



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 First United Methodist Church
Friday, August 25, 2023 at 12:00 PM
Speaker: Congressman Eric Sorensen
Topic: Legislative 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



The head of ArtsPartners of Peoria, Dr. Mae Gilliland Wright, talked to Rotarians about and showed what the arts are doing in Central Illinois.



Dr. Mae Gilliland Wright

On a strictly economic basis, Mae Gilliland Wright says the arts in the Greater Peoria area is a 20.4-million-dollar industry with 850 full time jobs and \$2.2 million dollars in revenue. The job of ArtsPartners is to make sure as many people as possible are aware of that. To that end, Dr Gilliland Wrights says that they're constantly "engaging the community with the arts."

Examples of that include the recent 'Ignite Peoria Midwest Makerfest,' where everything from cars and bikes to clothing to sculpture and dance got a chance in the spotlight. Another recent example was "Sky Art, featuring the work of six artists -including two under the age of 18 - now seen on giant billboards around the city of Peoria.



Kids at the Ignite Peoria Midwest Makerfest

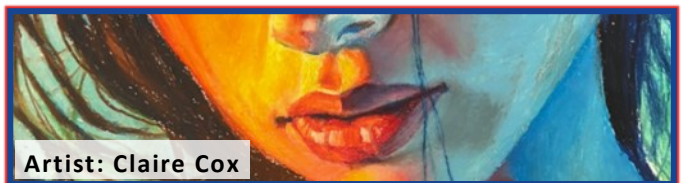


Want to find out what's happening in the wide world of the arts in Peoria?

You can find it all online at artspartners.net and sign up for notifications about upcoming events.



Artist: Knyame-Maison



Artist: Claire Cox

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



Rotary Readers Updates

The Rotary Readers program is hoping to start sometime in September, but before they can start they need to build and rebuild the reading teams.

MORE HELP NEEDED: We need 7 New Readers to complete the teams with the right amount of Readers for each student. You do not need to be a Rotary member to participate in this program.

[Click Here](#) if you would like to join or know someone who wants to have a positive impact on needy 2nd graders, please talk to them about this opportunity.

Let's make this another great year with Miss Doty's students! **Thanks to all for your commitment!!**
Maggie & Owen - Rotary Readers Co-chairs

Upcoming Events

BIG PICTURE PEORIA STREET FESTIVAL IS BACK!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 | 10:00AM - 4:00PM
1300 BLOCK SW ADAMS - PEORIA'S WAREHOUSE DIST.



The 2023 Street Festival Will Take Place Sept 9th in Peoria's Warehouse District.

Join us for this one-of-a-kind interactive celebration of the arts in our community.

Admission is donation based, simply pay as you are able.

The Street Festival has something for everyone!

See live mural painting, performers, and musicians. Take part in the chalk painting contest & art projects. There's tons of fun for kids, too, with make-and-take activities in the KidZone. Enjoy local food and drinks while watching any number of creative happenings.

Mark your calendars and join us!!!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Rotary Club of Peoria **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** CareerSpark

The 7th Annual CareerSpark Expo is being held on Thursday & Friday, Sept 28th & 29th at the Peoria Civic Center

The CareerSpark Expo - is an interactive work and career readiness experience for 8th-grade students in our region.

They are looking for volunteers to help the high school students navigate the expo. To learn more about this event, please visit the **Greater Peoria Pathways Website:**

www.gppathways.org/gp-careerspark/

If you would like to volunteer for this event, please visit: <https://bit.ly/BeTheSpark23> by Aug 30th to sign-up

Rotary Club of Peoria **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

The Rotary Club of Peoria has been involved with the Goodwill Stand Down for Homeless Veterans for 15 years!! This year's annual event will be held at Goodwill Commons - 2319 E. War Memorial Dr on Saturday, October 14th

Volunteers are needed to help between 9AM - 1PM.

If you would like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet will be available at the weekly meetings. You can also email the office infodowntown@peoriarotary.org to be added to list. Please be sure to include your up-to-date phone & email.

Goodwill will contact you about timeslots.

