

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!

September 1st

At our first in-person meeting of the month our guest speaker was the highly inspirational Anita Knotts, the founder of the Lotus Women's Institute.

September 8th

Today's guest was none other than Rotary District 6450's Governor, Ade Onayemi.

September 15th

Members heard all about the ICN SHIFA Medical Clinic at today's Zoom meeting.

September 22nd

The fourth Thursday of the month is Raise the Bar. At tonight's gathering Mike Calabrese organized plenty of fun, fellowship and food at Granite City. Proving it's never too early to get into the holiday spirit, Laura Wrasman modeled our new LED Christmas hat and scarf, the perfect outfit for our Parade of Lights.



Our committee members are always working tirelessly behind the scenes. Here's a peek at what they've been up to this month.

Membership

Congratulations to Kacie Chitwood and her team on presenting three new members to our club. Ross Berkley, Renee Boise and Rich Costabile should all be inducted on October 13th with a new member orientation on October 19th.

International Service

Our club has agreed to be the international club that will help the Rotary Club of Hyderabad Deccan secure a second dialysis center in their city.

Under the leadership of Brett Weiss, our club has been supporting high school scholarships for students in Dago, Kenya for the past two years. On September 7th, a Zoom fundraiser exceeded expectations and the committee believes it has raised around \$3,000.

Our club is helping to fund a grant that will shortly be submitted to the Rotary Foundation. Helping Babies Breathe is a global initiative under development by Charlotte Israel of the Rotary Clubs of Palm Harbor, Florida and Freetown, Sierra Leon. The program will teach birth attendants how to perform infant resuscitation.

Youth Service

Chair Maria Caselli is looking for two chaperones for Naperville Central High School's Interact Club when they volunteer at Feed My Starving Children on October 21st between 4.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. If you can help, contact her at macaselli@noctrl.edu.

Programs

Co-Chairs Janet Derrick and Nancy Weisum have been hard at work putting together programs for the rest of the Rotary year. You'll always find what's coming up next month in the Wheelhouse, but a few highlights for next year include Nicki Anderson talking about Women's leadership and a special performance for Juneteenth.

Window View

What's Coming Up?

Here's what to look out for next month.

Thursday October 6th

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Regular Meeting at Meson Sabika
Mary Lou Wehrli will speak on Enjoying the DuPage River.

Thursday October 13th

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Regular Meeting at Meson Sabika
Rosemary Wisnewski is our guest speaker for Community Economic Development Month.

Thursday October 20th

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Zoom meeting
A talk from the Naperville Development Partnership

Thursday October 27th

5:30 p.m. Raise the Bar TBD



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

Medical Supplies for Ukraine

Thanks to everyone who helped us to support Rotary One by donating gently used orthopedic supplies for Ukraine. Although Rotary has already donated an ambulance and new supplies, they decided they could do more and our members agreed. For two in person meetings in September, members brought in knee, arm, neck braces and more, so thank you literally for your support!



Want to get involved? There's something for everyone between now and the end of the year.



Bernie's Book Bank

Do you have any children's books (birth to 6th grade) you no longer need? Bernie's Book Bank can take them off your hands! Once again we're helping out with this great book drive which this year will take place at the 95th Street Library on October 10th. Volunteers are also needed to help receive and sort books, and the good news is because the event is on Columbus Day, families are welcome to help out too. For more information contact [Molly Martin](#).

Veteran's Coat Drive

We're still collecting gently used coats for veterans until October 24th. Help meet our goal of 300 coats by bringing them to a meeting. [Stephanie Jones Kastelic](#) and her team are looking for sizes L thru XXXL as well as volunteers to help at Stand Down Day on Friday October 28th.

Fall Letter Writing

Once again we're partnering with Rotary After Dark to send greeting cards to seniors in local nursing homes. Contact [Rachel Ossyra](#) is looking for 20 volunteers to each write positive messages in 25 cards by November 10th.

St. Pat's Fall Cleanup

[Joe Brusseau](#) is looking for between 15 and 20 volunteers to help spruce up the grounds St. Patrick's residence this fall. The event takes place on Saturday, October 22nd starting at 8.30 a.m.

Blood Drive

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will take place at the Rubin Center in downtown Naperville on November 7th between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information reach out to [Bill Johnson](#).

Bell Ringers

The most wonderful time of the year will be here again before you know it! On December 10th we'll be supporting the Salvation Army by ringing bells to draw people to the red kettles outside Casey's Foods on Naper Plaza. If you'd like to help, contact [John Lansing](#) to sign up.

JDRF Walk

Barry McKeown is looking to help raise funds for diabetes care at the JDRF Walk on Sunday, October 2nd. This year's walk will be on the Naperville Riverwalk and will be about two miles. Barry says, "I am passionate about supporting JDRF One Walk, because JDRF is funding the most promising, cutting-edge science to end to Type 1 Diabetes, and they are also funding research and treatments that will make living with this disease easier and healthier until a cure is found." You can sign up at [Barry's team page](#).



Our Rotary Parade of Lights is Getting Lit!

Parade interest is growing every day and all our committees are working hard behind the scenes. Believe it or not, this process started in June – it definitely takes a village! Committees started asking for volunteers – so, please say yes! You can volunteer with family members too. It’s really a fun event and Rotary needs you – as do all the non-profits this parade supports.

New this year: our new ‘lit’ hat and scarf. It’s only for Rotary members (families and friends too). It’s under \$20 and is battery operated so can wear it year to year. When people ask, where did you get that hat – you’ll say, “The Rotary Club of Naperville – come join us!”). There will be a Rotary logo option on the hat too – for an extra price.



