

# 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

March 6th  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**

**Speaker:** Alli Delano  
**Subject:** Milwaukee 2024 Host Committee

March 6th  
**Wauwatosa Board Meeting**

March 13th  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**

March 20th  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Kristi Sebald  
**Subject:** Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity

March 27th  
**Clone-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

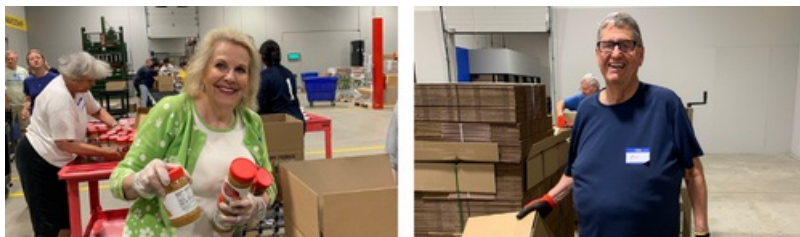
into the holiday season! Please consider supporting the Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation by placing an order for delicious gourmet nuts from the A.L. Schutzman Co. These sweet and savory treats are perfect for holiday gifts or any special occasion. Most of all, your participation in this fundraiser supports 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](#)  
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](http://www.rotary.org) for much more information.

## Newsletter - February 28, 2024

By Jonathan Lorenzen

### Taking Flight A Navigational Aid for a Meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Our meeting took off with a sounding of the big brass bell upon which the room of Rotarians arose to pledge allegiance to our Flag. Greeter/Invoker Peter Skanavis provided a thoughtful prayer, setting a reverent tone for our roundtable. Thank you, Peter.

We had one birthday to celebrate, that of Foundation Chair Rich Mannisto, who will be blowing out the candles on March 4. Happy Birthday, Rich! There were no spouse birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or Rotary anniversaries to recognize this week.

Among sad and happy news, the following items appeared on our flight plan:

- We were delighted to welcome visiting Rotarian Mark Spiegelhoff who has recently relocated to the area for his job with the Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation. Mark is interested in connecting with a club in his new hometown, and thus decided to pay Wauwatosa Rotary a visit. We're so glad you could join us, Mark, and hope you will come again soon!
- Ann Guagliardo is helping to connect a student looking for a finance internship with a business willing to provide such an opportunity. If you have any leads, talk to Ann!
- Paul Vandeveld's church is collecting magazines for incarcerated men at area correctional facilities. A variety of genres is appreciated, however Paul admonished us to use good judgment, lest the donated reading material be considered contraband! Deliver magazines and direct any questions to Paul.



At the conclusion of our club business confab, President Makal introduced distinguished program speaker Col. Charles C. Merkel, Commander of Milwaukee's own 128th Air Refueling Wing. Col. Merkel was joined by Maj. Bill Peters, a pilot and flight instructor for the 128th.

Col. Merkel began by giving an overview of the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Referring to the Guard's joint state-federal mission, Merkel said: "It's kind of like we have two bosses - the president and the governor."

Wisconsin has three ANG bases: Milwaukee's own General Mitchell Field, home of the 128th Air Refueling Wing; Madison's Truax Field, hosting the 115th Fighter Wing; and Volk Field, site of the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC). "We're fortunate to have all of these in Wisconsin under one roof."

The Air National Guard's mission is direct and to-the-point: "Elite Airmen, delivering exceptional air power that fuels our state and nation. A force for the future." Similarly, the vision is a pithy two words: "Unstoppable Airpower!"

In addition to its primary role of refueling military jets locally, regionally, nationally, and across the globe, the 128th makes a significant economic impact by providing college tuition and technical training for students, creating jobs, providing economic stability, and delivering

technical training for airmen, creating jobs, serving as an economic engine, and delivering community support. “By the time an airman is 24, they will be debt free with a college degree, and have the option to continue in the military or get out.”

The 128th is home to about 900 military members. Two-thirds of those individuals are part-time drill-status guardsmen who can be activated for training or overseas deployment when needed, and are required to report to base once per month. The remaining third are full time “technician” or “military”-status who are flying missions on a daily basis. Most airmen of the 128th come from Southeast Wisconsin, however some reside in neighboring states.

The 128th’s main overseas mission is air refueling, where airmen fill in right alongside regular Air Force personnel. They are also part of the Air Force’s nuclear enterprise division, which supports the DoD’s nuclear triad. When not participating in air refueling, the unit sends uniformed services all around the world with some missions not even being aviation-related. One such example is deploying military police to train alongside foreign defense forces. These strategic partnerships strengthen the US’s position across the globe, counterbalancing the widening proliferation of adversary militaries in other countries. The 128th is also sending two planes to Nicaragua and Papua New Guinea for similar such training collaboration. According to Col. Merkel, the Air National Guard wants to expand its presence to 120 countries.

