



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, September 22, 2023 at 12:00 PM
Speakers: Chad Bailey & Joseph Monahan
Topic: Peoria Christian Center - Youth Sports Programs**

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



Pictured Left to Right:
Chris Manson & Randy Neff
Rotary Club President

The way Chris Manson tells it, the whole thing started when his eight-year-old daughter Lily asked "Hey, Dad, is there anything we can do to help the people of Ukraine? Manson's response was to found the organization "U.S. Ambulances for Ukraine." Lily, he says, is the co-founder. Chris Manson talked to Rotarians on Friday about the journey which began with a question from an eight-year-old. Manson, an OSF vice president, got his first ambulance from Peorian Andrew Rand. Since then, he has been able to send 67 emergency vehicles to Ukraine: Ambulances, Fire Engines and Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles.

As it turns out, getting old vehicles is easy. Getting ambulances to Ukraine is more difficult. The first ones were flown in cargo planes. Rotary International contributed \$100,000 to help make that happen! Later shipments went by boat. It costs about \$6,500 to ship a vehicle.

Some of these vehicles had a lot of miles on them, and Manson says if they last a few months, they've done their jobs. Manson says, "They use it for two and a half months and transport twenty people every day. That's why we're doing it."

Chris says he currently has nine vehicles waiting to go to Ukraine, and he expects to have more., "You give me a vehicle, I'll get it to the Ukraine."



All Images Courtesy OSF Healthcare

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



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rotary
Club of Peoria



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

Our Rotary Readers year is about to begin. The Readers met on **Wed, Sept 13th** to go over logistics, answer questions, and talk through the events we have planned for the kids this year. All volunteers will need to fill out a Peoria Public Schools Volunteer Form (**Form can be downloaded by clicking here**).

For those who couldn't attend the meeting, please email Maggie (mfreidag87@yahoo.com) the completed form and a copy of your license and she will get those to Ms. Doty. An email with the School Calendar / Teams List for this year was sent out on **Mon, Sept 14th**. Your Captain will be reaching out to you about the individual team schedules.

Thank you to everyone who is volunteering this year. Our program truly provides these 2nd graders with confidence and joy in reading!

Please **click here** if you would like to join the Rotary Readers Program, or email infodowntown@peoriarotary.org or mfreidag87@yahoo.com.



Holiday Social

Rotary Club Holiday Social

Date: Thursday, December 7th, 2023

Location: Tin Lizard Bar & Grill - East Peoria

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm | ***PLEASE JOIN US***

Cost: Members Free | **Guests:** \$15.00

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by clicking here or emailing (infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) We will also have a Sign-up sheet available at weekly meetings

All RSVP's must be received by noon, Friday, December 1st, 2023

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



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> to sign-up

Goodwill 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.

Midwest Food Bank



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 to be added to list.

Upcoming Meetings

SEPTEMBER 22nd - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speakers: Chad Bailey & Joseph Monahan
Topic: Peoria Christian Center - Youth Sports
Greeter: Sue Portscheller
Inspiration/Reflection: Edie Barnard
Attendance Prize: Jason Miller
Meeting Tech: Ryan LaCosse

SEPTEMBER 29th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speaker: Shelley Epstein
Topic: Are Newspapers Dying?
Greeter: Debbie Sippel
Inspiration/Reflection: Edie Barnard
Attendance Prize: Edie Barnard
Meeting Tech: Austin Locke

OCTOBER 6th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speaker: Brad Chandler
Topic: How NIL and the Transfer Portal are changing the college game
Greeter: TBD
Inspiration/Reflection: TBD
Attendance Prize: TBD
Meeting Tech: Maggie Freidag

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



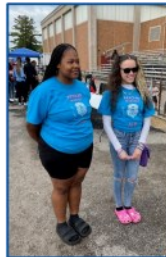
Rotary Interact Club Event

Rotary Club of Peoria
Interact
 Peoria High School

Thank you!
 TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



2ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY TAKE BACK NIGHT
SAT. SEPT 16TH 3PM - 7PM



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.