The QR code above and [this link](#) will take you right to the shopping cart – buy as many as you want while supplies last!



In the House with Colby Martin

Everyone knows the best part of any of our Meson Sabika meetings is the end, and not because it means we get to leave. Colby Martin has been keeper of the Be Here Pot for an amazing 22 years, entertaining us with his dry wit while raising money for scholarships. We asked him to pull out a few questions from the sacred vessel...

When did you join and who sponsored you?

In 1999 I was invited to Rotary by Tom Eganhouse, my veterinarian. He told me that they do good work and have lots of fun. In his own politically incorrect way, he told me “They’re a great bunch of guys.” It was a mere 13 years since women were welcome in Rotary, and only 12 years since the incomparable Rita Harvard was our first woman president. Those of us who knew Tom forgave him since he was a fabulous veterinarian, and one always knew Tom’s heart was in the right place even if his words were not.

Why did you want to join?

I decided to join because I liked the people I met, the positive, upbeat vibe in the group and the focus on service.

How have you been involved?

Sometime in 2000 I was handed a grubby plastic jug and asked if I would “help” with the “Be Here Pot” – a new way to fleece members for a good cause (scholarships). Why not? I’ve been at it ever since. I also served as Sargent at Arms for John Gallagher’s presidency – which any former Sargent can tell you, earns a lot of teasing and razing from the peanut gallery.



What is your profession?

I began my career as a Methodist minister serving two small country churches just north of Lake Geneva in Wisconsin. After four years, I returned to grad school and received a PhD from Northwestern University in Psychology. I spent the first ten years of my career at a counseling center affiliated with the Christian Brothers, a Catholic religious order. I began an independent practice in Naperville in 1986 and have been stamping out mental illness since.

Can you share any details about your family life?

I won the lottery in life in 2004 when I met Vickie. We have three adult children and eight grandchildren living here in the area, so we get to see them frequently.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

We enjoy exercise, walking, gardening and especially travel. We have been thrilled and amazed by the places we have been and the things we have seen.



Tell us something members may be surprised to learn about you.

I come from rather humble origins; I lived in public housing for two years in Omaha as a preschool child. An even more unusual factoid is that Roger Illif and I were born in the same Omaha hospital by the same doctor about a year apart!

What do you enjoy most about Rotary?

What I enjoy most about Rotary is that I'm allowed to continue the same old one trick pony of the Be here Pot after all these years!

Thanks for the Memories

This month club historian John Knobloch shares some random memories that long time members might remember too.

Recently admitted members of the Rotary Club of Naperville may have heard of some of the history of the club but not some of the specific instances that, like spice in food, lend character to the club and which in many ways have made our meetings and events all the more memorable. Here are some of the author's recollections, in no particular order, some fond memories, some not so much, but hopefully of interest, at times with names omitted to protect the innocent:

- The club meeting at which a form of Indian dance was demonstrated, and some members got the chance to work off that lunch they had just finished. (What a workout!)
- Four Naperville mayors were club members at one time, specifically, in order of their terms as mayor, Chet Rybicki, Peg Price, Sam Macrane and George Pradel.
- For those interested in the “six degrees of separation” theory, some of us met a colleague of Princess Diana when he spoke to the club about land mine removal,
- putting us only two degrees of separation from Princess Diana.
- Our regular meeting being cancelled so we could attend the visitation for Rotarian Roger Hart.
- March Madness brackets being circulated at club meetings and winners being determined as the tournament progressed.
- Evan Lysacek Day, including our presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to Evan at the city's celebration of his Olympic success.
- Sergeant Neil Shalin orchestrating a rendition of “I Got You, Babe” by two attorneys from the club with the remaining attorney Rotarians forming a chorus line behind them.

- “House of Dreams” raffle numbers being pulled from the drum at club meetings.
- The meeting at which a visitor/prospective member proceeded to explain to two of our members how they didn’t really understand how the City of Naperville’s water and electric utilities were operated, either not realizing or not caring that she was addressing two former mayors, each of whom was then serving on the Naperville City Council (Peg Price and Sam Macrane). Awkward!
- Mike Maloney’s imitation of a chicken while wearing the North Central College mascot’s costume.
- The coup d’état, as one president was overthrown by the incoming president months early, only to be restored to power after the rebels were defeated.
- One of our best-attended Thursday meetings ever, when Alan Krashesky moderated a discussion among the four candidates for mayor in 2015.
- Club meetings at the old clubhouse at Cress Creek Country Club, the Key Wester, the new clubhouse at Cress Creek, back at Key Wester, temporary meetings for a month or so at the Holiday Inn Select, back at the “remodeled” Key Wester for one week before they closed, then on to Meson Sabika, with some January meetings at Outback Steakhouse.

What memories do you have? If you would like to share any memories, please email the author of this article, [John Knobloch](#).



Rotary Celebrates

Birthdays

Julie Carlsen	October 29
Ed Graham	October 30
Dylan Ladd	October 25
Nina Menis	October 30
Jo Raoul	October 3

Anniversaries

Bill Anderson	October 17, 1996
Monica Katsigazi	October 4, 2018
Colby Martin	October 21, 1999
Nina Menis	October 2, 2003
Scott Mitchell	October 1, 1998
Laura Wrasman	October 11, 2018

Thanks to John Knobloch for finding these inspirational words.

“It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness.” – Chinese Proverb

“The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one, you light one, 1.2 million Rotarians light one. Together, we light up the world.” – RI President-Elect Gary C. K. Huang, in the April 2014 issue of The Rotarian.



We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Wheelhouse.

Look out in your inbox on October 24 for our next edition!