

Rotary



Club of Dayton SMILE

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

This Week at Rotary

MONDAY, March 9, 2026

"Know The Nominees - a Look at the 2026 Academy Award Nominations"

Club Leaders



Linda Osterfeld
President



Kelly Marie Lehman
President - Elect



Sarah Hippensteel
Hall
Vice President



Richard Edward Lundin
Secretary



Frank H. Scott
Treasurer
Rotary Foundation Chair



Randall K. Domigan
iPast President

Birthdays



Deb Tschirhart
March 12th



Kenneth F. May
March 12th



Evelyn Davidson
March 12th



Terry F. Offenberger
March 12th



Mary Wrenn
March 13th



Richard W. Schwartz
March 15th



Jonathan McNeal, now in his 25th year of managing THE NEON, will look at the nominees in several of the top categories and give his perspective as to who "should win" and who "will likely win" at this year's Academy Awards. He will also give an update as to how THE NEON is doing and how their model has changed over the past several years.

Chair of the Day: Dave Williamson

MEETING WILL BE IN ROOM 116 AT THE SOUTH END OF THE BUILDING

This Happened Last Monday...

The Rotary Club of Dayton gathered on Monday, March 2, 2026, with President Linda Osterfeld calling the meeting to order.

Words to Live By, Pledge, and News of the Day

Fran Rickenbach reflected on Rotary's global presence during her recent visit to St. Maarten. She described seeing Rotary signage in a supermarket and the Four-Way Test prominently displayed at the airport roundabout. It was a powerful reminder that Rotary's reach extends far beyond our local community.

Fran spoke about the "power of one" — how individual acts of service ripple outward when we choose empathy over apathy and Service Above Self. She closed with a hopeful charge: May our work in 2026 be the spark that brings peace into the world.

Bill Nance delivered the News of the Day, sharing headlines including developments in Iran, a New Jersey candle company that began with a single idea, and Rotary Foundation investments creating lasting water infrastructure worldwide. A lighter note included a fire-juggling uni-cyclist — and the welcome news that temperatures will reach 70 degrees this weekend.

Welcome of Guests and Visitors

Cindy Garner welcomed a long list of guests:

- Nadia Turek (AltaFiber), guest of Stephanie Ritchie (HEAPY)
- Karla Garrett Harshaw introduced several Sinclair Community College guests attending with Dr. Steven Johnson: Melissa Tolle, Madeline Iseli, Scott Marshall, David Wellebaum, and Jeff Miller
- Linda Osterfeld introduced Jonathan Platt (Story Chain)
- Dan Zehringer introduced Brian Eastman, Pastor at Beaver United Church of Christ and co-owner of BRIM in the Oregon District
- Katie Neubert introduced Megan Moon, Chair of the We Care Arts Gala
- Scott Kayser introduced his son Harrison and his mother-in-law, Berdetta Kayser, along with guests from the Dayton Diaper Depot: Mary Beth Thomas and Maggie Schneemann
- Emily Broughton introduced Dabrien Rice (6888 Kitchen in the Arcade)
- Jason Hilliard introduced Diya Shah, Rotary Exchange Student from India

Secretary's Announcements & Birthdays

Secretary Richard Lundin shared announcements and welcomed member Paul Gruner back who joined online.

Upcoming events:

- Rotary Night at the Theatre – March 26 - Dinner at Mackenzie River Grill followed by a 7:30 PM performance of 1776. Tickets are \$20 — mention Rotary when purchasing.
- Rotary on the Road – April 20 = Five host locations including Front Street.

Birthdays recognized:

- Shaun Yu
- Merle Willberding
- Jack Omer

Speakers

March 09, 2026

[Jonathan McNeal](#)
[Manager, The NEON](#)
[Oscars Preview](#)

March 16, 2026

[Brittany Boulton & Vanessa Butler](#)
[Groundwork Ohio](#)

March 23, 2026

[Tom Nichols](#)
[Broadcast & Marketing Director](#)
[Dayton Dragons Baseball](#)

March 30, 2026

[Sharon Davies](#)
[President & CEO](#)
[The Kettering Foundation](#)

April 06, 2026

[Red Ribbon Takeover Meeting](#)

April 13, 2026

[Laurie Marks](#)
[World Affairs Seminar...Peace through Understanding](#)

April 20, 2026

[Rotary on the Road](#)

April 27, 2026

[Rob Beeler](#)
[AES](#)

May 04, 2026

[Tim Jackson](#)
[Advanced Air Mobility](#)

May 11, 2026

[Marissa Vilardo](#)
[PDI Communications Systems](#)

May 18, 2026

[Rachel Jessup](#)
[Trip of a Lifetime](#)

