

Rotary



Club of Wauwatosa

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

Rotary membership provides the opportunity to: Become connected to your community. Work with others in addressing community needs. Interact with other professionals in your community; assist with RI's international humanitarian service efforts. Establish contacts with an international network of professionals. Develop leadership skills. Involve family in promoting service efforts.



Club History

The History of the Wauwatosa Rotary Club

Our club was chartered in 1952 and is one of the oldest in the area. We meet every Wednesday noon at the Radisson Hotel Milwaukee West. This is a very good time to join our club as we are striving to reinvent ourselves. You would be able to play

Club Meeting

Wauwatosa
Meets at Radisson Hotel Milwaukee West
2303 N. Mayfair Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

Events / Speakers

March 24th

[Wauwatosa Health Commissioner](#)

March 31st

[Francesca Johnson - State of WI Bureau of Consumer Protection](#)

April 7th

[Dan Beihoff, Jr. - Eagle River Roasters](#)

Club Leaders



[Rick David Steinberg](#)
President



[Anne Ruttger Neafie](#)
President - Elect



[John A Sebald](#)
Vice President



[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)
Treasurer



[Peter M. Skanavis](#)
Public Relations Chair



[Richard Frenn](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Aaron D. Sebald](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms

[John C. Ericson](#)

an exciting and significant role in defining the club's objectives. We recently went through a very intense strategic planning process and are committed to serving the Wauwatosa community.

On a global level Rotary International is very proud to have virtually eradicated Polio through our Polio Plus program. Through its foundation and large international membership base, Rotary offers a great deal of help to the disadvantaged throughout the world.

Our social committee arranges a number of very nice events throughout the year. Each event presents an opportune time to get to know members and spouses, all of which can be invaluable networking opportunities!

Rotary membership does require a member's dedicated participation in club meetings and functions. You need to know that Rotary is a commitment and we are looking for dedicated members who can be away from work for approximately two hours each Wednesday. In other words, your boss needs to understand your devotion to community service.

Take a look at Rotary International's website at www.rotary.org for much more information.

Newsletter - March 10, 2021

By John Edward Bauer

A Loose Interpretation of a Meeting of
The Rotary Club of Wauwatosa
March 10, 2021

Because the food service was late again, we began the business portion of our meeting a bit early with a resounding gong from our club's bell. President Rick Steinberg invited our large crowd today to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. It was great to see several spouses accompanying their Rotarian partners, including a visitor from West Allis on Zoom. Bill Makal provided a thoughtful invocation.

We were barely underway when occasional attendee Rich Mannisto pointed out that your humble bulletin editor had neglected to mention that he celebrated a birthday the previous Thursday, March 4. And to make sure we didn't forget him again, Roger Walsh pointed out his desire to be serenaded again for his birthday on the 16th, even though technically it isn't until next week. Never wanting to pass up an opportunity to sing, our leader directed us in singing "Happy Birthday" to both.

Among "happy news," Bill Makal shared with us that he is off medication, including insulin. Good for you, Bill! Hopefully, this will allow you to stop glowing in the dark.

Bill Bode was sporting an ancient Wauwatosa East T-shirt today to recognize East's basketball team, which won the Division One State basketball championship!

And Peter Skanavis informed us that the Milwaukee Venture Partners had its first meeting at the Radisson with 25 in attendance.

President Rick instructed the members to provide the names and addresses of at least two individuals who could be considered prospective members and who could be invited to the visitor event that the Membership Committee is planning for some time in June.

Speaking of the Membership Committee, its next meeting will be held on St. Patrick's Day, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Gerv Rose's home. For the non-Irish, that's Wednesday, March 17!

There was no other business worth mentioning or caring about. President Rick turned the meeting over to our program chair for the day, Robert Niedermann, who introduced Wauwatosa Police



Club Executive Secretary
Webmaster



Craig Schmutzer
Club Programs Chair



John Edward Bauer
iPast President

Years of Service

Paul Alan Vandeveld
04-02-2014
7 Years

Chief Barry Weber and his wife, Karen.

Barry has been Wauwatosa's police chief for 31 years. He has served in law enforcement for 48 years and held police chief positions in other communities for six years before coming to Wauwatosa in 1990. He has served under 12 different mayors. He is retiring effective June 1.

Barry reflected on the past year and how the COVID pandemic, protests, lawsuits, and national focus on the issue of racism contributed to a "weird" year. Wauwatosa experienced 93 protests in the city which contributed to officer fatigue, overtime pay, and a significant added expense to Wauwatosa's budget.

He briefly discussed Officer Joe Mensa's situation and decried that officers are not supported in the middle of performing a challenging job. He expressed pride in his police force, all of whom he hired during his tenure. His primary goal has always been to hire men and women of integrity, compassion, caring, and high moral values. Without regard to age, race, religion, gender, Wauwatosa's police department reflects a more significant diversity measure than most other suburban departments. He drills into his officers four fundamental principles: do the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason. Good words to live by, whether one is a cop or not.

He also shared his perspectives on the media and the challenges presented by social media. In many cases, pictures and videos are posted before officers are even on the scene.

He shared a few recent cases that reinforced his labeling this year as "weird" and pointed out the challenges faced by law enforcement today.

- Officers arrested a man with a knife who was chasing another man. After the man was released, he returned to the police station demanding his knife back.
- Officers were called about a stolen vehicle which, when stopped, had ten young people aged 13 to 17. A gun was also found in the car.
- Police were called to Capitol Drive and the freeway after two panhandlers got into an argument, and one began beating the other with a crowbar.

In closing, the chief shared a statistic showing one in four Americans suffers from some mental illness. He implied that if any of us have three normal friends, we're the ones with the problem. As always, our chief finds ways to make us laugh, cringe, and most of all, to be thankful for his leadership.

We expressed our gratitude for Chief Weber and his service to our community with a standing ovation.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Writing in the third-person singular simple present indicative form, your humble transliterator,

John E. Bauer, *editor pro tem*

UPCOMING COMMITMENTS

Invocations 3-24 Jonathan Lorenzen
3-31 Gerv Rose

Speakers 3-17 John Bauer will introduce Sarah Verardo, Executive Director of The Independence Fund, a wounded veteran's assistance agency headquartered in Charlotte, NC.
3-24 Paul Vandeveld will introduce Wauwatosa's Health Officer, Laura Stephens
3-31 Club Assembly