

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.



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 17th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting - Special Assembly](#)
January 24th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)
January 31st
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting - Club Assembly](#)
February 7th
[Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting](#)

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

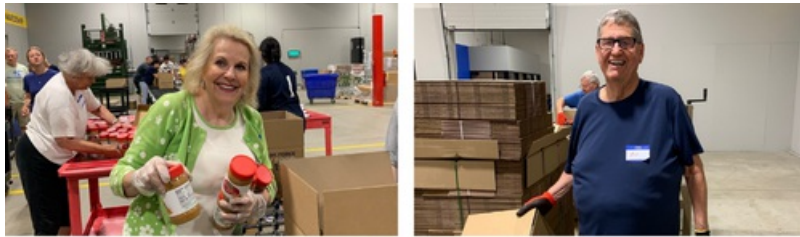


[Peter M. Skanavis](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



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

Serving Our Community



Paul Alan Vandeveld
Club Programs Chair



Robert Hugh Nelson
Past 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 - January 10, 2024

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Is it Live or is it Artificial?
Real Memories from a Meeting of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Wauwatosa Rotarians, a most inquisitive and intelligent bunch, gathered for our second meeting of the year on January 10, 2024. President and master of ceremonies Bill Makal called our summit to order with an authoritative thump of the bell followed by a call to rise as we saluted the flag. On double duty today, Vice President Jerry Broitzman delivered a stirring invocation before once again taking the floor for his program speech later in the meeting. Thank you, Jerry!

We had the happy occasion to sing *Happy Birthday* to our friend and fellow Rotarian Paul Roller who was reported to be turning "four score and seven years old." Best wishes, Paul! We also recognized the birthday of Neal Solanki, husband of Rotarian Alex Solanki. Happy Birthday, Neal! There were no wedding or Rotary anniversaries on the docket this week.

Several sad and happy news items were brought forth for our consideration:

- Alex Solanki reported that her family had recently returned from a delightful trip to Switzerland and Italy. The Solankis enjoyed great food, superb skiing, and quality family time while abroad.
- Ann Guagliardo announced Connect Chiropractic's [upcoming workshop](#) "How to Recover from Stress after the Holidays." The event will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24.
- Anne Neafie and Kate Jones let us know about the upcoming "Coffee House Series" concert at Wauwatosa Avenue United Methodist Church which will benefit Habitat for Humanity. The event, which was scheduled for January 14, has since been postponed due to the extreme cold on the original date.
- Jonathan Lorenzen passed along a message from President-Elect Aaron Sebald which he, in turn, had received from Maria Panno of the Wauwatosa Holiday Market. The message was that a check for the Holiday Market's charitable contribution to the Club Foundation was in the mail.
 - We were also reminded that Mr. Sebald still has leftover coffee and nuts available for purchase.
- Later in the week, we received information from Rose Murack regarding an awesome opportunity to put together a Tosa-themed silent auction basket for the Rotary Western Great Lakes District Conference (TriCon) in April. Below is Rose's message:
 - I am on the site-selection committee for the Rotary Western Great Lakes District Conference, or TriCon, as it's called.
 - The 2024 conference will be held April 18 - 20, at the KI Center in Green Bay. This year's theme is "Create Hope in the World" and the vision statement is "Community, World, and Club."
 - Each club in the three districts, (6270, 6220, and 6250) are being asked to put together a large gift basket as silent auction items, with proceeds going to the fight against polio.
 - The items can be anything related to Wauwatosa. Examples given were gift cards from restaurants and hotels, local beers and/or liquors, t-shirts, golf shirts, tickets to plays or concerts, golf swag, and anything else that represents our city and/or our club.
 - **May I ask each member, or members' company, to donate an item to "fill the basket"?**



After a relatively-brief slate of announcements, we turned our attention back to Jerry Broitzman for his presentation on artificial intelligence. Mr. Broitzman set the stage by stating his talk would be a mere "scratching of the surface" of the seemingly ubiquitous technology along with its counterpart, machine learning. "Artificial intelligence is already here; it's not coming." That's what makes this so interesting. With its speed and accuracy, Jerry wasn't sure to embrace or "hide in the woods" from AI. He came across

an article about artificial intelligence which he used to guide and prompt today's discussion.

