

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.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Saturday, December 10 | Metcalfe's Market | State St. Wauwatosa



Contact [Bob Nelson](#) to sign up for a volunteer time slot and for additional information

Club Christmas Party

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

Club Meeting

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

Events / Speakers

December 7th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
Speaker: Joseph Brooks
Subject: Greater Milwaukee Foundation

December 14th
NO NOON MEETING due to Christmas Party

December 14th
[Club Christmas Party](#)

December 21st
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

December 28th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

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 CLUB OF WAUWATOSA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022
BLUE MOUND GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
5:30 TO 9:00 P.M.

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 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](#).



Rotary Foundation Chair



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



[Paul Alan Vandeveld](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Anne Ruttger Neafie](#)
iPast President

Years of Service

Rose Murack
12-06-2021
1 Years

**CLICK HERE TO
ORDER ONLINE**



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ORDER FORM**



Serving Our Community





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 - November 16 & 30, 2022

By Jonathan Lorenzen

A Chat with the Chief
A Blotter of Business Conducted at a Meeting of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

At the absence of our big brass bell, our meeting began with a digital peal from a Rotarian's smartphone ... ah, the wonders of technology! President Nelson proceeded to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Anne Neafie provided the invocation. Thank you, Anne!

There were a bevy of birthdays and anniversaries to celebrate today:

- Bill Bode blew out the candles on November 20. Happy Birthday, Bill!
- Rita Makal celebrated a birthday, also on November 20. Best wishes, Rita!
- Gerv and Bev Rose had their 60th wedding anniversary on November 22. Congratulations, Roses!
- Peter Skanavis observed a Rotary anniversary on November 21. Congrats, Peter!

Rotarians dispatched the following reports of sad and happy news:

- President Nelson reminded members to RSVP for the Club Christmas Party on December 14.
- The majority of members present voted to cancel the meeting on Wednesday, November 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Robert Niedermann reported that his youngest daughter – aged 54 – recently suffered a medical episode that landed her in the hospital. Doctors investigated the possibility of a stroke or a tumor, but eventually determined the cause to be a blood clot in the brain. She is now resting at home, but will need to have additional treatment. Our thoughts and prayers for a full and speedy recovery!
- Peter Skanavis reported that his mother had passed away. He will be going to Greece for the funeral, but was waiting on his updated passport. Peter explained that funerals occur on the 40th day after death in the Orthodox tradition, hence the service will be in December. Mom lived to be 94 years old. Peter, you have our deepest condolences. Your Rotary friends are here for you!
- Gerv and Bev just returned from a warm and sunny two-week vacation in Mexico. Welcome back ... we're not the least bit jealous! ;-)
- Paul Roller noted that a representative from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation will talk about our club's fund at the meeting on December 7. We're looking forward to it!



At the conclusion of our news beat, Anne Neafie arose to introduce our program speaker, Wauwatosa Police Chief James MacGillis. The chief was back for his second visit to the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa, after an initial introduction and speech following his swearing-in in July 2021.

MacGillis shared that he had asked Anne what she wanted him to present on for his follow up visit to the club. Anne suggested he reflect on “how things are going” and “what keeps him up at night.”

According to the chief, auto thefts have substantially decreased over the last year, but the community has unfortunately witnessed a recent uptick. “We were doing well, but we’ve seen an 1,100% spike in the last 30 days. We are just getting creamed with Hyundais, Kias, and other cars.” MacGillis has asked the Police and Fire Commission for assistance and additional resources to combat this escalation. He noted that auto-related crimes like “entry to auto” were also on the rise. Sadly, the majority of these car

crimes are being committed by young people.

Like so many other industries, the police department is facing a staffing problem. “We have had a net gain of zero officers since I started. We hired 12 and lost 12. In fact, we just lost our 13th officer.” MacGillis has a number of potential candidates in the pipeline, but is careful to hire the *right* people for the job. “We’re not just going to take anyone. They have to work within the Tosa culture.”

The employee shortage has necessitated difficult policies like recurring mandatory overtime for officers. “We’re getting our butts kicked. We had to pull a school resource officer out of one of the schools to have enough officers out on the street.” It’s not all gloom and doom, however – reserve officers have stepped up to police critical areas like Mayfair Mall. “You’re going to see volunteer reserves and uniformed officers policing Mayfair.”

