

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.

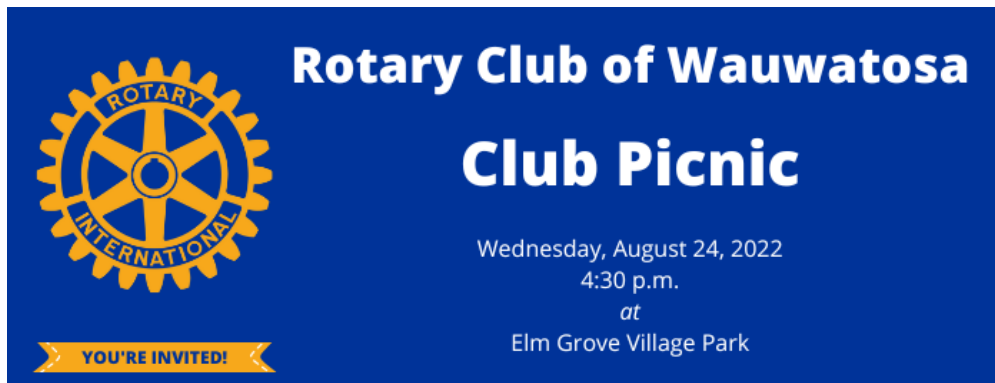
Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

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 Picnic

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!



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 Meeting

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

Events / Speakers

August 17th

[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

Speaker: Robert Niedermann

Subject: Rotary Foundation Update

August 24th

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

August 24th

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

August 31st

[Wauwatosa Club Assembly](#)

September 7th

[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

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



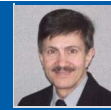
[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)
Treasurer



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

[Peter M. Skanavis](#)

Serving Our Community



Sergeant-at-Arms



Paul Alan Vandeveld
Club Programs Chair



Anne Ruttger Neafie
iPast President

Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

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 for much more information.

Newsletter - July 27 & August 3, 2022

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Rotary Roundup A Summary of Goings On at the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa Wednesday, July 27 and Wednesday, August 3, 2022

The meeting on Wednesday, July 27 broke the mold by dispensing with the usual preamble of club business and promptly beginning with our distinguished program speaker, the Rev. Col. Larry Myers. We did, however, preserve our solemn custom of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and joining together for an invocation (delivered by Secretary Lorenzen).

Col. Myers is a retired US Air Force Reserve chaplain and pastor in the Lutheran-Church Missouri Synod. He is also a longtime Rotarian, currently belonging to the Elmbrook Club. Col. Myers delivered a very moving firsthand account of his on-the-ground experiences at the Pentagon on September, 11, 2001 and the healing and rebuilding efforts that followed. Given the breadth of information in his address, I have opted to part with the usual narrative style for this edition of the bulletin in favor of an abridged recapitulation of facts. We begin ...



- Myers first provided an overview of his USAF career
 - Prior to September 11, 2001, he had served as an Air Force Reserve chaplain for 29 years. At that time, he knew he was in the final stage of his career
 - One of his final assignments was on the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - The USAF Chaplain Corps was founded in 1949 – just two years after the founding of the Air Force
- Col. Myers detailed the structure of the US Military's Unified Combatant Commands
 - These commands operate under the Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - The Joint Chiefs of Staff are supported by a large contingent of personnel known as the "joint staff"
 - In 1998, Myers became the first Reserve chaplain of any branch to serve on the joint staff
- Leading up to September 11, Myers had been assigned to update and rewrite a joint staff guide pertaining to religious affairs and joint operations. He spent three years working on the document.
 - He was prepared to deliver a briefing on his work at the annual Unified Joint Command Staff Chaplain's Conference at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. He never presented the briefing.
- Col. Myers provided facts and history about the Pentagon to demonstrate the layout and size of the building
 - The construction of the Pentagon began on September 11, 1941 – exactly 60 years prior to the terrorist attack.
 - The building was originally going to be a high rise office building
 - It contains five concentric rings and five levels above ground and many more below

