

The
Rotary
Club of Naperville



Leadership Through
Community Service
Since 1941



THE WHEELHOUSE

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Naperville

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Keeping House

Catch Up on Our Meetings

Couldn't make a meeting? Here's what you missed. More like seconds than minutes!

Thursday November 3rd

At today's in person meeting at Meson Sabika, we heard updates from the Foundation Committee.

Thursday November 10th

RSVP Awards. See The Hub for more details

Thursday November 17th

At today's Zoom meeting we learned about the Ben Schumaker Memory Project.

Thursday November 24th

No meeting. Happy Thanksgiving.

Thursday December 1st

No meeting but see you all tonight (Monday the 5th) at our holiday party at Allegory in downtown Naperville.



Housework

Board Updates

Our committee members are always hard at work behind the scenes. Here's a glimpse at what some of them are currently doing.

Community Service

John Lansing has been hard at work organizing our merry band of bellringers for this year's Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. Once again we'll be collecting donations outside Casey's in Naper Plaza from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 10th. If you'd like to take part, [contact John](#) to see what slots are available. Alternatively come along and show your support to our team.

Gift Mart, the toy drive for needy children, also takes place on Saturday. Janet Derrick is [collecting donations](#) of \$50 to support this worthy cause.



International Service

This busy committee has several projects at the moment. Here are a few: The Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan is leading a global grant for a new dialysis center and our club is an international partner. They're also supporting Helping Babies Breathe, a non-profit which has a global grant led by the Rotary Clubs of Palm Harbor, Florida and Freetown, Sierra Leone. The organization trains birth attendants in infant resuscitation. Finally, our club is providing \$16,000 of a \$35,000 project providing mother's milk to babies in need in the Cancun area of Mexico.

Here's a look at what's coming up at our regular meetings.

Thursday December 8th

12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Regular meeting at Meson Sabika. Our speaker will be Roger Blomquist of Argonne Labs.

Thursday December 15th

12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. Regular meeting at Meson Sabika. Enjoy some seasonal entertainment with a musical group from school district 204.

Thursday December 22nd

No meeting. Merry Christmas!

Thursday December 29th

No meeting. Happy New Year!

Thursday January 5th

12.15 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Zoom meeting. Stay warm while our committees update us at our annual Club Assembly.



Looking for some good news? You're in the right place!

Saluting Our Veterans

In honor of Veterans Day, The Rotary Club of Naperville hosted our annual Rotary Salutes Veterans Program (RSVP) on November 10th. This year we honored Rick Bain, Astor Rodgers, and Ryan Suthard of the U.S. Army; Stacy Boyer of the U.S. Navy; and Ingrid Kanady of the U.S. Air Force. Thank you to Susan E. Wing of the [Quilts of Valor Foundation](#), Master of Ceremonies Dr. Benjamin White, Chaplain Bob Grember, and Mayor Steve Chirico for making this program so special.



Perfect Parade

We did it again! For the second year in a row the Rotary Club of Naperville brought joy to the hearts of thousands and valuable funds to those in need, as we hosted the city's Parade of Lights. For a club once described as "Naperville's best kept secret," the event has also made sure everyone knows who we are.

With Police Chief Jason Arres and Fire Chief Mark Puknaitis as this year's grand marshals, funds raised supported local nonprofits in education, youth, food, housing, employment and mental health. Held on a perfect winter's evening the day after Thanksgiving, crowds were estimated between 6,000 and 7,000 people.

Thanks largely to the efforts of members Rich Tatara, Donna Malone and Laura Wrasman, the parade brought in \$37,000 which rose to \$74,000 thanks to a matching grant from Naperville Rotary Charities.

After the parade children had the opportunity to meet its star couple, Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Nichols Library. We're not saying who played the parts but note that Matt Doyle and Jacque Clermont were nowhere to be seen afterward.





Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army

John Lansing writes:

The Rotary Club of Naperville, once again, has an opportunity to serve the Salvation Army this December by ringing the bell as part of their funds drive. Last year we raised more than \$900! Our Club has committed to be part of this effort by ringing the bell at Casey's Foods on Gartner Rd. at Washington St. on Saturday, December 10th from 10AM to 6PM. We still need bell ringers for the afternoon shifts. We are now able to divide shifts in to one-hour spans.

Please step up to take part in this long-standing Christmas-time tradition and yearly, major fundraiser for The Salvation Army. Send me an email or call me, telling me how many people will be in your group. What a great opportunity to introduce young people to community service, so bring your children! I pass on to you the gratitude of the Salvation Army. They are very thankful for our help. Let's pray for good weather.

Contact John at john.lansing@sbcglobal.net or 630-886-5206

GiftMart

The Rotary Club of Naperville is once again partnering with the Giftmart program to provide Christmas gifts to 600 District 204 & 203 students. This program is a dignified way for families to create their own Christmas celebration because they purchase toys for their elementary school age children at \$2/toy. It also introduces the concept of philanthropy because the money they spend on the gifts is given back to their respective schools.

The event is on December 10 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm at Compass Church on 103rd Street. GiftMart is trying to raise \$75,000 to purchase 3,000 toys for District 204 students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

- The goal for Rotary Club of Naperville is to raise \$5,000
- The suggested donation is \$50
- Cash, checks (made out the RCNC with Giftmart in memo) or credit card via [this link](#).

In the House with Kacie Chitwood

Our membership chair is doing a great job! We sat down with Kacie (Kathleen) Chitwood to find out more about her, her background in volunteerism and her surprising romantic side.