Reflecting on the question of “what keeps me up at night,” Chief MacGillis said, “I worry about my cops. I worry about burnout. I worry about crime in our city. Three of my cops got shot in this very building. They’re all back on duty, except for one who’s recovering from an unrelated motorcycle accident.”

The chief’s love for the community keeps him moving forward despite the many concerns and challenges: “I enjoy going to work. I love these cops. I have two generations of family here in Wauwatosa. I go to church here.”

Paul Vandeveld asked if there was a reason behind the recent spike in car thefts. MacGillis explained that it’s a regional problem. “It’s happening here. It’s happening other places. It’s getting cold. People are getting out of incarceration.” The chief is working with other departments to combat the problem strategically. He also is in frequent communication with

District Attorney John Chisholm to ensure that the DA's office is aware of other crimes perpetrated by suspects such that bail can be increased commensurately.

Anne Neafie asked where in Wauwatosa the increased thefts were taking place. Chief MacGillis said that the northwest side of the city near Madison Elementary was a hot spot, as was the North Ave. corridor between 60th and 70th streets. The Underwood Parkway area has also seen an increase in auto thefts.

Bill Makal wanted to know the types of places thieves were snatching cars from. "Wherever they can." Parking lots, specifically, was one particular trouble area.

The department is making headway in understanding why certain crimes are committed and utilizes this information to inform their policing strategies. Wauwatosa Police analyst Dominick Ratkowski recently published an article that explores how the coronavirus pandemic and stay-at-home orders affected criminal behavior. This and other studies reveal that the majority of crimes happen within four miles of where the criminal lives. "We have research and analysis to know where we should be putting squad cars."

New technologies are also aiding police in the fight against crime. Facial recognition equipment helped to apprehend a robbery and shooting suspect, and "Flock" automatic license plate reading technology alerts police to the location of a stolen vehicle, or the vehicle of a suspect. "We load a list of license plates into the system, and every Flock camera [including those used by other departments] is looking for those cars." Flock technology looks not only at plates, but also the make, model, and description of vehicles. The cameras are deployed at Mayfair Mall, Mayfair Collection, and the Milwaukee Regional Medical Complex. "We've purchased 10 cameras, and we're figuring out the best places to put them."

Robert Niedermann inquired about the phenomenon of 13- and 14-year-olds stealing cars. Chief MacGillis acknowledged the situation: "It's a joke among youngsters. They will have just been arrested, and they'll taunt the officer by saying, 'I'll be back out tomorrow.'" The Chief feels reforms are needed to ameliorate the problem.

Craig Schmutzer wanted to know the Chief's opinion regarding officers' perception of "being able to do their job" as a complicating factor in hiring and maintaining employees. MacGillis said the department just did a climate survey to gauge officers' concerns and opinions. "We want to do organizational change, and we knew the feedback from this survey would be tough." The department shared the results with the mayor and the police union, and is using the information to strengthen operations. "To bring the department forward, we need bottom-up leadership. Cops don't like not feeling supported." Communication seems to be key in sustaining relationships and a positive culture.

Chief MacGillis feels that good police-community relationships are likewise an important factor in maintaining a healthy force. He sees signs of a good relationship in Wauwatosa: "People drop off donuts for us. We have the K9 Foundation. Just recently, I was having lunch with my captain, and a lady paid for our meal." By placing themselves in the community, officers are naturally building bonds with the people they serve.

Paul Vandeveld was concerned about the number of cars he sees without license plates, and wondered if and when officers stop these vehicles. The police will stop cars without license plates depending on the priority of other pending calls.

Gerv Rose talked about an employee who was reluctant to work in another Milwaukee suburb because he felt like he was targeted (i.e. questioned, pulled over) by that town's officers for being a minority. The chief has modified procedures for Wauwatosa dispatchers such that they will only send police if the caller can explain *why* a certain person's actions are "suspicious." By empowering dispatchers with this discretion, police will not respond to unsubstantiated calls for service.