- 10 corridors stretch through the five rings
 - 17.5 miles of hallways
- The wedge of the Pentagon that was struck on 9-11 had recently undergone renovations; as a result, only a fraction of the typical 4,000 personnel were present in that area
 - 125 individuals inside the Pentagon lost their lives in the attack
- Myers' conference was on the opposite side of the building from the attack. The opening session had just finished and the participants were on a short break.
 - During the break, a few of the participants gathered around TVs and watched as the second plane crashed into the World Trade Center.
 - The conference reassembled, and since Myers was scheduled to begin his presentation, he took it upon himself to announce that, "It was clear that the United States was under attack."
 - He then encouraged participants to contact their respective command centers if they had not yet done so. "No sooner had I said those words, when the call was heard to evacuate the building."
- Col. Myers decided to hold the door open for those evacuating the building in his area because he thought that the sight of his clergy cross would help to create a sense of calm.
- Upon leaving the building, nobody knew what was happening, but could see billows of smoke on the far side of the Pentagon.
- It took 15-20 minutes before he knew that a plane had crashed into the Pentagon.
- "9-11, as I said, changed everything. And I never did give my presentation."
- Myers explained that the Pentagon Security Forces were the first to arrive at the scene of the attack. They were soon joined by many other local emergency services personnel. He also said that passersby that could see what had happened stopped to lend their aid.
- Rescue efforts lasted well into the evening and early morning hours.
- Personnel on Myers' side of the building organized themselves into rescue teams, and repeatedly entered the scene of the attack through the Pentagon's internal courtyard.
- According to Col. Myers, there would typically only be five chaplains on duty in the Pentagon in 2001. On September 11, however, an additional seven chaplains were present at the Unified Joint Command Staff Chaplain's Conference and 20 Army chaplains were nearby at a meeting in Arlington, VA. "That meant that within 30 minutes of the crash, we had approximately 40 chaplains and enlisted assistants present and helping out on all five sides of the Pentagon."
- Col. Myers explained that military chaplains are trained to work alongside medical personnel while providing religious care.
- "Leading the medical personnel, was our own Air Force Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Paul Carleton. At that time, he was one of our few remaining physicians left over from the Vietnam War, and that day he taught the medical personnel and the rest of us how to apply blood plasma directly to burn areas on the human body. That was a trick he learned in treating napalm victims in Vietnam."
 - General Carleton received the Airman's Medal for his heroic actions that day.
- Any available means of transportation were used to transport victims to local hospitals including civilian vehicles.
- Two of the outer Pentagon rings collapsed as a result of the crash, making entrance from the outside impossible. As such, entrance was only possible from the inner courtyard. Eventually, courtyard entrance also became impossible because of the smoke. "Smells also included the stench of death as well as the smell of the burning jet fuel."
- Myers shared the correct version of a "tear jerker" story that had become somewhat of 9-11 folklore. The story involved the evacuation of children from the Pentagon childcare center, which was housed in a separate building on the northeast corner of the property. It is true that a group of military personnel took the children to a wooded area along the Channel Boundary Road. Myers and another chaplain were tasked with providing care to this relocated group of children. Their eyewitness account debunks the "other" part of the story that claims that baby cribs had been circled around in the style of the wagon trains of the Wild West.
- Col. Myers then showed a picture of two sisters, one three years old, the other three months old. The picture depicts the older sister lovingly comforting the younger. Myers then showed another picture of those same sisters taken 20 years later. The two were dressed in military uniforms: the older had just graduated from the US Air Force Academy and the younger is a member of the Class of 2023 at the US Naval Academy. "The story of these two sisters demonstrates the passing of the torch from one generation to another in the US Armed Forces – the line of succession in protecting this great nation."
- Rescue and recovery efforts continued around the clock.
- The National Command Center never did evacuate from deep inside the Pentagon in one of the underground levels. The separate armed service command centers, however, did relocate.
- The Air Force's Crisis Action Team, to which Col. Myers now belonged, temporarily relocated to Bolling Air Force Base. Soon thereafter, the team moved back to an underground level of the Pentagon.
- For the next 57 days, Col. Myers worked rotating 12 hour shifts with the Air Force Crisis Action Team.
- Eventually, the fire at the Pentagon subsided, and rescue efforts became recovery efforts.
- A giant US Flag from the US Army Center of Military History was unfurled on the

crash site.

