

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.

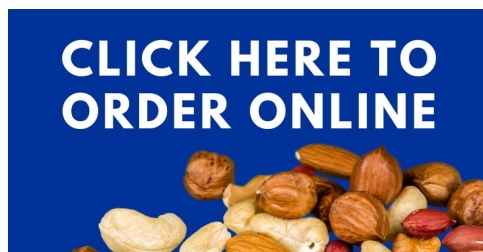
Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation Gourmet Nuts Fundraiser



It's *still* that nutty time of the year! That's right, nuts continue to be available for purchase into the holiday season! 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](#).

Minimum order of three (3) items.



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

January 10th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
January 17th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting - Special Assembly](#)
January 24th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
January 31st
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting - Club Assembly](#)

Club Leaders



[William Carl Makal](#)
President



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



[Jerry Broitzman](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms
Vice President



[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)
Secretary



[Robert P. Niedermann](#) CPA
Treasurer



[Dale A. Yerkes](#)
Treasurer-Elect



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



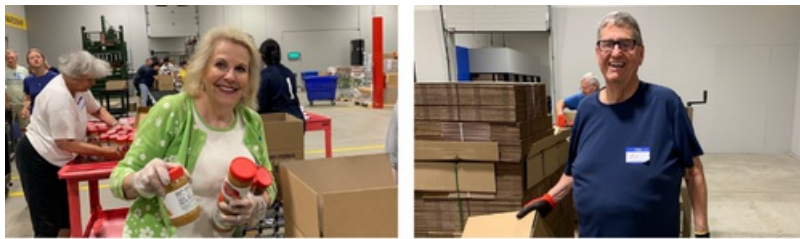
[Richard Todd Mannisto](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



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



[Rick David Steinberg](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



Paul Alan Vandeveld
Club Programs Chair



Robert Hugh Nelson
Past President

Years of Service

Kevin E Festerling
01-03-2018
6 Years
Kathryn Jones
01-04-2023
1 Year

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 - January 3, 2024

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Opening Doors Outdoors
A Play-By-Play Recap of a Meeting of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

The first meeting of 2024 drew a respectable "crowd," with an official roster count of 23. We're off to a strong start! President Makal teed off our activities with a call to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Greeter-Invoker Rose Murack then offered a sincere and stirring prayer to set the tone for the year. Thank you, Rose!

We had much to celebrate in the way of momentous dates: Alex and Neal Solanki were observing

their wedding anniversary, while Tom Kirchen, Kevin Festerling, and Kate Jones had Rotary anniversaries to cheer for. Congratulations, all!

In addition to program speaker Damian, we had the honor of welcoming guests Cay and Brian (who happened to be guests of our speaker). Welcome, friends!

Among sad and happy highlights, the following stats were stated:

- Richard Frenn shared the sad news that Catherine Ward, wife of the late Ed Ward, â€ˆ a former Wauwatosa Rotarian â€ˆ had passed away. You can read Catherineâ€™s [obituary here](#).
- Foundation Chair Mannisto admonished us to â€œdig out our walletsâ€ in support of the foundationâ€™s annual appeal. Rich shared that the response rate was approximately 40% at the time of the meeting. Now in a new tax year, Rotarians can get a jump-start on their charitable giving for 2024. Please see Treasurer Niedermann to make your gift.
- Long-lost friend and fellow Rotarian John Sebald is resolved to not be such a stranger in the new year, and admitted he â€œmisses his friends.â€ Weâ€™re glad weâ€™ll get to enjoy your company more often, John â€ˆ youâ€™re never a stranger among good Rotary friends.
- President-Elect Aaron Sebald let us know that the Wauwatosa Holiday Market was set to meet tomorrow to discuss, among other things, the final dollar amount of their contribution to our club. Aaron said he would let us know the outcome of that meeting. Sebald also reminded us that he still has leftover nut, chocolate, and coffee inventory available for purchase.
- Significant discussion was had regarding a proposal to move our weekly meeting location to the St. Camillus senior community on Bluemound Rd. A number of questions and comments were posted, and it was decided that a special forum on the topic was needed. The club meeting on January 17 will be dedicated to deliberating the proposal.



After a hefty business portion of our meeting, we yielded the floor to Richard Frenn, who offered a lengthy and ponderous introduction for our program speaker. I jest!! Mr. Frennâ€™s preamble was, in reality, a model of pithiness and efficiency, with words echoing something akin to, â€œLadies and gentlemen, please welcome program speaker Damian Buchman, founder and CEO of The Ability Center.â€ Well done, Richard.

Mr. Buchman began by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to meet with us (itâ€™s our pleasure, Damian!) and recalled his last visit to the club about two years ago. Today, Damian was presenting on The Ability Centerâ€™s substantial project to totally

transform Wisconsin Avenue Park into the Moss Universal Park.

