

# 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.

## Hunger Task Force Event

**Wednesday, August 3 - Hunger Task Force  
Headquarters**



Wauwatosa Rotary  
at the

## Hunger Task Force

Wednesday, August 3  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

5000 W Electric Ave  
West Milwaukee, WI 53219

*Please join us!*  
Questions? Contact Roger Walsh  
[rwalsh76@wi.rr.com](mailto:rwalsh76@wi.rr.com)



You are invited to join the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa as we help to feed families in partnership with the Hunger Task Force!

### When

Wednesday, August 3, 2022  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### Location

5000 W Electric Ave  
West Milwaukee, WI 53219

For questions and more information, please contact [Roger Walsh](#).

## Club Picnic

### Club Meeting

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

### Events / Speakers

July 27th

[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 3rd

[Hunger Task Force Event](#)

August 3rd

[NO NOON MEETING - Wauwatosa  
Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 10th

[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 17th

[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 24th

[NO NOON MEETING - Wauwatosa  
Weekly Club Meeting](#)

August 24th

[Club Picnic at Elm Grove Village  
Park](#)

### Club Leaders



[Robert Hugh Nelson](#)  
President



[William Carl Makal](#)  
President - Elect  
Rotary Foundation Chair  
Sergeant - at - Arms



[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)  
Secretary



[Aaron D. Sebald](#)  
Vice President  
Membership Chair

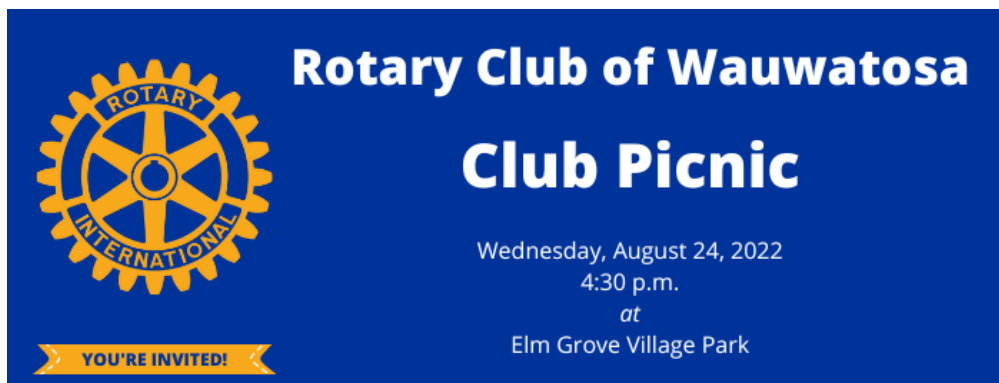


[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)  
Treasurer

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

## Wednesday, August 24 - Elm Grove Village Park

Please join us for the annual Rotary Club of Wauwatosa Picnic at Elm Grove Village Park! Enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship, and fantastic food from Bunzel's Catering. We hope to see you there!



[Peter M. Skanavis](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Paul Alan Vandeveld](#)  
Club Programs Chair



[Anne Ruttger Neafie](#)  
iPast President



## Menu

- Bratwurst
- BBQ Pulled Pork
- Baby Back Ribs
- German Potato Salad
- Italian Pasta Salad
- Dessert
- Beer, wine, and soda

[Click here](#) for more information and to register online.

**\*\*If you received an invitation email, please register using the personalized registration link in your email\*\***

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, August 17**

Registration questions? Contact [Jonathan Lorenzen](#)

Event-specific questions? Contact [Tom Kirchen](#)

## 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 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](http://www.rotary.org) for much more information.

# Newsletter - July 6, 2022

By Jonathan Lorenzen

## Tickling the Ivories A Musical Score for a Meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Today's meeting began by newly-installed president and maestro Bob Nelson taking the podium to conduct the first movement of the 2022-2023 Rotary Year. He led us in a chorus of the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Four Way Test.

Turning the page, Cantor Craig Schmutzer intoned a proper prayer, asking a blessing upon our ensemble. We transitioned to a minor key when we learned there were no member or partner birthdays to sing for, nor were there any wedding or Rotary anniversaries to applaud.

The following verses of sad and happy news appeared in the score:

- Programs Chair Paul Vandeveld reminded us that Wauwatosa Mayor Dennis McBride will be the program speaker on July 13. He encouraged us to spread the word and invite guests in order to have a good turnout for the mayor.
- Bill Bode was happy to survive the Fourth of July craziness of a house full of kids. Job well done, Bill!
- Treasurer Niedermann reported that he was headed to Alabama for a family visit near Huntsville. He will be staying atop beautiful Lookout Mountain. Safe travels, Robert!
- Anne Neafie enjoyed the Milwaukee fireworks with friends from out of town from the 32nd floor of the Northwestern Mutual Tower. According to Anne, it was the best view you could ask for!
- Tom Kirchen's youngest son invited him out to dinner where he announced that he was engaged! Congratulations!
- Gerv Rose wanted us to know that he recently watched a hot dog eating contest on TV. The winner consumed a whopping 59 hot dogs. Whoa doggy!
- President Nelson called an impromptu board meeting to vote on the membership application of Hayden Wegener. The board unanimously approved the application. Welcome, Hayden!
  - Tom Kirchen agreed to serve as Hayden's mentor. Thank you, Tom. Hayden, you're in good hands!