May 25, 2026

[NO MEETING - MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY](#)

June 01, 2026

[Deb Tschirhart](#)
[ThinkTV](#)

June 08, 2026

[Rick Schwartz](#)
[DL Barnes Preservation Project](#)

June 15, 2026

[David Seyer](#)
[A Special Wish Foundation of SW Ohio](#)

June 22, 2026

[Jessica Watkins and Monnie Bush](#)
[The Victory Project](#)

June 29, 2026

[Linda Osterfeld & Kelly Lehman](#)
[Changing of the Rotary Guard](#)

July 20, 2026

[Vanessa Ward](#)
[Omega Community Development Corporation](#)

July 27, 2026

[Malcom Keith](#)
[Dayton Urban Young Life](#)

August 24, 2026

[Nichole Smith](#)
[East End Community Services](#)

Events

March 26th

[Dayton Rotary Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Day-Tens & Foundation Giving

Generosity filled the room:

- Day 155 – Linda Osterfeld supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library service project (funding one child's books for a year (one each month))
- Day 200 – Dan McBride honoring Emily Broughton's dedication and help connecting his business, Insignia to other businesses.
- Day 100 – Shaun Yu for his birthday
- Day 30 – Dave Williamson in honor of Sinclair
- Day 25 – Katie Neubert celebrating the success of the We Care Arts Gala thanks to all Rotarian who were a part
- Day 100 – Penny Wolff honoring the speaker
- Day 10 – Chuck Watts (Empathy Surplus & Human Rights Rotary Group)
- Day 50 – Fran Rickenbach recognizing Amy Kopp and Rotary connections
- \$155 – Donna Childs supporting the Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Linda noted the overwhelming generosity in the room and expressed gratitude for the continued support of Rotary's work.



A Foundation grant check presentation was made to the Dayton Diaper Depot, with young Harrison Kayser assisting in the presentation alongside Executive Director Maggie Schneemann and Volunteer Coordinator Mary Beth Thomas.

Dayton Diaper Depot operates with a simple mission — providing diapers and wipes through partner agencies to families in need. Diapers cost approximately 25 cents each, and the organization reaches more than 1,000 babies annually, providing roughly 50 diapers per month per child.

New Member Introductions

- Matt Jessup introduced Andrew White, co-owner of Indigo Life with his wife, Lauren.
- Linda Osterfeld introduced Connor Royse (Montgomery County GOP).

It was shared by President Linda that dues and lunch prices will increase on April 1:

- \$23 prepaid lunches and \$25 pay-as-you-go with a reservation Parking remains \$2.
- Dues will go up \$5 a quarter.

Program

Chair of the Day, Karla Garrett Harshaw introduced Dr. Steven L. Johnson for his talk on Sinclair Providing the Workforce for 2030

For nearly 140 years, Sinclair has contributed to the strength and vitality of the Dayton Region through education, innovation and workforce leadership. Founded in 1887 by David Sinclair, the college began as a YMCA night school to equip working adults with practical skills. Today, it stands as the second-largest two-year college in Ohio and the oldest community college in the United States.

Under the leadership of Dr. Steven L. Johnson, who has served as President for 23 years, Sinclair has grown into the #1 community college in the nation for student success. With 32,570 students in FY2025, Sinclair produces more degrees and credentials than any other community college in Ohio — more than the bottom 15 colleges combined.

Sinclair students attend from across an eight-county region — more than any other university draws from that region. The college offers 325 degree and credential programs, serves 1,724 military-affiliated students, and has transfer students on to 525 institutions, with students from 327 other universities transferring into Sinclair.

The economic impact is significant. The average student earns \$33,000 before attending Sinclair and \$53,000 after completion. Tuition and fees average \$4,251 annually — well below the state average — and after financial aid, many students pay approximately \$1,060.

Sinclair remains one of the few colleges in the world with zero debt and maintains a perfect SB6 financial health score of 5. Since FY16, the institution has cut or avoided \$64.1 million in cumulative costs.

Looking ahead, Sinclair continues to lead in emerging technologies:

- National leader in drone technology (USA operations began in 2008)
- New AI Institute launching
- Integrated Technology Center focused on cybersecurity, AI, and advanced tech
- Major investment in EV workforce training
- Commitment that “no student is left behind” in AI literacy

Dr. Johnson emphasized the growing digital divide and Sinclair's mission to ensure students can ethically, responsibly and effectively use AI. With 20,000 STEM jobs projected annually in the region for the next six years, the workforce gap is urgent.

He reinforced that community colleges must ensure access for all — bridging the digital divide rather than widening it.

