they will be able to view available clubs, learn about meeting schedules, and select the club that best fits their interests and lifestyle.

[Read More](#)

## Strike Out Polio



We are once again promoting our **STRIKE OUT POLIO** campaign with recognition points matches and Polio Plus Society opportunities!

**WHAT:** District-wide LOCAL events that clubs and Individuals can participate in and engage the public, friends and family to make donations to PolioPlus. Clubs are encouraged to get together and bowl at their local bowling alleys OR simply donate if bowling isn't feasible.

**WHEN:** Anytime between October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31st, 2025.

**WHERE:** ANYWHERE you want! Support your local establishment, plug in the Wii at home, or skip the bowling all together. There is no wrong way to STRIKE OUT POLIO.

End Polio Now [Link:](#)

[Read More](#)

## North Star Youth Exchange





*Photo of Northfield Inbound YE for 2025-26*

*Hani Biruk Tsegaye of Ethiopia, Oskar Von Wrede of Germany, Jessinia Lin of Taiwan, Claudiu Patascru of Romania, and Toivu Ratulpalo of Finland*

### August 2025 North Star Youth Exchange Newsletter

We are excited to share that about half of our inbound Youth Exchange students are now in the country and settling in with their host families. A few students will be arriving later than usual this year due to delays in visa interviews, with some arriving after the start of the school year. Clubs and host families are encouraged to stay in touch with students still waiting to travel, as a simple message of support can help ease their anxiety about starting school late.

At the same time, now is the season to begin recruiting for outbound students for the **2026–27 Rotary Youth Exchange**. Applications are due by **November 15, 2025**. [Link](#). This life-changing program gives students the opportunity to live and study abroad, experience new cultures, and develop leadership skills that last a lifetime. Clubs are encouraged to share the opportunity with local high schools, families, and community groups.

Together, both inbound and outbound exchanges are at the heart of Rotary's mission to build international understanding, goodwill, and peace.



*Roseville Inbound Youth Exchange **Phiona Arinaitwe, Uganda** [Read More](#)*

## **Signature Project - Rochester Risers**

## My Book Day - Delivery Day Rochester Risers



### More Than Literacy

The Rochester Risers also view *My Book Day* as an opportunity to build community awareness of Rotary, thank guest speakers, and inspire future members. By blending literacy, wellness, and service, the club continues to demonstrate the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

[Read More](#)

## Making Sense of AI: Risks, Rewards and Responsible Use



PRESENTED BY THE ROTARY CLUBS  
OF ROSEVILLE, CITY OF LAKES  
AND ST. PAUL

### JOIN US

**Tuesday, September 16**

**5:30 - 7:00 pm** (includes light supper)

BONUS/OPTIONAL AI WORKSHOP STARTS AT 4:15 PM

**Base Camp at Fort Snelling  
(near airport) or via Zoom**

### REGISTRATION LINK:

Join the Rotary Clubs of Roseville, City of Lakes, and St. Paul for our 19th Annual Community Forum! This year's topic is "Making Sense of AI: Risks, Rewards, and Responsible Use." Discover the true potential of AI with insights from our

expert panel, including Dr. Jeff Ondich, Dr. Nicholas Kremer, Dr. Marcella de la Torre, and Dr. Blake Howald.

Get your in-person ticket for just \$30 by **September 12** to enjoy networking and sandwiches! Can't make it in person? Virtual tickets are only \$15. Register today as all are welcome! [LINK](#)

## An Evening with Lech Walesa

**September 30, 2025**

The lectures will start at **6:00 PM**. The doors will open at **4:00 PM**. It is recommended to arrive at the venue during the opening time.

Tickets start at \$99

Click Here for more information: [LINK](#)

*Copied from RI Monthly Newsletter*

**THE GREATEST CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME**  
THROUGH THE EYES OF THE GLOBAL HERO WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY

**HISTORIC EVENT**

**AN EVENING WITH PRESIDENT**  
**LECH WALESA**  
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF POLAND

**USA & CANADA GRAND LECTURE TOUR | AUGUST 31 – OCTOBER 30, 2025**

**“We, the people,**  
live in challenging times and face a turning point in history. On this lecture tour, I will reflect on our past, confront our present and offer ideas for a better future. Join me for this historic conversation. Together, we can create the change we need.”

**Lech Walesa**

Meet the man who defended freedom and became one of the world's greatest leaders. His courage and vision inspired millions to believe that a better world is possible.

Now, Lech Walesa, the living legend who defeated communism and pushed the world toward democracy, will take you behind the scenes of one of history's greatest turning points – and into the future we must build together.

**Aug 31** Los Angeles, CA  
**Sep 2** Phoenix, AZ  
**Sep 4** San Diego, CA  
**Sep 6** Oakland, CA  
**Sep 8** Seattle, WA  
**Sep 12** Denver, CO  
**Sep 14** Houston, TX  
**Sep 18** Austin, TX  
**Sep 20** Dallas, TX  
**Sep 22** Atlanta, GA  
**Sep 24** Columbus, OH  
**Sep 26** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Sep 27** Baltimore, MD  
**Sep 28** Cleveland, OH  
**Sep 30** Minneapolis, MN  
**Oct 2** St. Louis, MO  
**Oct 4** Chicago, IL  
**Oct 5** Milwaukee, WI  
**Oct 9** Miami, FL  
**Oct 11** Orlando, FL  
**Oct 13** Boston, MA  
**Oct 15** Charlotte, NC  
**Oct 17** Philadelphia, PA  
**Oct 18** New York, NY  
**Oct 24** Montreal, QC  
**Oct 25** Toronto, ON  
**Oct 26** Detroit, MI  
**Oct 30** Vancouver, BC

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