

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.

Western Great Lakes Rotary District Conference

"Tricon"



April 18 - 20, 2024

Learn more and register: <https://www.rotarywglconf.org/>

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

Club Meeting

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

Events / Speakers

February 7th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Wauwatosa West HS American Public Policy Special Emphasis (APPSE)
Subject: "We The People" Team
February 7th
Wauwatosa Board Meeting
February 14th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
February 21st
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
February 28th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
March 6th
Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Alli Delano
Subject: Milwaukee 2024 Host Committee

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

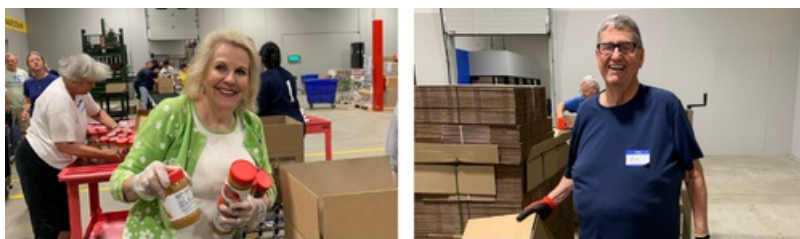
into the holiday season! Please consider supporting the Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation by placing an order for delicious gourmet nuts from the A.L. Schutzman Co. These sweet and savory treats are perfect for holiday gifts or any special occasion. Most of all, your participation in this fundraiser supports 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



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



[Paul Alan Vandeveld](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Robert Hugh Nelson](#)
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 - January 24, 2024

By Jonathan Lorenzen

From the Desk of the Superintendent
A Report Card for a Meeting of the
Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Today's lesson began with a tolling of the big brass school bell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by our teacher Mr. Makal. Prompt, prepared, and polite pupil Dale Yerkes recited a perfect class prayer, earning him an A+ in the grade book. Thank you, Dale!

We had a trifecta of birthdays to celebrate this afternoon: Alex Solanki and Amber Donovan will be blowing out the candles on Friday, January 26 right on the heels of Kathleen Roller's big day on Thursday the 25th. Happy birthday, all! There were no wedding or Rotary anniversaries on today's lesson plan.

A lively show-and-tell yielded the following announcements of sad and happy news:

- Craig Schmutzer heralded some exciting news on behalf of fellow Rotarian Richard Frenn: Bert's Beer & Liquor in Bayview (owned by Richard's family) was named a finalist in Shepherd Express's "Best of Milwaukee" rankings in the locally-owned retail liquor store category. Congratulations and cheers, Richard!
- John Sebald shared that Wisconsin Lutheran High School alumnus and pro football powerhouse Kevin Zeitler would be leading his Baltimore Ravens in the AFC Championship game against the Kansas City Chiefs on January 28. Way to go Kevin!
- Anne Neafie reminded us that we were collecting food and monetary donations for the Tosa Community Food Pantry at today's meeting. Thank you, Anne!
- President-Elect Sebald let us know that he had sent a thank you note on behalf of the club to the Wauwatosa Holiday Market organizers in recognition of their donation to the Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation.
- Rick Steinberg announced some big news from the 128th Air Refueling Wing: the unit is poised to receive all-new Boeing KC-46 tanker aircraft which would make Mitchell Field a premier airbase in the region and secure the outfit's presence in Milwaukee. (Rick serves as chairman of the 128th Community Council alongside fellow Rotarian Amber Donovan, herself a director on the council's board.)
- Bob Nelson reported that he was soon planning to visit his daughter in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, who is currently studying at Colorado Mountain College in that city. She recently landed a good job, and is on the path to success with work and school. Have a great trip, Bob!

With no other classmates having bulletin briefs to broadcast, we turned our attention to fellow Rotarian, program speaker, and superintendent of Wauwatosa schools, Dr. Demond Means.

Dr. Means said that although he has been scarce at club meetings as of late, Rotary has still been on his heart and mind. He's kept up with club communications, and has appreciated those who have reached out to check in on him. (We were all very glad to see you, Demond)!

Dr. Means' everyday job keeps him very busy; with 13 brick-and-mortar schools and two special off-site programs to oversee, the superintendent has no shortage of duties and responsibilities to occupy his time. The special offsite programs involve the education of incarcerated youth at Milwaukee County's juvenile detention center and children undergoing long-term treatment at Children's Hospital. Because both of these facilities are located within the district's boundaries, Wauwatosa is responsible for educating their

respective snoor-age residents.

Means was proud to report that all brick-and-mortar schools saw increases in reading and math testing scores and a decrease in behavioral issues. "In [my] year three, the district looks like I would want it to be in someone's third year."

Demond reported on the Tosa 2075 Task Force which is charged with investigating and recommending long-term strategies and solutions for the district. "I have to thank Roger Walsh for that name. I remember him talking about his experience with a previous task force that was faced with big decisions like whether or not to close schools." At the time, Walsh was serving on the school board. What stuck with Dr. Means was, "The decisions the board made in the 80s are still impacting Wauwatosa schools in 2024."

Demond clarified that the task force is not necessarily recommending policy and strategy for the year 2075, but rather is investigating long-range decisions that will impact the district for the next 30-40 years. "We're thinking about planning for when our kids are parents."

