

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.

Serving Our Community



Club Meeting

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

Events / Speakers

September 28th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Jacob Kirchen

Subject: Wisconsin Retail Account Manager for Western Spirits Beverage Company

October 5th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting

October 12th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Shannon Trzebiatowski
Subject: St. Charles Youth and Family Services

October 19th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting

October 26th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting - Wisconsin Lutheran College
Speaker: Computer Science Dept - Wisconsin Lutheran College

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



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 - September 21, 2022

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Feeding Wauwatosa A Stockpile of Statistics Pertaining to a Meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

The clarion call of the big brass bell jolted Rotarians out of their seats for the Pledge of Allegiance led by head honcho Bob Nelson. Following the pledge, we were blessed with an inspiring invocation by Rotarian Rich Mannisto. Thank you Rich!

We recognized the birthday of Rotarian Craig Schmutzer, the actual "big day" occurring one day prior (September 20). Happy Birthday, Craig! No spouse birthdays were observed, however we had two wedding anniversaries to cheer for: Christine and Steve Merritt celebrated 36 years on September 20 and Bob and Andrea Nelson toasted 24 years, also on September 20. Happy Anniversary to the happy couples! Bob shared that he and Andrea will mark the occasion with a night out at the Pfister on Friday. Enjoy, friends! There were no Rotary anniversaries this week.

The following morsels appeared on the sad and happy news menu:



Sergeant-at-Arms



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

- Anne Neafie just returned from a lovely vacation with Terry on Martha's Vineyard. While there, they bumped into an islander whose husband happened to be an Episcopal priest. The parish provided temporary housing to some of the migrants that arrived on the island last week.
- Rich Mannisto reported that Kids from Wisconsin is open to another Rotary-sponsored concert on our stage at Hart Park or on the quad at Wisconsin Lutheran College (if the Rotary Stage is unavailable).
- Tom Kirchen let us know that he's still waiting on confirmed pricing from our nut vendor. While he's relatively certain of the approximate price increase, nothing has actually been "written in stone."
- Tom also noted that he received a call from his son in Florida who had just gone to lunch with a minister. The minister asked Tom's son if he was going to the Packer's/Bucs game on Sunday, to which the son replied that he did not have tickets. The minister said he would ask his friend Terry ... as in Terry Bradshaw ... if he could secure some tickets for him! Stay tuned for an update!
- Richard Frenn reminded us that Jacob Kirchen, grandson of Tom Kirchen, would be our program speaker on September 28. Jacob is the Wisconsin Retail Account Manager for Western Spirits Beverage Company, and beverage samples **will** be provided! Come thirsty!
- Gerv Rose noted that 10 years ago, he purchased a diamond-encrusted tennis bracelet for Beverly on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. These days, Beverly seldom wears the bracelet because it is difficult to get on and off. Gerv paid \$3,000 for the bracelet, but had a certificate from the jeweler which would permit him to return it for \$2,800 back. Unfortunately, that jeweler has since gone out of business. Gerv's attempts to sell the bracelet to other jewelers have resulted in such pitiful offers as \$300 and \$240! Robert Niedermann suggested that Gerv sell the bracelet Bob Nelson for \$5,000 as a 25th anniversary present for Andrea. Just think Bob, you'd be all set for next year!



There being no further news to noodle on, Anne Neafie arose to introduce our program speaker for the day. Alex Kustermann is the president of the Tosa Community Food Pantry which is housed in St. Bernard Catholic Church in the heart of the village. Kustermann has had 15 years of management experience in the mining industry, including international stints in Chile and Panama – he is fluent in Spanish.

Presently, Alex bears the title of Strategic Account Manager for Komatsu Mining in Milwaukee. Mr. Kustermann received his bachelor's degree from UW-Eau Claire, after which earned an MBA from

Marquette University. In addition to serving on the Tosa Community Food Pantry board, Alex volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, The Gathering, and Hunger Task Force.

Alex was joined today by Carol Wehrley, longtime pantry coordinator for the Tosa Community Food Pantry. Carol provided insights and additional information throughout Kustermann's presentation.

Tosa Community Food Pantry was founded in 1983 to help the growing number of Wauwatosans struggling with hunger. At that time, the Wisconsin Information System identified a need for food assistance in several specific zip codes in the area. St. Bernard Parish had already established a food pantry, so the decision was made to merge with TCFP to yield a bigger impact. Next year, the organization will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Pantry leadership consists of an eight member board of directors along with three non-board staff positions. The organization relies on the faithful assistance of 26 pantry volunteers. The "storefront" is open for business twice per week: Mondays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. TCFP is an official service provider for 211, meaning that those calling for emergency food assistance in the area will be referred to the pantry.

