

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

A publication of the Rotary Club of Warren

ASSIGNMENTS

GREETERS & REGISTRATION

February, 2026 - Ray Sinchak

March, 2026 - Ray Sinchak

INVOCATION

February, 2026 - Judy Masaki

March, 2026 - Ted Stazak

FELLOWSHIP (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

February 18, 2026 - Judy Masaki

March 4 & 18, 2026 - Christine Cope

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (2nd Wednesday)

February 11, 2026 - Marilyn Pape

March 11, 2026 - Lauren Kramer

MAGAZINE REPORT (4th Wednesday)

February 25, 2026 - Judy Masaki

March 25, 2026 - Christine Cope

SPEAKERS

2/11/26 - Tour at Warren Family Mission

2/18/26 - Angel Williams, The Small District

2/25/26 - The Wolves Club of Trumbull County

3/4/26 - Tour at Clover Recycling

3/11/26 - To Be Announced

3/18/26 - Kristen Taylor, Abilities Unite Foundation of the Mahoning Valley

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
Tony Iannucci

President-Elect
Alicia Adams-Angelo

Vice-President
Meghan Reed

Secretary
Judy Masaki

Treasurer
Cheryl Oblinger

Past-President
Cindy Matheson

Board Members

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



February is very special in the Rotary calendar as it marks the anniversary of the first Rotary meeting on February 23, 1905 in Chicago. That day is now designated as "World Understanding and Peace Day".

During February, Rotarians around the world are also celebrating Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution Month. This is a time when Rotary Clubs focus on promoting understanding, training leaders in mediation, and supporting projects that address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty and inequality. Clubs are encouraged to support peace fellowships, scholarships, and service projects that foster peace in their local communities. A presidential peace conference, "Healing in a Divided World", is scheduled for February 20 - 26, 2026, in Istanbul, Turkey and will highlight these efforts as well.

Rotary Club of Warren
Foundation Board

*President
Ted Stazak*

*Vice-President
Meghan Reed*

*Secretary
Judy Masaki*

*Treasurer
Cheryl Oblinger*

*Andy Bednar
Tony Iannucci
Denise May
Kim Straniak*

Contact us at:
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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



*God of the Universe,
Teach us the way to peace.
When people around us don't agree and think differently,
Teach us to listen and try to understand.
When we see people getting hurt,
Teach us to speak up.
When we see people treated poorly because of their skin color, or language, or religious belief,
Teach us to be an example of love and acceptance.
When we see war and conflict,
Teach us how to make a difference and seek peace.
When we see pain,
Teach us to bring healing.
When we feel confused and afraid,
Remind us to talk to our friends, our family, and to You.
In our lives, our neighborhoods, and the world,
Teach us to pray and teach us the way of peace. Amen.*

(Offered by Judy Masaki)

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UPCOMING TOUR: This coming Wednesday (Feb. 11th), there will be no club meeting at Trumbull Country Club. Instead, we will meet at The Warren Family Mission (155 Tod Ave., NW Warren, OH 44485). Box lunch sandwich options provided by The Mocha House include: 1. Corned Beef; 2. Mocha Club; 3. Loaded Greek (Vegetable); 4. Ham & Swiss; 5. Turkey & Cheddar; 6. Chicken Walnut ; 7. Tuna Salad; 8. Turkey & Swiss. Cost is \$15. In order to order lunch and pay, contact Cheryl Oblinger as soon as possible.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS will hold their next monthly meeting on Thursday, February 12th, at The Chophouse. Fellowship, hosted by Robin Martorana, will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the business meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

RENOVATIONS WILL BE IN PROGRESS at Trumbull Country Club beginning this coming week. The room we meet in hasn't changed, but the setup may look a little different. In addition, you may need to enter through the side glass doors beyond the parking lot. Thanks in advance for your patience!

