



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)  
Email: [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)  
309-676-5432



CHARTERED 1913  
CLUB NO. 76

**Weekly Meeting at First United Methodist Church**  
**Friday, September 1, 2023 at 12:00 PM**  
**Speaker: Jolene Whisler**  
**Topic: Phoenix Community Development Services**

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



Congressman Eric Sorensen spoke to Rotarians last Friday about the Legislative Updates in his District. The Illinois' 17th Congressional District spans Central and Northwestern Illinois. The district is anchored by Rockford to the North and Bloomington-Normal to the South and includes Peoria and the Illinois side of the Quad Cities region, comprising of Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline.

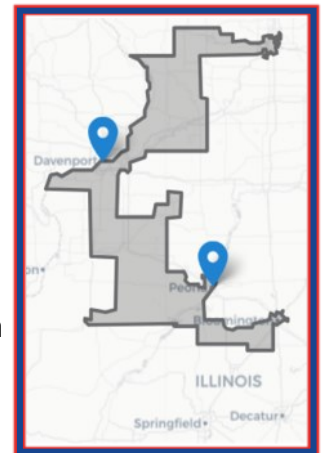


Congressman Eric Sorensen

Congressman Sorensen was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois. He served communities across Central and Northwestern Illinois as a local TV meteorologist for over two decades, communicating life-saving information that impacted Illinoisans' jobs, schools, farms, and safety. He currently resides in Moline with his partner Shawn and his dogs Petey and Oliver.

In Congress, Sorensen values being a trusted neighbor to the residents of Illinois' 17th Congressional District. He is focused on lowering costs for working families, creating sustainable jobs in Central and Northwestern Illinois, and supporting the family farms and rural communities that keep our economy moving forward.

Sorensen represents Illinois farmers on the House Agriculture Committee and uses his background in science to contribute to his role on the Science, Space, & Technology Committee.



On the Science, Space and Technology Committee, Sorensen serves as Ranking Member on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee.

## 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**

## 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 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 Career Spark**

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/](http://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](mailto: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.



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Midwest FOOD BANK Illinois-Peoria**

Midwest Food Bank is looking for volunteers to help label and/or package bulk food items so they can be readied for distribution to our food pantries.

**Date: Thursday November 2nd, 2023**  
**Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

If you would like to volunteer, please click here to sign-up. A sign-up sheet will be available at weekly meetings or email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to be added to list.

## Upcoming Meetings

**SEPTEMBER 1st - Meeting at First United Methodist Church**  
**Speaker: Jolene Whisler**  
**Topic: Phoenix Community Development Services**  
**Greeter: Sue Portscheller**  
**Inspiration/Reflection: Kala Bertrand Pierce**  
**Attendance Prize: Sue Portscheller**  
**Meeting Tech: Brad Stegall**

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

**SEPTEMBER 15th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church**  
**Speaker: Chris Manson**  
**Topic: OSF - Ambulances to Ukraine**  
**Greeter: Jason Miller**  
**Inspiration/Reflection: Shelly Heiden**  
**Attendance Prize: Shelly Heiden**  
**Meeting Tech: Jason Parkinson**

## 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](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)





# Get Well Soon

## Tom McIntyre

*Thoughtful prayers are being sent your way with the hopes that you will feel better soon.*

**The Rotary Club of Peoria Misses Your Presence!**

## Foundation Minute

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

Joi Burton, a member of the Rotary Club of North Garland County, Arkansas proves how a small club can make a difference in the world. Joi and a friend, Moses, were visiting a village a day's drive from the Nairobi airport – a village comprised of a few houses, several huts, a school and a church – no electricity, no water and miles from the nearest road.

Before she left, her club gave her \$500 to do a project in the village. Upon arrival, Joi told Moses, that she had a "little bit of money" from her club and asked if there was something they needed. He told her they needed concrete to replace the floors in the school as the children were getting their uniforms dirty from having to sit on the floor all day. She and Moses went to the nearest town and purchased gravel, sand, and cement – the villagers then completed the floors in all the rooms.

