

Rotary Motto

Service Above Self

4-Way Test

*Of the things we
think, say or do:*

Is it the truth?

*Is it fair to all
concerned?*

*Will it build
goodwill and
better friendship?*

*Will it be
beneficial to all
concerned?*

Avenues of Service

Club Service

Vocational Service

*Community
Service*

*International
Service*

Youth Service

ROTARY NOTES

August 5, 2026

A publication of the Rotary Club of Warren

GREETERS & REGISTRATION

August through September, 2026 - Ray Sinchak

INVOCATION

August, 2026 - Denise May

September, 2026 - Diane Sauer

FELLOWSHIP (typically 1st, 3rd & 4th Wednesdays of the month)

August 19, & 26, 2026 - Denise May

September 2, 16, & 23, 2026 - Diane Sauer

MAGAZINE REPORT (typically 2nd Wednesday of the month)

August 12, 2026 - Denise May

September 9, 2026 - Diane Sauer

SPEAKERS

8/12/2026 - Working Committee Meeting

8/19/2026 - Jason Lee, Naturalist/Department of Natural Resources & Mosquito Lake
State Park

8/26/2026 - Lynn Wallace-Smith, Manager/ Trumbull County Archives

9/2/2026 - To Be Announced

9/9/2026 - To Be Announced

9/16/2026 - To Be Announced

9/23/2026 - Kimberly Garrett, Executive Director, & Jo Phillips, Deputy Director/
Warren-Trumbull County Public Library

Areas of Focus

Peace & Conflict
Prevention/
Resolution

Disease Prevention &
Treatment

Water & Sanitation

Maternal & Child Health

Basic Education &
Literacy

Economic & Community
Development

The Environment

Club Officers

President
Alicia Adams-Angelo

President-Elect
Meghan Reed

Vice-President
John Esker

Secretary
Judy Masaki

Treasurer
Cheryl Oblinger

Past-President
Anthony Iannucci

Board Members

Mike Bolas
Eric Knoth
Lauren Kramer
Robin Martorana
Marilyn Pape
John Perdue
Ray Thomas



Rotary brings in approximately 150,000 new members annually, but there are regional disparities. North America, Australia, and Great Britain have seen a 20% decrease in members over the last 20 years., while Asia and Africa are seeing robust growth. Demographically, the average age of Rotarians is 63 years, and many clubs struggle to attract younger members who require more flexibility than lunch meetings allow. The cost of dues is a financial burden to some. Attrition in other clubs is also due to changes in lifestyles of members and lack of engaging activities.

Clubs can focus on a few key strategies that align with the Rotary international's Strategic Action Plan. These include:

- adapting and reinventing the service club experience, offering more informal, family-friendly atmospheres, hands-on community engagement, digital innovation and flexibility
- welcoming new club members and strengthening club diversity;
- expanding reach by chartering new satellite clubs;
- sharing club projects and public image awareness with the local community through membership drives, mixers, and club assemblies; and
- celebrating and appreciating current member contributions.

It's time! Celebrate our club, our members, and the good we do in our community and around the world. Do your part to grow Rotary by inviting your friends and business associates to join!

Rotary Club of Warren
Foundation Board

President
Kim Straniak

Vice-President
Darlene Jones

Secretary
Judy Masaki

Treasurer
Cheryl Oblinger

Alicia Adams-Angelo
John Esker
Denise May
Ted Stazak

Contact us at:
Rotary Club of Warren
P.O. Box 68
Warren, OH 44482

Our Website:
www.warrenrotary.org

If you have any
suggestions about our
newsletter, or if you
would like to become a
sponsor, please
contact:

Judy Masaki



Let us pray,

Thank you for our Rotary meeting and for everyone that puts something into it,
and everyone that gets something out of it.

We invoke Your blessings on this meeting and all who grace it with their presence.

Lord, help us to be gentle with ourselves and one another,
not expecting more than we can, nor they can produce.

We know there is so much good in the worst of us
and so much bad in the best of us
that it hardly behooves any of us
to talk about the rest of us.

Be with us this day and always
by strengthening our belief in the ultimate triumph of truth and right.

This prayer we make in the name of the way of truthful living.

Amen.

(Offered by Denise May)



We returned to Trumbull Country Club this past week and Vice-President John Esker got his first chance to chair our meeting. He did a great job! And music filled the room again with Julia Wetstein and Tom Baker leading us in singing *Smile, Sing a Song!*

Denise May then kicked off Fellowship for August with a continuation of the travel theme started by Andy bednar last month. Denise reviewed the most visited cities in the United States. They're ranked as follows:

10. **Boston** - an historical city offering over 6 sites to dive into the deep history
9. **Honolulu** - one of the most idyllic vacation destinations in the U.S., with no shortage of natural wonders and extensive history
8. **Chicago** - voted best city in the country with striking architecture, famous eateries, and the famous Wrigley Field.
7. **Washington, D.C.** -the most free museums anywhere in the U.S., and some are immersive museums which are quite the rage right now. A must see city!
6. **Las Vegas** - speaks for itself. A new immersive District is now available. There are over 100 casinos, with a new one spanning over 150,000 square feet. There are also famous buffets and live shows featuring singers, Vegas showgirls, and magic artists.
5. **San Francisco** - famous for its cable cars, Fisherman's Wharf, the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, and let's not forget Chinatown.

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4. **Orlando** - most notably known for Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World, and beautiful beaches. A popular family destination.

3. **Los Angeles** - Although the city has had devastating wildfires, it's looking forward to hosting the 2028 Olympics. And you can still visit Universal Studios Hollywood and Warner Brothers Studio, and tour Sony Pictures and Paramount Studios.