DICTIONARY PROJECT DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE: Distribution of our dictionaries to 3rd grade students will begin at 9:15 a.m. on February 11th for the following schools:

Blessed Sacrament	3000 Reeves Rd., NE	45 books
Jefferson	1543 Tod Ave., SW	85 books
McGuffey	3465 Tod Ave., NW	94
Willard	2020 Willard Ave., SE	107 books

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On Wednesday, February 18th, dictionaries will be distributed as follows, beginning at 9:30 a.m.:

Lincoln	2253 Atlantic St., NE	98 books
Summit Academy	2106 Arbor Ave., SE	13 books
Steam Academy	261 Elm Rd., NE	51 books

If you are able to help on either of these days, please text Marilyn Pape at: (724) 699-7720

ROTARY FOR READING 2026: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides free books to children under age 5, and The Trumbull County United Way is an affiliate of this program. Ohio Rotarians are taking this on as a fundraising project this year in order to make reading accessible, impactful and exciting for our children. You can support this fundraiser in several ways. First, attend a fundraising event for the project on February 26, 2026 at the Eastwood Event Centre. A Night Out with Dolly will feature trivia, bingo, a Dolly Parton impersonator, and performances by the Senior Showcase. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and cost is \$60 per person/\$480 per table. Register for the event at www.unitedwaytrumbull.org. You can also donate through Warren Rotary and provide books to children in Trumbull County. If you donate through District 6650, donations will be split among multiple counties. A \$31 donation covers enough books for one month! Any club member who donates \$31 will receive free admission to the Night Out with Dolly event. If a club donation is made, it will be considered a sponsorship for the event. Rotarians can donate in three ways:

1. You can mail a check to: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, PO Box 340734, Columbus, OH 43234. Note "Rotary" in the memo line and specify whether your donation should be allocated to the district or the club.
2. Donate online at: GiveButter.com/OhioRotary
3. Text to Donate: Text Rotary4Reading to 53-555
- 4.

Please contact Christine Cope with any questions.

SATELLITE CLUB NEWS: The mixer originally scheduled for 3/24/26 at CharBenay's Wine on the River is being moved to a different date. Stay tuned for more information.

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THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN FOUNDATION BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 18th, at 11:30 a.m., prior to our weekly club meeting.

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE will meet on Wednesday, March 18th, at 1:00 p.m., immediately following our weekly club meeting.

A RECENT CELEBRATION: The Red Kettle Ringer Contest Winners, Marilyn Pape and Ray Sinchak, were celebrated on February 3rd with a small social event at Howland Alarm. Eric Knoth donated chicken nuggets, and Cindy Matheson provided other snacks. Everyone had a great time. Unfortunately, Marilyn came down with the flu and couldn't make it. We hope you're feeling better, Marilyn! That same evening, Julia Wetstein, Lish and Tom Angelo, Eric Knoth, Ray Sinchak, Tony Iannucci and Cindy Matheson got their ducks in a row for our River Duck Festival!



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FUNDRAISER NEWS: This year's River Duck Festival will be combined with a new event to raise funds for Warren Rotary! The River Duck Festival will be held on Sunday, June 28th. About a week later, The Rotary Club of Warren will co-sponsor the July 4th Scrapper's Game and Fireworks at Eastwood Field. The Scrappers have created a fundraising package for us, including proceeds from an in-person and online auction of game jersey's with Warren Rotary's logo and a logo for the 250th Anniversary of the U.S.A. We will secure sponsorships for both the River Duck Festival and the Scrapper's Game. We are currently trying to decide on beneficiaries for the events. If you have any non-profit organizations in mind who might benefit from funding, please reach out to them and have them submit a letter outlining what they would use the funds for. Letters should be emailed to Judy Masaki (jmasaki1962@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

THE 2026 RYLA CONFERENCE was held last weekend, and our club sponsored three students. Pictured below from left to right are Harding Interact Advisor Andrew Martin, two students from Harding High School (Peyton Borsick and Samantha Barkley), Scott Lewis, and President Tony Iannucci.



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Judy Masaki kicked off Fellowship this month by welcoming the following individuals to our meeting: Alicia Adams-Angelo's guest, George Kirby from the Scrappers; Denise May's friend, Linda, who was born on the same day, at the same hospital as Denise; and visiting Rotarian Rich McGafferty.