Alex explained that Tosa Community Food Pantry receives funding from grants, individual and corporate donations, churches, and the Wisconsin Community Development Block Grant. Hunger Task Force is a primary provider of food to the pantry, with shipments arriving on a regular basis. They also receive a collection of food from the West Suburban YMCA in even-numbered months – hence their request for our club's collection in **odd**-numbered months.

Once per year, students at Lincoln Elementary will take up a collection for the pantry. Upon reaching capacity, the children will fill up their wagons and march down Wauwatosa Ave to make a delivery to the pantry in person. Wehrley shared: "The police stop traffic while the kids march down with their wagons. They get to help stock the shelves with their donations and ask questions about what we do. The kids feel so important!"

TCFP also purchases fresh meat from Bunzel's Meat Market every month. As such, they are one of the only food pantries in the area that provide such an offering to their guests. "We get ground beef, fryer chickens, and stew meat," said Carol. "Plus, Bunzel's delivers, and they are so community minded."

Other regular food donors include the Hart Park Senior Center and, now, our very own Rotary Club of Wauwatosa.

Mr. Kustermann showed us photographs of the interior of the food pantry – an immaculate, well-organized, and well-stocked space. He added that the floors had just been stripped and waxed by St. Bernard's outstanding custodian.

There are several eligibility requirements to receive food from the Tosa Community Food Pantry. The first is geographical; guests must reside in the 53213, 53222, 53225, or 53226 zip codes (essentially, the City of Wauwatosa). Guests must also have an income of no greater than two times the poverty level, and are required to sign a declaration of eligibility. These requirements are determined by Hunger Task Force for partner organizations like TCFP so that supplies remain reliable and consistent. Kustermann noted that the pantry will serve **anyone** that is in an emergency situation.

"We're going to see a lot of demand," Alex predicted. "We've already seen an increase in demand over the past 18 months." Kustermann speculates this is a result of various factors like higher gas prices, runaway inflation of food costs, and increased energy bills. "Anne (Neafie) reached out to us at an opportune time."

Alex finished his presentation with a friendly reminder to check expiration dates before donating food, as the pantry will not accept expired items. He then opened the floor to questions from Rotarians, of which the following were submitted:

- Dale Yerkes noted that macaroni and cheese was listed as a suggested donation item on TCFP's list, and was curious if the pantry supplied the other requisite accoutrements for this dish such as butter and milk.
 - Carol Wehrley replied that they do indeed supply refrigerated items like butter, eggs, and milk ... although they have been relying more on non-dairy milk as of late.
 - They also receive fresh good from the Hunger Task Force farm.
- Robert Niedermann asked for clarification on where Alex worked
 - He works for Komatsu Mining
- Niedermann also noted that Wauwatosa Rotary has been a longtime financial donor to the Tosa Community Food Pantry
- Pat Meylor made the observation that he, personally, has experienced the impacts of the current economy in skyrocketing housing costs since moving to Harwood Place.
- Anne Neafie wanted to know if the pantry's recipient base is trending toward fewer seniors and more young families.
 - During COVID, they saw an influx in young families, but that has since dropped off.
 - They are, however, seeing an increase in senior guests.
- Carol Wehrley noted that she helped the Tosa Cares Food Pantry get started, and that they frequently work together to help those in need.

We thank Alex and Carol for their outstanding presentation and their dedicated service to our community. With a gentle bop of the bell, this meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Connoisseur of Creative Content and Bellowing Bulletin Boy
Jonathan Lorenzen

Upcoming Commitments

Program

September 28: Richard Frenn will introduce Jacob Kirchen, Account Manager for Western Spirits Beverage Co.

October 5: Dale Yerkes

October 12: Bill Makal will present Shannon Trzebiatowski of St. Charles Youth and Family Services

October 19: Jonathan Lorenzen

October 26: AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE – Rich Mannisto will present WLC's Computer Science professors who will provide a live demo of the new Marker Space

Invoker/Greeter

September 28: Alex Solanki

October 5: Jerry Broitzman

October 12: Rose Murack

October 19: Aaron Sebald

October 26: Jonathan Lorenzen

