

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 Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14 | 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. | Blue Mound Golf & Country Club



Please join us for the annual Rotary Club of Wauwatosa Christmas Party at Blue Mound Golf & Country Club! 'Tis the season to enjoy an elegant evening of fine food and excellent entertainment alongside fellow Rotarians. We hope to see you for this time-honored Rotary tradition!

Schedule

- 5:30 p.m. - Reception with entertainment and cash bar
- 6:30 p.m. - Call to be seated
- 6:35 p.m. - Dinner and program

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

****If you received an invitation email, please register using the personalized**

Club Meeting

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

Events / Speakers

- November 16th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
- November 23rd
NO NOON MEETING - Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 30th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting - Club Assembly](#)
- December 7th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Joseph Brooks
Subject: Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Club Leaders



[Robert Hugh Nelson](#)
President



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



[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)
Secretary



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



[Robert P. Niedermann CPA](#)
Treasurer



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

[Richard Todd Mannisto](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

registration link in your email**

Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation Gourmet Nuts Fundraiser



It is that nutty time of the year! Please consider supporting the Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation by placing an order for delicious gourmet nuts from the A.L. Schutzman Co. These sweet and savory treats are perfect for holiday gifts or any special occasion. Most of all, your participation in this fundraiser supports the service and outreach efforts of our club and Rotary International.

Orders may be placed [online](#) or by [printing and submitting](#) an order form. For questions, please contact [Tom Kirchen](#).

**CLICK HERE TO
ORDER ONLINE**



**CLICK HERE FOR
ORDER FORM**



Serving Our Community



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



[Paul Alan Vandeveld](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Anne Ruttger Neafie](#)
iPast President



Years of Service

John A. Sebald
11-13-2019
3 Years



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

Newsletter - November 9, 2022

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Lions, and Tigers, and Bears ... Oh My!
A Workbook of Wild Words Witnessed at a Meeting of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

President Nelson gaveled in our weekly meeting with a whack of the weathered old bell, followed promptly by a proper proclamation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Providing today's invocation was Richard Frenn, whose prayer offered thanksgiving for our veterans and petitioned for a fair outcome to the midterm elections. Thank you, Richard!

We had no birthdays or wedding anniversaries to recognize, however we were delighted to celebrate the three-year Rotary anniversary of John Sebald. Congratulations, John!

The following sad and happy news items were roared, squawked, bellowed, and screeched for our consumption:

- Bill Bode rejoiced in his ability to finally travel with Jeannie on a cruise of a lifetime to the Greek Isles. The trip was originally scheduled for April 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. Ironically, the Bodes were afflicted with COVID upon their return, however Bill never actually tested positive. All in all, the Bodes had a wonderful trip. We're glad you're back – and healthy!
 - Bill also announced that his son, Taylor, is finally an architect. Congrats!
- Robert Niedermann introduced guest and prospective member Heike Heemann. Heike was invited to check out the club by Tom Kirchen, who was joining us by Zoom today. Welcome, Heike!
- Anne Neafie reminded us to bring non-perishable food items to the meeting next week for collection and delivery to the Tosa Community Food Pantry.
- Rich Mannisto distributed beverage order forms for our Whiskey Wednesday Club Assembly on Wednesday, November 30. Please get your orders in to Rich!
- Peter Skanavis reported that one of his agents recently passed away from liver cancer. We're so sorry to hear this sad news, Peter. Our condolences and prayers go to out to the agent's family.
- President Nelson discussed several alternate Salvation Army bell ringing locations with the loss of our preferred Macy's post. Options include:
 - Metcalfe's Market at 68th and State in the Wauwatosa Village
 - Pick 'n Save on Mayfair (south of North Ave.)
 - One of several Wauwatosa Walgreens locations
- After some brief discussion, it was generally accepted that one of the grocery stores would have more traffic than a Walgreens. The president requested that we think about the options, and said we could make a decision next week.
- Tom Kirchen announced that nut sales were reaching \$12,000. Incredible! Thanks to everyone who has made a purchase!
- President Nelson reminded us that we will not be meeting on Wednesday, November 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.
 - He also reminded us to mark our calendars for the club Christmas Party at Blue Mound Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, December 14.

