

The
Rotary
Club of Naperville



Leadership Through
Community Service
Since 1941



Congratulations to our new President, Jacque Clermont!

THE WHEELHOUSE
The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Naperville

Keeping House

Catch Up on Our Meetings

Couldn't make a meeting? Here's what you missed

June 13

Our Thursday Club meeting featured our committee chairs updating all on their committee activities this year.

June 15

Many Club members met with Rotary International President Gordon McNally and marched in the Parade of the Tartans as the Rotary Clan at the Scottish Festival and Highland Games, held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds.

June 20

Our Thursday Club meeting featured mental health in the workplace expert Azizi Marshall who spoke about building resilience.

June 27

Our Transition and Awards Dinner at Elements off Water Street welcomed our incoming President Jacque Clermont and thanked outgoing President Rich Tatara. Service awards were given.

July 6

A large group of volunteer Rotarians donated their beverage vending skills to raise funds to support our veterans, first responders and their caregivers with PTSD at the Naperville Salute Celebration on Rotary Hill.

July 18

Our Thursday Club Meeting featured Jessica Waszak, curator of a new D-Day Exhibit at Cantigny. Additionally, Pat Merryweather-Arges was honored with a new club banner celebrating her work as Rotary International Vice President.

July 25

We hosted Raise the Bar at the Bobosky Residence, featuring fellowship, hors d'oeuvres and libations with old, new and potential members of our Club.

August 1

We hosted our District Governor Rachel Ossyra, who presented her ideas and goals for the upcoming year.



Window View

What's Coming Up?

Here's a peek at what's coming up this month.

August 8

We will be hosting an Alzheimers's Association presentation at our noon meeting.

August 15

We will be meeting at Zoom, with a presentation to be announced later.

August 15

We will have a vocational program at noon, to be announced soon.

August 29

Join us at 5:30 pm for Raise the Bar at Benedictine University. We will be at The Pub at Coal Ben, 5700 College Road, Lisle, IL. As always, please feel free to bring a new member.



Here's a peek at what some of our committee members have been up to this month.

Community Service

The Community Service committee will be meeting at Front Street Cantina on the second Tuesday of each month. New members are welcome!

Funds for school supplies for needy students were collected through mid July and school social workers have identified the students in need of backpacks and other materials.

New AEDs and CPR educational programs are being rolled out weekly to local businesses through our Cardiac Caring Community program in association with Naperville Fire Department, CAPS, and the Naperville Chamber of Commerce. Fifteen businesses are participating in the initial program which will be expanded next year.



International Service

Our committee is supporting many great projects:

- The committee is supporting two global grants in Mexico: In Puebla, providing medical diagnostic equipment to a facility serving the poor. And in Cancun, providing nutritional support with equipment to assist in providing safe breast milk for newborn infants.
- Multiple other grants in Honduras, Chicago, Mexico, India, Uganda, Kosovo, and Albania are under evaluation.
- The committee is also participating in an ongoing Global Grant for newborn resuscitation training in Sierra Leone. A Rotary Club in Palm Harbor, Florida is the international sponsor. Medical training equipment and training programs for doctors, midwives, schools, hospitals and clinics are being funded.
- Our International service committee has also funded a Child Safety and Protection Project in Kenya through Upendo Village by a club grant. Training materials are being provided.
- In Haiti, projects for childhood education and safety are being funded. The Blume Haiti Music Project has provided supplies through our clubs donations for equipment needed

Foundation Committee

Continued active support of the Rotary Foundation with Individual Donations is requested. And Every Rotarian Every Year and Polio Plus Membership is strongly encouraged.

Find out more about our current projects and how you can be involved.

Senior Smiles

Our new senior social connectedness initiative led by members Nancy Wiersum and Carol Simler allows us to meet with seniors to learn of their lives and experiences. Reviews from our members have been very positive. Some wheelchair assistance is needed to transport residents to the garden, then you can converse with seniors and be amazed at their accomplishments and wisdom. The time commitment is from 1:30 to 4 pm each Friday through August 30 at St Patrick's Residence. The event concludes with a happy hour inside before the seniors return to their rooms.

If you are interested in participating, you can contact [Carol Simler](#) or [Nancy Wiersum](#).

White Sox Game Celebrating Rotary

Friday, August 30th, join in a day of fun and fellowship and help to eradicate polio at the District 6450 White Sox game. Get more information and order tickets [at this website](#).

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's

Join fellow Rotarians in raising funds and awareness for the care, support and research on this important condition on Sunday, September 15, 2024 at North Central College Benedetti-Wehrli Stadium in Naperville. Contact [Joe Brusseau](#) or [Jeannie Dina](#) for more information.