Foundation Minute



FOUNDATION MINUTE - YOU Should Attend the District Conference



Saturday, October 28, 2023 the Rotary District 6460 Conference will be held in Springfield and I want to encourage all of you to attend. You don't have to be in a Club leadership position to attend a conference and even non-Rotarians are invited!

Why Should You Attend? There are going to be some pretty amazing speakers!

- The 2022-23 Vice President of Rotary International is coming all the way from England. Nicki Scott describes herself as "A global citizen with an infectious passion for living to my full potential to make a difference and inspiring others to do the same so we can leverage our impact worldwide." She is the founder of Lead4Good, an executive coaching business dedicated to closing the gap between For-profit and Not-for-profit organizations.

- Jeff Korzenik is the Chief Economist for Fifth Third Bank, one of the nation's largest commercial banks. A regular guest on CNBC, Fox Business News, and Bloomberg TV, his insights into the economy, markets, manufacturing, and the workforce are frequently cited in the financial and business press.

- Dr. Jennifer Staats is the director of East Asia and Pacific Programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace. She leads USIP's work on China. She also oversees United States Institute for Peace's programs in Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

- Moh Eid is a Program Officer at the Rotary International World Headquarters, Peace Centers Program where he supports peace fellows and staff at the Rotary Peace Center located at Makerere University in Uganda. He has served as a Humanitarian Response Specialist for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. (I will talk about Rotary Peace Centers next week!)

When you attend a District Conference, you get the opportunity to hear from and converse with other Rotarians from across our District. You get to meet people and make connections. You learn from the workshops and get inspired by the speakers.

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

FEATURED SPEAKERS & FACILITATORS:

- Dr. Jennifer Staats, United States Institute for Peace
- Author of Untapped Talent, Jeff Korzinek
- James Carothers, Kewanee Lifeskills Re-entry Center Warden
- Past Rotary International Vice President, Nicki Scott
- Rotarian Steve Evans, Collinsville Chief of Police
- Rotary Peace Fellow Moh Eid

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



[Click here for details & to register](#)



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@onefire.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.

(Previously published in the Feb. 26, 2021 edition of the Green Light)

So You Thought You Knew Robert Brandfass (In 200 Words or Less)

By Edith Barnard

Robert Brandfass has many interests from international travel to civil war history to family genealogy. This captivatingly loquacious Rotarian has many stories to share. Sit by him at a Friday noon meeting and learn more! Below he discloses a tip of the iceberg of his fascinating background and interests.



"I have been a Rotarian since 2003, having been a GSE Team Leader for a 5 week Rotary trip to Japan (hence the picture in a kimono) and a member of the Rotary sponsored Guatemala Literacy Project Book Delivery Tour (that is Lake Atitlan behind me in the picture of me with my Rotary garb on).



I have also visited Rotary clubs in Ireland, the Bahamas, Japan & Guatemala. Being interested family genealogy, my son Matthew Robert and I traveled to Heisebeck, Germany from where my family emigrated in 1860, settling in Wheeling, West Virginia (both my parents are from Wheeling). There is still a Brandfass family in Heisebeck who we met (see photo with the four of us). My father, who served in the US Army during WWII (see top hat photo) was within a few miles of Heiseback during the war but did not know his connection to it. Speaking of connections, my father and the father of fellow club member Dick Macdonald, both helped liberate the same concentration camp, Ebensee in Austria. Our fathers were there at the same time! My lovely bride Paula is also an attorney. My oldest daughter Lara is finishing up her last year of law school while my middle child Ally is a senior at WVU. The youngest, my son Matthew, is following in my footsteps and attends my alma mater, Ripon College in Ripon, WI; Ripon being the birthplace of the Republican Party. I currently serve as Senior Vice President, Legal Services for OSF Healthcare System."



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
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Rotary Club of Peoria, IL

