

— Spring 2025 —

# ROTOMAGNA

Quarterly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Urbana, Ohio



NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS: Bret Gilbert - Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill Borland - Director, Laurie Spors - Treasurer, Isabel Martin - Director, Karen Bailey - President-Elect (2026-27), and Derrick Fetz - President 2025-26

**Rotary**   
Club of Urbana, Ohio

## MEETINGS:

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

**Mercy Health  
-Urbana Hospital**

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Chartered  
September 4, 1957

## 2025-26 OFFICER ELECTIONS

During the March 17th club assembly the annual officer election was held. Karen Bailey was elected as President-Elect to serve as President for 2026-27. Also elected for two-year terms were Laurie Spors as Treasurer and Bret Gilbert as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Bill Borland and Isabel Martin were each elected to serve as Directors on the Board for two-year terms.

Historically, our club has maintained a tradition of only nominating those who have never served as the president-elect. Given the current size of our club and the limited pool of nominees, the Board has elected to expand the eligibility to all members, including those who have previously served in that role. This new practice expands the pool of nominees, and certainly does not prevent those who have previously served as the president-elect or new members from being considered. Implementing this approach allows the Nominating Committee to tap those who possess leadership skills and experience that will be most helpful in a given season of our club's life, and those who are called to exercise leadership skills and experience.

***Service Above Self***

## RLI GRADUATE

Charles Thiel recently completed the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) program. RLI is a three day non-consecutive basic course in both Rotary knowledge and leadership skills.

RLI strongly believes that a good Rotary Club leader must know the evolution of Rotary, its current status and activities in the world and have a vision for what Rotary can be in the future.



RLI seeks to provide quality education in Rotary knowledge and leadership skills to Rotarians interested in developing their Rotary participation and to those identified by Rotary Clubs as having a potential in club leadership.

## DISCOVER ROTARY

On May 5th at 7:00 p.m. the Membership and Engagement Committee will be hosting a Discover Rotary event at Hearthstone Farms (Bauer's), 3546 SR 54, Urbana. This first-time event is part of the new member recruitment efforts to meet the goal of increasing club membership 50% by June of 2026.

Current members will be expected to invite potential new members as guests to attend the informational session. This process has been identified by Rotary International as the number one means of recruitment in regards to return on investment. These *Discover Rotary* events are expected to occur on a regular basis moving forward.

Rotary  
Club of Urbana, Ohio



*One Profits Most Who Serves Best*

## History of Rotary

Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world.

That commitment endures today through an organization that remains truly international. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents. Our members now span the globe, working to solve some of our world's most challenging problems.

We're not afraid to dream big and set bold goals. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, polio remains endemic in only two countries — down from 125 in 1988.



**The first four Rotarians.**

From left: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram E. Shorey, Paul P. Harris.

# Member Satisfaction Survey Results

During the March 17th Club Assembly Charles Thiel presented the results of a *Membership Satisfaction Survey* that was completed in September of 2024. The survey was implemented in conjunction with a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis completed by the Membership and Engagement Committee. This committee has been meeting with the goal of increasing membership and improving member experience and engagement.

This particular instrument was based on a survey developed by Rotary International that is used to gain valuable feedback from members on a variety of aspects of the club experience. A total of 21 members (60%) of the club responded to the survey.

Club culture, meetings, member relations, service projects, communication, engagement, and the overall value of club membership were all addressed in the survey. In addition, free response questions were included in the survey to gain insight from members on the public perception of the club. Members were also asked to provide feedback on what the club should both start and stop doing moving forward.

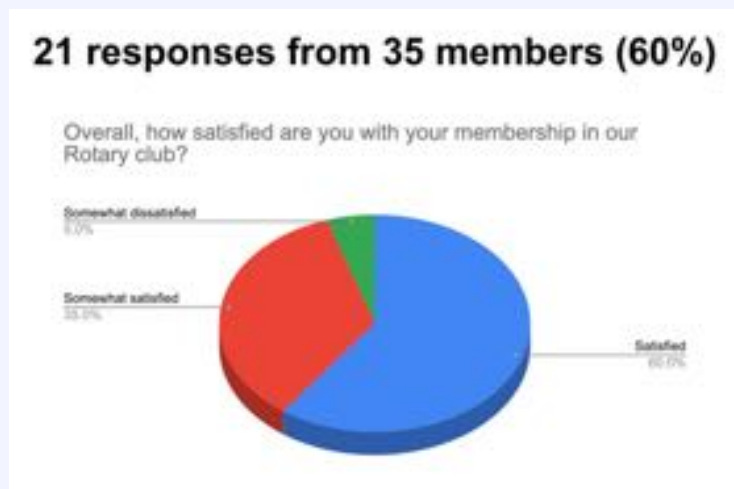


The chart below summarizes the results of the survey. It includes items that are areas of **reinforcement**, positives to celebrate and strengthen, along with those aspects of the club rated the lowest that may be a focus of future **refinement** by the club.

REINFORCEMENT:	REFINEMENT:
+Members care about one another	- Rotary International updates
+Pride in club	- I make a difference in the world
+Feel welcome in the club	- I invite friends and relatives
+Good communication with members	- I invite new members
+Make valuable connections	- Friends see value in membership
+Club dues	- Updating club processes
+Experience is worth the time	- Involving new members
+Meeting length	- Comfortable pace of change

In general, member relationships rated very high across the survey. Also notable was the positive response to the prompt, 'I am proud of my Rotary club.' Making valuable community connections and good communication with members also had strong responses. Inviting relatives, family members and potential new members, are aspects of the club experience that may be under consideration for improvement.

The full results of the survey can be found on the club website at [www.urbanarotary.org](http://www.urbanarotary.org) under the documents tab.



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## RECENT PRESENTERS:

January 13 - Joe Curran  
February 3 - Graham Oberly  
February 10 - Urbana FFA  
February 24 - Kathy Sponheim  
March 3 - Doug Crabill  
March 10 - Nick Oliver  
March 24 - Chris Endres



Terry Pope (Membership & Engagement Chair) and Derrick Fetz (2025-26 President) share about the scholarship expansion.

## Scholarships Expanded

In order to increase the club's presence throughout Champaign County, the scholarship program was recently expanded by the Board to include all high schools in the county. Traditionally, three scholarships have been awarded to seniors of Urbana High School. For 2025, a student from each Champaign County high school will also be awarded a scholarship. A total of \$7,500 has been pledged to support the scholarship program for this year.

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY THEMES:

April 2025 - Environmental Month  
May 2025 - Youth Service Month  
June 2025 - Rotary Fellowships Month  
July 2025 - Maternal and Child Health Month



## Important Dates & Events

**April 21st:** Club Assembly - Board Meeting  
**April 24th:** Urbana HS Senior Service Day @ Freedom Grove  
**May 5th:** Discover Rotary Event - New Member Recruitment  
**May 19th:** Club Assembly - Board Meeting  
**May 26th:** No Meeting - Memorial Day  
**June 16th:** Club Assembly - Board Meeting  
**June 23rd:** Charter Night 6:00pm  
**June 30th:** Chicken BBQ Set Up 5:30pm @ Airport