Stateside, the 128th Air Refueling Wing responds to natural disasters and aids in firefighting. They also help to keep law and order during civil disturbances and large events. The unit will maintain a large presence at the Republican National Convention this summer and will host event personnel at their base at Mitchell Field.

The backbone of the 128th is the KC-135 Stratotanker, a refueling aircraft first built in the 1950s. Milwaukee’s refueling wing has 10 of these workhorses in its fleet. There are approximately 400 KC-135s still in service in the US military “the Air National Guard has half of them. The aging-but-reliable planes were last re-engined in the 1980s, but are perfectly equipped to carry out modern military exercises. Requiring a crew of just three airmen “two pilots and a boom operator” the Stratotanker makes for a nimble battle partner. Merkel explained that navigators are no longer needed, and that crews can be augmented for longer flights. The massive jet has an 11,000-mile flight range when not actively refueling.

Col. Merkel said that 128th’s Mitchell Field base is a relatively “small” but efficient 100 acres. “We’re space constrained, so we don’t have a sprawling infrastructure.” The commander wants people to know about Milwaukee’s refueling wing and its important role in the community and the armed forces, so “our kids and grandkids will still be flying with the 128th.”

Boeing’s KC-46 Pegasus is the heir apparent for the aging KC-135 fleet. Seven Air Force and Air National Guard bases have already been selected to have these all-new jets replace their KC-135s. One more base remains to be decided, and Milwaukee is in the running. There are 15 bases in competition which will eventually be narrowed to five finalists. Air Force brass are looking at facilities and performance to make their decisions, but “politics” plays an equally important role in the process. The final decision is made by the Secretary of the Air Force. “We’d love to have them.” And although Merkel is hopeful for new wings for the 128th, the KC-135 continues to serve faithfully. “It’s had its ups and downs, but it’s a good tanker. It can handle a full load of gas and it handles like it’s new.”

In addition to the responsibilities already mentioned, the 128th has a mission to move cargo, passengers, and provide humanitarian aid. All of these tasks would benefit from features in the new KC-46. Col. Merkel explained that the Mitchell Field base is making long-term investments in infrastructure to provide for future needs and expand the 128th’s capabilities. Among these projects is the installation of a “micro grid” which enables the base to generate its own power in the event of a utility failure. A petroleum oil lubricant storage facility and a sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF) are in the works, and there are also plans to tap into a fuel pipeline running alongside the base perimeter.

After a very thorough presentation, Col. Merkel opened the floor to questions:

- Bill Bode asked where the 128th’s training exercises take place.
  - “We fly all around the Midwest daily. There’s always someone needing refueling.”
- Paul Vandeveld asked if there were any advantages to being located next to Lake Michigan.
  - Not so much. Rather, being strategically located in the center of the country is much more important.
- Ann Guagliardo asked why Milwaukee trains and is used for overseas missions when there are other bases (on the coast) that are closer.
  - It comes down to every unit working together to make up a strong and unified force. “We do sorties in the Middle East. We train how to intercept something heading for a boat in the Red Sea. It’s not just basic stuff, we train how to fight peer adversaries.” Merkel also explained that, when overseas, the Guard is performing its *federal* mission.
- Major Peters then came forward to discuss the mechanics of the refueling and showed a video of the process taking place over the Outer Banks of North Carolina.
- Craig Schmutzer mentioned having attended a 128th open house and what a great experience it was.
  - Col. Merkel said the next such open house is planned for next summer.
- Robert Niedermann asked who builds the KC-46.
  - Boeing
- Bill Bode recalled when working in Marquette, Michigan, he encountered a B-1 Bomber taking off over the treetops “it was the scariest thing!”
- Dale Yerkes asked about the different refueling apparatuses used by the Air Force and the Navy.
  - The Navy uses a different hookup, however Air Force and the ANG equipment can be adapted for compatibility. The switch, if needed, happens on the ground before takeoff.

Many thanks to Col. Merkel and Maj. Peters for an outstanding presentation on the 128th Air Refueling Wing! We were honored to have you.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Secretary of Squawk and Press Release Pilot  
Jonathan Lorenzen

**Upcoming Commitments**

**Program**

**March 6:** Dale Yerkes will present Alli Delano of the Milwaukee 2024 Host Committee

**March 13:** Roger Walsh

**March 20:** Anne Neafie will present Kristi Sebald of Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity

**March 27:** Amber Donovan

**Invoker/Greeter**

**March 6:** Anne Neafie

**March 13:** Paul Roller

**March 20:** Jonathan Lorenzen

**March 27:** Bill Makal