- Myers explained that very few Air Force chaplains, and even fewer reserve chaplains, have top secret security clearance. He was one of the few that had such clearance because of his work with the Joint Staff.
- The chief of the Air Force Chaplain Corps said to Col. Myers, “Chaplain Myers, I believe that God provides in times of emergency, and God has provided you. So, are you going to volunteer to stay here to help us, or do I have to mobilize you and put you in quarters!?”
 - Myers knew he would get back to his parish at Elm Grove Lutheran Church faster if he volunteered, and thus he did.
 - He ended up staying to serve for the next two months.
- Recovery efforts continued including the use of body-sniffing dogs to locate victims. Those who were recovered were treated with respect and were given the appropriate religious rites before being moved to the temporary morgue.
- A chaplain’s tent was established to be a part of recovery efforts.
- Relief poured in from all over the country, as did food and comfort services from a myriad of organizations.
- The Saturday after the attack, families were allowed to visit the crash scene and were accompanied by chaplains.
- The Sheraton Hotel in Crystal City, VA hosted the Pentagon Family Assistance Center as a safe place for families of victims to receive accurate information and counseling, and take advantage of other available support services.
- Cards and notes of support poured in from all over the country and were tacked up on bulletin boards across the Pentagon.
- Col. Myers showed a number of pictures depicting the extent of the damage, including satellite images.
- Before reconstruction began, the flag draped over the crash site was returned to the US Army Center for Military History where it is preserved to this day.
- One month after the attack, a memorial service was held at the Pentagon for families of victims. All expenses related to traveling to the service were paid for by the US Government. An individual chaplain was assigned to each family to escort them and provide spiritual care.
- A permanent memorial to the victims titled “America’s Heroes” was established in Ring E of the Pentagon.
- The purpose of the Chaplain’s Desk inside the Crisis Response Team is to ensure that religious support is available to those personnel who are mobilized or deployed.
- During a briefing in the days leading up to the US’ military engagement in Afghanistan, Myers suggested the group begin with prayer – a practice that was continued at every succeeding briefing during his stay.
- Col. Myers described the humanitarian involvement in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. For example, millions of “Humanitarian Daily Rations” were air dropped to the Afghani people.
- Myers then showed us an assortment of political cartoons and memes which were commonly circulated among the ranks at the time.
- He then showed us a series of photos demonstrating the progress of the reconstruction efforts at the Pentagon.
- Reconstruction was completed in time for the anniversary memorial service, exactly one year after the attack on September 11, 2001.
 - US flags were flown above the Pentagon then sent to various military installations and ships throughout the world where there were flown on the anniversary.
- The Pentagon Memorial features 184 cantilevered benches, varied in height to represent the respective ages of the victims.
- At his final CAT briefing at the end of his 57 day Pentagon tenure, Myers gave these parting words, “You are America’s finest. It has been my privilege to serve alongside you. I encourage you never to separate your religious faith from the decisions you make in these rooms. The other major religions in the world do not make that separation, nor should you. Let your faith inform your decisions. Let it guide your consciences. Never forget. Never forget.”
- Col. Myers then asked us, rhetorically, “Will we forget? Have we already forgotten? Only you can answer that question.”

President Nelson concluded our meeting with a few reminders about upcoming events. We are very grateful to Rev. Col. Larry Myers for sharing his remarkable testimony about that dark day in our nation’s history – and how he and countless others helped to heal, comfort, and rebuild.

Hunger Task Force
Service Activity Summary
Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Bright and early on the morning of Wednesday, August 3, twelve Rotarians and friends of the club arrived at Hunger Task Force Headquarters in West Milwaukee. The dedicated band of volunteers enjoyed coffee, bagels, and conversation before heading out to the production floor.

Each participant was assigned a task in a well-organized assembly line. Together with two other volunteer groups, we packed 384 boxes of food for Milwaukee area senior citizens in need. If you weren’t able to attend this month’s service activity, you ought to join us the next time! A special thanks to Ron and Ronnie Pruhs for making a special trip to participate!



Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Lorenzen
Secretary, Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