To set the stage, so to speak, Buchman reflected on The Ability Centerâ€™s previous project to make Bradford Beach wheelchair accessible by installing a ramp all the way to the shoreline, thus making it â€œthe most accessible beach in the nation.â€

Damianâ€™s mission is to help people with disabilities play with the people they love most. His passion is deeply personal; as a teenager, he was diagnosed with bone cancer in both legs. Doctors told Damianâ€™s parents that he should, essentially, just â€œgo home to die.â€ Now aged 46, Buchman defied all odds by surviving this nearly-always-fatal diagnosis. â€œWhat we do is my purpose. God spared me for a reason. I should be a double amputee.â€ Damianâ€™s profound zeal is the drive behind â€œwhat weâ€™re doing at Moss Universal Park.â€

Buchman explained that the issue with accessible parks is that the accommodations go no further than the playground. â€œWeâ€™re also concerned about the (older) siblings and friends who want the ability to escape to the rest of the park. Grandparents should be able to play with their grandkids.â€ Damian explained that many playgrounds are floored with mulch or crushed tires, which limits access for those who are unsteady on their feet or are in a wheelchair. In the words of an Ability Center board member, who is an amputee, â€œI should be able to be in the giggles.â€

Wisconsin Avenue Park proved to be an ideal location to transform into a truly â€œuniversalâ€ park â€ˆ one that provides opportunities for individuals of all ability levels. The property is strategically located near the St. Camillus senior community, the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center, and accessible transit lines. The park also features scenic woods and ball fields, which can be made accessible for play and enjoyment by all.

Moss Universal Park takes its name from the George F. Moss Foundation Trust; the foundation committed \$2.5 million to the project â€ˆ particularly, toward its new clubhouse. The park overhaul has buy-in from nearly every level of local government: the Wauwatosa Common Council passed a resolution of support and approved financial backing; County Executive Crowley and Supervisor Rolland toured the park and publicly expressed their support for a name change; the County Board subsequently voted 16-0 to commit to a capital development project; and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District awarded the project a \$1.1 million grant from the GIP program.

The Ability Center has also been busy lobbying state government in an effort to secure \$3 million in grant funding from the Department of Administration; an official application was submitted last month. Between government and private investors, \$4.8 million has already been committed to Moss Universal Park, and \$400,000 has been spent on design and planning. Buchman is hopeful for a groundbreaking in July of this year.

According to Damian, support for the project has been overwhelming. At a recent on-site ceremony and meeting, all of the invited dignitaries said â€œyesâ€ to the invitation.

Buchman explained that families with disabled loved ones are often discouraged from visiting parks because of the lack of inclusive accessibility. And while some are inclined to think disability access is only a need for a small minority, Damian set the record straight: â€œwe are all just temporarily able-bodied.â€ Eventually, he explained, everybody will be limited in their mobility due to injury, disease, or aging.

The Ability Center has enlisted an army of partners, each an expert in their field. For example, playground design kingpins PlayCore and Game Time will install state-of-the-art "and truly fun" equipment. "We're not looking to take opportunities away from able-bodied people. We're seeking to add opportunities for people of all abilities to play side-by-side." Buchman feels we're actually building playgrounds too *safe* for individuals with disabilities. For instance, he feels everyone should be able to take the reasonable risk of playing on the monkey bars, which are the leading cause of playground injuries. "They should be allowed to be a little dangerous, too."

Damian then played for us a video produced by The Ability Center which gives an overview of the park and its impressive list of inclusive opportunities.

After the video, Damian traded places with his friend Brian. Brian happened to be the grandfather of the blonde-haired girl in the video. Alice was born 15 weeks premature, which led to significant physical challenges. "She's like any other three-year-old, it's just that her legs don't work so well." Brian explained that Alice simply wants to play and have fun with her friends. She gives it her all to overcome her limitations, and hopes that she will be able to walk in a year. Accessible park accommodations, such as those planned at Moss, will allow kids like Alice to play alongside all of her friends. "This park will mean the world to our family."

With our time together coming to a close, Damian posed a concluding question to our club: "How can Rotary help mobilize a Wauwatosa Proud, RampUp, movement that transforms nationwide play for everBODY?" It is his hope that civic- and service-minded community members in Wauwatosa "and everywhere" will join hands to open doors to the outdoors.

We sincerely thank Mr. Buchman and his friends Cay and Brian for joining us today, and for getting us excited about Moss Universal Park.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Lorenzen
Secretary, Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Upcoming Commitments

Program

January 10: Jerry Broitzman

January 17: Special Club Assembly

January 24: Bill Makal

January 31: Club Assembly

Invoker/Greeter

January 10: Jerry Broitzman

January 17: Bill Bode

January 24: Dale Yerkes

January 31: Richard Frenn