Best wishes were then extended to the following Warren Rotarians who are celebrating February birthdays: William Zamarelli, Janet Schweitzer, and Mike Bollas.

And now for the Fellowship presentation - "This past Monday, we had the battle of the groundhogs - Punxsutawney Phil vs. Buckeye Chuck!

Groundhog Day, as we know it, is a fun tradition that began in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania back in 1887. Its origins are tied to the religious holiday, Candlemas Day, which arrived in the United States with German settlers hundreds of years ago. February 2nd was when Christians would take their candles to the church and have them blessed, as they felt this would bring blessings to their households for the remainder of winter. As time rolled on, the day evolved and followed an English folk song that highlights the transition to weather predictions as follows:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go winter, and come not again.

That interpretation became the norm for most of Europe. You might notice there was no mention of an animal of any kind in that song. It wasn't until this traditional belief was introduced in Germany that an animal was included in the folklore. People in Germany observed animals - namely hedgehogs - as early

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predictors of seasonal change. If the hedgehog saw its shadow on Candlemas Day, there would be a second winter or six more weeks of bad weather.

As German settlers came to what is now the United States, so too came their traditions and folklore. But with the absence of hedgehogs in the United States, a similar hibernating animal was chosen - the groundhog. And that led to yet another evolution in the legend and to present day Punxsutawney! Groundhog Day became a day to take everything a little less seriously and break up the winter monotony, at least for a little while.

Buckeye Chuck, Ohio's official weather predicting groundhog, was established in the 1970s by radio host Charlie Evers in Marion, Ohio, and was actually designated by the Ohio General Assembly in 1979. At one time, a stuffed animal was used following concerns raised by PETA about animal abuse and cruel animal gimmicks. Now, the current Buckeye Chuck who is alive and well, resides at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and is trained for the event. His name is actually Murray; his stage name is Buckeye Chuck.

So, this year, Buckeye Chuck predicted an early spring, and Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter. Data suggests that Chuck is the more accurate forecaster, with 55 - 75% accuracy compared to Phil's 35 - 39%. So, which rodent do we trust?

Well, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weighed in and said that other, lesser-known groundhogs and animals often outperform both Chuck and Phil in accuracy! They used the March temperature average in the United States from 2005 through 2024. A total of 19 animals, including groundhogs and alternative animals such as a prairie dog statue and a tortoise, were considered. Neither Chuck nor Phil placed in the top five. Chuck came in at number 8, while Phil placed 17th.

If you're not looking for fuzzy creatures to give you your weather forecast, you can consider meteorologists, although I think their accuracy varies as well. Regardless, I hope you stay safe and warm for the remainder of winter, however long that may be."

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A GROUNDHOG DAY REBUTTAL

Hi Y'all! The following story about a homespun tradition in rural Illinois was just submitted by none other than our own Julia Wetstein. The author was a former high school classmate of Julia's, whom she describes as a "regular Mark Twain"!!

"Forget about Punxsutawney Phil. In White County, Illinois, the crowd gathers in the dark of early morning every February 2 for their own purveyor of perennial predictions, Phillipstown Phil, the winter-worn marmot who rises from the bank of a roadside ditch each year to conjure the county's fate before a cluster of curious onlookers.

I rolled into town a day early to get the scoop and beat the rush. Within an hour, locals were schooling me on Phillipstown Phil's many aliases: Phil'town Phil, P'town Phil, and, most endearingly, P' Phil.

That evening I camped by the edge of the woods in my tent and arctic-rated sleeping bag. It's been a harsh winter in Illinois. Everyone is looking forward to spring.

Pickup trucks, slamming doors, and heartfelt 'good mornin's' pulled me from sleep before the sun was up.

By dawn, trucks lined the roads in all directions. Locals leaned on tailgates and gathered in small groups clutching cups of coffee supplied by a well-respected Phillipstown roaster.

I sampled the breakfast blend. As the steam curled into the cold morning air, I was struck by how the coffee tasted of small-town goodness, as if the essence of Phillipstown had been ground into the beans.

The coffee, the trucks, and the people all blended into the hum of the day.