As the clock ticked further into the one o'clock hour, our time with the Chief had sadly come to a close. Many thanks to Chief MacGillis for coming back to visit the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa. You are welcome any time, Chief!

Cheers for Rotary
A Tab of Talking Points from an Assembly of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

Our Whiskey Wednesday Club Assembly began with much merriment as President Nelson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test. Invocator Gerv Rose recited a poignant poem comparing the nourishment received from meals made by a loved one to the subtle spiritual growth that occurs during a lifetime of attending worship. Thank you Gerv!

There were no birthdays or anniversaries of any kind to celebrate today. Good thing it was Whiskey Wednesday!

Cocktail chitchat (a.k.a. sad and happy news) included the following :

- President Nelson reminded us of the Club Christmas Party on December 14. We're looking forward to a festive evening together!
- The president also announced the new location for our annual Salvation Army bell ringing. Rotarians are invited to sign up for a shift at Metcalfe's Market on State St. on Saturday, December 10. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Members can also contact Bob to sign up, or to ask any questions.
- Foundation Chair Rich Mannisto distributed annual appeal letters, and asked that gifts be made by December 31. Please be generous!
- Rich also announced that he successfully defended his thesis last Tuesday and in so doing, had earned his Doctor of Education degree from Concordia University – Wisconsin. His dissertation studied, among other things, the differences in endowment balances and fundraising activities at small private colleges. Congratulations, Doctor Mannisto!
- Peter Skanavis reminded us that he would be in Greece for the next two weeks while attending his mom's memorial service. While abroad, he will attend a meeting of his hometown's local Rotary club. We look forward to your return, Peter!
- Gerv Rose inquired if we would have a Club Meeting between Christmas and New Year's. Members decided by consensus that we *would* meet on Wednesday, December 28.
- We were reminded that we would have a representative from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation as our program speaker on December 7.

At the conclusion of our sharing of sad and happy news, members broke out into their respective committees. These were the summaries of topics discussed by each committee:

- Membership Committee
 - Discussed the challenge of losing new members and ideas to retain them
 - Corporate memberships were stressed as a good option for busy working professionals
 - An idea of allowing a temporary guest delegate in place of a regular member was suggested, but concerns were raised about how often a temporary guest could attend before they encroached on being a de facto corporate member
 - Discussed that mentors should be communicating attendance expectations with their mentees
- Fundraising Committee
 - Nut sales were nutty! We raised over \$12,000 in gross sales this year, which will net between \$3,500 to \$4,000. Many thanks to Craig Schmutzer for his large order on behalf of the bank.
 - An idea was raised about soliciting nuts to other area banks as a great holiday gift for their customers
 - Hosting Kids from Wisconsin at the Rotary Stage in 2021 was somewhat of a "magical" arrangement in which our club was paid for providing the entertainment and received a share of beverage sales. Since Tosa Tonight seems to not be interested in a repeat performance by the Kids from Wisconsin, we would need to pursue another location to present them again. In such a change of venue, fundraising would be shouldered almost entirely by sponsors. An indoor venue with ticket sales would be another option, but revenue would likely not match that of 2021.
 - The idea of presenting John McGivern was discussed again
 - Research on potential fundraising events will continue to be conducted by the committee
- Community Service Committee
 - Our club has been collecting food and monetary donations for Tosa Cares and the Tosa Community Food Pantry since September. We look forward to even bigger participation in the future. Anne Neafie will continue to send reminders by email and in person at meetings.
 - The committee plans to have another Hunger Task Force service activity in the spring.
 - The rebuilding of the Interact Club at Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School is ongoing. It was suggested that we have a club meeting at Kingdom Prep in the near future.

With much good discussion and progress taking place, the clock had pushed well past 1:00, and it was time to adjourn. Many thanks for the hard work and dedication of each Rotarian and committee!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Lorenzen
Secretary, Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Upcoming Commitments

Program

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

December 14: No Noon Meeting – Club Christmas Party

December 21: Paul Roller

December 28: Gerv Rose

Invoker/Greeter

December 7: Bob Nelson

December 14: No Noon Meeting – Club Christmas Party (Craig Schmutzer)

December 21: John Sebald

December 28: Shannon Angell