He concluded by emphasizing Sinclair's role in ensuring every student is equipped to navigate and lead in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

He also addressed a potential Ohio ballot initiative to eliminate property taxes, noting the levy currently funds 23% of Sinclair's total operating — and would cost students \$10 million more annually and create “catastrophic” impact for Sinclair and the region.

Dr. Johnson opened his remarks by donating \$250 to Rotary, calling Dayton “the most functional community I can conceive of.” He thanked Dayton Rotary for all that it does for the community.

Queen of Hearts Drawing

Jeff Miller held the winning ticket ...BUT ... The Queen of Hearts was not drawn. The pot continues to grow.

Next Week's Program

Speaker: Jonathan McNeal, The NEON

March 26th
[Rotary Night at the Theatre...WSU Production of 1776](#)

April 14th
[Book Club Meeting](#)

April 17th
[Rotary Rise and Shine Breakfast at the Blueberry Cafe](#)

April 22nd
[Dayton Rotary Foundation Trustee Meeting](#)

April 23rd
[Dayton Rotary Board of Directors Meeting](#)

May 8th
[Rotary Revealed Book Club Meeting](#)

June 9th
[Book Club Meeting](#)

June 11th
[Dayton Rotary Board of Directors Meeting](#)

Program: "Oscars Preview"
We will be in room 116 at the South End of the Building

Four Way Test led by Judy Budi.

President Linda adjourned the meeting.

[Meeting Recording](#)

Queen of Hearts Drawing

Queen of Hearts 50/50 Raffle

Weekly at Monday Meetings to benefit the Dayton Rotary Foundation

\$1 per ticket/\$5 for 6 tickets

Weekly winner draws a card from the deck if they draw the Queen of Hearts the winner takes ½ the pot. If the card is not the Queen of Hearts card then the card is destroyed & we try again next week. Meanwhile the pot continues to grow.

CURRENT POT: \$2653

See Laura for more information.

ATTENTION ZOOM PARTICIPANTS

****For those members who would like to participate via zoom - please let Laura know ahead of time or place your request in the chat prior to the start of the meeting and we will assign you ticket numbers and bill your foundation account.

RULES FOR THIS ROUND

- You must be present to win and/or purchase tickets (either in person or on zoom)
- The drawing is for members of the Dayton Rotary only.
- The winner will need to complete a W-9 form and will be issued a W2-G form.
- The drawing will go to the very last card.



Welcome to Dayton Rotary!

NEW MEMBER PROFILE



A self-made entrepreneur, **Andrew White** has been a visual storyteller for more than 20 years. Together, with his wife and business partner Lauren White they run Indigo Life Media, a video production company specializing in entertainment marketing! From local history to national recovery narratives, their work has earned widespread recognition—including features in Forbes, Huffington Post and honors from the American Red Cross and the Ohio Senate. Today, Indigo Life Media is redefining how entertainment and marketing intersect—one powerful story at a time. Andrew's interest in Rotary is to give back to his community through service and to connect with other business owners as well as staying in the know of what is happening in Dayton.

Andrew White
Indigo Life Media
265 Ravelle Court
Dayton, Ohio 45420
937-718-5043
andrew@indigolifemedia.com

Welcome to Dayton Rotary!

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Connor Royse was born at St. Elizabeth in Dayton, OH on May 13, 1996. His family moved to Northern Virginia in 1998 where he would spend his childhood, graduating from Freedom HS in 2014. After a year at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Connor felt called to enlist in the United States Army, where he would go on to serve with the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division as a medic at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, AK. Following his time in the Army, Connor moved back to the Dayton area where he began working for Turning Point USA, and then Turning Point Action. He is now working with the Montgomery County GOP.

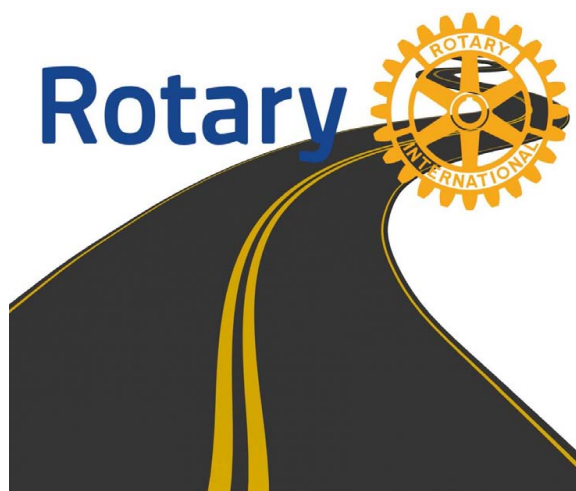
Outside of work Connor is an avid golfer and chess player. In addition to Rotary, he is also a Knight of Columbus and a member of Christ the King Action Ministries in Cincinnati, as well as the Dayton Young Catholic Adults. He is a parishioner at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Connor's "why" for becoming a Rotarian centers around service, particularly to the local community. In John Chapter 17 we are called to be in the world, but not of it, proclaiming the gospel. Through the community of our club he hopes to further foster new relationships centered around giving back to the Dayton area, and build lasting personal connections with fellow Rotarians.