The crowd stirred uneasily while the question hung in the air like fog over the river bottoms: would P' Phil see his shadow, or would spring come early to White County?

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I made my way through the gathering and approached a woman perched on a bale of hay in the back of a well-used Ford F-250 pickup.

She said her name was Donna Hughes and that she'd been coming to Phillipstown for the last 27 years for the spectacle. 'Truth be told,' she said, 'P' Phil is wrong more than he's right. Around here, spring's real sign is when you see the first possum in your trash can after St. Patrick's Day.'

I wandered through the spectators, looking for rival signs of spring.

The voices came quick and unfiltered.

Raymond 'Buck' Bidwell, a farmer, didn't mince words: 'You want a sign? When the skunks start waddlin' across Route 1 like they own it, that's when it's time to fire up the tractor.'

Clara Jean Brown, a church volunteer, offered: 'I don't watch marmots. I listen for clues. First frog hollers from the pond, that's the ballad of spring ringin' through the night air.'

Everett Dale Graham, a Wabash River entrepreneur, declared: 'The geese don't lie. When you hear 'em honkin' overhead in big numbers, winter's done. P' Phil is the pre-game show.'

At that moment, a cold wind with a shiver to it slid across the ditch bank and drifted by. Conversations thinned. Boots shifted in the gravel. Somewhere in the crowd, a thermos lid clicked shut like a punctuation mark. Then came a faint rustling from the roadside, soft at first, then unmistakable, like something waking up from a long nap.

The crowd tightened into a single breath as P' Phil clawed his way up through the crusted dirt, blinking against the pale sky. He paused on his haunches, nose working the air, the whole township hanging on the twitch of a whisker. He squinted, sniffed, and raised a paw as if to measure the light. For a long, quiet moment, Phillipstown stood absolutely still.

What happened next would settle the question for another year.

P' Phil froze, his whiskers trembling, then turned just enough to catch the outline of his own shadow stretching across the bank. In an instant, he whipped back into the ditch, sending a scatter of cold dirt down the slope. A low groan and a few boos rolled through the crowd as folks understood what it meant: six more weeks of busted knuckles, frozen mud, and mornings that nip at your nose.

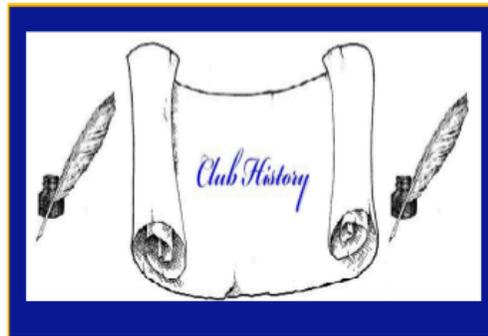
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As friends and family eased toward their trucks, lingering and laughing, sharing hugs, handshakes, and last sips of coffee, it became clear what this morning was really about.

In Phillipstown, P' Phil and his shadow are a footnote. The story is the people and the fellowship they've shaped over time. And this year, that spirit delivered. Out here, the seasons change on their own time, but community holds steady.

Reporting from the ditch bank,
– Jeff Doneghue, Folkloric Gonzo"

Thank for sharing a great story, Julia!!



Now on to more serious business! Barry Dunaway was back this week with another installment of our club's history.

"**Dave Holtz Hamilton** joined Warren Rotary in 1964 with the classification of Concrete Products Distributor. He was our President during the 1968 - 1969 Rotary Year. He was the Co-Owner of Warren Concrete & Supply. Dave graduated from Texas Military Institute. He was a very active Rotarian, having served on many of our committee's, especially our many fundraisers over the years. The Rose Sale and our Pancake Breakfasts were his favorites. Active in the community, he was a board member of American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Trumbull Memorial Hospital Foundation, Boy Scouts and Children's Rehabilitation Center. He was a charter member of Trumbull 100, Buckeye Club and was recognized as a Community Star.

