



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  
Website: [www.peoriarotary.org](http://www.peoriarotary.org)  
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309-676-5432



CHARTERED 1913  
CLUB NO. 76

**Weekly Meeting at Peoria Riverfront Museum**  
**Friday, March 15, 2024 at 12:00PM**  
**Speaker: Becky Rossman | Topic: Handle with Care**

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



Principal  
Arnold Spiker

Last Friday, Woodruff Career and Technical Center Principal Arnold Spiker was our guest speaker. Mr. Spiker has a 31-year career in education as a math teacher, athletic director, assistant coach, head coach, and assistant principal. Woodruff changed from a regular high school to a technical school in 2011. According to its mission statement, Woodruff offers every student “an enriched and challenging learning environment, diverse programs, and focused education on technology and workplace expectations.”

Students can take courses in everything from auto body repair and construction to criminal justice or cosmetology and renewable energy. That renewable energy program got a boost a couple of years ago when two million dollars from the Edwards Power Plant settlement was used to install solar panels at Woodruff, as well as purchase equipment for the solar program’s courses.



The Woodruff Career & Technical Center (WCTC)

Students are bussed to Woodruff from Manual, Central and Richwoods High school for their technical classes, and returned to home schools for their core curriculum classes. Principal Spiker says plans are to have those core classes, such as reading and math, available at Woodruff as well, eliminating bus travel time.

Instructors at Woodruff are professionals in the subjects they teach. The 376 students are mostly Juniors and Seniors. Mr. Spiker says getting a technical education at Woodruff not only allows students to get an early look at a career, it allows them to do so cheaper than taking post-graduate training. And, he says, students are not just learning technical skills at Woodruff. "Our career coaches work with them on employability skills, work with them on writing resumes, and work with them on mock interviews".



Woodruff Student

Students spend time at actual job sites and factories--if they meet the criteria: "One, the kids have to show they have the skills Second, they have to show that by their attendance (at work). And the third one is they have to be mature enough to handle constructive criticism".

## 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  
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

**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**



**APRIL 5th - Meeting at The Warehouse on State**  
**Speaker: Joe Russell**  
**Topic: The growth of Russell's Cycling & Fitness**  
**Greeter: Emily Jacob-Rudesill**  
**Inspiration/Reflection: Bill Harlan**  
**Attendance Prize: TBD**

## 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:Caitlin.Behrends@rotary.org) or [Sara Meinhart](mailto:Sara.Meinhart@rotary.org) - 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 \$18,000 Menghini International

Scholarship Information

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

## Rotary District 6460 ~ Family Day at Busch Stadium

**Tickets are on sale now for this year's Rotary Family Day at Busch Stadium. This is our 21st year of games at the ballpark with proceeds from ticket sales supporting literacy efforts in Downstate Rotary Districts. This successful program has raised more than \$560,000 for Literacy Projects.**

**Here's what you need to know about this year's game:**

**Cardinals vs. Cubs - Saturday, July 13th, 2024 - Busch Stadium in St Louis**

**Starting time 1:15 PM - However starting times can change. All sales are final- check for updates to the game time by going to [stlcardinals.com](http://stlcardinals.com)**

**Ticket Price: \$60 Per Seat - Seating Locations: Loge Reserved & Pavilion - Best seats go to those who do not wait! Tickets sold on a first-come-first-served basis - there are 2,000 Tickets available, Let's sell them all!!!**

**Anyone can buy or sell tickets - you don't have to be a Rotarian. Just print the order form, fill it out and mail it with a check for the purchase. Any questions, contact [Brian Barstead](mailto:Brian.Barstead@rotary.org) at 217-652-4371 or [Rod Buffington](mailto:Rod.Buffington@rotary.org) at 217-416-1245**

**If you would like to buy tickets - Order forms will be available at weekly club meetings | Order forms can also be downloaded by [clicking here](#) or from the [District 6460 Website](http://District 6460 Website).**

## 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!

## 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!

**WEBSITE ADDRESS**  
**WWW.DACDB.COM**

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

# 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 Freitag 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 Freitag or the office.

## New Membership Announcement

WELCOME NEW ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA MEMBER



**Ben Blumenberg**

Sponsored by Fellow Rotarians  
**Pat Lewis & Gene Olson**



## New Membership Proposal

The following membership proposal has been approved by the Club Board of Directors and are published here for general membership consideration.

Prospective Member: Chase Brower  
Sponsored by: Jon Stephens & Steve Driscoll

Protests may be sent, in writing, to the President or Secretary within 7 days. If none are received, the proposals will be considered satisfactory.

## 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.



EVERY ROTARIAN  
EVERY YEAR



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!!!

*Thank you!*

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

This year's Sterling Merit Awards Banquet will be held on May 7, 2024, at the Peoria Civic Center Ballroom. The Keynote Speaker will be Nikki Romain - Co-founder for Artists ReEnvisioning Tomorrow (ART, Inc)

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. We honor the top eight percent of high school graduates who have attained the highest standing in their classes. The Sterling Merit Awards Banquet gives public recognition to students who have excelled academically during their high school years.

Last year 170 students qualified for the award and 153 attended the banquet, accompanied administrators from each school and by parents and/or other family members. This is a very meaningful event for students and their families, and our club has enthusiastically co-sponsored the event for over 50 years.

Students attend the banquet free of charge. Family members are asked to pay \$20.00 which is well below cost, and this year includes free parking. For the past several years, we have offered opportunities for sponsorship to partially defray the costs of the event and to keep charges within a reasonable range for our families.

We have developed six sponsorship levels which are described below. We are asking club members to strongly consider becoming a sponsor at whatever level you see fit. In addition to your contribution to the event, if you know of an individual or a business which might be interested in becoming a sponsor, please feel free to contact them directly, or send your nomination to [Susie Stockman](#) or [Bill Albers](#).

Our hope is that our entire membership will support this request, allowing us to keep costs to families within an affordable range, and enabling every student to enjoy this important event.

Thank you in advance for your support – Sterling Merit Committee.

### 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 your 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

# F o u n d a t i o n M i n u t e



## FOUNDATION MINUTE - WATER, SANITATION, & HYGIENE MONTH



### March is designated as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Month

Rotary supports activities that encourage the management and protection of freshwater resources and provide universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. The Rotary Foundation seeks to empower governments, institutions, and communities to manage their water, sanitation, and hygiene services through environmentally sound, measurable, and sustainable interventions.

Rotarians are encouraged to ensure communities' sustainable access to water, sanitation, & hygiene by:

1. Facilitating universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water.
2. Improving water quality by protecting and maintaining surface and groundwater resources, reducing pollution and contaminants, and promoting wastewater reuse.
3. Facilitating universal and equitable access to improved sanitation and waste management services in order to achieve open defecation-free communities.
4. Improving community hygiene knowledge, behaviors, and practices that help prevent the spread of disease.
5. Strengthening the capacity of governments, institutions, and communities to develop, finance, manage, and maintain sustainable water and sanitation services.
6. Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Consider whether your club could help to improve local water challenges or might participate in a WASH global grant.

### 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

OFFICE: 309-676-5432

CELL: 309-635-7377

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