

Steel Wheel

Lorain Rotary Club

Dear Rotarian,

For this month's newsletter, I share with you my speech from the State of the City address on February 23, 2023.



Good morning fellow Rotarians and future Rotarians. (See what I did there?) Welcome to this special Rotary meeting featuring Lorain Mayor, and **Rotarian, Jack Bradley's** State of the City address. If you are able, please rise for the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Please be seated.

The Lorain Rotary Club, one of over 46,000 clubs worldwide, is a group of community-minded people who enjoy each other's company. The group comes together to carry out the Rotary motto of **service above self** to make our community and our world a better place. The club is 97 years old and honestly, it doesn't look a day over 80.

If you ask most people if they know what Rotary is they say it's a club that meets. And we do meet, the first and third Thursday of the month at noon at spectrum in Lorain. Our club has approximately 40 members, and has a significant impact on our local community and the world through service projects, and donations of the club and of its members. It is an amazing group of people who come together to do amazing things and to have fun while doing it.

But I think very few people are aware of what an awesome organization Rotary International is. I joined Rotary because my employer, The Nord Center, wanted us to raise our community profile. If you have known me for more than five minutes, you know that I can speak with great passion about things that are really important to me. I honestly didn't expect to be as enamored of the Lorain club's members or as excited about the mission as I was.

Here's why.

Rotary International has seven areas of focus. Many of the projects and activities of local clubs tie into these areas. They are:

- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease

(Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.)

- Providing clean water
- Saving mothers and children
- Education
- Growing local economies
- Protecting the environment

How awesome are these? Seriously.

Rotary operates on a scale that allows it to learn what works and to do more of it. In addition, Rotary emphasizes the sustainability of programs so that when resources are invested, the local beneficiaries and the host Rotary club are able to keep the project going because it fits appropriately into the technological and cultural landscape. In other words, we don't build things and then leave them to not work in the future.

We bring the same enthusiasm to our local projects as we do to global ones. I am talking about the accessible playground at Falbo Park, several pollinator gardens and our support of local scholarships each year just to name a few.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, visit lorainrotary.org for details. Or contact me directly.

Thank you.
Betsey Kamm



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Rotarian Assignments

Sergeant-At-Arms	January Speakers	Greeters
March Homer Virden	March 2nd—TBA	March 2nd—Rob Levit
Sanford Washington	March 16th—Four Way Speech Contest	March 16th—Chris Pataky
April Dina Ferrer		April 6th—Danielle Coward
TBA		April 20th—Michelle Pullin



Upcoming Speaker assignments

April 6th—Mary Beattie

April 20th—Jessicka Castro

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

March 6th—Jim Smucker

Anniversaries

Dan Beeman—2012

Tony Cuevas—2002

Elaine Georgas—2006

Jim Smucker—1988

Homer Virden -1982



Board of Directors Minutes (unapproved)

Lorain Rotary Board minutes

February 9, 2023

Available to members upon request.



Service Above Self



Rotary District 6600



Above : new member inductions—Left picture Mary Beattie, Rebecca Jones, AJ, and Danielle Coward. Right picture : Martin Leibas
Below : State of the City pictures

