



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 Peoria Riverfront Museum
Friday, November 17, 2023 at 12:00PM
Speaker: Suzanne Ellerbrock
Topic: Rotary District 6460 Foundation

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



Retired Illinois Air National Guard Brigadier General William "Robbie" Robertson, former head of the 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, was the speaker for this year's annual Peoria Rotary Veteran's Day ceremony. Robertson, a 41-year veteran of military service and long-time Rotarian retired two years ago. Speaking

before members of both of Peoria's Rotary clubs, Robertson told the stories of two Peorian's of the past, whose bravery and sacrifice are outstanding, but mostly unknown.

Army Second Lieutenant John Trager from Peoria, during World War One, charged a group of Germans, firing his handgun, and with a companion, killed seven of the enemy and captured another thirty-one. In another incident, he evacuated seven wounded men by carrying them in his arms. In all Lt. Trager was recommended for The Congressional

Medal of Honor and did receive Accolade of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France and the Croix de Guerre with a palm. Trager returned to Peoria after the war and served Peoria and Peoria County governments as Treasurer.

The second Peorian made a difference in naval aviation, in books and the movies, and in how World War Two was fought. Frank "Spig" Wead of Peoria attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1916. Early on, he saw the future of Naval aviation, pushing for the creation of Aircraft Carriers.

He was also a well-known pilot, establishing records for endurance, following a crippling spinal injury in 1926, Wead was placed on the retired list. He became a **screenwriter**, involved in more than 30 movies and published books, short stories and magazine articles. Although paralyzed from the waist down. he returned to active duty in WW2. He saw action against the Japanese in 1943-44 before being placed on the retired list in mid-1945. He died in 1947 and is buried in Springdale Cemetery. A 1957 film about Frank Wead, starring John Wayne, is **John Ford's "The Wings of Eagles"**.



William
"Robbie"
Robertson

John W Trager
in World War
One



Frank Wead
in The Wings
of Eagles

Frank
Wead as a
young man



Frank Wead in
World War
Two



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



U p c o m i n g M e e t i n g s



No Meeting Friday
November 24, 2023

DECEMBER 1st - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Speaker: DuShaun Branch Pollard
Topic: Illinois Congressional Redistricting
Greeters: John Kelly & Steve Bash
Inspiration/Reflection: Jerry Jackson
Attendance Prize: Steve Bash
Meeting Tech: Brad Stegall

DECEMBER 8th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church
Program: Club Assembly - Election of Officers
Greeters: Pam Cain & Nick Vespa
Inspiration/Reflection: Jana' Stevens
Attendance Prize: Jerry Jackson
Meeting Tech: Jeremy Caldera



S a n t a C l a u s P a r a d e

THE 136TH ANNUAL SANTA CLAUS PARADE

The Rotary Club of Peoria and Rotary North will have a float in this year's Santa Parade on Friday, November 24, 2023 (The Day After Thanksgiving) | Parade Starts: 9:15AM

Peoria Rotarians will be walking along with the Rotary float with members from Rotary North. If you and your family want to show up and walk with the Rotary Float during the Parade, please do so, the more the merrier. We plan to hand out candy during the parade. There is Candy left over from the Veterans Day Parade, so you don't need to bring any extras.

The Rotary Float will be on Monroe St one block past the Fire Station. Please be at the float by 8:30am - You can't miss the big Rotary Wheel! The parade begins at 9:15am and is televised live on WMBD-TV which will be set up on Adams St across from the CAT building. The end of the parade is at Fayette St (Mark Twain Hotel).

Neighborhood House Service Project



Neighborhood House Santa for Seniors



On Sunday December 3, 2023 - from 10AM - 2PM the Neighborhood House will coordinate the delivery of 1,000 gifts to homebound seniors in our area. Several volunteers are needed to make these deliveries possible. If you would like to volunteer, please [Click Here to sign-up](#)

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: Shayne Christe

Sponsored by: Caitlin Behrends

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

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!

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

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.



Every Rotarian Every Year Fundraiser

Between now and the end of the December, we are taking donations for raffle prizes for the EREY Fundraiser.

Prizes should be at least a \$25 value.

Raffle tickets will be \$25/each and will go on sale in December.

You can enter your raffle ticket in the prizes all of January. Winners will be announced on Feb 2nd.

If you would like to donate any items for the raffle, please contact:

Emily Jacob-Rudesill
(emilyj@fosterjacob.com)

There will be a donation sign-up sheet available at the weekly meetings.



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



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.



2023 VETERANS DAY PARADE

Members from the Rotary Club of Peoria and the Rotary North Club decorated and walked along with the Rotary float in this year's 2023 Veterans Day Parade.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED!!!!



Foundation Minute



FOUNDATION MINUTE - GRATITUDE



As we focus on Foundation Giving this month, we also focus on giving thanks for the many blessings and opportunities we have received.

Consider these words from the past:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them." John F. Kennedy

"At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." Albert Schweitzer

"If you are really thankful, what do you do? You Share." W. Clement Stone

As Rotarians the words of these luminaries from the past should spur us to action. Kennedy's words remind us that living Rotary's ideals is critical - not just to talk about them. And Schweitzer's message urges us to light up our individual Rotary passions to make a difference in someone else's life. As you consider the gifts you have received, consider sharing what you can, by supporting a Rotary cause, whether near or far.

Be thankful and generous this Thanksgiving season.

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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Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Rotary



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star