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Joseph Riffle joined Warren Rotary in 1962 with the classification of Commercial Photography. He was our President during the 1980-1981 Rotary Year. Joe graduated from Warren G. Harding High School and was owner of Riffle Photography. Interestingly, he was also with the Warren Police Department, having served our country with the United States Marines. Joe was involved in the South Pacific during World War II and left the Marines as a Sergeant. Joe was a member of the National Photography Association and several police organizations. During his time in Rotary, he kept the Rotary 'Blue Book' tradition alive.

Harry A. Burnett joined Warren Rotary in 1967 with the classification of Swimming Pools. He was our President during the 1983-1984 Rotary Year. Harry and his father started the family business of Burnett Pools, Inc. He was proud of his business and the many pools that he built and stood by his motto of 'Where Quality Counts'. He was Past-President of the National Swimming Pool Midwest Chapter, member of Northeast Builders Association, The Buckeye Club and was a Past Master of Cortland Masonic Lodge #529. After he retired to North Carolina, he helped start a new Rotary Club, the Tryon Rotary Club."

PROGRAM:
BETH CARMICHAEL,
TRUMBULL COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU



Beth Carmichael is no stranger to Warren Rotary. She has visited our club many times over the years to update us about happenings in Trumbull County. However, this past week, she spoke about some very special projects that the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau is spearheading.

First, the Bureau is actively collaborating with many historical organizations in our area to establish celebratory events for the

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250th anniversary of the United States, such as the Mesopotamia Ox Roast which welcomes 20,000 people to the county, the Howland Township July 4th Parade, and more. You can read about these events and browse many interesting articles in the Trumbull 250 edition of *Truly Trumbull*.

For a tasty adventure, residents and visitors can follow the Italian Food Trail. The trail takes you to over 50 food establishments in Trumbull County. Patrons can collect 8 stickers on the trail and be entered into a monthly drawing for a prize box with a value of up to \$50.

Last year, a strategic plan was developed for the bureau, focusing on five pillars: marketing and community engagement, quality of life, liveability, resident perceptions, and visitor experiences. A major initiative that will be implemented over the next year is a series of Genco Labs. Beth indicated that talking to the next generation and telling them our stories about why we decided to stay in, move to, or return to Trumbull County is vitally important. We need to be welcoming and talk about our community in order to break the bubble of people not knowing all that we have in this area. She demonstrated this process by asking Warren Rotarians why they remained in Trumbull County or moved here. Reasons included: continuing the legacy of a family business; employment; wanting to be near family; and cost of living. We also discussed experiences in this area that are better today than they were 10 to 20 years ago, such as entertainment, an increase in small businesses, our destination resort, recreational opportunities, our shopping mall, our attitude of survival (especially after the loss of GM), and up and coming venues like the Museum of Science Fiction and Fantasy Arts.

Beth encouraged us to always have three favorite things about Trumbull County in mind and to share them with others. In addition, always celebrate our wins.

For more information, visit: TrulyTrumbull.com. On this site, you will find a pop-up where you can add your name to an email chain and receive announcements about upcoming events.

And remember, don't ever tell anyone that there is nothing to do in this area.
Beth WILL hunt you down!!

TRIPLE JACKPOT



This week, the Grand Jackpot totaled \$11.
Congratulations to Daily Winner Cindy Matheson!

HAPPY BUCKS



- *** **Cindy Matheson** was a happy winner. She was excited about our speaker and agrees that word of mouth is the best advertisement. She had fun at the social this past week. And she was happy to be at our meeting.
- *** **John Esker** offered Happy Bucks for his daughter's 17th birthday and for our speaker.
- *** **Scott Lewis** reported that Punxsutawney Phil's ex-wife said Phil is a compulsive liar!
- *** **Robin Martorana** hopes that Mother Nature behaves because her SCOPE Center is scheduled to open this week!
- *** **Julia Wetstein** said we are lucky to have Beth Carmichael! And with all of the repetitions she did this week in the gym, Julia lifted 9000 lbs. in one day!
- *** **Ray Thomas** enjoyed our program and our speaker's enthusiasm.
- *** **Alicia Adams-Angelo** offered Happy Bucks for our speaker and our upcoming fundraiser!