Resilience Tactics Workshop

Our Naperville Rotary Club is coordinating with the nonprofit Support over Stigma, and our local VFW (Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873), with additional sponsorship by Naperville CAPS and Little Friends to present a Resilience Tactics Workshop. This one day event on September 7, 2024 at Little Friends is open to veterans, first responders and their families. The program will provide information and training to support the supporters of military and first responders in our area. Issues including emotional resilience and PTSD will be discussed.



In the House with George Arges

When did you join Rotary, and who sponsored you?

I officially joined Naperville Rotary in 2018 and my sponsor was my wife Pat Merryweather-Arges. But being a spouse to Pat made me familiar with Rotary much earlier. I would have joined earlier but my work prevented me from being able to so.

Why did you want to join Rotary?

Having attended District, Zone, and International meetings long before I officially joined provided me with an opportunity to witness first hand the many projects that Rotarians undertake at the community as well as the global level. I am and have always been in awe of the many Rotarians who make a difference in people's lives.



How have you been involved?

When Pat became more involved in Rotary I knew that I had to help support her - including helping her with the Veterans coat drive - by helping to sort coats, boxing them by size, doing the setup at the Armory, and assisting the homeless veterans in selecting a coat. I have been doing this for a number of years and will continue doing so this year. I also served on the Board in 2019 serving as Vocational chair. Additionally, I participate in our annual Rotary program that salutes our retired military service members.

Other activities include supported the sorting, packaging, and delivery of medical supplies for Ukraine; including driving a donated ambulance, from the Naperville Fire Department to a drop-off location for goods bound for Ukraine.

What is your profession?

Prior to retirement I was in healthcare, working at the American Hospital Association for 30 years as a senior director of policy and advocacy. I was actively engaged in legislation that would become the Health Insurance and Portability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. I provided numerous testimony and comment letters to the Department of Health and Human Services on how health information needs to be protected and exchanged electronically as well as the impact it would have on all hospitals throughout the country. This involved the three core pieces of HIPAA - privacy, security, and administrative standards to exchange patient health information among covered entities. I was recognized for these efforts, and in 2002 made the annual list of 100 Most Powerful Healthcare Leaders as published in Modern Health Care Magazine. I was also proud to serve as the longest running chairman of the National Uniform Billing Committee (for 26 years) - helping to create billing data standards for hospitals and insurers to follow; these standards reduced administrative costs, saving billions of dollars annually; they are also used by state data gathering organizations so they might create comparative data on the clinical resources delivered to patients as part of outcome assessments sorted by disease and illness.

Can you share any details about your family life and background?

Pat and I met on Valentine's Day serving as panel speakers to discuss a new outpatient payment change being contemplated by the Medicare program - Ambulatory Patient Group (APG). At the meeting I asked Pat out for dinner; I later told Pat that the acronym for our panel discussions foretold us being together Arges Pat George (APG).

Pat and I have four sons, ranging in age from 42 to 36 years of age. The three oldest are married and we have a total of eight grandkids (five grandsons and three granddaughters) (ranging in age from 12 years to 6 months). We also have two goldendoodles - named Zorba and Snuggles. The dogs and grandkids keep us busy.

Two of our sons served in the armed services - one did two tours in Iraq and the other did three tours in Afghanistan. Once they returned home from their military service, the one became a Physician Assistant and does emergency room medicine and the other is a systems design consultant for companies interested in improving material supplies.

The other two sons pursued different career paths. The oldest completed his PhD in Chemical Engineering and has managed a number of research projects on nano-membranes used for fuel cell development as well as purification of water systems. Our other son originally pursued a communication career, but decided four years ago to open up a micro brewery with four of his friends in St. Charles - Riverlands Brewery.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I do not have any one hobby that I am truly devoted to. Because Pat is constantly busy - I am the one who does most of the cooking and like to try new recipes. Other than cooking, I mostly try and keep up with yard work and some minor home repairs. I try to walk four miles in the morning and also take the dogs out latter for walks. I know most of the dogs and owners in our subdivision. So I now I tell people that I am a *Canine Behavior Therapist* which sounds more impressive than simply taking care of the dogs. I am an avid Chess player but now find that I do not have as much time to play.

Tell us one thing members might be surprised to learn about you?

Both of my parents are from Greece. My dad came to the USA on one of the last ships to leave Greece prior to WWII. He eventually served in the US Army Aircorp during the war. After the war, he went back to Greece to find the neighborhood girl he knew. He asked her if she would marry him and they settled back in Northwest Indiana. While I was born in Chicago, my first language was Greek and now I can speak it fluently. I have been to Greece seven times visiting cousins that still live there. Because I don't look Greek, I often hear many merchants talking to one another in Greek on how much they should charge this tourist. They are often surprised with embarrassment when I respond in Greek that I understand what it is they are saying.

What do you enjoy most about Rotary?