The next week, she again told Moses that she had a "little bit of money" and asked if there was anything else they needed. They needed glass to replace the broken windows in the school. She and Moses bought large plates of glass and were able to place windows in the entire school.

The following week, she again told Moses that she had a "little bit of money" left – what else do they need? They then purchased metal paint & brushes to paint the rusted tin roof. And with a little more of that money left – they were able to make ladders with sticks & rope to paint the roof!

And on the last week that Joi stayed – she still had "a little money left" where they purchased schoolbooks and two cases of chalk! They were completely out of chalk.

This experience built the foundation for other efforts including global grants for wells. What a difference one small Rotary club can make with "a little bit of money".

## 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



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jglavin@illinois.wish.org)) | Co-Chair: [Eileen Setti](#) ([esetti@rmhc-centralillinois.org](mailto: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](mailto:askilgore64@gmail.com))

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

### MUSIC COMMITTEE

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

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

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

## Member Celebrations

 <p><b>Rotary</b> Club of Peoria</p>	<h1 style="color: red; font-size: 2em;">SEPTEMBER</h1>	<h2 style="color: red; font-size: 1.5em;">MEMBER CELEBRATIONS</h2>																																										
<h3 style="color: orange;">Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</h3>	<h3 style="color: orange;">Birthdays</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Member</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Cedric Volkmer</td><td>9/1</td></tr> <tr><td>Brandy Rubel</td><td>9/1</td></tr> <tr><td>Brittany Graves</td><td>9/4</td></tr> <tr><td>Shelly Heiden</td><td>9/5</td></tr> <tr><td>Steve Thompson</td><td>9/5</td></tr> <tr><td>Edie Barnard</td><td>9/7</td></tr> <tr><td>Kala Bertrand Pierce</td><td>9/7</td></tr> <tr><td>Debbie Sippel</td><td>9/11</td></tr> <tr><td>Sue Portscheller</td><td>9/15</td></tr> <tr><td>Dr. Bill Albers</td><td>9/17</td></tr> <tr><td>Jason Miller</td><td>9/29</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Member	Date	Cedric Volkmer	9/1	Brandy Rubel	9/1	Brittany Graves	9/4	Shelly Heiden	9/5	Steve Thompson	9/5	Edie Barnard	9/7	Kala Bertrand Pierce	9/7	Debbie Sippel	9/11	Sue Portscheller	9/15	Dr. Bill Albers	9/17	Jason Miller	9/29	<h3 style="color: orange;">Anniversaries</h3> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">Member</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Years</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Katherine Coyle</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>Scott Seynemeier</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>John Iverson</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Peter Russell</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Nick Vespa</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Edie Barnard</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Randy Neff</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Sue Portscheller</td><td>24</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Member	Years	Katherine Coyle	6	Scott Seynemeier	6	John Iverson	8	Peter Russell	8	Nick Vespa	13	Edie Barnard	18	Randy Neff	22	Sue Portscheller	24
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<p><b>Club Officers</b></p> <p>President - Randy Neff</p> <p>President-Elect - Jana' Stevens</p> <p>Secretary - Caitlin Behrends</p> <p>Treasurer- Gina Driscoll</p> <p>Immediate Past President - Tom McIntyre</p>	<p><b>Board Members</b></p> <p>Robert Brandfass</p> <p>Melissa Entzminger</p> <p>Charlie Greer</p> <p>Emily Jacob-Rudesill</p> <p>Jason Parkinson</p> <p>Cedric Volkmer</p>	<p><b>Contact Us</b></p> <p>Melissa Brewer Executive Secretary</p> <p><b>OFFICE:</b> 309-676-5432</p> <p><b>CELL:</b> 309-635-7377</p> <p><b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org">infodowntown@peoriarotary.org</a></p> <p><i>Office Hours: By Appointment</i></p> <p><i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.peoriarotary.org">www.peoriarotary.org</a></p>
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