

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.

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](#).

Club Meeting

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

Events / Speakers

January 4th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
January 11th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
January 18th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
January 25th
[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 Foundation Chair

[Peter M. Skanavis](#)

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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 - December 21, 2022

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Pupil Priority
A Report Card for a Class Period of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

In the absence of President Nelson, President-Elect Makal took command of the podium and began by leading our class in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Four Way Test. Providing our prayer was Rotarian John Sebald, who delivered a sincere and inspiring invocation. Thank you, John.

We had one anniversary to recognize, that of Tom and Mary Pat Kirchen, who will be celebrating 59 years on December 28. Congratulations, Kirchens!

The following items appeared on our sad and happy news curriculum:

- Peter Skanavis was back in attendance after spending some time in his hometown in Greece. While there, he attended a meeting of the local Rotary Club; all of the members knew of Milwaukee because of Greek-born Bucks icon Giannis

Antetokounmpo. They all assumed, of course, that Peter personally knew Gianni!
Good to have you back, Peter!

- Anne Neafie thanked members for bringing food and monetary donations for this month's collection for the Tosa Cares Food Pantry. She reminded us that January's collection will switch back to the Tosa Community Food Pantry.
- Anne also noted that Kate Jones was unable to join us today due to other commitments at church. She looks forward to attending in the new year.



At the conclusion of the news reports, Paul Roller introduced program speaker Brittany Kinser, President and Executive Director of City Forward Collective. A lifelong educator, Kinser's vast educational and career experience included leadership positions at Illinois Institute of Technology and Rocketship Schools, where she ascended to Wisconsin Executive Director. She currently chairs the board of directors for Milwaukee Charter School Advocates, and assumed command of City Forward Collective in September 2022.

Kinser began by recalling a story about a student incident that occurred at Rocketship some years back. The student had broken a cardinal school rule pertaining to safety, and Kinser's first inclination was to expel the student, as was protocol for such incidents at other schools where she had previously served. Her priority was to ensure a safe and structured school environment following the event, but with the gravity of the situation, she decided to confer with other leaders. Brittany called Rocketship's CEO

who said that, while it was certainly her prerogative to expel the student, she would be the first principal in the school's history to do so. The principal's next words weighed heavily on Kinser's heart, and ultimately informed her decision to retain the student: "Who is better suited to help this student than your team?"

After being given a second chance, and with devoted guidance from Brittany's team, the student is now attending one of the highest-achieving high schools in Milwaukee. "I keep 'Mike' in mind when we talk about facts and figures. It's easy to forget that it's actually about real lives."

Kinser's heart for the individual is in concert with City Forward's mission of ensuring "a great Milwaukee school for every Milwaukee family." Brittany highlighted some of the core pillars of the organization, namely putting children first, believing in the power of schools to transform lives, and giving families choices when it comes to their children's education.

She said that Milwaukee schools are facing immense problems of retaining teachers, diminishing enrollments, poor academic achievement, and the lack of funding. "Imagine being at Fiserv Forum during a packed Bucks game with 20,000 Milwaukee students in attendance. Then an announcement is made that only those students who are meeting academic performance standards can stay for the second half of the game. At halftime, 80% of those students would clear out. Only one in five Milwaukee students are performing."

Kinser explained that the dire circumstances are unique to the city. "This is not a Wisconsin issue. It's a Milwaukee issue." Milwaukee doesn't just rank at the bottom within the state, either – it routinely comes in last among large cities across the nation. She is confident, however, that Milwaukee has the potential to perform like its neighboring suburbs.

The failure of Milwaukee schools puts minority students at the biggest disadvantage. "Milwaukee is poor at serving Black students. Nine in ten are not performing reading and math at the appropriate levels." Kinser holds that inequitable school funding is at the root of many of the disparities experienced by the city's schools and students. Milwaukee's 112,000 students attend one of three types of schools: public, charter, or private. "The funding is not following the students." She demonstrated that private schools are required to fundraise to meet the expenses above and beyond what is covered by tuition revenue. "Milwaukee Public School have more money, and parents deserve to know the difference."

City Forward believes that all students should receive the funding they need regardless of the school they choose. Kinser said that it will take a concerted effort from the whole community in order for meaningful change to occur. Her organization is leading the way with several

core strategies including credible policy analysis and solutions, effective advocacy, and impactful strategic initiatives. Goals are aligned to these strategies:

1. Change how students are funded to ensure equal funding, regardless of school selection.
2. Ensure that every child receives an education from a resource-based curriculum.
3. Amass a bigger base of engaged parents with the political will to demand change.

Brittany acknowledged that the challenges facing students and families in Milwaukee are indeed sobering. "I know the holidays are coming, and we all need rest. But when we return, we have problems to work on. All kids deserve an excellent education."

Kinser welcomed questions and discussion from the room:

- Robert Niedermann asked for clarification on whether the lack of academic performance was occurring in public and private schools, or just public schools.
 - The private schools are performing better, despite receiving less government funding than public schools. She also added that City Forward is focusing on programs to retain teachers and advocating for more special education funding.
- Demond Means commented that the State of Wisconsin maintains a \$6.6 billion reserve, but has not kept up with the CPI when it comes to funding education – costs continue to go up. He said that, for the sake of students, legislators need to allocate more money to education.
- Bill Makal asked Brittany why standardized curricula isn't being used in Milwaukee Public Schools.
 - She isn't entirely certain, especially since charter and private schools are using such curricula.
- John Sebald commented on the difficulty of recruiting, training, and retaining rock star teachers.
 - Demond opined that Wisconsin is a less-attractive state for educators because of Act 10. Additional back-and-forth discussion ensued between several members.

Our sincere thanks to Brittany for joining us and for a very informative presentation! At the tolling of the bell, our class was dismissed!

Respectfully Submitted,

Principal of Ponderous Prattle and Lecturer at Length
Jonathan Lorenzen