



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD  
CLUB PRESIDENT  
RANDY NEFF



# THE GREEN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA - Club 3238

P.O. Box 5639 • Peoria, IL 61601

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309-676-5432



CHARTERED 1913  
CLUB NO. 76

**Weekly Meeting at The Warehouse on State**  
**Friday, March 8, 2024 at 12:00PM**  
**Speaker: Mr. Arnold Spiker, Principal**  
**Topic: Woodruff Career & Technical Center**

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

Christa Staley, the new Executive Director of the Midwest Food Bank was on hand Friday to give Peoria Rotarians an update on how her organization has expanded since it began in Illinois over twenty years ago.



**Christa Staley**



The Midwest Food Bank serves not-for-profit organizations such as food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, churches, and other non-profit organizations helping their community. Multiple locations across the globe now allow many non-profit organizations and their volunteers to take part in daily food bank operations and scheduled distributions.

The Midwest Food Bank depends on volunteers. Peoria Rotarians have helped at the Food Bank offices in northern Peoria on more than one

occasion. There have been some 30,000 volunteers worldwide! That's 500 volunteers for each staff member. The Peoria facility sees 35-hundred volunteers annually. But Peoria has only six full-time staff members.

Staley says The Midwest Food Bank is now active in 23 states as well as Africa and Haiti. And last year, Midwest Food Bank was able to partner with Amazon to provide food boxes



containing fresh produce, shelf-stable

foods, and multiple meals to serve just under 1000 people in a very poverty-stricken area in Kentucky. In 2023, the **Midwest Food Bank** distributed 32 million dollars' worth of food to different 350 agencies who help to feed the needy.



## 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?



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

**MARCH 15th - Meeting at Peoria Riverfront Museum**  
 Speaker: **Becky Rossman**  
 Topic: **Handle with Care**  
 Greeter: **George Ghareeb**  
 Inspiration/Reflection: **Greg Lara**  
 Attendance Prize: **Sara Meinhart**

**MARCH 22nd - Meeting at The Warehouse on State**  
 Program: **Rotary Club of Peoria**  
**2024 Community Service Grant Awards**  
 Greeter: **George Ghareeb**  
 Inspiration/Reflection: **Kate Schureman**  
 Attendance Prize: **George Ghareeb**

**MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> - NO MEETING - GOOD FRIDAY**  
**WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE & HAPPY EASTER**



## 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 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.**

## Hoops To End Polio

### HOOPS TO END POLIO

**TOP THREE ROTARIANS WIN PRIZES!**

We are challenging the club to have 50% participation and to hit \$1500.

Let's make it happen!!

**COMPLETE YOUR NCAA BRACKET TO WIN!**

DONATION: ONLY \$25 PER BRACKET  
 PAYMENT: CASH OR CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROTARY FOUNDATION  
 BRACKET: BRACKET IS COMPLETED ON-LINE

**ENTER MORE THAN ONE BRACKET!!!**

CAN WE GET 65 MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE?  
 LET'S HIT OUR GOAL!

**You can sign-up and pay for brackets at weekly club meetings or mail payments to the Rotary Club Office**  
**[Click Here](#) to pay online or make checks payable to The Rotary Foundation**

**If you have questions, please email [Caitlin Behrends](mailto:CaitlinBehrends) or Sara Meinhart - Thank you!!**

## District 6460's Academic Scholarships

The academic scholarship application process is now OPEN!

### Important Details

- Academic Year: 2024-2025
- Applications Due: May 31, 2024

**Rotary**  
 District 6460

**CLICK HERE** for \$3,000 Domestic Scholarship Information

**CLICK HERE** for \$18,000 Menghini International Scholarship Information

## 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 District 6460 - Family Day at Busch Stadium

**Rotary Family Day at Busch Stadium**

**Save the date: July 13.**

**6:10 Game**  
**\$60 Loge Reserved Seating**

Order forms at [rd6460.org](http://rd6460.org) soon

Cards vs Cubs

**A note from District Literacy Committee Chair Brian Barstead:**

"March is here and that means March Madness. According to the groundhog, spring is just around the corner, bringing my favorite time of year... Baseball Season!"

"Promoting basic literacy and education is one of the seven areas of focus of Rotary International, and many of our clubs do wonderful literacy projects within their communities. What does that have to do with baseball?"

"For over two decades, a project hatched by Springfield Rotarian Rod Buffington when he was Governor uses profits from the sales of tickets for a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game to support literacy projects carried out by clubs throughout our district. In addition to the ticket sales -- usually for a **Cardinals** vs. **Cubs** game -- many literacy supporters use this opportunity to make a donation to the Literacy Fund of the Rotary District 6460 Foundation. [Click here](#) to read more.

# Rotary Readers Upcoming Events

**The 2024 Trewyn Rotary Readers 2nd Graders Field Trip to Elevate Trampoline Park in Peoria is scheduled for Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Time: TBA**

We are looking for volunteers to help chaperone the kids.

If you would like to sign up to help chaperone, [click here](#) or email **Maggie Freidag** or the office.



