

Rotary Club of Gurnee

Thursdays at 7:15 a.m., Warren Twp. Senior Center, 17801 W. Washington St., Gurnee IL 60031

Gurnee Rotary

April 2, 2026

Coming up

- **April 2** — First Thursday Fellowship at Tacos el Norte
- **April 9** — Feed My Starving Children
- **April 16** — Jerry's Excellent Adventure to Tanzania
- **April 23** — Club Assembly

Club Duties

April 16

Greeter: Lind

Fines&Frolics: Machak

Drawing: Mullin

Rotary Minute: Ross

April 23

Greeter: Summerfelt

Fines&Frolics: Witte-Tabbert

Drawing: Wittwer

Rotary Minute: Woestman

April 30

Greeter: Aguero

Fines&Frolics: Blaser

Drawing: Glenner

Rotary Minute: Jastrzemski

Thursday Tweet

"The man who says his wife can't take a joke, forgets that she took him."

— Oscar Wilde

Today's Meeting

First Thursday Fellowship to meet at Tacos el Norte

This week is the first Thursday of the month so the club will have an evening meeting at Tacos el Norte instead of our regular breakfast meeting.

We will meet for a social hour and a more informal meeting from 6 to 7 p.m.

This will give members a chance to get to know each other, chat about Rotary and brainstorm projects in a less formal setting.

First Thursday is a great opportunity to become a better club member and friend to other members. Don't miss this fun evening of fellowship.



Club Song

Refrain:

*Oh, I feel healthy, happy and terrific
Happy and terrific, that's the way I feel.
I feel healthy, happy and terrific,
Happy as a member of Rotary*

*Each morning I wake up I say a little prayer
And give thanks for the way I feel.
I greet the day with love in my heart
With a pride I can't conceal!*

Refrain:

Oh, I feel healthy...



2025-2026 Officers

President

Jerry Groen

President-Elect

Jerry Groen

Secretary

Ryan Johnson

Treasurer

Charlie Mullin

Directors

Randy Blaser
Club Service

Mary Witte-Tabbert
Community Service

Jay Jaros
International Service

Garrett Koncan
Vocational Service

Marty Klauber
Membership

Randy Blaser
Public Relations

Garrett Koncan
New Directions-Youth

Past President

Mary Witte-Tabbert

Sergeant-at-Arms

TBD

Bulletin Editor

Randy Blaser

Laura Franz tells of Vets Path to Hope

Our guest speaker this week was Laura Franz, who told us about Veterans Path to Hope, a service organization to help our Veterans. Laura is a member of the Crystal Lake Dawnbreakers Rotary Club and joined just before COVID hit. That's when she got started in the organization.

Veterans Path to Hope has been around for about 30 years, she said, and it was started by a Vietnam Veteran who found while studying for a degree in counseling, discover edso many veterans were living on the streets. He got a loan to buy an old hotel in Hebron and the organization got its start. They found that the Vets needed so much more than transitional housing. Also needed was security deposits for housing, and first months rent.

One of the ways the organization operates is to have one veteran walk with the veteran in need.

Today there is a drop-in center in McHenry and in Grayslake. With two sites, volunteers soon realized there is so much more needed by veterans. Many of the veterans who need help have a less than honorable discharge, but many times it is over a misunderstanding. She told of one such vet who, while suffering from PTSD, struck an officer, who tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The organization has also found that many veterans need help adjusting to civilian life after leaving the military. The issue is today's society is highly individualistic and the vet is coming from a lifestyle where everyone works for one goal or the unit's objective.

Last week's meeting

Guests: Laura Franz, guest speaker, guest of the club.

Announcements: President **Jerry Groen** had no new announcements for today. We discussed our participation in Gurnee Days and we discussed the establishment of an Interact Club at Warren Township High School. A student we sponsored for RYLA wants to start a club at WTHS. **Marty Klauber** said he will follow up with a woman who expressed an interest in joining the club.

School Minute: No school news today.

Braggs: **Mary Witte-Tabbert** bragged on how she is going to start handing out little cards with uplifting sayings to brighten he day of friends and strangers. **Taylor Summerfelt** bragged on Scouting America's upcoming Whitney Young breakfast and invited all members. **Jerry Groen** bragged on the Yankees Opening Day 7-0 win over San Francisco.

Drawing: **Randy Blaser** drew the three of hearts. And the beat goes on.