In a word - Fellowship. Whether it is individuals from our local club or others from other clubs there is a level of like minded and passionate individuals with a common purpose of service above self. I have been fortunate in that being married to Pat has allowed me to go to a variety of Rotary events. One of my favorite events is for incoming District Governors - the International Assembly. The event takes place over three days; while there you are able to meet and interact with various people from different parts of the world. I have been fortunate to attend a number of Rotary International Conventions. These events, while large, have great speakers covering all the Rotary avenues of service. I am always amazed at how well the leadership and staff organizes these events - they run on time and have top notch speakers.

Rearview Mirror with John Knobloch

Rotary Travels

With “The Wheelhouse” under new management, I have been asked to continue my regular contributions looking back on my memories of the club and its members in my experiences as a Rotarian. As I write this, with the publication date fast approaching, it's late on Saturday evening at the Great Wolf Lodge near Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, with the rest of the family otherwise occupied. While speaking with Roger Iliff earlier today, he suggested a travel theme for this issue. What follows are some of my Rotary-related memories as I have traveled throughout the United States and beyond since first becoming a Rotarian in the Downers Grove club in 1988 and the Rotary Club of Naperville in 1995.



One of the first thoughts that came to mind was running into Roger, along with Prakash Tata and Barry McKeown on the street in downtown Toronto, shortly before the beginning of the Rotary International convention in 2018. The convention was a great success, with much more of an international feel than my first Rotary convention, the centennial convention in Chicago in 2005.

Perhaps my most notable memories from the Chicago convention were these two: First, I had been recruited to assist with the parade staging, requiring me to be near Roosevelt Road and Wabash Avenue at about 6:30 a.m. on a Saturday morning. For at least the first hour, almost nothing happened other than getting better acquainted with one of the newer members of our club, Pat Merryweather-Arges. That conversation made the early morning arrival well worth it!

The second recollection from the 2005 convention was related to the international scope of Rotary. The convention was held in the north and south halls of McCormick Place. Richard Joseph and I were going from one event to another. I had been there on multiple occasions, for auto shows, and other events, but in the unfamiliar context of the Rotary convention we found ourselves receiving directions to our next session from a well-informed guide, one of the volunteer sergeants at arms who was a past district governor from Australia. Could we have found another guide from any greater distance? Likely the answer to that question would be in the negative.

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My most recent convention experience was in Houston in 2022. After the convention concluded, Barry McKeown and I had the privilege of having dinner with Geroge Arges and Pat Merryweather-Arges, who was about to begin her two-year term as a director of Rotary International. Perhaps in some small way, that pre-parade conversation in 2005 laid the foundation for Pat's great leadership role in Rotary. (Sure, John, whatever you say.)

But my Rotary-related travel experiences extend beyond the conventions, as I have made up meetings in Los Angeles and La Jolla, California; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (where they open the meetings with the singing of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems); Niagara Falls, New York; and Fredericksburg, Texas.

On the occasion of what would have been my maternal grandparents' one hundredth wedding anniversary, I made up a meeting at the Rotary Club of Mishawaka, Indiana. Why was I there? Because I could be. The following year, as I was in Louisiana visiting family over what would have been my father's one hundredth birthday, I made up at the Rotary Club of Thibodaux, Louisiana, chartered in 1936, of which my paternal grandfather, attorney Francis Lewis Knobloch (for whom I received my middle name) was a charter member. Why was I there? Again, because I could be.

On other occasions, my encounters with Rotary have been mere serendipity. Among random occasions of seeing evidence of the contributions to their communities by various clubs, as I was visiting Nuevo Laredo, a city on the southern shore of the Rio Grande River in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, across the river from Laredo, Texas, I stumbled upon a plaza that had been donated by the local Rotary club. On another occasion, on a warm summer day in Sault Ste. Marie Michigan, across the Saint Mary's River from Canada, our family stopped for ice cream and found ourselves in a plaza dedicated to Herbert J. Taylor, a past president of Rotary International who had introduced the Four-Way Test to Rotary.

While in Italy in 2022, I had hoped to see some evidence of the work of Rotary in one of the cities. While I am sure that it was somewhere to be found, the best I could do was to spot an "End Polio Now" T-shirt drying on a clothesline on a second-floor balcony in a neighborhood in Venice. There's proof that the message of Rotary takes many forms.

I have already registered for the 2025 convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, but may well find signs of Rotary in my upcoming travels.

If you have any recollections of Naperville and our club's activities in and about town, please share them with me by email to john@knoblochlaw.com.

Rotary Celebrates

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or club anniversary in the month of August!

Birthdays

Sandra Davis	August 13
Chetan Kale	August 13
George Arges	August 15
Jeannie Dina	August 15
Joe Brusseau	August 21
John Sims	August 27

Anniversaries

Steve Coates	August 6, 1998
Dick Galitz	August 6, 2015
Nathan Lara	August 10, 2023



We hope you enjoyed this edition of The Wheelhouse!

The Wheelhouse is created by Club members [Roger Iliff](#) and [Dave Della Terza](#). If you have any suggestions for future content, please feel free to e-mail us!