



Rotary Opens Opportunities

CLUB PRESIDENT
Brad Stegall



THE GREEN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA — Club 3238

P.O. Box 5639 • Peoria, IL 61601

Website: www.peoriarotary.org

Email: infodowntown@peoriarotary.org

309-676-5432



CHARTERED 1913
CLUB NO. 76

Rotary  **Weekly Meeting at The Warehouse**
Club of Peoria **Friday, March 19, 2021 at 12:00 PM**

**Speaker: Dr. Aaron Buchko, Professor,
Management & Leadership, Bradley University**

Topic: Leadership in Light of COVID-19

**If you would like to attend this week's in-person meeting, please
[click here to submit an RSVP](#) - we look forward to seeing you on Friday!!!**

Ashley Schreck, Director of Marketing, EPIC Update on Murray Baker Bridge Lighting



Ashley Schreck, Director of Marketing at EPIC, brought the Club up to date from her previous presentation two years ago concerning the "Light It Up" project, an initiative of Chuck Weaver's 1000 Pound Project campaign. Ashley and a group of several volunteers spearheaded a drive to re-light the Murray Baker Bridge from when it went dark in 2012 due to cost of replacing bulbs and other maintenance of the lighting, originally installed in 1991. 2020 was a perfect time to install new

lights since the Bridge would be shut down for rehabilitation. The five million cost to do so was procured from an Illinois grant specifically designated only for bridge work. Several local companies were awarded contracts to light the Bridge. For example, Parsons manufactured the casings for the bulbs and Oberlander Electric and Laser Electric were involved in the lighting installation.



The "Light It Up" volunteers have turned over their work to the City of Peoria which is designated by IDOT to manage the Bridge. Other stakeholders besides the City of Peoria are Peoria County, the City of East Peoria, and Tazewell County. The current estimate for sustaining the lighting project is \$70K annually. That pays for maintenance, staffing (to operate the lighting changes and light shows), utilities, and someday, perhaps other beautification efforts.



On Halloween, 2020, the 500 full-spectrum LED bulbs were switched on. Since that time, several groups have showed interest in paying a fee to make a special lighting request to light the bridge in specific color combinations to celebrate or draw attention to their cause or event. Soon information for sponsoring a light display will be found on their [Facebook](#) page and website at [LIGHT IT UP!](#)

@ 4 Seasons Aerial Photography

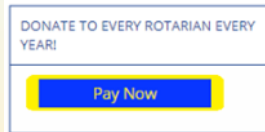
Rotary District 6460 "March Matchness"

The match is back with March Matchness. Now is the time to get your first or your next Paul Harris Fellow! The district announced they would be matching donations from \$250-\$1000 starting this month. In addition to that, the Rotary Club of Peoria is going to make a \$50 donation on behalf of every member to the Rotary Foundation. The board decided to do this because we have had so many faithful members continue to pay their dues during COVID.

What that means for you is that with a \$450 donation, you can become a Paul Harris fellow. The chart below shows different scenarios. If you want to know how close you are to your next PHF, please reach out to Martha Herm at mjherm44@gmail.com and she can check for you.

It is our goal to get 50% of our members to be recognized as Paul Harris Fellows. We also feel that with these efforts, our club will hit the "Every Rotarian Every Year" recognition level!

We prefer donations be mailed in the form of a check to the Rotary office to save on processing fees. Checks should be made out to the Rotary Foundation. You can also donate on the Club's homepage by clicking here --->



Thank you in advance for supporting the Rotary Foundation and its worldwide efforts to change lives around the world.



Rotary Club of Peoria	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Your Donation	\$50	\$200	\$450	\$950
District Match		\$250	\$500	\$1,000
Total Credit	\$100	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000

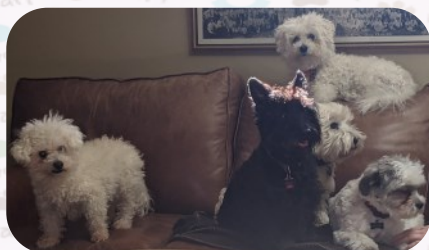


So You Thought You Knew about Betsy Bladel and Steve and Gina Driscoll's Pandemic Puppies! (In 200 words or less!) By Edith Barnard

Last week at Rotary, I learned of three more Pandemic Pup Parents in our Club! So rather than have six club members in this delightful cuddly situation, we have nine!! Perhaps we should have a "Bring Your Doggies to Rotary Day!" Just a thought that doesn't make sense, considering the chaos that would ensue. Oh well, it would be fun! Below learn more about Betsy Bladel and Steve and Gina Driscoll and their big hearts eager to share love with their furry friends!

(Keep an eye out, there's four more Rotarian puppy escapades to come!)

BETSY BLADEL



"Rescuing pets from dire situations has been a part of our life for many years. Our newest rescued puppy is Bentley, a 10 ½ year old Shih Tzu mix. Dropped off at a shelter in Champaign, IL, Bentley was filthy and close to death. With the proper care, connections and a home visit to play with four other dogs, adoption became the right option. Along with my partner, our five dogs welcomed and loved Bentley to the fullest.

