



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD  
CLUB PRESIDENT  
RANDY NEFF



# THE GREEN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA - Club 3238  
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CHARTERED 1913  
CLUB NO. 76

**Weekly Meeting at Peoria Riverfront Museum**  
**Friday, February 9, 2024 at 12:00PM**  
**Speaker: Ben Blumenberg, CEO, W.D. Boyce Council - Boy Scouts**  
**Topic: Boy Scout Updates**

Can't make it to the In-Person Meeting? [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIA ZOOM](#)  
Meeting ID: 897 6608 1791 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799

When Rotarian Ray Lees noticed that the Bob Michel Bridge was dangerously unwalkable, he decided to do something about it. As Ray talked to multiple city officials, he was told that a change to the bridge could never happen because it was under the Illinois Department of Transportation umbrella. With the help of The Rebuild Illinois program, Lees did find a path over and around many hurdles to get the bridge redesigned for pedestrian safety. The bridge now has a 14-foot-wide walking and biking path with a concrete protective barrier! Also, all bridges built from now on, need to be of the same design for protection of pedestrians and bikers.



Ray Lees

A world-traveled Planner/Designer Ray, a power of advancing against all odds, realized that he was at the point of the bridge situation that something had to be done. So, he said, "Let's do it! Yes, the bridge belongs to IDOT as they effectively own it, but in many ways, we all own that bridge."

Last Friday's Rotary audience took away many encouraging ideas for getting and keeping a project that folks said couldn't be done, DONE!

Ray's "Taking Action Steps" are: 1. Eating the Elephant. Begin the project step by step. 2. Proving Regional Support. Pick up the phone and talk to other people to get your advocacy group going! Tired of the "black hole of inaction", in October of 2018, Ray started calling people without permission from anyone! He organized over 30 Public & Private Entities Across the Region who Supported the Feasibility Study.



3. Documenting Plans. Ray pulled together multi-faceted data and gave it to Ryan Spain and Jehan Gordon-Booth for The Rebuild Illinois public infrastructure grant for 25.4 billion dollars for roads and bridges. The grant request was bipartisan and regional. Everyone was thrilled that the Bob Michel Bridge Project received the entire 25.4 billion dollars.

4. Not taking "NO!" If some folks say "No!", then ask someone else!

When asked how this massive project fit in with the mission of Rotary, Ray said, "I just responded to what I saw as a need. Once I see something, it's hard to "unsee" it!"

If you would like to learn more about Ray Less, please [click here](#) to read the article "So You Thought You Knew Ray Lees (in 200 words or less)" written by Edie Barnard

Article By: Edith Barnard

featured in the April, 15 2015 edition of the Green Light.



## 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 and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotary



Rotary  
Club of Peoria



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

## ROTARY ACTION PLAN - VISION

"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves"

Rotary Club of Peoria 2023-2024



## Upcoming Meetings

**FEBRUARY 16th - Meeting at The Warehouse on State**  
**Speaker: Sheriff Chris Watkins**  
**Topic: Peoria County Sheriff's Office Updates**  
**Greeter: To Be Announced**  
**Inspiration/Reflection: Jason Parkinson**  
**Attendance Prize: John Iverson**

**FEBRUARY 23rd - Meeting at The Warehouse on State**  
**Speaker: To Be Announced**  
**Topic: Electric Bus Tour**  
**Greeter: To Be Announced**  
**Inspiration/Reflection: Jason Parkinson**  
**Attendance Prize: Pat Lewis**

**MARCH 1st - Meeting at The Warehouse on State**  
**Speaker | Topic: To Be Announced**  
**Greeter: To Be Announced**  
**Inspiration/Reflection: To Be Announced**  
**Attendance Prize: To Be Announced**

## Rotary District 6460's Spring Training

Rotary District 6460's Spring Training for Rotarians

**THINK SPRING!**

CLICK TO REGISTER FOR ROTARY SPRING TRAINING

Who should attend: Presidents-elect & Rotarians interested in making a difference.

When: March 15 for presidents-elect. Arrive at 11:00AM Details of the day to follow.  
 March 16 for presidents-elect and all Rotarians. Registration opens at 9:00.  
 Sessions end at 3:00.

Where: University of Illinois in Springfield

**Absolutely  
costless!**

**Keynote Speaker:** Prepare to be inspired by MJ Rogers, professional archery coach. MJ has coached archers on every continent including at Paralympics Games in London, Rio and Japan.

Presented by:  
2024-25 District  
Governor  
Dan O'Brien

More  
information  
and how to  
signup can be  
found on the  
District 6460  
Website

## Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA)



Rotary Youth  
Leadership Academy  
April 12-14, 2024

**What is it?** RYLA is Rotary International's premier training program for high school students, emphasizing leadership, citizenship as well as personal growth

**Who can participate?** High school sophmores

**Where is it being held?** In person at Lake Williamson, Carlinville, IL

**Why attend?** Exponentially grow student's leadership and community skills. Will get a chance to meet and network with other students. Become an amazing leader in the community!