There being no further news to report, Rose Murack arose to introduce our program speaker. Vera Westphal is the Deputy Zoo Director and CFO for the Milwaukee County Zoo, positions she has held for the last 17 years. Prior to joining the zoo crew, Westphal served in the Milwaukee County Department of Administration – Fiscal Affairs as a fiscal and management analyst. In total, she has over 40 years of experience in government work and services. The Wisconsin Public Policy Forum recently honored Vera with the 2022 Norman N. Gill Award for Individual Excellence.

Westphal began her presentation with a history and overview of the Milwaukee County Zoo. The zoo was established in 1892 in Washington Park. In 1958, it relocated to its



current location on Bluemound Road. The zoo gained accreditation in 1976, and only four other zoos in the country have been accredited longer.

The Milwaukee County Zoo boasts an impressive 333 species with 2,110 unique specimens. In 2021, the zoo saw 1,092,122 visitors. With 946,860 visitors as of September 30, 2022, this year's attendance is on track to best last year's numbers. Revenue, rentals, and private parties are up this season, too. Vera said that free days are offered periodically to make the zoo more accessible to the whole community. Initiatives such as these are made possible because of the public/private partnership with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

A number of new and improved exhibits and programs were launched this year. ARPA funding allowed for the renovation of the penguin exhibit and a new point of sale system. A brand-new website and a flexible pricing plan are also on the agenda. In June, the zoo held "Celebrate Diversity" and Zoo à la carte made its return in August. Both events were highly successful.

Westphal highlighted the zoo's successful social media engagement, with only the San Diego and Oregon Zoos seeing higher levels of interaction. Overall satisfaction surveys have likewise yielded good results, with most guests responding favorably to the perceived treatment and care of animals.

Vera proceeded to show us a myriad of photos of resident zoo animals, including one of their newborn giraffe and red panda.

Like so many places, the Milwaukee County Zoo is struggling with inflation, supply chain issues, and labor shortages. They are working with county government officials to alleviate the problem of long admission lines and wait times. The aviary has also been closed multiple times due to concerns about avian flu.

Challenges notwithstanding, the zoo's many attractions and programs continue to serve the community and provide for the welfare of animals:

- Wild Connections offers guided, up-close encounters with a variety of animals, including the opportunity to feed some creatures such as penguins and elephants
- A gorilla virtual reality theater simulates the giant primates being inches away from its viewers
- Daily giraffe feeding opportunities are regularly available
- Second annual Wild Lights – millions of glittering lights and animal-themed light displays throughout December

In 2018, an otter passage habitat opened along with a new parking lot on the west end of the property. The expansive Adventure Africa exhibit continues to be built out, too. It includes:

- The elephant habitat, now completed. It was one of the biggest projects since the zoo relocated to its present location. The next nearest zoo with elephants is 400 miles away in Indianapolis.
- An immersive hippopotamus habitat, also now completed.
- The final stage, yet to be built, new-and-improved rhinoceros habitat.

When Adventure Africa construction is completed, 25% of the Milwaukee County Zoo will

have been renovated.

Vera mentioned two other projects to look forward to in 2023: the Ice Age Outdoor Experience and a new shuttle starting in the summer.

With the clock nearing the top of the hour, our program speaker offered to answer questions from the assembly:

- President Nelson asked for details on the zoo's special needs workforce development program.
 - The program employs eligible 18-25 year olds throughout the year. Team members gain experience and develop skills by doing food prep in the commissary, working in the gift shop, and serving in visitor services. Almost every participant (85%-90%) finds a job upon completing the program. "The graduation ceremonies are always real tear-jerkers!"
- Roger Walsh asked our speaker to do her version of "Chuck's" imitation of the bonobo mating call ... the request was met with laughs by some and confusion by others!
- Rose Murack asked how many red pandas lived at the zoo
 - Three, including babies

Having exhausted all questions, we tapped the bell to dismiss this week's meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa. Many thanks to Vera Westphal for giving a great scoop on what's happening at the Milwaukee County Zoo!

Respectfully Submitted,

Your Emperor (Penguin) of Elaboration and Slothful Stenographer
Jonathan Lorenzen

Upcoming Commitments

Program

November 16: TBD

November 23: No Meeting due to Thanksgiving

November 30: Club Assembly – Whiskey Wednesday

December 7: Robert Niedermann and Paul Roller will present Joseph Brooks of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Invoker/Greeter

November 16: Anne Neafie

November 23: No Meeting due to Thanksgiving

November 30: Gerv Rose

December 7: Bob Nelson