To have a short history of our furry friends... Annie, now 11, ran the streets of Chicago. She is a beautiful and expressive Bichon Frise. Sassy is also a Bichon is now 15, was not wanted because she was blind. She is periodically handfed and by my side, always. Katie, age 9, is a Westie who needed a home and clean environment after she was too old for breeding. Nessa, a Westcott, age 1 ½, was sold out of an SUV, but a volunteer rescuer contacted us and we adopted her correctly. She has become the perfect wrestling partner for Bentley and a contender for hide and seek.

Watching the dogs running through the house, playing catch in the yard, chewing up dog toys and carrying around socks and winter boots as if they were their prized possessions, certainly helped us survive the winter months and the worrisome pandemic.

We love our furry friends and one more puppy just added to the fun!"

STEVE & GINA DRISCOLL

"Gina and I have always been "dog people". We adopted Wee Maggie 12 years ago and Little Lucy 4 years ago from TAPS in Pekin. As Rat Terriers are known for high energy and smarts, we have a handful in our house. And then, -Here comes "The Rona".

On March 17th, 2020, Gina was no longer working in the field with her clients but relegated to working from home. Steve was still able to venture out and see his clients face to face here and there. Maggie and Lucy have now become "executive assistants" to Gina, with their portable cubicles (beds) in her office.

Maggie, the 16 ½ year old, started growing back fur where it was missing, and became more lively. Playing "egg" daily. She about reversed all her aging, so we are now referring to her as "Benjamin Button" as the character in the movie, who is born an old man/baby and reverse ages through his life.

Lucy has been more vocal, "demanding" her daily walks after a hard day of work. We are starting to call her a "Karen". We have become a closer "pack" during The Rona, as we did not go out much, especially in the beginning. Their paychecks as executive assistants are over at the end of this month with Mommy's retirement, and their professional services will no longer be needed.

"The Rona has been very beneficial to our 9 & 14-pound dogs."



Meeting Information

March In-Person Meetings

March 19th - Meeting at the Warehouse

Speaker: Dr. Aaron Buchko, Professor, Management & Leadership, Bradley University

Topic: Leadership in Light of COVID-19

Invocation: TBD | **Greeter:** TBD | **Door Prize:** John Wahlfeld

March 26th - Meeting at the *Barrack's Cater Inn*

Speaker: Carl Wilkens, Co-Founder & Director of World Outside My Shoes

Topic: "I'm Not Leaving" Story of the Only American to Stay in Rwanda During the 1994 Genocide

Invocation: Kate Schureman | **Greeter:** TBD | **Door Prize:** Kate Schureman

This week's meeting will be held at [THE WAREHOUSE](#) 736 SW Washington St Peoria, IL 61602. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at Noon.

For members who are not able or who prefer to not attend in-person, we will still be offering the meeting via Zoom.

To keep all our members safe, we are asking you to please adhere to the following guidelines for In-Person Meetings:

- ◆ Please wear a mask at all times - with the exception of eating.
- ◆ Please maintain social distancing guidelines of 6 feet between you and others.
- ◆ Please do not come to the meeting if you are not feeling well or have any symptoms such as: fever, cough, difficulty breathing or nausea.



Can't make it to the In-Person Meeting?
[CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM](#)

Meeting ID: 897 6608 1791

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US
(Chicago)

Look at how much fun we
had at last week's meeting



Upcoming Events

*please
join us*

The Social Committee has organized the Club's first Social of the year. This event will be held at **Industry Brewing** on **Wednesday, March 24th from 5pm-7pm.**

Members are encouraged to bring friends, family members and prospective members.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served (**no cost**) and a cash bar will be available.

Rotary Socials are an opportunity for Rotarians and guests to get together in a casual social setting.

We enjoy getting to know each other better professionally and personally, outside of our weekly Friday meetings.

Remember! - Rotarians can count their social visit as a make-up in case they miss a weekly meeting.

If you would like to attend, you can RSVP at the meeting or email infodowntown@peoriarotary.org and we will add you to the list.

INDUSTRY

BREWING CO.

Membership News

Welcome
to the
Rotary



Club of Peoria

**Breiana (Coach Bre)
Wells-Nickerson**

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest Rotarian who was inducted at the club meeting on March 12th.

Rotary





THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?




Volunteer Opportunities

Midwest Food Bank is looking for **15** volunteers to help on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 1pm-3pm** with bulk food packing.


If you are interested in volunteering, a sign-up sheet will be available at in-person meetings or you can email infodowntown@peoriarotary.org and we will get you added to the volunteer list.

THANK YOU ALL
FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS

Donations Needed for Trewyn Pantry - We are collecting food items such as: Peanut or almond butter, dried goods such as Oatmeal, Cereal, Rice, Pasta, Ramen Noodles, Granola Bars and Hormel Completes. Melissa can come and pick up items from you, please call **676-5432** or email to arrange a time (infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)

If you would like to donate money, we will buy non-perishables on your behalf!



Club Officers

President - Brad Stegall
 President-Elect - Janet Bantz Glavin
 Secretary - Jamie Harwood
 Treasurer- Lisa Mullins
 Immediate Past President - Maggie Freidag

Board Members

William Albers
 Blake Barnard
 Kelly Donnelly
 Steve Driscoll
 Scott McCord
 Randy Neff

Contact Us

Melissa Brewer
 Executive Secretary
 CELL: 309-635-7377
 OFFICE: 309-676-5432
 EMAIL: infodowntown@peoriarotary.org
Office Hours: By Appointment
Website: www.peoriarotary.org