At the finale of our sad and happy news report, Tom Kirchen arose to introduce our program speaker: "The Man with Magic Fingers" – J.J. Anshus. Tom forwent reciting the customary speaker introduction as our honored guest's talk was to be an autobiography of sorts.

At just 32 years old, Mr. Anshus has established an impressive career as a professional pianist and private piano teacher, and is the Director of Liturgical Music at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wauwatosa.

Anshus was born in Manilla, Philippines and was adopted at six months old. He grew up on the south side of Milwaukee near the intersection of 68th and Howard, and attended St. Rita Catholic School for his elementary education. Anshus graduated from Pius XI High School in 2008, after which he enrolled in Lawrence University in Appleton. "Lawrence is not known for sports," he said with a smirk, "but they are known for their biology and math programs, and their music conservatory."

Mr. Anshus graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor of Music degree with an emphasis in piano pedagogy, and minored in psychology.



In May of 2013, J.J. received a call from the administrative assistant of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wauwatosa asking if he was interested in filling an open position for the parish's music minister. Until that call, he had planned on starting a career as a freelance musician in Chicago. "But the job with St. Joe's was more stable."

Anshus was undeniably qualified for the position, too. From the age of 12, he had served as a substitute pianist for masses, through which he established a firm liturgical background. In high school, J.J. frequently played three to four services in a given weekend, often earning \$150 per mass. "I was making more than my friends in retail and fast food, and I could pay for fun stuff and take girls out on dates!" The substituting regimen also helped him save money for college.

In his position with St. Joe's, Anshus is responsible for playing and planning worship music and liturgy for masses, understanding and following copyright rules, maintaining the church's music library, and several other duties. "I started the position in August 2013, and it was baptism by fire!" J.J. recalled meeting Rotarian Tom Kirchen (also a member of St. Joseph) soon after assuming his post at the church. The elder Mr. Kirchen (not in the ecclesiastical sense) always greets the spry Anshus with a kindly, "Hello, young man," every Sunday morning at mass.

In addition to his churchly vocation, J.J. teaches weekly private piano lessons to 20 adult and child students. St. Joe's allows Anshus to conduct his lessons at the church – a convenient arrangement for both tutor and tutee.

J.J. didn't abandon his freelance aspirations after taking the position at St. Joseph; he now regularly plays piano for weddings, funerals, and parties. In fact, he is one of only two music majors from his college graduating class doing music professionally. According to Anshus, making it as a professional pianist requires one to have a diverse skill set and to be good at what they do. "You need to know songs for Rotary Changing of the Guard dinners, old folks homes sock hops, and college parties." J.J. made the realization that pianists need to be jacks of all trades when he was playing the circuit in high school, and used his time at Lawrence to help him master his repertoire. "I knew learning to be diverse would give me opportunities."

Mr. Anshus doesn't just play for pay; he regularly shares his talents pro bono for a variety of events. He began using his gifts for service in high school when he would play gigs for fundraising events, auctions, and picnics. These gratis engagements also helped J.J. complete service hours for confirmation and honors societies. "Using my God-given talents for service is something that became engrained in me."

Now as a professional pianist, Anshus will usually say "yes" when asked to play for free or at a reduced rate. "I know not everyone can afford to pay up to \$200 for my time. I like to use my gifts to give back." Often times the "throw away" gigs mean more than those for which he is properly compensated. "Playing for the 85th birthday of a friend of a friend of a friend, where payment consists of free food and booze, but where people truly appreciate you, means more than playing for a big gig at the Pfister. To them, you're not just a ghost in the background."

J.J. capped off his "official" speech saying, "It's been a blessing playing for the Wauwatosa Rotary Christmas and Changing of the Guard parties for the last six or seven years." He then opened up the floor for questions:

- Tom Kirchen asked J.J. if he would consider joining Rotary.
  - "Yes, but only if Tom's there."
- The question was asked if J.J. plays organ.
  - "Enough to make it work for Jesus."
- Gerv Rose asked what kind of music J.J. likes.
  - "I like all of it! It depends on what kind of mood I'm in. I have a long commute with a lot of thinking time." Some genres he mentioned:
    - Hard rock
    - Classical
    - 2000s party music
    - Irish
    - Iron Maiden, the Eagles, Black Sabbath
  - Just before the COVID lockdowns began, J.J. had begun collecting musical instruments he wanted to learn how to play. He has since taught himself how to play banjo, and enjoys playing 90s country music.
  - He also fell in love with jazz and the big band sound when he was in junior high.
- Yours truly asked if J.J. could sing
  - Yes, enough to get by. "I'm a singer in training."
- Anne Neafie asked if J.J. has any siblings
  - He has one sister, Bridget, who was adopted by his parents from China when he was six years old. Bridget followed J.J. to St. Rita and Pius, and was also very talented in music. She took piano lessons, but her real gift is with the violin. "My legacy was still there when my sister went to Pius, and she wanted to do everything I didn't. 'Oh, you're J.J.'s sister.' ... she hated that. She was involved in yearbook club, golf, and soccer. When we were younger, we were natural enemies, but now, as adults, we've become much closer."

Having exhausted both time and questions, we thanked our entertaining speaker for joining us. The stately reverberations of the brass bell marked the cutoff of this week's gathering of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa.

Respectfully submitted,

Your faithful record key-per – no strings attached,  
Jonathan Lorenzen

