



Rotary
Club of Clinton



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

VOLUME 81 | ISSUE 10 |
NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 21, 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](#)



IN THIS ISSUE...

Executive Summary **2**

Club Notification **3**

Weekly Updates **5**

Looking Forward **6**

R.I. Admin &
Rotary Moments **7**

ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presidential News



Rotary Boo Bash — October 30

The annual Boo Bash will be held on October 30. Support our event by:

- Becoming a sponsor
- Volunteering the evening of the event
- Donating or assembling a basket
- Helping contact local businesses for support

Sponsorship forms are available, and members can also sign up online.

Key Dates

- September 21: Uganda International project update
- September 28: Women in Business featured speakers: Kemi Busker and Carrie Donaire

Check It Out!



thank you!

ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON

CLUB NOTIFICATION

Rotary Club Dues Increase

The Club recently completed a review of its budget after identifying an annual operating shortfall of approximately \$9,000. The review found that club dues have not kept pace with rising costs. Dues were last increased in 2019, while the cost of meals and other club expenses has increased significantly.

To address the immediate budget shortfall, the Board has approved a 20% increase in membership dues, effective with the October 1 billing. Quarterly dues will increase \$36 per quarter.

Dues are used to cover the club's operating expenses, including meals, Rotary International and district-related costs, ClubRunner, publications, printing, and other administrative expenses. Charitable contributions, scholarships, and funds raised through activities such as Boo Bash are not used to cover these operating expenses.

The Budget Review Committee will continue looking for ways to reduce expenses and improve the club's financial management. The goal is to avoid large increases in the future by reviewing costs more regularly and keeping dues more closely aligned with inflation and operating expenses.

The increase is intended to ensure that funds donated to Rotary can continue to support community projects and charitable causes, rather than being needed to cover the club's operating costs.

Members with questions about the change are encouraged to speak with the Board or Budget Review Committee.



ROTARY CLUB OF Clinton's BOO BASH



**GET READY FOR THE SPOOKIEST NIGHT OF
THE YEAR, FULL OF MAGIC AND MISCHIEF!**



**October 30, 2026
5:00 PM**



**Copper Mill
2750 S 27th St, Clinton, IA**

Live DJ & Dance Floor

Best Costume Contest

Spooky Drinks & Treats

Silent Auction

Dress Code: Silly, Scary, or Spooky, Make it unforgettable!
Sponsorship Opportunities are Available!



www.rotaryclubofclinton.com

ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON WEEKLY ROUND-UP

WEEKLY STATS

GUESTS:

- Alicia Gallego
- Flower Obando
- Katty Obando
- Daniel Villanitar
- Greg Farwell
- Eddie Dunham
- Chris Holmer

YTD: 27

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS:

- Rotary Club: N/A
- Foundation: N/A

Club and Foundation YTD
Total: \$1,181.00

MEMBERS:

- Current Members:
69
- Membership Goal:
75



 **YouTube**
**WATCH OUR
MEETING HERE!**

**From an Impossible Idea to a
Community Destination**

In her recent presentation, Ari Lewrenz shared the story behind Clinton's giant trolls—and, more importantly, the people and partnerships that made them possible.

Ari emphasized that the trolls are only part of the story. What matters most is the incredible community effort behind them. What began as an idea grew through the support of board members, volunteers, artists, local organizations, businesses, donors, and community partners. Together, Clinton turned an idea that once seemed impossible into four giant sculptures that now attract visitors and create a renewed sense of pride in our community.

"The trolls are the hook, but people are going to stay for Clinton." That message reflects the larger vision for the Sawmill Museum and its surrounding campus: to look beyond the museum walls and develop the area into a destination where people can gather, experience art and history, support local businesses, and enjoy our riverfront. That vision is already taking shape through community gathering spaces, Helmwood Forest, and plans for future additions such as larger exhibits, an exhibit center, a café, and an observation terrace overlooking the river.

The trolls also connect Clinton's lumber history with art and conservation. Artist Thomas Dambo created the sculptures using recycled materials gathered from the community, giving their story a meaningful connection to Clinton's heritage and the importance of caring for our planet.

Perhaps the most important takeaway from Ari's presentation was her insistence that this was never a one-person project: "I didn't do it. We did it. We did it. Clinton did it." Big projects require people, resources, persistence, and plenty of hard work. The idea is only the beginning; the real work comes from building partnerships, solving problems, and keeping moving forward.

The trolls may be giants, but Ari reminded us that their success came from something even bigger: a community willing to dream together, work together, and believe in Clinton's future.

ROTARY CLUB OF CLINTON LOOKING FORWARD

PROGRAMS

- **SEPTEMBER 21: UGANDA INTERNATIONAL PROJECT UPDATE**
- **SEPTEMBER 28: WOMEN IN BUSINESS FEATURED SPEAKERS KEMI BUSKER AND CARRIE DONAIRE**

INVOCATION

SEPTEMBER 21: MARSHA THRALL
SEPTEMBER 28: GRAHAM TIMION



GREETER

SEPTEMBER 21: KATHY KLAHN
SEPTEMBER 28: RICH KLAHN



PROGRAM CHAIRS

SEPTEMBER: JENNIFER GRAF
OCTOBER: TOM DETERMANN
NOVEMBER: HEATHER FARWELL



FELLOWSHIP CHAIRS

SEPTEMBER: ANDY FERGURSON
OCTOBER: JENNIFER GRAF
NOVEMBER: SUSIE MESECHER



Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Christie Akins Sept 05
- Mike Kroemer Sept 13
- Kathy Klahn Sept 15
- Karen Vickers Sept 15
- Cheryl Frey Sept 17
- Julie Dunn Sept 20
- Brigham Tubbs Sept 21
- Andy Fergurson Sept 21
- James Bruhn Sept 22

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Ronald McGauvran
 - 48 yrs; Sep. 01 1978
- Christopher Smith
 - 1 yr; Sep. 15 2025
- Douglas Bertrand
 - 30 yrs; Sep. 16 1996
- Karen Vickers
 - 30 yrs; Sep. 23 1996
- Marsha Thrall
 - 4 yrs; Sep. 26 2022
- James Bruhn
 - 30 yrs; Sep. 30 1996

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 2026-2027

- Andrew Green: President
- Dale Dalton: Treasurer
- Carrie Donaire: Past-President, International Service
- Andy Fergusson: 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 2026-2027

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

Directors

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| • Jim Bruhn* | • Kathy Klahn* | • Paul Holmer* |
| • Dale Dalton* | • Ryan Veenstra | • Heather Farwell |
| • Jennifer Graf* | • Sue Watkins | • Rich Klahn* |
| | | • Christie Atkins* |

ROTARY MOMENTS



From Florida to Thailand, Rotary clubs are finding creative ways to meet community needs and support good causes. In Sebring, Florida, Rotarians helped build a much-needed public restroom to accommodate visitors drawn to the city after its appearance on HGTV's Home Town Takeover. In Ontario, the Rotary Club of Sarnia-Bluewaterland raised more than US\$42,000 through its annual used book sale, with leftover books supporting organizations as far away as Canadian troops stationed in Latvia.

Meanwhile, a UK Rotary club is putting pets to work for polio eradication through the PolioPlus Society Kennel Klub, where animal-loving donors pledge at least \$100 annually to PolioPlus. And in northern Thailand, the Rotary Club of Chiang Mai International turned a tethered hot-air balloon into a fundraiser, dropping 300 golf balls onto a green and raising about \$4,000 for projects benefiting children.