Rotary Interact Club

Rotary Club of Peoria Interact Peoria High School

2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY TAKE BACK NIGHT

FUN & CREATIVE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, FOOD, AND MERCHANDISE FOR FAMILIES & THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY

Date/ Time: Sep 16th 3-7pm

Admission: FREE

Vendors Needed: Vendor Fee \$20

Interact & Keyclub: 1615 North North Street, Peoria IL

All Proceeds will be donated to Generational Manhood Alliance

More Information: (309) 672-6630 Ext (40253) Dana.sanders@psd150.org

2023 District 6460 Conference / Rotary Foundation Dinner

Rotary District 6460

District Conference and Rotary Foundation Dinner
 Saturday, October 28
 Conference - 9:30 to 4:00
 Foundation Dinner - 5:00 to 7:45
 University of Illinois in Springfield

Peace CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Celebrate Rotary & Be Inspired! See current, and meet new, Rotary friends.

FEATURED SPEAKERS & FACILITATORS:

- Dr. Jennifer Staats, United States Institute for Peace
- Past Rotary International Vice President, Nicki Scott
- Rotarian Steve Evans, Collinsville Chief of Police
- Rotary Peace Fellow Dr. Moh Eid

Conference: \$50 includes lunch. Rotary Foundation Dinner: \$75

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Upcoming Meetings

AUGUST 25th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speaker: Congressman Eric Sorensen
Topic: Legislative Updates
Greeters: Charlie Greer & John Bearce
Inspiration/Reflection: Amanda Klein
Attendance Prize: John Bearce
Meeting Tech: Brad Stegall

SEPTEMBER 1st - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speakers: Jolene Whisler
Topic: Phoenix Community Development Services
Greeter: Sue Portscheller
Inspiration/Reflection: Bill Albers
Attendance Prize: Sue Portscheller
Meeting Tech: Brad Stegall

SEPTEMBER 8th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speaker: Amy Christison, MD
Topic: Food Insecurity in Peoria
Greeter: Edie Barnard
Inspiration/Reflection: Kala Bertrand Pierce
Attendance Prize: Bill Albers
Meeting Tech: Ryan LaCosse

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.



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



August Social - Thank You



AUGUST SOCIAL EVENT





THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!















Foundation Minute

Rotary Club of Peoria **FOUNDATION MINUTE - CREATE HOPE** 

Historically, Rotary has focused on providing long-term solutions to humanitarian needs around the world. But many Rotarians wanted to be able to help when disasters arise.

In response to emergency relief, The Rotary Foundation established a support fund to receive contributions for disasters that strike around the world.

Entitled the Rotary Disaster Response Fund, RI staff in Programs and Grants reach out to the affected areas and their districts to assess the need and desire for funding. Upon a qualified response - much like a district grant - the affected district will be awarded funding in increments of up to \$25,000, consulting the TRF chair as needed. Only districts in the affected country may request a grant. These districts can apply for more than one grant and should some of the allocation not be used - the funds will be returned to the Disaster Fund. Should requests exceed available funds, the General Secretary of RI will triage requests until additional funds are available.

This fund enables Rotarians to make donations in response to disasters around the world through The Rotary Foundation. This is a fund that we hope we will never need but are thankful that it is there.

Every Rotarian Every Year

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.

Rotary Club of Peoria 

EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR

CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION

Rotary Club of Peoria - Committee List



The goal of the board is to have all members sign up for at least one committee. (Not limited to one) Please review the attached committees & select the ones you are interested in & reply either to the chair of that committee or the [office](#).

COMMITTEE LIST OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA

A/V TECH COMMITTEE

Chair: [Austin Locke](#) (Austin@share-builders.com)

Group of members to manage the Technology (Audio, Video, Zoom, etc) during our weekly club meetings.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chair: [Randy Neff](#) (rneff@neffvaluation.com)

The Executive Committee, made up of the five officers, meets to oversee the governance of the Club.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION (TRF) and ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: [Emily Jacob-Rudesill](#) (emilyj@fosterjacob.com)

Encourages Club Members to actively support the philanthropic opportunities of Rotary through The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and the Rotary Club of Peoria Endowment Fund. The Committee educates the Club about the work and outcomes of TRF and Endowment Fund.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair: [Amanda Klein](#) (aklein@inb.com)

Selects organizations to receive hunger and community service grants from the Rotary Club of Peoria.

INTERACT COMMITTEE

Chair: [Aaron Kilgore](#) (askilgore64@gmail.com)

Work with high school personnel to organize a student-led service club based on Rotary ideals.

Interact volunteers must submit to a background check and be orientated to the program.

Recruit sophomore Interact members to RYLA (District Rotary Youth Leadership Academy).

