

# 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 St. Camillus - East Residence  
(Jelen Room)  
10100 W Bluemound Rd  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226  
Time: Wednesday at 12:00 PM

### Events / Speakers

July 24th  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Mark Johnson  
**Subject:** Executive Director,  
Technology Innovation Center  
(Wauwatosa Research Park)

July 31st  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Chief James MacGillis  
**Subject:** Wauwatosa Police  
Department

August 7th  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**

August 14th  
**Wauwatosa Weekly Club Meeting**  
**Speaker:** Rebecca Rehborg  
**Subject:** Medical College of Wisconsin  
Orchestra

### Club Leaders



[Aaron D. Sebald](#)  
President



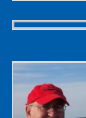
[Kathryn Jones](#)  
President-Elect



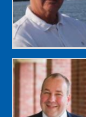
[Amber M Donovan](#)  
Vice President



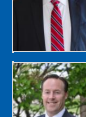
[Jonathan Lorenzen](#)  
Secretary



[Dale A Yerkes](#)  
Treasurer



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



[Richard Todd Mannisto](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Robert Hugh Nelson](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Past President



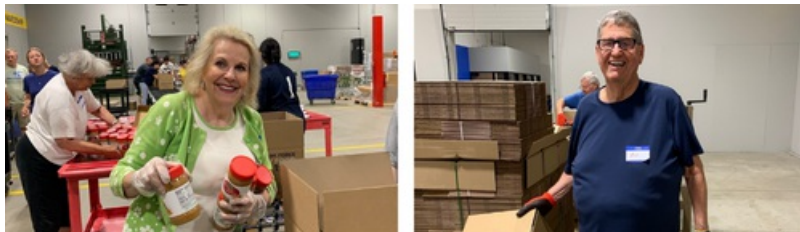
[Peter M. Skanavis](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



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

# Serving Our Community

[Make a donation](#) to support the Wauwatosa Rotary Foundation



## 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 St. Camillus - East Residence (Jelen Room). 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 - July 17, 2024

By Jonathan Lorenzen

Howdy from the Huge House on Hillcrest  
A Historical Record of a Meeting of the



[Paul Alan Vandeveld](#)  
Club Programs Chair



[William Carl Makal](#)  
Past President

## Years of Service

No Years Of Service Found

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

President Sebald took the podium with poise and promptly began our parley with the Pledge of Allegiance. Projecting the perfect pastoral persona, Paul Roller provided a pertinent prayer for the people. Thank you, Paul.

Seasoned Rotarian Tom Kirchen rang in his 81st birthday on July 16 and brought in a big batch of boozy bourbon cookies in honor of the occasion. Much obliged, Tom – they were delicious! Bill Makal also had a birthday coming up on July 20, however the exact number of candles that would appear on his cake was not disclosed by the Immediate Past President. Makal did, however, elucidate that he would be celebrating the occasion by attending Croatian Fest on Saturday. Cheers, Bill!

Finally in celebratory callouts, we cheered for the upcoming 35th wedding anniversary of Peter and Mary Skanavis on July 22. Congratulations, Skanavises! There were no Rotary anniversaries on the docket today.

A call for sad and happy news yielded the following reports:

- We welcomed prospective member (and former Wauwatosa Rotarian) Wenbin Yuan, who shared details for the upcoming Asian Moon Festival and Business Excellence Celebration on September 15. The event will take place at the Brookfield Conference Center in Brookfield. Great to see you again, Wenbin!
- Anne Neafie reminded us of the upcoming food and monetary donation collection for the Tosa Cares Food Pantry on July 24. Let's fill those baskets!
- Birthday boy Tom Kirchen started off with sad news that resolved into glad tidings: Unfortunately, Bunzel's Fine Catering is unable to deliver our Club Picnic smorgasbord on August 21 due to staffing shortages. However, two fine Rotarians volunteered to pick up and transport our feast to Elm Grove Village Park! Crisis averted!
- Peter Skanavis let us know that Mary recently listed former Rotarian Gordy Bills' condo for sale.
- Robert Niedermann reported that he and Mary went to see the Kids from Wisconsin in Mukwonago last week. While there, he had the chance to visit with Tina Weiss, who expressed her desire for our club to sponsor a concert again.
- President Sebald announced that he had attended a Zoom meeting with District Governor Peter Bosch along with other club presidents from 6270. Among Bosch's goals for clubs is to host a service activity at least once per month and to provide opportunities for Rotarians to gather socially outside of regular meetings. The District Governor will be joining us for our September 4 club and board meetings.
- Rick Steinberg, Bob Nelson, and Paul Vandeveld are looking for one more golfer to round out their foursome for the upcoming Wauwatosa-West Allis Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing at New Berlin Hills on September 19. Contact [Rick](#) if you are interested.



With no further news to natter on about, we invited Bill Makal forward to introduce our program speaker, Amanda Saso. Ms. Saso is the executive director for the Wauwatosa Historical Society, a post which she has held for about two years. Saso grew up in Wauwatosa and graduated from East, after which time she attended UW Milwaukee, receiving her degree in German. In addition to her duties at the Historical Society, Amanda serves on the Lincoln Elementary School PTO and the Wauwatosa Village Neighborhood Association. She and her husband

are busy parents to three boys who are involved in a myriad of sports and other activities.