When did you join Rotary and who sponsored you?

I joined Rotary in February of 2019. The late Dave Wentz was my sponsor. I miss him!

Why did you want to join?

As a Development Manager for The Alive Centers, my role is to help to connect with others who wish to put the future needs of our community's young people at the heart of the decisions we make today. This is in alignment with "service above self", a tenant of Rotary service that I admire greatly. I joined because I wanted to be in communion with likeminded people who believe in serving our community to secure a brighter future for us all.

How have you been involved?

I have served on the Youth Services Committee and am currently serving on the Board as Membership Chair.

What is your profession?

I am in non-profit fundraising for The Alive Teen Centers of Naperville, Aurora and Hanover Park.



Can you share any details about your family life?

I am a wife and mother of two children (daughter 20, and son 19). I was born and raised in Minnesota in a suburb of Minneapolis. Both of my parents were servant leaders in our own small community, participating in school volunteerism, Jaycees, Lions, League of Women Voters, local politics, and other community service initiatives. Being a servant leader was expected in my family. Giving back to one's community was essential to community pride, and I am grateful for their example.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I like cooking, reading, yoga, walks and lots of time with friends and family.

Tell us one thing members may be surprised to learn about you.

My husband and I decided to marry within 48 hours of meeting each other. We met in a bar in Mexico, fell madly in love, and were officially engaged two months later.

What do you enjoy most about Rotary?

The camaraderie with others who believe my favorite quote from Muhammad Ali: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your time here on earth."



Club historian John Knobloch remembers a former member who did not let serious health issues stop him from offering ‘Service Above Self’ to Rotary and other organizations around town.

Recently admitted members of the Rotary Club of Naperville may have heard the names of former members but not of their work as members of the Club. Veteran members may recall their former colleagues but specific memories may have faded. Today’s article continues a series that looks back at former members of the Club. Some served as president or in other leadership positions; others worked more quietly to make a difference, advancing the ideals of Rotary.

Rotarian Ron Van Marter has been gone from the Naperville community and the Rotary Club of Naperville for almost 25 years but during his time here, he made a real difference in the community.

Ron was a native of Syracuse, New York, and graduated from the hometown school, Syracuse University, with a degree in business administration. Ron married another Syracuse native, Dorothy “Dottie” Frost Van Marter, on June 23, 1960, shortly after she also graduated from Syracuse. The couple went on to have three children, settling in Naperville in 1977, where Ron served as president of Contemporary Insurance Associates, Inc.

In the community, Ron was active as the president (what is now known as the volunteer board chairman) of the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce in 1991 and served as a trustee of the Naperville Public Library. Ron and Dottie were both active in leadership positions at the Community United Methodist Church, where Ron was a trustee and a Stephen minister. Finally, and perhaps most importantly from our perspective, Ron was a member of our Club from April 1985 until his passing.

Ron suffered from several maladies in his later years and was the recipient of a heart transplant in 1996, which gave him another two years of life, but he ultimately succumbed to the ravages of hepatitis and diabetes on August 16, 1998. Gene Drendel, Club president at the time, remembered Ron and Dottie as great parents. Peg Price fondly remembered working with Ron when he was Chamber president and she was mayor, noting that he was a “kind gentleman with a great sense of humor and a deep faith that sustained him during difficult times.”

Hal Skripsky noted that “You always knew he had serious problems, but he did not dwell on them. He really was an amazing person.” Rob Scurr added, Ron was an all-around good friend and a great guy. He was very active in his church. As a Community Methodist usher, Ron checked on my elderly parents and always gave my mother-in-law a kiss on Sunday mornings. He was just a genuine good guy and he will be sorely missed.” Frank Novel, whom Ron sponsored into the Club in February of 1998, “Ron was the sort of guy who liked to help people. He was my Rotary sponsor, but was too ill to attend my installation. He helped me become a Rotarian as he helped so many other people in so many other ways.”

Ron was survived by his wife, Dottie, three children and two grandchildren. By the time of Dottie’s passing in 2015, the couple was survived by five grandchildren. Ron’s spirit of giving lives on in his family and in his fellow Rotarians and other community leaders, as well as and those who have followed in his footsteps.

The author acknowledges the work of *Nairator* editor Frank Allston for his profile of Ron that appeared in the *Nairator* in September of 1998, including the quotes from fellow members of the Club in 1998.

If any member has a suggestion for a story from the Club’s past, whether a particular individual, Club project or a memorable event, please email the author, [John Knobloch](mailto:John.Knobloch).

Rotary Celebrates

Birthdays

Roy Bynum	December 26
Kacie Chitwood	December 8
Jacque Clermont	December 17
Dave Della Terza	December 13
Dan Firks	December 6
Wendy Gross	December 24
John Knobloch	December 29
Scott Mitchell	December 10
Chuck Newman	December 11
Carl Shumann	December 6
Tom Turigliatto	December 17

Anniversaries

John Anderson	December 6, 2018
Brand Bobosky	December 1, 1983
Joe Brusseau	December 16, 2021
Michael Dalough	December 1, 2016
Kevin Dickson	December 1, 2011
Matt Doyle	December 14, 2017
Dan Firks	December 1, 2016
Alma Jones	December 11, 2019
Dan Leahy	December 16, 2021
Rachel Ossyra	December 29, 2010
Chris Phalon	December 16, 2021
Anne Soto	December 16, 2021
Marian Stricker	December 5, 2019



**We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Wheelhouse.
Look out in your inbox on January 9 for our next edition!**