



**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](http://www.peoriarotary.org)

Email: [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)

309-676-5432



**CHARTERED 1913**  
**CLUB NO. 76**

**Rotary**  **FRIDAY, APRIL 02, 2021**  
Club of Peoria **NO MEETING - GOOD FRIDAY**

**Next Friday's meeting, April 09, 2021 - to be held at**  
**The Warehouse - 736 SW Washington St, Peoria, IL 61602**

**Speaker: Nick Volk, Construction Field Engineer, IDOT Dist. 4**

**Topic: McClugage Bridge Construction Update**

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

Can't make it to  
the In-Person  
Meeting?

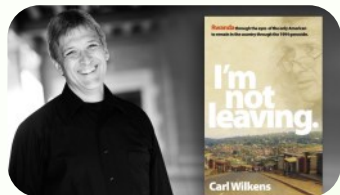
[CLICK HERE TO  
JOIN VIRTUALLY](#)

[VIA ZOOM](#)

Meeting ID:  
897 6608 1791

Dial by your  
location

+1 312 626  
6799 (US)



## **Carl Wilkens, Author "I'm Not Leaving" and Co-Founder / Director of "World Outside My Shoes"**

Last Friday Carl Wilkens spoke to the Rotary Club of Peoria. Wilkens said, his wife and their three small children moved to Rwanda in 1990. At the time, he worked as head of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International there and was involved in various humanitarian projects. Their children went to school and played with local Rwandans and it was impossible to distinguish between members of the Tutsi and Hutu population, as all seemed to be one happy family, he said. But that soon changed.

When the genocide began in April 1994, outsiders mistakenly believe the ensuing genocide was a result of a history of tribal conflict between the two groups, he said. Rather, the origins of the mass murder had to do with a political power struggle. Killings were organized by certain Hutu leaders. The soldiers, police, and militia then initiated the execution of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

As violence escalated, all U.S. embassy personnel were evacuated and Americans living in Rwanda were told to evacuate as well. Wilkens' family was relocated to Nairobi, Kenya and Carl refused to leave. By staying behind he knew his life would be in constant jeopardy as he worked to stop the violence and protect those, he knew from being murdered. Venturing out each day he continued to work to bring food, water, and medicine to groups of orphans trapped around the city.

The family's housekeeper Anita was the catalyst initially for the decision to stay, referring to the family's housekeeper. Wilkens said "The four years she had been in our home, she made a positive impression. Over the years we got to know her heart and how special and kind she was, especially to our children. It felt like she became part of our family. There was never the thought that "we should get out while we still can."

In the three months Wilkens remained in Kigali, he said he saw atrocities, which are too horrible to describe. But even among the worst, he saw glimpses of humanity. For example, a local named Gasigwa, who had been called on to aid the killers, had 40 people in his tiny home seeking protection, mostly children. When the killers would come, Gasigwa would say "I know your kids are hungry. Here, take these chickens," he said. They would then accept the gifts and leave.

On July 4th, 1994, Tutsi rebels seized Kigali. That is when United States troops finally arrived. After the genocide, many of the killers were imprisoned. Wilkens returned to Rwanda years later and visited one of the prison camps, where inmates were working the fields with what were once weapons used in the massacres' and baking bricks for building schools.

Wilkens described the camps as being rehabilitative and not punitive in nature. In a way, he said, he felt some anger that the killers were being rehabilitated. But in another way, he said, he admired the Rwandans' compassion after such an atrocity and said ordinary citizens wanted to get on with their lives and live together in harmony once more for the sake of their children and future generations. Wilkens also mentioned his former housekeeper is alive and married. She and her husband, a Hutu, have two children.

In 2011, Wilkens wrote a book about his experiences in Rwanda, titled ["I'm not leaving."](#)

To find out more about Carl and his work, please visit



Carl Wilkens reunited with family in Nairobi following the genocide.