2. **Miami** - Come for the beach, stay for the culture. Visit South Beach and Ocean Drive and the neighborhood of Wynwood which shows their 35,000 square foot graffiti walls making this the hippest district.

And the #1 most visited city in the U.S. . . .

1. **New York City** - celebrating its 400th anniversary! Visit the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Broadway, Central Park, and lavish hotels and restaurants, and of course, Manhattan.

Now, plan your next vacation to one of the most visited cities in the U.S.A.!



Best wishes to the following Warren Rotarians celebrating August birthdays:

Ray Sinchak Eric Knoth

Tony Iannucci

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SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE BEING CIRCULATED AT OUR CLUB MEETINGS for the Service Project Committee (Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Senior Christmas Gifts, etc.), Club Socials, Downtown Dazzle, and Night at the Races. Every club member is encouraged to be actively involved in one or more committees. Be sure to get your name on the list of your choice.

ORDERS ARE BEING TAKEN for Rotary t-shirts and River Duck Festival shirts. An order form will be available at our upcoming club meetings.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet on Wednesday, August 19th, at 1:00 p.m., immediately following our weekly club meeting.

THE SALVATION ARMY'S 2026 RED KETTLE CLASSIC will be held on Saturday, August 22nd with an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start at Tamer Win Golf and Country Club (3020 Niles Cortland Rd., NE, Cortland, OH 44410). Registration and breakfast will begin at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$100 per player or \$400 for a team of four, including the green fee, a cart, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a goody bag. Teams and Sponsorship opportunities are now available. No outside coolers or alcohol are permitted. To register, visit:

<https://give.salvationarmy.org/event/neo-warren-red-kettle-tee-off/e784583>

PLEASE JOIN US IN EXTENDING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO TERRA

O'BRIEN. Terra's mother, Cyndee O'Brien, passed away on Monday, August 3rd after a long battle with cancer. A private cremation has taken place, and no services will be held at her request. Material contributions can be made to the Healthy Hearts and Paws Project in her memory. Please keep Terra and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

OUR OWN JULIA WETSTEIN, DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT, WHO WILL SERVE DURING ROTARY YEAR 2027-2028 has been making her rounds and

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hanging with others who breath Rotary! Here she is, pictured below, at Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois and at the recent Canfield Rotary fundraiser, "Wine Gala On the Green", with other Past District Governors. She represents us well and has fun doing so!



PROGRAM:

MELISSA POLAND, OWNER SWEET MELISSA'S GOOD EATS



On August 5th, Warren Rotarians were treated to the story about how the amazing, tasty, and healthy foods found at Sweet Melissa's Good Eats came to be.

Melissa Poland is a graduate of Ohio University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Sciences. Her studies concentrated on activities coordination. She hails from the Dover/New Philadelphia area in Ohio where she was a stay-at-home Mom, raising her children for 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and traveling, ending in New England. She and her family eventually came back to Ohio, and with the kids in school, she was ready to get out of the house.

Melissa obtained a job at Ghossain's Gourmet Mediterranean Foods, cleaning and chopping vegetables and making tabouli every day. Seven months into her job, the chef was let go and Melissa was offered the position. Ghossain's taught her everything she needed to know - how to make hummus,

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Baba Ghanoush, and more. She eventually started experimenting with making salads, asking for customer feedback. Ghossain's orzo salad, which is still served there today, is Melissa's recipe. After seven years, Melissa decided to step out and follow her own career path.

At the age of 47, nine months after leaving Ghossain's, Melissa opened her first store in Boardman, Ohio. Within four months, she expanded the Boardman location into a sit-down restaurant with 20 employees. 10 years after its inception, the Boardman restaurant needs more space again. Melissa has opened two additional locations for Sweet Melissa's - one in Columbiana and her most recent restaurant in Howland. Melissa now has 45 people on her payroll, including her three children - an amazing accomplishment for someone who admits that she knew nothing about business! Melissa handles the human resource end of the business, and she contracts out to a local accountant for payroll, taxes, etc. Her husband and friends are also supportive resources. She is currently exploring franchising.

Sweet Melissa's Good Eats uses only fresh chicken - 2,400 pounds weekly! In addition, Melissa buys only local aquaponic and hydroponic lettuce, nothing from fields. All of her menu items are prepared and made from scratch daily, including her homemade vinaigrette dressing (seven gallons per day). Her business priorities are quality and consistency of ingredients and customer service.

Melissa describes her career as "a beautiful beast", and she's learned a wonderful lesson which she shared with us:

"If you follow your passion, you can do it, no matter how old you are."



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TRIPLE JACKPOT



This week, the Grand Jackpot totaled \$137.
Congratulations to Daily Winner Bob Hoy!!

HAPPY BUCKS



- *** **Bob Hoy** was happy to win the daily jackpot after a dry spell!
- *** **Julia Wetstein** enjoyed our speaker's refreshing story and is happy that she's had great success in our region.
- *** **Cindy Matheson** had a wonderful vacation in the mountains of North Carolina. She also attended a Bachelorette getaway for her future daughter-in-law in Celina, Ohio, as well as her bridal shower. Cindy's also glad to be back at Trumbull Country Club.
- *** **Denise May** raved about Sweet Melissa's and encouraged everyone to give it a try!
- *** **Ray Thomas** enjoyed our program. He has been having a good time traveling but said it's good to be back.
- *** **John Esker** offered a Happy Buck for each Sweet Melissa's location. He's grateful that the Salvation Army received a donation of 15 chairs from NEOCAP. And he was glad to have the chance "to not mess up the meeting today".