



**Rotary**  
Club of Clinton



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 07, 2025

VOLUME 80 | ISSUE 01 |  
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF  
JULY 07, 2025

## MEETING LOCATION

### **Monday Rotary**

Rastrelli's Restaurant:  
Tuscany Event Center  
2417 Cleveland St.  
Clinton, IA

## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1361  
Clinton, IA  
52733

## EMAIL ADDRESS

RotaryClubofClintonIA@  
gmail.com

## WEBSITE

[RotaryClubofClinton.com](http://RotaryClubofClinton.com)

## SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [YouTube](#)

"Do your little bit of good  
where you are; it's those  
little bits of good put  
together that overwhelm  
the world."

– Desmond Tutu

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Executive Summary **2**

Weekly Updates **3**

Looking Forward **4**

R.I. Admin & Showboat Moments **5**

# ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Presidential News

We need YOU on a Rotary Committee! Start thinking about what areas you can help in: Youth Services, Community Services, Membership, Fundraising, Publicity, and Foundation!

Boo Bash Alert!!!! Our Annual Boo Bash is coming up...circle it now on your calendars for Friday, October 24, 2025! Boo Bash Committee is looking for new members -- they're meeting monthly in May and June and then weekly in July, on Wednesdays at 4:00 at the Copper Mill (2750 So. 27th Street Clinton IA 52732)!

If you can volunteer to help with the RYLA Camp at Grinnell College, it's from July 26 - August 1. Please reach out to Andy for more information!



## Key Dates

- July 07: Janette McMahon and Susie Mesecher will discuss the Clinton County Association of Public Libraries
- July 14: Senator Mike Zimmer
- July 21: Anna Current will speak about the Xicotepec service project she participated in this spring and her experiences with RYLA and Rotaract.
- July 28: President Andy Green will present on his Rotary year

## Check It Out!



# ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON

## WEEKLY ROUND-UP

### WEEKLY STATS

#### ATTENDANCE:

Online: 02

In-person: 30

Total for June 30: 32

#### GUESTS:

- Eric Jennings
- Kendra Evers
- Chris Smith

YTD: 241

#### SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

- Rotary Club: \$128

YTD \$9,273

- Foundation: \$5

YTD \$4,539.00

YTD Total: \$13,812.00

#### MEMBERS:

- Current Members: 67
- Membership Goal: 84



[WATCH OUR MEETING HERE!](#)

#### Iowa Libraries at a Crossroads: Navigating Legislative Change and Advocating for Access

In his recent presentation to Rotarians, Eric Jennings, President of the Iowa Library Association (ILA), outlined the challenges and ongoing resilience of Iowa libraries amidst a shifting legislative landscape. With nearly 30 years of experience, Jennings emphasized ILA's mission of empowering library staff, advocating for libraries as community resources, and ensuring equitable access to information.

##### Key Challenges Facing Iowa Libraries:

1. Politicization and Censorship:
  - Iowa ranks second in the U.S. for anti-library bills. Senate File 496 was particularly impactful, aiming to remove books with sexual content, leading to confusion and nearly 3,400 book removals from school districts. This bill's vague definitions created significant challenges for libraries, including the removal of classic works like 1984 and To Kill a Mockingbird.
2. Threats to Professional Standards:
  - House File 880 and Senate File 391 questioned the autonomy and expertise of librarians. HF880 proposed cutting funding to libraries that are affiliated with national organizations like the American Library Association (ALA), which could harm professional development and programming. SF391 eliminated the requirement for school librarians to be specially licensed, jeopardizing the quality of student library services.
3. Funding and Governance Pressures:
  - A 2023 tax law rewrite (HF718) jeopardized library funding by invalidating locally approved levies in 97 Iowa communities. This could lead to cuts in hours, staff, and programming.
4. Federal Support at Risk:
  - An executive order targeting the IMLS could further threaten vital resources like interlibrary loan systems, summer reading programs, and continuing education, especially for smaller libraries.

##### 📢 Call to Action: What Can You Do?

Jennings encouraged the community to:

- Support local libraries by engaging with librarians about their needs.
- Contact legislators to advocate for library funding and autonomy, sharing personal stories.
- Join or donate to ILA to strengthen advocacy efforts.
- Raise awareness of Iowa's history of intellectual freedom, including the creation of the Library Bill of Rights in Des Moines in the 1930s.

Jennings closed by emphasizing that libraries, despite the challenges, continue to be "places of possibility"—key equalizers, knowledge centers, and community builders—but they need public support to thrive.

# ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON LOOKING FORWARD

## PROGRAMS

- July 07: Janette McMahon and Susie Mesecher will discuss the Clinton County Association of Public Libraries
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## INVOCATION

JULY 07: RYAN VEENSTRA  
JULY 14: KAREN VICKERS  
JULY 21: SUE WATKINS  
JULY 28: CHRISTIE AKINS



## GREETER

JULY 07: MIKE KROEMER  
JULY 14: DENNIS LAUVER  
JULY 21: LYNN MCGRAW  
JULY 28: LINDSAY MORHARDT



## PROGRAM CHAIRS

JULY: SUSIE MESECHER & JILL O'NEILL  
AUGUST: GARY DELACY & WES GOLDEN

## FELLOWSHIP CHAIRS

JULY: BRAYDON ROBERTS  
AUGUST: RICH KLAHN



## *Celebrations*

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

- Jennifer Graf July 01
- Tom Determann July 21
- Susan Mesecher July 29

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- P. Michael Rastrelli
  - 36 yrs; July 01, 1989
- Jill O'Neill
  - 7 yrs; July 02, 2018
- Amie Boetje
  - 1 yr; July 15, 2024
- Mary Connell
  - 29 yrs; July 29, 1996
- Rod Tokheim
  - 19 yrs; July 31, 2006
- Gary DeLacy
  - 8 yrs; July 31, 2017

# ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON

## R.I. Admin

### The Four-Way Test

1. Is it the **truth**?
2. Is it **fair** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **good-will** and **better friendships**?
4. Will it be **beneficial** to all concerned?

#### Rotary Board of Directors for 2025-2026

- Andrew Green: President
- Dale Dalton: Treasurer
- Susie Mesecher: Secretary
- Carrie Donaire
- Cheryl Frey
- Rod Tokheim
- Jill O'Neill
- Carrie Donaire: Past-President
- Andy Ferguson: Foundation

#### Rotary Foundation Board of Directors for 2025-2026

- Gary Foster\*: President
- Mark Rutenbeck\*: Vice-President
- John Frey\*: Secretary
- Dale Dalton\*: Treasurer

#### **Directors**

- |                  |                |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| • Jim Bruhn*     | • Kathy Klahn* | • Paul Holmer*    |
| • Dale Dalton*   | • Lynn McGraw  | • Andy Ferguson   |
| • Jennifer Graf* | • Sue Watkins  | • Heather Farwell |

### MOMENTS FROM OUR GAVEL PASSINGS

