

# 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

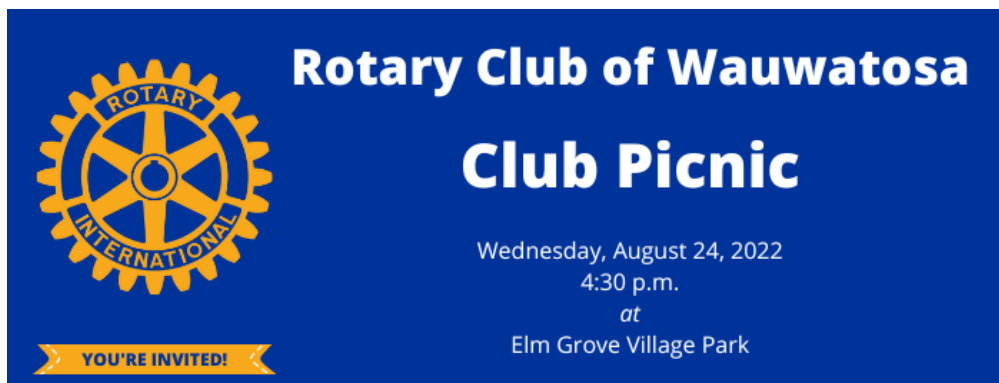


[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)  
Treasurer

[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



### Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

## 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.

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Spotlight on the Superintendent  
A Report Card for a Meeting of the  
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Today's meeting began like all others, with a ceremonial chiming of the bell. Given the subject of today's program, however, one could almost imagine its dulcet tones sounding from a one room school house of yore. Principal Bob Nelson arose to the lectern to lead our class in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test, for which we most certainly earned an A+. At the request of our assigned invocator, Peter Skanavis, yours truly offered up an ex corde prayer for the assembly.

Classroom news followed the invocation, among which the following items were reported:

- We were delighted to SING **Happy Birthday** to President-Elect Bill Makal, with today (July 20) being the actual anniversary of his birth. Best wishes, Bill!
- We also wished Sergeant-At-Arms Peter Skanavis a happy anniversary. He and Mary will have been married for 33 years on July 22. Congratulations!
- There were no partner birthdays or Rotary anniversaries to recognize today.
- We welcomed Mr. Tom O'Brien, guest of Rotarian Shannon Angell. Tom is the CFO of St. Camillus. Thank you for joining us!
- Treasurer Robert Niedermann delivered a report from his family trip to Mentone, Alabama. Robert enjoyed five days with his stepdaughter and a passel of little ones, and lodged on nearby Lookout Mountain.
- Peter Skanavis let us know that his son started a new job with Indeed.com, having come from a position at GE Healthcare.
- Gerv Rose reported that his granddaughter was on her way back from Botswana after doing healthcare work there. Sending our best wishes for safe travel!
- Vice President Aaron Sebald announced that his son and daughter-in-law are expecting their second child! Congratulations!!!
- Roger Walsh reminded us of the upcoming service activity at Hunger Task Force on August 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and bagels will be provided at the facility at 8:45.
  - There will be no noon meeting following the service activity.
  - President Nelson reminded us that the rescheduled Wauwatosa Fireworks are also planned for the evening of August 3rd. The fireworks will follow the Tosa Tonight concert at Hart Park.
- We were reminded that the club Christmas Party will occur at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, December 14.
- We also took note that the Club Picnic is coming up on Wednesday, August 24 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The picnic will occur in the shelter at Elm Grove Village Park. Bunzel's will be catering.
  - There will be no noon meeting the day of the picnic.

There being no other "show and tell" topics to toss about, we invited program speaker Dr. Demond Means to the podium. Today's program served as Dr. Means' classification speech.

Demond began by noting that the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa is the fourth Rotary club to which he has belonged. (More about his Rotarian journey was to come later in his speech).

Dr. Demond Means comes from what he described as a "blended family" – "I had one grandpa who was a minister, and another that was a bar owner. I was very close to both." Means was born and raised in Milwaukee near 39th and Locust in the Sherman Park neighborhood. "It's hard to see what's going on there now. For many years it was a good, blue collar neighborhood."

Means was educated in the Milwaukee Public Schools and attended Riverside High School. He had his pick between Riverside and Rufus King, but chose the former



after a visiting guidance counselor painted **his** school as the casual/sports centric/pep rally/fun spot where students could hang out in the nearby UWM Student Union. By contrast, Rufus King was made out to be the stodgy and “serious” college prep school.

Near his boyhood home lived a Lutheran pastor in what was called a “parish home.” The pastor asked Demond’s folks if he and his sister could come to his church, to which they replied, “Have at it!” As a result of this early invitation, Dr. Means is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which in turn led him to attend Concordia University Wisconsin for his undergraduate studies.

