



Rotary
Club of Clinton



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 09, 2026

VOLUME 80 | ISSUE 30 |
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 09, 2026

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

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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



“Peace does not mean absence of conflict; it means the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.”

— Ronald Reagan

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ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presidential News

The Rotary District Conference will be held May 1-2 in Coralville. [Click HERE to REGISTER!!!](#)

We Need Your Help!

The club is also assembling a “Weekend in Clinton” basket for the conference’s silent auction, featuring local attractions, experiences, and possibly a hotel stay. Volunteers are welcome to help gather items.

Rotary Youth Camp (RYLA) Applications Open

Last summer, our club sponsored three high school students to attend RYLA. Applications are now open for this summer, and we plan to send students again. The program is open to sophomores and juniors (not seniors). We have budgeted to send two students and are also exploring additional sponsorships from club members. More information, including costs and how to sponsor a student, will be shared in the coming weeks.

Mount St. Clare Scholarship - Applications Open

Clinton National Bank’s Mount St. Clare Scholarship is now open for applications through April. A total of \$220,000 in scholarships will be awarded this year to approximately 100 students, with awards ranging up to nearly \$10,000. Scholarships may be used for undergraduate or graduate studies. Apply online through the Clinton National Bank website by clicking the “Scholarships” link.

Key Dates

- March 09: Grow Clinton Update - Matt Parbs and Andy Sokolovich
- March 16: Roots & Story - Preserving Legacies - Aaron Corbin
- March 23: The Sawmill Museum & Dambo Trolls Update - Andy Green
- March 30: Clinton Community College / Bickelhaupt Arboretum Update - Brian Kelly, Ann Eisenman, and Douglas Smith

Check It Out!

Congrats!



Dale Dalton!

Paul Harris + 5

ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON WEEKLY ROUND-UP

WEEKLY STATS

GUESTS:

- Sheila Tjaden
- Isaac Middendorp
YTD: 164

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

- Rotary Club: \$97.00
YTD: \$5,228.00
- Foundation: \$25.00
YTD: \$995.00
YTD Total: \$6,223.00

MEMBERS:

- Current Members:
69
- Membership Goal:
84



Flight to End Polio - John Ockenfels
and Peter Teahen

Flight to End Polio: Courage in the
Air, Commitment on the Ground

 **WATCH OUR
MEETING HERE!**

Members were inspired by an extraordinary presentation from Cedar Rapids Rotarian Peter Teahen and Iowa City Rotarian John Ockenfels, cousins and veteran pilots who are using aviation to help eradicate polio worldwide.

With more than 50 years of flying experience each, they have completed two remarkable missions: a 30,000-mile round-the-world flight in 2023 and a 2024 “Circle the Atlantic” flight. Together, the journeys included dozens of landings across multiple continents—much of it over open ocean in a single-engine aircraft—while raising awareness and funds to end polio.

Their mission supports Rotary’s global polio eradication effort. **From 1,000 children per day infected in 1985 to just 47 cases worldwide last year—and zero reported so far this year—the progress is real.** Today, polio remains endemic in only 2 countries, but continued vaccination and vigilance are essential. **As Peter and John emphasized, if vaccinations stopped, polio could quickly resurge.**

The flights were filled with challenges: geopolitical airspace closures, hurricanes, mechanical issues, fuel logistics in remote regions, and even 18-hour ocean crossings with no radio contact. Yet perseverance defined the mission. The 2023 flight raised more than \$2.3 million (with matching support from the Gates Foundation), and the Atlantic flight is expected to bring total fundraising to nearly \$4 million. Notably, the pilots personally covered all flight expenses, ensuring 100% of donations go directly to polio eradication.

Their message evolved during a press conference in Pakistan, where they visited frontline vaccination sites. Asked if they “hoped” to see the end of polio, Peter responded: “We no longer hope—we believe.” That belief became the rallying cry of their journey.

The presentation concluded with a district challenge encouraging clubs to increase their support for PolioPlus—reminding us that every \$100 donated can multiply significantly through matching funds. Peter and John’s story is a powerful reminder that determination, partnership, and belief can help Rotary achieve one of the greatest public health victories in history.

Stop hoping. Start believing. End Polio Now.

ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON LOOKING FORWARD

PROGRAMS

- MARCH 09: GROW CLINTON UPDATE - MATT PARBS AND ANDY SOKOLOVICH
- MARCH 16: ROOTS & STORY - PRESERVING LEGACIES - AARON CORBIN
- MARCH 23: THE SAWMILL MUSEUM & DAMBO TROLLS UPDATE - ANDY GREEN
- MARCH 30: CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE / BICKELHAUPT ARBORETUM UPDATE - BRIAN KELLY, ANN EISENMAN, AND DOUGLAS SMITH

INVOCATION

MARCH 09: JENNIFER GRAF
MARCH 16: VAL HILL
MARCH 23: PAUL HOLMER
MARCH 30: GREG JASPER



GREETER

MARCH 09: ALETHEA CAHOY
MARCH 16: MATTHEW CASTLEMAN
MARCH 23: PETE CLAUSON
MARCH 30: MARY CONNELL

PROGRAM CHAIRS

MARCH: JULIE DUNN
APRIL: SUE WATKINS
MAY: CHRISTIE AKINS



FELLOWSHIP CHAIRS

MARCH: DENNIS LAUVER
APRIL: MARY SWANSON & MARY BETH SMITH
MAY: ANDREW KIDA



Celebrations

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

- Daniel Housenga March 06
- Mary Swanson March 17
- Andrew Kida March 18
- Brian Kelly March 24

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Brigham Tubbs
 - 28 yrs; March 01, 1998
- Matthew Castleman
 - 1 yr; March 03, 2025
- Levi Jones
 - 1 yrs; March 17, 2025
- Gary Foster
 - 28 yrs; March 29, 1998

ROTARY MOMENTS

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
- Carrie Donaire: Past-President, International Service
- Andy Ferguson: Foundation
- Paul Holmer: Fundraising
- Susie Mesecher: Secretary
- Jill O'Neill: Public Image
- Braydon Roberts: Service to Youth
- Rod Tokheim: Sergeant-at-Arms
- Sue Watkins and Cheryl Frey: Community Service Projects

Rotary Foundation Board of Directors for 2025-2026

- Gary Foster*: President
- Kathy Klahn*: Vice-President
- John Frey*: Secretary
- Dale Dalton*: Treasurer

Directors

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