

Fall 2025

ROTOMAGNA

Quarterly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Urbana, Ohio



Derrick Fetz, 2025-26 Club President, leads the discussion of the Board.

Rotary 
Club of Urbana, Ohio

MEETINGS:

Monday - 12:00 PM
Lunch/networking
begins @11:45am

**Mercy Health
-Urbana Hospital**
906 Scioto Street
Urbana, OH 43078

www.urbanarotary.org

PO Box 660
Urbana, OH 43078

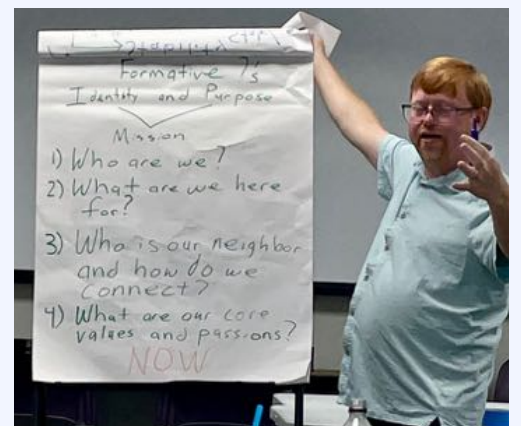
urbanarotaryoh@gmail.com

Chartered
September 4, 1957

Board of Directors Retreat

In addition to a monthly meeting, the Board of the Club met at the Champaign County Library on Saturday, August 23, 2025, for a leadership retreat. Board members first addressed club business, and then began discussions about the future of the club.

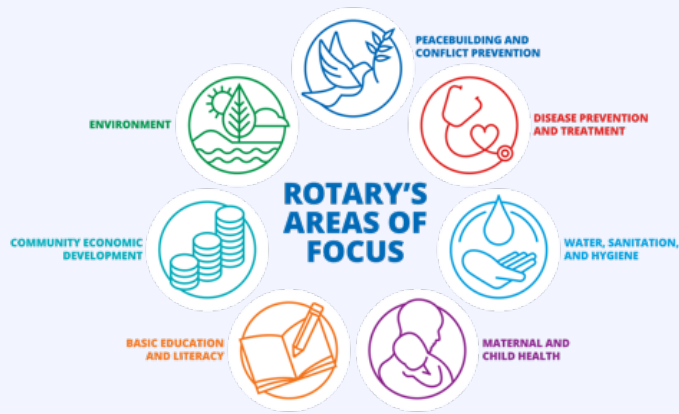
Following the lead of the Rotary District 6670 Governor's recent message to the club, President Derrick Fetz engaged the board members in a brief collaborative discussion about system thinking and the life cycle of an organization. Also discussed were the club's purpose and mission, along with initial consideration of annual goals.



Other topics covered during the retreat included planning for the 2025-2026 calendar of activities, an initial list of member expectations was generated, and the club's committees, including sub-committees and a potential task-force structure, were also reviewed during the meeting.

Service Above Self

One Profits Most Who Serves Best



The Seven Areas of Focus

Peacebuilding and conflict prevention:

- Fostering environments where peace can flourish, from promoting conflict resolution to creating stable and just societies.

Disease prevention and treatment:

- Working to combat the causes of disease and providing support for health and wellness.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene:

- Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, and promoting hygienic practices to prevent disease.

Maternal and child health:

- Supporting the health and well-being of mothers and children through improved health services and access to care.

Basic education and literacy:

- Empowering individuals and communities by providing access to quality education and promoting literacy.

Community economic development:

- Strengthening communities by supporting local economies, creating sustainable livelihoods, and improving living conditions.

Environment:

- Addressing environmental challenges by engaging in projects that protect and preserve the environment.

Rotary members worldwide support projects and activities in these areas to create lasting change in communities and the world.



FREEDOM GROVE

Club members spent time preparing the site in advance of the Patriot Day memorial activities on September 11th. Special thanks to Paul Waldsmith and the Champaign County Master Gardeners Volunteers for their work throughout the summer.

The Board of Directors have also authorized the expenditure of funds to replace the main signs for the site in preparation for the 25th anniversary of 9/11 next year. A new Freedom Grove link was added to the club website at www.urbanarotary.org.