Further  
information &  
how to sign-up,  
can be found on  
the District  
6460 Website

## April Club Social

**Rotary Club of Peoria - April Social Event**

**Date: Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> | Time: 5PM - 8PM**  
**Location: Industry Brewing - 8012 N Hale Ave - Peoria**  
**Social being held in the Game Lounge - Ping Pong, Pac Man, Board Games & Sporting Events on the TVs**  
**Everyone will pay for their own food & drinks**

If you would like to attend the social, we are asking that you please RSVP by 04/08/2024 to [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) You can submit RSVP's by clicking here or using the sign-up sheet available at the weekly meetings.

## Rotary Club T-Shirts

THE NEW ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA T-SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$15.00! WE HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT SIZES - IF YOU DON'T HAVE A ROTARY T-SHIRT - STOP BY THE CHECK-IN TABLE AND PICK ONE UP.



## Join the Rotary Club of Peoria

We welcome you to join us at an upcoming Rotary Club of Peoria meeting to see what it's all about.

To learn more about The Rotary Club of Peoria and becoming a member, click the Rotary Membership Image

If you have any questions email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)



## Polio Plus Society

JOIN THE POLIO PLUS SOCIETY TODAY!  
 BY JOINING YOU ARE COMMITTING TO GIVE A MINIMUM OF \$100 A YEAR UNTIL POLIO IS ERADICATED



THANK YOU!

Rotary  
Club of Peoria



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SERVICE Above Self



# Rotary District 6460 Membership Updates



**The District Membership Committee challenged clubs to increase membership by 5%, net of attrition, this Rotary year. Through the end of December, the district added 82 members but lost 91 for a net loss of 9 or 0.5%.**

**Seven clubs exceeded expectations with net increases in excess of 5% in just the first half of the year with another ten with positive growth.**

Club	Member Count	Members YTD	Termination s YTD	Current Mbrs	Gain/Los	Annual Attritio	Anticipated Attrition	# Members	(Behind) New	Membersh p Goal	% Chang
Land of Goshen (Madison C	23	3	0	26	3	7	6	6	1	25	13%
Springfield Sunrise	31	5	-1	35	4	4	3	1	1.7	33	13%
Rushville	19	2	0	21	2	3	3	2	-0.3	20	11%
Bushnell	10	1	0	11	1	4	4	5	-2.3	12	10%
Galesburg	72	9	-3	78	6	7	4	2	3	76	8%
Jerseville	14	2	-1	15	1	4	3	3	-0.8	15	7%
Kewanee	35	3	-1	37	2	8	7	7	-2.5	37	6%
Morton	69	4	-1	72	3	15	14	15	-6.4	73	4%
Springfield South	24	2	-1	25	1	4	3	10	-4.5	32	4%
Galva	26	2	-1	27	1	3	2	3	-0.8	28	4%
Edwardsville	102	7	-4	105	3	15	11	14	-4.5	108	3%
Galesburg Sunrise	38	2	-1	39	1	4	3	4	-1.3	40	3%
Pike County	42	1	0	43	1	8	8	10	-5	45	2%
Springfield	42	4	-3	43	1	12	9	14	-5.9	48	2%
Jacksonville	94	2	0	96	2	12	12	11	-5.1	95	2%
Alton-Godfrey	70	4	-3	71	1	5	2	5	-1	74	1%
Peoria	132	7	-6	133	1	24	18	25	-10.5	140	1%
Abingdon	12	0	0	12	0	2	2	3	-1.6	13	0%
Aledo	6	0	0	6	0	1	1	2	-1.1	7	0%
Bethalto	16	0	0	16	0	2	2	3	-1.6	17	0%
Chillicothe	8	0	0	8	0	1	1	2	-1.1	9	0%
Farmington	25	0	0	25	0	3	3	5	-2.7	27	0%
Jacksonville Sunrise	13	0	0	13	0	1	1	2	-1.1	14	0%
Macomb Centennial Morni	58	3	-3	58	0	11	8	11	-4.6	61	0%
Manito-Forest City	19	0	0	19	0	3	3	4	-2.2	20	0%
Metro East Community	16	0	0	16	0	6	6	10	-5.5	20	0%
Peoria North	122	7	-7	122	0	17	10	12	-3.4	133	0%
Quincy After Dark	20	2	-2	20	0	0	0	1	0.3	21	0%
Riverbend, The (Alton/God	20	0	0	20	0	3	3	4	-2.2	21	0%
World Citizens Alliance of S	16	0	0	16	0	6	6	7	-5.5	17	0%
Highland	52	0	-1	51	-1	6	5	9	-4.9	55	-2%
Carlville	39	0	-1	38	-1	5	4	7	-3.8	41	-3%
Pekin	38	1	-2	37	-1	4	2	5	-2.3	40	-3%
Macomb	65	3	-5	63	-2	6	0	8	-3	71	-3%
Quincy	95	3	-6	92	-3	15	9	17	-7.9	100	-3%
Springfield-Westside	18	0	-1	17	-1	3	2	4	-2.2	19	-6%
Washington	36	0	-2	34	-2	7	5	9	-4.9	38	-6%
Collinsville, Maryville, Casey	43	0	-3	40	-3	4	1	6	-3.3	45	-7%
Havana	39	0	-3	36	-3	2	0	5	-2.7	41	-6%
Monmouth	63	2	-7	58	-5	6	0	9	-4	67	-8%
Riverbend East	50	0	-4	46	-4	5	1	8	-4.4	53	-8%
Menard County	12	0	-1	11	-1	2	1	3	-1.6	13	-8%
Midtown Springfield	20	0	-2	18	-2	4	2	5	-2.7	21	-10%
Cambridge	17	1	-3	15	-2	2	0	3	-1.3	18	-12%
Carnton	17	0	-2	15	-2	6	4	7	-3.8	18	-12%
E-club of Central Illinois	13	0	-2	11	-2	5	3	6	-3.3	14	-15%
Granite City	24	0	-6	18	-6	3	0	4	-4.4	24	-25%
Silver Creek Area (Troy)	7	0	-2	5	-2	3	1	4	-2.2	8	-29%
District Totals:	1841	82	-91	1832	-9	281	199				-0.5%