What is artificial intelligence, you ask? In a nutshell, it is a branch of computer science that is intended to simulate human intelligence. More specifically, it aims to replicate the processes of reasoning, learning, problem-solving, and quick decision-making. Jerry explained that there have always been technological innovations and corresponding societal responses (i.e. the Industrial Revolution). However, the artificial intelligence of today is different in that it truly "learns" instead of simply accomplishing defined and programmed tasks (as "robots" have traditionally done).

Broitzman explained that a robot with AI will not only accomplish its programmed task, it will learn to do it *better*. At its heart, artificial intelligence is nothing more than algorithms that are engineered to understand a task and interpret various inputs and data to accomplish it in the most efficient way. The technology is employed in nearly every industry "from accounting to healthcare, and everything in between. AI aggregates mass amounts of behavioral data to make logical predictions on how to respond to different stimuli. According to Jerry, this type of data is constantly being gathered by companies like Google, whereby it is used to understand human behavior.

While artificial intelligence is an "umbrella term" referring to any number of simulated logic technologies, *machine learning* is more narrowly understood as the type of "autopilot" programs that operate without human intervention once they've begun their task. These smart systems are said to eliminate "human error," in essence allowing them to accomplish their objective flawlessly.

Jerry gave just a few examples of the ways in which machine learning is radically changing how things are done. In healthcare, AI-enabled robots are assisting in complex surgeries, and artificial intelligence is helping to manage medical records. Investment companies are offering AI-powered portfolios that are designed to select and manage the best-performing securities. E-commerce leaders have completely replaced customer service departments with artificially intelligent “bots” that can resolve issues without human intervention.

Broitzman said that more than 70% of Americans express concern about artificial intelligence. One area of uncertainty is machine learning’s sense of “right and wrong.” Currently, the technology is “amoral” in that it does not weigh ethical considerations when deciding how to proceed. One might ask how ethics will be incorporated as AI becomes more advanced, and furthermore, *whose* system of values will be utilized.

ChatGPT is a popular (and free) online platform that uses artificial intelligence to respond to complex, multi-faceted queries. Jerry put the software to the test right before our eyes with two meaty questions that were sure to stump the machine. Not so. Drawing upon Treasurer Niedermann’s upcoming trip for inspiration, we first asked the bot to create an itinerary for a two-week trip to Costa Rica along with the top twenty sights for tourists. In less than a second, the screen displayed just what we asked for — an honest-to-goodness itinerary down to the day, along with the list of attractions. Even more astonishingly, the results eerily reflected Robert’s actual trip itinerary in several places.

We then decided to see how ChatGPT would handle a divinely-inspired inquiry. In an effort to cut down Pastor Kate Jones’s sermon prep time this week, Jerry tried to get the system to prepare a Methodist sermon outline based on Luke 2. Just as soon as he clicked “submit”, the computer returned a well-organized outline (of sorts) with references to the Gospel of Luke. We could see here, however, that ChatGPT struggled just a bit. The outline did not provide any sermon illustrations, nor was there any indication that the denominational parameters had been factored in any meaningful way. For now, at least, clergy seem to have some job security!

After being thoroughly “wowed” by the power of AI, we realized it was once again time to ring the old brass bell. Many thanks to Vice President Jerry Boitzman for a terrific crash course on a technology that is here to stay — for better or for worse!

Respectfully Submitted,
Your 100% human bulletin editor and non-synthetic secretary,
Jonathan Lorenzen

Upcoming Commitments

Program

January 17: Special Club Assembly

January 24: Bill Makal

January 31: Club Assembly

February 7: Demond Means

Invocator/Greeter

January 17: Bill Bode

January 24: Dale Yerkes

January 31: Richard Frenn

February 7: John Sebald