ABOVE - Updates were made to the Bell Tower in an attempt to keep the birds from nesting and the artist's description sign was replaced.

DISCOVER ROTARY EVENT

As in the spring, the club will be hosting an informational program entitled Discover Urbana Rotary on October 20, 2025. This event is an opportunity to introduce both Rotary International and our local club to interested community leaders as prospective members.

More information about the event can be found on the club website at www.urbanarotary.org



FUNDRAISERS SELL OUT AGAIN!



The annual fundraisers for the Rotary Club of Urbana, Ohio - the July 4th Chicken BBQ and the Dairy Bar at the Champaign County Fair - were once again very successful this year. All chicken dinners sold out AND all the ice cream at the Dairy Bar was all gone around 1 pm on Thursday of the fair week.

Although it was quite a hot day, club members along with friends and relatives, served up about 900 chicken dinners on July 4th.

The dazzling fireworks show on July 5th was live streamed on the club's Facebook page to give those who could not attend the opportunity to enjoy the show.



The Dairy Bar gross sales were around \$33,000, with about \$14,000 in profit for the week. The Chicken BBQ had around \$15,800 in gross sales and approximately \$6,700 in profits. These dollars allow the club to support a number of service projects while also providing funds to a variety of community organizations and activities.

Scholarship recipients from the local school districts, as pictured below, lent a helping hand with packing meals for distribution.

In the battle of the donation jars, \$194.00 was given for scholarships and \$132.00 was donated for fireworks, about \$26.00 more in total than last year.



CALENDAR ALERT!

Both the Chicken BBQ & Fireworks will be on Friday, July 3, 2026.



Find us on
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FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT - *Derrick Fetz, 2025-2026*

"The first step in convening people meaningfully: committing to a bold, sharp purpose."

— Priya Parker, [The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters](#)

At the August board retreat, the board started a discussion on our meeting schedule. After receiving informal feedback, some board members indicated that we ought to have fewer club assemblies, the meetings where we do not have a speaker, and discuss club business instead. The two main reasons identified for the desire to have fewer club assemblies each year are: 1) we had lower attendance at club assemblies, and 2) some have concluded that at least some of the club assemblies did not have enough content to warrant making time for Rotary on that day. Before sharing the solution, please join me in strolling down memory lane. Roughly two years ago, the club leadership instituted monthly club assemblies because we rarely offered designated time to review and discuss club goals, priorities, and projects. It was a necessary corrective. The current board does not want to lose sight of that, and we want to incorporate the feedback from our members who offer their time and energy to participate in meetings. Please note the current plan to hopefully strike some balance regarding the needs of our members and the maintenance of our club:

1. We will immediately move to a quarterly club assembly schedule.
2. We will ensure that those quarterly assemblies will have an agenda that will foster purposeful conversation and decision making -- the RotoMagna will highlight certain topics at least a week before a club assembly.
3. We will work with other leaders to ensure that their events are being discussed at a club assembly in a timely manner, such as the Chicken BBQ and the Dairy Bar .
4. We will designate another quarterly Monday meeting to hold committee/sub-committee/task force meetings -- more information about this will be released soon.

My hope is that we live out the above quote -- may each of our weekly meetings, quarterly assemblies, quarterly committee meet ups, service projects, and social gatherings have a "bold, sharp purpose." We will see how this new approach works. Please relay your feedback to me or any board member. With this change, we hope that you will commit to participating in club assemblies -- your input is valued!

RECENT CLUB ACTIVITIES



Heidi Schiller, District Governor for 2025-26, visited the Club in August.



Dean Ortlieb was inducted into the club on September 15th.



Rob Dwyer was inducted into the club on September 15th.



Important Dates & Events

October 13th: Highway Clean Up @ 5:30 (Rain date 10-14)

October 20th: Discover Rotary Event

October 24th: World Polio Day

November 18th: Club Assembly/Board Meeting DATE?

December 1st: Club Holiday Social @ 6pm DATE??

December 8th: Annual Club Meeting/Election @ 12:15pm

December 15th: Rotary Manor Holiday Dinner @ 6pm

December 22nd & 29th : No meetings for the Holidays!