Ms. Saso began by showing us the brand-new Wauwatosa Historical Society logo – so new, in fact, that ours was the *very first* group to see it! The society's board of directors arrived at the final design after a year of careful research and input from members of the community. The logo depicts a window to the past, prompting viewers to ponder where *they* fit in to our community's story. Firefly wings are subtly woven into the design as a nod to the city's numerous twinkling pillars scattered about the pillars themselves being an homage to the meaning behind "Wauwatosa" (the Potawatomi word for firefly).

Amanda shared the society's combined mission and vision statement on the screen: The Wauwatosa Historical Society is dedicated to engaging our community in its personal, local, and regional history. We foster an understanding of how history shapes, inspires, and informs the present, thereby empowering individuals to become better citizens. Through our efforts, the rich heritage of our area becomes a source of pride, wisdom, and unity, driving us to create a more compassionate, connected, and enlightened future for generations to come.

In essence, the Historical Society is dedicated to engaging the community with local history. Children are particularly important to achieving this objective. "If I can make young people have a connection and understanding of our buildings; the history of the Native peoples that once lived here ... the founders of our present-day city; they are more likely to come back to Wauwatosa and have a family here." Saso speaks from experience; after living and working out East and in Canada for a time, she eventually returned to the City of Homes to plant the roots of her own family.

Those with a heart for local history can become a member of the Historical Society with each membership tier offering unique benefits. One such perk is access to the historic Kneeland Walker House on Hillcrest Drive. The stunning 1890 Queen Anne mansion was purchased by the society in 1986 for the bargain-basement price of \$225,000. The iconic

home serves as the society's headquarters and houses the Judith A. Simonsen Research Library. Amanda explained that the purchase of the Kneeland Walker House served as a catalyst to reinvigorate the Historical Society; prior to this, the organization largely existed only in fits and starts.

Not only did the society meticulously restore the Queen Anne mansion to its former glory, they also made major repairs to the onsite coach house. This stately-in-its-own-right structure is now home to the 19th Century Schoolhouse, a program for Wauwatosa second-graders in which students are immersed in a historical classroom experience. Visits are complimentary for any second grade class in Wauwatosa, public or private. As fate would have it, Saso's own second grade teacher is currently the teacher in the 19th Century Schoolhouse.

The society's archives are home to the renowned Lefebber Glass Plate Collection the largest of its kind in the country. The vast collection of early Wauwatosa photographs have been completely digitized and are available to the public online. Amanda was keen to mention that society board member Carol Bannen received the governor's Archival Achievement Award for her meticulous work on the project.

The Wauwatosa Historical Society additionally operates the Little Red Store in the heart of the Village. Built in 1854, Amanda noted it is the oldest commercial building in Wauwatosa. She explained that, being on the other side of the Menomonee River, it was spared the devastation of the 1895 fire that obliterated the village core. Over the years, the building has served as a post office, train depot, doctor's office, electric company facility, and the city's first circulating library. Presently, the City of Wauwatosa owns the Little Red Store, and it is managed by WHS.

The Historical Society hosts a number of events throughout the year to share local history while raising funds to support their work in the community. One such festivity is the Brews & Blooms event on the grounds of the Kneeland Walker House. Attendees enjoy live music, local food and craft beer, and yard games amid the property's picturesque Victorian gardens.

Now in its 38th year, the Firefly Art Fair features works from more than 65 talented artisans along with food trucks, live music, a flower arranging workshop, and, perhaps most interestingly, the Honey, I Shrank Wauwatosa miniatures exhibit.

The Tour of Homes is back this year for the first time since 2018. The 2024 circuit will feature seven historic homes in the Olde Hillcrest Neighborhood. Attendees can also participate in a silent auction.

The funds raised from the society's selection of sophisticated soirées is further buttressed by revenue from facility rentals at the Kneeland Walker House and the Little Red Store. Amanda explained that rates are very reasonable, and both sites can accommodate a variety of event types.

Saso was sure to let us know that she is always looking for volunteers, and that those who are interested can join the society's volunteer mailing list to stay abreast of current opportunities.

With just seconds left in the hour, Amanda took a few questions from the floor:

- Peter Skanavis wanted to know the annual budget for the Wauwatosa Historical Society.
  - \$150,000
- Paul Vandeveld asked if the society had a preferred caterer for outside event rentals.
  - No, but they have relationships with several local restaurants for their own events.
- Jonathan Lorenzen was curious as to the location of Wauwatosa's train station.
  - It was located at the present site of the Jose's Blue Sombbrero parking lot a stunning Victorian building with Gothic elements. Long since lost to time.

Reaching the end of our time together, we tolled the bell to adjourn this meeting of the Rotary Club of Wauwatosa. Many thanks to Amanda Saso for a fascinating and historic presentation!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Curator of Chatter and Docent of Dialogue  
Jonathan Lorenzen

### Upcoming Commitments

#### Program

**July 24:** Peter Skanavis will present Mark Johnson, Executive Director of the Technology Innovation Center (Wauwatosa Research Park)

**July 31:** Anne Neafie will present Chief James MacGillis of the Wauwatosa Police Department

**August 7:** Jonathan Lorenzen

**August 14:** Paul Vandeveld will present Rebecca Rehborg of the Medical College of Wisconsin Orchestra

#### Invocator/Greeter

**July 24:** Dale Yerkes

**July 31:** Richard Frenn

**August 7:** Rich Mannisto

**August 14:** Bill Makal