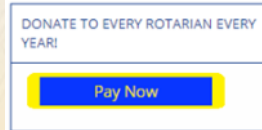
## Rotary District 6460 "March Matchness"

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](mailto: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

## Volunteer Opportunities

# Sprucing up the outdoors for spring

### Rotary Club of Peoria: Spring Clean Up Day at Camp Big Sky

**Date:** Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> | **Location:** [Camp Big Sky](#)

**Time:** Start at 8am - finish up between noon and 1pm.  
Have lunch and then go fishing.

**Project:** The camp needs help dusting off the cobwebs and doing a full cleaning of camp to be ready for the season. Lots of hands make light work. If you would like to help get this big project done, please email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to be added to the volunteer sign-up sheet. We will also have a sign-up sheet available at the next in-person meeting. Camp Big Sky hosts our Trewyn kids for the fishing trip, so we try to give back by helping Camp Big Sky with projects.

## April In-Person Meetings

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - NO MEETING - GOOD FRIDAY

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** - Meeting at the Warehouse

**Speaker:** Nick Volk, Construction Field Engineer, IDOT Dist. 4

**Topic:** McClugage Bridge Construction Update

**Invocation:** TBD | **Greeter:** Kathy Shishilla

**Door Prize:** Andrea Parker

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** - Meeting at the Warehouse

**Speaker:** Paul Leamon, Executive Director, Distillery Labs

**Topic:** Innovation in the Heartland

**Invocation:** Bill Harlan | **Greeter:** Emily Jacob-Rudesill

**Door Prize:** Bill Harlan

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Meeting at the Warehouse

**Speaker:** John Hinnen, Founder/Owner, Sundawg Design

**Topic:** The Process, Trials & Tribulations of Inventing, Manufacturing & Distributing Toys/Games

**Invocation:** TBD | **Greeter:** TBD | **Door Prize:** Andrea Parker

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** - Meeting at the Warehouse

**Speaker:** Pierre Paul, App Inventor and Creator

**Topic:** We Hear You Sign Language App

**Invocation:** TBD | **Greeter:** Andrea Parker

**Door Prize:** Kathy Shishilla

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Peoria City/County Health Department Vaccine Clinic

#### Medical Volunteers

- Help administer COVID-19 Vaccines to patients
- Assist with observing patients after injection
- Assist with answering patients' questions at clinic
- Doctors, nurses, 4th-year medical students, EMTs, dentists, pharmacists - any licensed medical professionals with ability to give IM injection

#### Non-Medical Volunteers

- Assist with clerical, data entry, scheduling, etc.
- Runners between clinic rooms/floors to assist Medical/staff
- Assist with maintaining disinfected areas
- Duties may vary
- Variety of availability/timeslots needed

For more information, visit [www.pccchd.org/289](http://www.pccchd.org/289) or sign up on the HOIUW website: <http://bit.ly/pccchdvols>



The Peoria City/County Health Department is looking for volunteers to assist with its COVID-19 vaccine clinic. PCCHD is looking for volunteers with a **medical background** to dispense vaccines and those **without a medical background** to assist with helping make sure the clinic runs smoothly.

**If you would like to volunteer, you must complete these two steps.**

**1. Click on the Heart of Illinois United Way's links below to find out more.**

You will need to create an account to sign in and fill out registration forms. It only takes a few minutes.

[MEDICAL Volunteer Registration](#) | [NON-MEDICAL Volunteer Registration](#)

**2. Fill out the Peoria County MRC Volunteer Application [by clicking here](#).**

Please email the completed application to [Jillian Stowe](#) as indicated on the form.

**Everything is currently booked up to April 1, but they will be updating schedules shortly. It's ok to get on a waitlist for certain days or keep checking back as you will receive notifications when people cancel. When those cancellation slots become available, they tend to fill up quickly.**

**After you have volunteered**, email [Melissa Brewer](#), Executive Secretary, Rotary Club of Peoria your volunteer assignment confirmation and **you will be given service credit hours** for your volunteer work.

Thank you for your service above self!

## Volunteer Opportunities



Donations Needed for **Trewyn Food 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 send an email to [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to arrange a time. **If you would like to donate money, we will buy non-perishables on your behalf!**



**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?



Illinois-Peoria  
Midwest Food Bank of Illinois-Peoria



Midwest  
FOOD BANK

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](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) and we will get you added to the volunteer list.



**Rotary**   
Club of Peoria

Wishing you a  
*Happy Easter*

### 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](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)  
**Office Hours: By Appointment**  
**Website: [www.peoriarotary.org](http://www.peoriarotary.org)**

Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Rotary



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star