Connor Royse
Montgomery County GOP
1039 Royalton Drive
Vandalia, Ohio 45377
702-629-0100
connor.royse@gmail.com

Rotary on the Road to be Held on April 20th - Sign Up Now to Attend



On April 20th we will hold our Spring Rotary on the Road Event. On this day, we will not meet in our usual location at Sinclair Community College. Instead, we will split up and choose from several different Rotarian Host Locations.

HOST LOCATIONS

Front Street Art Studios
Omega CDC
SICSA Pet Adoption Center
Greater Dayton RTA – Main Bus Garage
Dayton Live @ the Schuster Center

Sign Up Early as Space is Limited

NOTE: NO MEETING AT SINCLAIR

District 6670 2026 Project to Support Reading with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library



Rotary for Reading 2026

MAKING READING ACCESSIBLE, IMPACTFUL, AND EXCITING FOR OHIO CHILDREN!



Designate your donation to support children in your community!

THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT

YOUR DISTRICT: 6670

Donations will be split to provide books to children in multiple counties across your district.



YOUR CLUB: DAYTON

Donations will provide books to children in the county where your club is located.



MAIL A CHECK

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio
P.O. Box 340734, Columbus, Ohio 43234

In the memo line, please notate Rotary and specify which District or County your donation should be allocated to.

**THANK YOU FOR FOSTERING A LOVE OF
READING IN OHIO'S CHILDREN!**

Give Online: Givebutter.com/OhioRotary
Learn More: OhioImaginationLibrary.org

Rotary's Night Out at the Theatre

Where Fellowship Meets the Footlights

Thursday, March 26th

Wright State University, Creative Arts Center,
Festival Playhouse

Curtain: 7:30 PM



Join Rotarians from Across the Dayton Region for an Evening of Fellowship, Great Food, and Outstanding Live Theatre

Pre-Show Dinner (Optional)

MacKenzie River Grill – Beaver Creek @ 6:00 PM

2739 Fairfield Avenue ~ Private Cloister space reserved for Rotary members & guests

Guests will pay for their own meals

1776

Performance

1776. an all female cast

Same Words. New Voices.

The acclaimed Broadway revival of 1776 features an all-female and non-binary cast, re-examining the signing of the Declaration of Independence through a bold and inclusive lens.

- *A revolution retold*
- *History didn't include women — this production does*
 - *The Founding Fathers... reimagined*
 - *History, humor, and high-stakes debate*

Special Pricing for Theatre Tickets: Adults \$20 ~ Seniors \$18

How to Purchase Your Tickets: Call the Box Office and mention "Rotary" to receive the discounted rate. The box office number is 937 775 2500 or, scan the QR code, select the date **March 26th** and purchase your ticket. **Please reserve tickets no later than one week before opening night**



Please email Laura Erbaugh laura@daytonrotary.com to let her know if you will be attending the pre-show dinner so that we can let the restaurant know our numbers. She will need your name and guest name(s) as well as the Club you are with.

Spouses & Guests Welcome ~ Deadline for reservations is March 18th

Reservations are limited to 40 people so please reserve soon!

Next Book Club Gathering in April

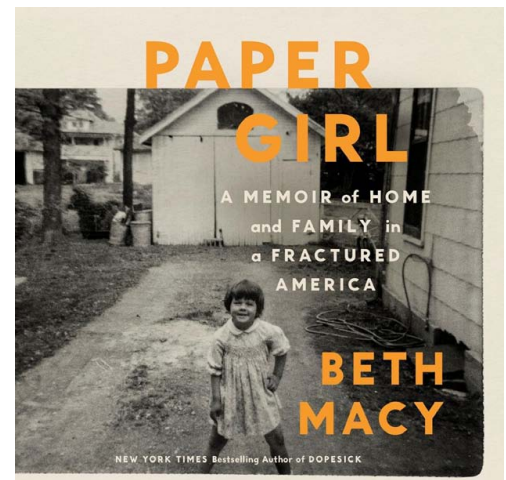
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Paper Girl: A Memoir of Home & Family in a Fractured America
by Beth Macy

A book about life in Urbana, Ohio

Meeting Place @ the Home of Penny Wolff
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Any Questions Please Contact Dr. Susan Hayes
at sm.hayes@me.com



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Rotary International Areas of Focus