Collaborate with the Public Image Committee to highlight Interact activities to the Club and possibly media.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

Chair: [Janet Bantz Glavin](#) (jglavin@illinois.wish.org) | Co-Chair: [Eileen Setti](#) (esetti@rmhc-centralillinois.org)

Responsible for all aspects of the club's activities relating to International Service such as District international projects or club grants from The Rotary Foundation; and sponsoring Youth Exchange.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: [Aaron Kilgore](#) (askilgore64@gmail.com)

Plan activities to actively support and encourage membership growth and membership retention.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair: [Edie Barnard](#) (PeoriaMusicLady@gmail.com)

Provide any musical needs for the Club, including weekly meetings.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: [Jana' Stevens](#) (jstevens@cefcu.com)

Nominate a slate of Officers and Directors for approval by The Board and then the entire Membership. Requirements are based on the Bylaws of the Club. The President Elect chairs the Committee and chooses the committee members.

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

Chair: [Steve Driscoll](#) (steve.driscoll@goblusky.com)

Informs prospective and new members about all aspects and responsibilities of Rotary membership. Perhaps sponsor follow-up "Rotary 101" sessions after new members are inducted.

PUBLIC IMAGE COMMITTEE

Chair: [Jason Parkinson](#) (jason.parkinson@onfire.com)

Promotes awareness and provides information to the public about the Club and Rotary International.

ROTARY READERS COMMITTEE

Chair: [Maggie Freidag](#) (maggiefreidag@gmail.com)

Rotary Readers will work in teams of four, with one member serving as team captain. Each team will read with two students all year long. Participation in group activities with the students such as a trip to Tanner's Orchard, are encouraged.

Rotary Readers must submit to a background check and be orientated to the program.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: [Walter Ruppman](#) (wruppman@comcast.net)

Administers the various Club scholarship activities and programs by working with Peoria High School and ICC in choosing the Blumenthal and Hardin scholarship winners and organizing their celebration at a Rotary meeting.

SERVICE PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Co-Chair: [Chuck Gabbert](#) (chuck@ctgabbert.com)

To plan and organize volunteer activities / projects for the Rotary Club Members and their families to participate in.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Chair: [Colleen Halberg](#) (chalberg@epicci.org)

To plan and organize activities beyond the Friday meetings to promote networking among Club members and their families and to help recruit new members.

STERLING MERIT BANQUET COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: [Susie Stockman](#) (susie1026@comcast.net)

Plan and participate in the annual Sterling Merit Banquet which honors the top eight percent of graduating seniors from twelve area high schools. The Rotary Clubs of Peoria, Peoria-North, Farmington and Chillicothe sponsor the event.

The Rotary Club of Peoria serves as the lead club for the event.

So You Thought You Knew what Mick Hall Thinks About Building a Successful Local Retail Economy (In 200 Words or Less!)

By Edith Barnard

Multi-Talented Rotarian Mick Hall is an avid diver and snorkeler. He thinks that whether you have ever been snorkeling, scuba diving or simply watching Planet Earth reruns, you know that coral reefs are the center of a complex ecosystem for countless marine species. When a coral reef is healthy, it offers opportunities for the survival of a wide range of fish and other creatures that rely on each other. Therefore, the coral reef grows and prospers. He feels that a strong local retail economy is akin to a healthy coral reef. He is extremely concerned about the impact online purchasing has on our local retail economy. A successful businessman who is very active in our community, Mick continues to share below.



“I believe that online shopping is as quietly dangerous to our local retail economy as environmental issues are to coral reefs. Each time a shopper avoids going to a local retailer and instead purchases online, no dollars are invested into our community through sales tax. The fewer sales a local retailer can make, the fewer employees the business will need. Eventually the company may be forced to close as we have seen far too often recently in Peoria. Look at Bergner’s, JC Penny, Sears, Pier One or many others. The less we shop locally, the more unstable our retail economy becomes.

Online retailers don’t support local charities or sponsor little league teams. Their executives don’t serve on local charitable or civic boards. Amazon has no employees who participate on local Chamber committees. They add nothing to the fabric of our community. The convenience of online purchasing is a given. However, the impact on our community, especially now while our local businesses try to navigate the impact of COVID-19, is severe.”



This devoted family man and Dunlap football announcer cautions, “If we all buy locally, our combined purchasing power grows exponentially, and our retail economy will continue to thrive. We will be able to attract new retailers and skilled labor to the area, and our tax base will balloon. So put the mouse down and make that trip to a local retailer. You’ll be glad you did!”



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
Office Hours: By Appointment
Website: www.peoriarotary.org

Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Rotary



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star