Among the most pressing issues before the district and the task force is a very real budget shortfall. Means explained that the State of Wisconsin provides \$11,019 of funding per student; however, after factoring in the cost of all related programs, and to meet the educational expectations of parents, teachers, and society, the bill comes to \$13,964 per student. "If we didn't spend that much per student, we'd be in trouble. There is a funding gap. The question is, how do we tackle it?"

One strategy is to consider Wauwatosa's system of neighborhood schools. Not every district uses this model in which schools are smaller and interspersed within residential areas. Some, like Elmbrook, utilize large, centrally-located facilities, relying on busing for transporting students the longer distances. "Wauwatosa has nine elementary schools. Some [on the task force] say we don't need nine." Dr. Means has made clear his position on this philosophy: "People love their neighborhood schools, and I've learned that these discussions [about closing schools] do not go well." The superintendent feels the board ought to look to other strategies to ameliorate the budget gap.

Task force members are, in fact, exploring other solutions to financial issues, among them being managing expenses, controlling spending, and reevaluating the district's participation in open enrollment. "For these students who come from outside district boundaries, state funding is even lower, at \$8,000 per pupil. According to Dr. Means, Wauwatosa is the largest open enrollment participant in the state. "We're using our fund balances to cover that gap."

Of course, another option is to raise revenue. Some districts have ultimately put this question to the voters by way of a referendum. "It's tricky. Do people want to spend more or see programs reduced?" The Tosa 2075 Task Force is set to present their final recommendation to the school board in May. The board will then have to wrestle with those recommendations in deciding how to move forward. They will also weigh the results from a community-wide survey.

Dr. Means is especially proud of several accomplishments and distinctions recently earned by his students:

- The Wauwatosa West High School Theatre Department had the honor of being the one school in Wisconsin allowed to present the musical *Frozen*. (Disney chooses just one school per state to perform the show each year). The troupe did so well, they were invited to an international competition for high school thespians. Only ten schools are chosen to perform in this elite program at Indiana University.
- Wauwatosa West and East High School's American Public Policy Special Emphasis (APPSE) team is once again competing in the national competition in Washington, DC.
- Student-athletes are performing well academically.
- The district's career and technical application program is opening doors for students who choose to go straight to work after high school. Technical education teacher Craig Griffie is creating apprenticeships to allow for a seamless transition into the workforce after graduation.

Demond feels the school system is strong. "We're having healthy conversations about what we should look like. Now is the time to be having these discussions." Means then opened the floor to questions from the "class":

- Aaron Sebald wanted to know how the education of students in the juvenile detention facility and Children's Hospital was actually carried out.
 - There is a specialized team of four teachers that go directly to the students in both places. "They are saints."
 - Demond illustrated the challenging and emotional nature of these sensitive learning environments:
 - "Some kids (at Children's) are in their last days."
 - "It's humbling to see security guards right outside the classrooms."
 - "It's troubling to know that juvenile crime is so high that there aren't enough holding cells to house them." He explained that some students stay in juvenile detention for an entire year because of the case backlog in the court system.
 - Means noted that the state pays for these specialized off-site programs.
- Paul Vandeveld was curious how Wauwatosa's \$11,019 in state money per student stacked up against other area districts.
 - Elmbrook receives about \$12,000 per student, while West Allis-West Milwaukee gets less. "We are in the middle." Means mentioned that Shorewood voters passed a referendum allowing for more spending per student. He also said Wauwatosa's \$11,019 in state aid is among the lowest in the Milwaukee area.
- Craig Schmutzer asked Demond the probability of a referendum being proposed in Wauwatosa in the next 24 months.
 - Dr. Means said it's very likely one will appear on the November 2024 ballot.

- Anne Neafie inquired if statistics are kept on the academic performance of students at Children's and the juvenile detention center.
 - Although Wauwatosa is responsible for educating these students while they temporarily reside within district boundaries, their home districts continue to be responsible for keeping their records. "We do the best we can while we have them."
- Dale wanted to know more about the curriculum for students in the juvenile detention center.
 - It is a comprehensive, full curriculum. Teachers make every effort to pick up where students left off before leaving their home district.
- Jonathan Lorenzen asked Demond what he wants his legacy to be as superintendent.
 - Dr. Means wants Wauwatosa to return to academic prominence.
 - "People comment, "we aren't as strong as we were in the 80s and 90s." I want to get us back to a place where we're just as strong."
 - If allowed to have a second legacy, Means would want to address deferred maintenance at several of the district's schools.
- Ann Guagliardo was curious about the upcoming survey of Wauwatosa residents. Will it contain questions about curriculum content?
 - No. This survey will only contain questions about the budget, facilities, and open enrollment.

Having reached the end of our class period, we sounded the bell to officially dismiss this week's lesson of Rotary 101. Many thanks to Dr. Means for a thorough update, and for answering our questions about the district. It was great to see you!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jonathan Lorenzen, School Secretary

Upcoming Commitments

Program

February 7: Demond Means will present the Wauwatosa West High School American Public Policy Special Emphasis (APPSE) team (a/k/a "We The People")

February 14: Shannon Angell

February 21: Peter Skanavis

February 28: Rick Steinberg

Invocator/Greeter

February 7: John Sebald

February 14: Roger Walsh

February 21: Amber Donovan

February 28: Peter Skanavis