## Every Rotarian Every Year Fundraiser

As part of the Every Rotarian Every Year Fundraiser, the Committee sold raffle tickets for a chance to win some prizes! The raffle ticket prize drawings were held during the Rotary Club meeting on February 2nd and the winners were announced. (Prize Winners Listed Below)

### EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR

[Click here to watch the EREY Prize Drawing](#)

*Thank you!*

The Foundation and Endowment Committee thanks everyone who donated prizes and has donated money towards our goal. We have currently raised \$18,165!!

Did you know that donors who gave \$25-\$50 contributed more than \$5.1 million to the Foundation in 2020-21? When every Rotarian gives every year, it makes life-changing, sustainable projects possible.

- Also in 2020-21:
- \$139 million was given to the Annual Fund.
  - 34% of Rotarians donated to the Annual Fund.
  - 82% of Rotary clubs supported the Annual Fund.
  - 2,066 global grants were awarded.

If you haven't made a donation to the Every Rotarian Every Year Fundraiser, it's not too late to contribute!!!

Please [click here](#) to make a donation or contact: Emily Jacob-Rudesill ([emilyj@fosterjacob.com](mailto:emilyj@fosterjacob.com))



- EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR FUNDRAISER ~ RAFFLE WINNERS**
- Pottery Experience - Donated by Katie Vandenberg - Winner: Pam Cain
  - Senara Gift Card - Donated by Susie Stockman - Winner: Owen Ackerman
  - Memory Blanket - Donated by Colleen Halberg - Winner: Lynne Demanes
  - Mexican Feast - Donated by Debbie Sippel - Winner: Gina Driscoll
  - Cabi Scarf - Donated by Sara Meinhart - Winner: Patty Bash
  - Door County Retreat - Donated by Emily Jacob-Rudesill - Winner: Todd Davis
  - Day at Herm Lake - Donated by Martha Herm & Tom McIntyre - Winner: Sara Meinhart
  - Olive Garden Gift Card - Donated by Sue Portscheller - Winner: John Iverson
  - Picnic Basket & Wine - Donated by Pam & Perry Johnson - Winner: Emily Jacob-Rudesill
  - Antique Butter Churn - Donated by Don Hartshorn - Winner: John Hart
  - Rotary Whiskey - Donated by Quincy Rotary Club - Winners: Brad Stegall & Robert Brandfass
  - Asian Dinner at the Herm/McIntyre House - Winner: Joyce Harant
  - Car Wash Gift Card - Donated by Maggie Freidag - Winner: Perry Johnson
  - Tito's Basket - Donated by Gina Driscoll - Winner: Diana Hall

## Foundation Minute



FOUNDATION MINUTE - PEACE BUILDING & CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH



**Of the 60 million people displaced by armed conflict or persecution, 90% are civilians. Half of those civilians are children. That's millions of reasons why Rotary is so engaged in service projects, fellowships and other Rotary-sponsored campaigns in pursuit of peace in our world. This is also why Rotary has designated February as Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Month.**

**Rotary supports training, education, and practices related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention through initiatives that help transform conflict in our communities and around the world. Conflict transformation involves identifying and working with the underlying conditions, relationships, and social structures that give rise to conflict. Through this process, one moves beyond conflict resolution or management to change the environment that has led to conflict. This focus on transformation helps ensure sustainable peace.**

### Club Officers

President - Randy Neff  
President-Elect - Jana' Stevens  
Secretary - Caitlin Behrends  
Treasurer- Gina Driscoll  
Immediate Past President - Tom McIntyre

### Board Members

Robert Brandfass  
Melissa Entzminger  
Charlie Greer  
Emily Jacob-Rudesill  
Jason Parkinson  
Cedric Volkmer

### Contact Us

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Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



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Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star