**Trewyn Rotary Readers Fishing Field Trip**  
**Date: Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> | Location: Camp Big Sky**  
**17185 E McCord, Fairview, IL 61432**

Volunteers are needed to help the kids - we would love to have some of the Rotary Readers there to help. The kids should be out there around 9:30am & will leave around 2pm - you do not have to stay the entire time.

If you would like to volunteer, please [click here](#) to sign-up or email Maggie Freidag or the office.

## IBHS Interact Club Updates

Rotary Club of Peoria **Interact**  **Illini Bluffs HS Interact Club Service Projects**



On February 22nd, Interact Club Members spent the evening at the Canton Salvation Army, assisting with the weekly community dinner. We all agreed that it was one of our favorite volunteer experiences yet.



**These are a great group of kids doing great things!**

On February 25th, Interact Club Members were welcomed back to Ronald McDonald House of Peoria to prepare a spaghetti dinner for the families staying there. The IBHS Interact Club was able to raise \$700 to donate to the Ronald McDonald House of Peoria through their "Float Friday" (selling root beer floats for \$1 on Fridays).

## DACdb Member Portal

We hope you will maximize your membership by taking advantage of our online member portal, DACdb. This is more than an online directory it's an interactive tool to help you engage with our Club. Through DACdb, you can edit your profile, search for members, register for events, and much more!

If you need further assistance, please contact the office by email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) or call 309-676-5432

## Every Rotarian Every Year Fundraiser

### EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR

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.



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.

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

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

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))



## 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)



## 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.



# Sterling Merit Sponsorship Opportunities & Benefits



## THE ROTARY CLUBS OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS



Present the 2024 Sterling Merit Awards Banquet  
Tues, May 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 - 5:30-8:30 PM | Peoria Civic Center

The annual banquet will host students and their parents from the following area schools: Brimfield, Dunlap, East Peoria, Elmwood, Farmington, Illini Bluffs, Illinois Valley, Limestone, Manual, Peoria Notre Dame, Peoria Heights, Peoria, Princeville, Quest Academy and Richwoods High Schools. We anticipate 650 plus in attendance and would be honored to have you as a sponsor.

The Sterling Merit Awards Banquet has a long history in Central Illinois. It was created to recognize and reward academic excellence of area high school seniors. It was started by the Junior League of Peoria in 1959, and culminated with an annual awards banquet that was held at the Opera House in Peoria's Exposition Gardens. After the Junior League developed this successful program, they searched for a dedicated organization to take on responsibility for its continuation. The Rotary Club of Peoria proudly accepted the invitation to continue this worthy event in 1968, and the Sterling Merit Banquet remains one of the many worthwhile projects and initiatives of this area's Rotary Clubs.

"Service Above Self" is the aim of Rotary and all Rotarians, and there are a number of local participating clubs who jointly sponsor the Sterling Merit Banquet as part of Rotary's longstanding tradition of community service, especially in the area of education. These include the Rotary Clubs of Peoria, Peoria North, Chillicothe and Farmington.

In honoring the top eight percent of high school graduates who have attained the highest standing in their classes. The Sterling Merit Awards Banquet enhances the incentive for scholastic achievement through public recognition. Rotary is proud to help build stronger communities by recognizing and rewarding outstanding performance and academic excellence. It is Rotary's sincere hope that the connotation of "sterling" – applying equally to these students and their awards – will encourage all to continually strive for quality in their every endeavor.

### 2024 STERLING MERIT

#### PLATINUM \$1500 & ABOVE

- Banquet sponsorship of Sterling Merit Banquet
- Feature mentioned in all Rotary newsletters in the Peoria area
- Logo on big screen display throughout the presentation
- Two mentions from the podium as a sponsor
- Ability to give a token of recognition to each student
- Signage at the banquet will include you company name as a sponsor

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

#### GOLD \$750

- Mention on the big screen presentation before program
- Mention from the podium as a sponsor
- Name listed on the banquet signage

### & BENEFITS

#### SILVER \$500

- Name listed on the big screen presentation before the program
- Mention from the podium as a sponsor
- Name listed on the event signage

#### BRONZE \$250

- Name listed on the big screen presentation before the program
- Name listed on the event signage



SERVICE Above Self

If you would like to pay for **STERLING MERIT SPONSORSHIPS** online, please [click here](#)

Please make checks payable to **Rotary Club of Peoria**  
Mail to: P.O Box 5639  
Peoria, IL 61601

#### STUDENT SPONSOR \$100

- Four students attending the banquet
- Name listed on the event signage

#### STUDENT SPONSOR \$50

- Two students attending the banquet
- Name listed on the event signage

# Foundation Minute



## FOUNDATION MINUTE - ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS



In September, I shared what a Rotary Peace Fellowship was. As a reminder, each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room & board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,600 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities.

I wanted to share this again, because applications are currently open for the Rotary Peace Fellowships. Candidates have until May 15, 2024 to submit applications to The Rotary Foundation. If you know someone who may be a good candidate, please share the information with them. You can learn more here: <https://my.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowship-application>

### 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

Melissa Brewer  
Executive Secretary  
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**Office Hours: By Appointment**  
**Website:** [www.peoriarotary.org](http://www.peoriarotary.org)

### Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star