After graduating from CUW, Means began his career as a social studies teacher at Homestead High School in Mequon. During his tenure at Homestead, he enrolled in graduate school at Cardinal Stritch University. Demond served in the classroom for four years, then entered the scene as an administrator when he took a position as the assistant principal of Nicolet High School.

His next venture placed him among a younger clientele of fourth to eighth graders – he served as principal of Maple Dale Middle School in Fox Point for two years. “I enjoy those ages. The students are at a unique time in their lives when they are forming their personalities. Yes the hormones get in the way sometimes, but I embrace those opportunities for chaos.”

In 2002, Dr. Means embarked on his first stint with the Wauwatosa School District as its Director of Human Resources. He was serving in this position when the longtime superintendent left their post, creating an opportunity for him to take over as interim superintendent. “During that time there was talk about closing a school.”

In 2005, Demond returned to the Mequon-Thiensville District as the assistant superintendent, becoming superintendent in 2008. It was at this time that community leader and Rotarian Dr. Karl Hertz approached Demond with the friendly advice (or local imperative) that, “You can’t be superintendent in this town and not be a member of the Rotary Club.” Means acted on his counsel thusly and joined Rotary. He did ruffle feathers, however, when he broke tradition by switching to the Sunrise Club instead of the Noon Club! Demond remembered the Thiensville-Mequon Club by their ambitious clean water initiatives, laid back atmosphere, and charging members a dollar to share happy or sad news!

Dr. Means began a new chapter in his life in 2017 when he left the Badger State to serve as superintendent of Clarke County Schools in Athens, Georgia. He explained that the district had an enrollment of 15,000 students, with many schools struggling with low performance scores. While in Athens, Means joined the local Rotary Club. “Rotary was one of the highlights from my 2 ½ years in Athens. It was different there! They sang lots of songs!” As a northerner, he remembered having to learn **Glory, Glory** (the Georgia Bulldogs fight song), as Athens is the home to the University of Georgia. The club hosted a service activity which involved taking underprivileged kids on a Walmart shopping spree.

Demond and family made the decision to return to Milwaukee after his mother-in-law’s health began to decline. They also wanted their daughter to experience her formative years back home among family and friends. Ironically, the position for Superintendent of Wauwatosa

Schools became available shortly upon his return to Milwaukee! Dr. Means was selected for the job and began serving in July 2021. "I've always said, as Tosa goes, so goes the Milwaukee metro area."

Means commented on a recent shift within school districts and boards: "They're much more political. School board elections are much more tense, and the positions are not about what's best for the kids." He remembered school boards of the past representing the broad diversity of local talent and ideas. Fortunately, Wauwatosa seems to be an exception to this negative trend.

Demond met his wife, Kimberly, at a party in college. He belonged to the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and she belonged to its corresponding sorority. The couple has one daughter, Hannah, who is, "10 going on 25." He also noted that he has a sister who serves as a special education teacher in Milwaukee.

Concluding his address, Means brought it all back to his grandfathers: "Both of my grandfathers served their community in unique ways. I have elements of each of them in me, and I'm honoring their legacy." He felt that both grandfathers would have been a part of Rotary if they were aware of it at the time.

Dr. Means then opened the floor to questions and comments. The following items were tendered:

- Aaron Sebald asked Dr. Means what he received his doctoral degree in.
  - Educational Leadership
  - Means went to Cardinal Stritch for his graduate work after being advised by Dr. Carl Hertz not get his advanced degree from the same institution where he earned his bachelor's degree.
- Tom Kirchen noted that our Wauwatosa Rotary Club used to sing regularly. Chatter ensued in the room about the whereabouts of the old songbooks, who used to sing, etc.

As talk about singing waned, Roger Walsh (Means' sponsor) presented Demond with a certificate of membership and a handsome Rotary pin. Much deserved applause ensued, followed by a gaveling out of this week's meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa. Thank you for a most excellent classification speech, Dr. Means! We're thrilled to have you as a fellow member of the club!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Your School Secretary and Newsletter Natterer  
Jonathan Lorenzen

### **Upcoming Commitments**

#### **Program**

**July 27:** Rick Steinberg

**August 3:** No Noon Meeting – Hunger Task Force Service Activity at 9:00 a.m.

**August 10:** Roger Walsh

**August 17:** Dale Yerkes

#### **Invoker/Greeter**

**July 27:** Kevin Festerling

**August 3:** No Noon Meeting – Hunger Task Force Service Activity at 9:00 a.m. (Gerv Rose)

**August 10:** Pat Meylor

**August 17:** Rich Mannisto