

## 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

May 20, 2026

A publication of the Rotary Club of Warren

## GREETERS & REGISTRATION

May, 2026 through June, 2026 - Ray Sinchak

## INVOCATION

May, 2026 - Denise May

June, 2026 - Janet Schweitzer

## FELLOWSHIP (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)

June 3, 2026 - Ray Sinchak

June 17, 2026 - Denise May

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (2nd Wednesday)

June 10, 2026 - Meghan Reed

## MAGAZINE REPORT (4th Wednesday)

May 27, 2026 - Denise May

June 24, 2026 - Lauren Kramer

## SPEAKERS

5/27/2026 - Jeff Butts, Chess is Life (at The Salvation Army)

6/3/26 - Scott Pooch, AI For the Rest of Us (at Salvation Army)

6/10/26 - Planning for The River Duck Festival (at The Salvation Army)

6/17/26 - Tour at St. Vincent de Paul (2415 Niles Rd., SE (Rte 169), Warren, OH 44484)

6/24/26 - Speaker to be Announced (at The Salvation Army)

7/1/2026 - Presidents' Night at CharBenay's beginning at 6:00 p.m.

No Noon Club Meeting

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



*Dear Lord,*

*We remember the fallen soldiers that have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.*

*On this remembrance day, we come to you and ask for healing for families of lost loved ones & protection over other military members.*

*Bless the souls of our brothers & sisters who fought for freedom with selfless devotion, determination of spirit, & Divine grit.*

*May the purpose of their lives forever be a blessing.*

*May their names be remembered, & their families honored, today & forevermore.*

*Help us make sure that Memorial Day is more than once a year, but a continual act of gratitude..*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*(Offered by Denise May)*

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:  
*Rotary Club of Warren  
P.O. Box 68  
Warren, OH 44482*

Our Website:  
[www.warrenrotary.org](http://www.warrenrotary.org)

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

*Judy Masaki*



Ray Sinchak was back this week with some more fun facts and another amazing story.

First, Ray reported that May 20th was World Bee Day, the mission of which is to promote awareness of the importance of these pollinators and their contribution to the world's food system. The 20th was also National Rescue Dog Day! We learned of their importance the past few weeks with our visits to the Animal Welfare League and the Animal Resource Center. And last but not least, May 20th was National Pick Strawberries Day! So, Ray encouraged us to settle back in our chairs with our dogs and enjoy some strawberry shortcake while listening to the hum of the bees on the beautiful flowers.

Next came the following story in honor of Memorial Day. "On September 2, 1944, during World War II in the Pacific Theater of Operation, an historic event took place that not too many people know about.

On a small enemy island, ChiChijima, was located a very advanced radar tower and radio station. Allied planes from the aircraft carrier SS San Jacinto were not able to penetrate that area as they were always detected, and with the heavy

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Deployment of anti-aircraft guns, shot down.

The problem persisted until a 20-year-old fighter pilot suggested flying the larger Avenger planes, which were not as maneuverable but could fly over that radar, then dive down, drop the bombs, then head toward allied waters, albeit quite dangerous, as they would be detected as they dived. They decided to go with the young lieutenant's plan.

He would be in the lead plane with two crewmen, with three planes following with similar crews of three. They took off from the carrier and approached the island above the radar, then dived down accurately, releasing the bombs, then made for the ocean, all the while being hit by anti-aircraft fire. All the planes sustained damage. One by one the crews of the three following planes bailed out, ditching their planes, leaving just the lead plane with an engine on fire. As the fire reached past the engine, the lieutenant ordered his two crewmates to parachute out as he held the plane steady for them. This they did, and later the lieutenant did the same, although his parachute got torn from plane damage.

He landed on the ocean okay, opened his small raft, and waited; all the while, enemy planes could be heard. After four hours, he saw a periscope surface. Luckily, it was an allied submarine, the USS Finback, and he was rescued. He was on the submarine for 30 days while it searched the area. The lieutenant felt deep sorrow for the loss of his crewmates and dwelt on why only he survived. Then one of the officers on the sub took him aside and said, 'Maybe, just maybe, you have more to do here. Think in those terms.' The lieutenant thought of that advice and slowly was able to reconcile his feelings and go on with his life. For him, this was a defining moment in his life.

The lieutenant was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic efforts. The name of this 20-year-old was Lieutenant George Herbert Walker Bush - that's right, the 41st President of the United States."



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**THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN FOUNDATION BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS**

will meet on Wednesday, May 27th, at 1:00 p.m., immediately following our weekly club meeting at The Salvation Army.

**THE 2nd ANNUAL LEMONADE STAND** in support of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (<https://www.alexlemonade.org>) will be held on June 12th from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at 1554 Thomas Road, SE, Warren, OH 44484. The event will be hosted by Berk Enterprises. For more information, visit their Facebook event and donation page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/14WU4btbSPq/>  
<https://www.alexlemonade.org/2026/berks-lemonade-stand>

**THE 2026 RIVER DUCK FESTIVAL** is scheduled for Sunday, June 28th! If you know of anyone who might be interested in sponsoring the event, see Cindy Matheson for a sponsorship form. Advertising plans are underway. Lamar has donated two digital billboards, WKBN will be interviewing Cindy Matheson, and *The Tribune* will be running a story. Tickets and ducks are on sale online for those wishing to purchase by credit card. If you would like to pay by cash or check, see Cindy Matheson for a slip to fill out indicating how your money should be allocated. The link for tickets for the July 4th Scrappers Game is also available on our website.

**PRESIDENTS' NIGHT** will be held on Wednesday, July 1st, at CharBenay's Wine on the River, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! If you would like to sponsor the event, please see Treasurer Cheryl Oblinger for a Sponsorship Form and payment.

**CLUB MEETING VENUES:** Our 12:00 Noon Wednesday club meetings will be held at The Salvation Army (270 Franklin St., SE, Warren, OH 44483) on May 27th, and June 3rd, 10th and 24th. On June 17th, we'll be touring St. Vincent de Paul.

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We'll be ordering boxed lunches from Mocha House for one more week on May 27th. If you plan to attend and would like lunch but have not yet ordered, please contact Alicia Adams-Angelo as soon as possible. Both hot and cold sandwich are Available.

**IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT 6650 CONFERENCE:** Since 1985, Rotary has been focused on trying to eradicate polio, with the virus remaining endemic in Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, Rotary clubs have worked with the governments in these countries to do national immunization days (NIDs). In April 2026, 57 million children were immunized. If no new cases are found within the next two years, the entire world will be certified as polio-free!!

**YUMMY!** Many thanks to Julia Wetstein, Cindy Matheson, and Alicia Adams-Angelo for making and sharing some vanilla flavored Rotary Pizzelles with us during this week's meeting!

**THE UNITED STATES OF KINDNESS:** Rotary is partnering with the United States of Kindness, a national campaign encouraging citizens to complete 250 acts of kindness across the country, celebrating America's 250th anniversary. Club members are being asked to track their daily compassion, take photos, and report their daily acts of kindness at [www.usokindness.org](http://www.usokindness.org). List Rotary District 6650 as the organization you are associated with. You can also post pictures on Facebook and tag Rotary District 6650 so the district sees all the impactful things we do. Think about it - this initiative mirrors Rotary's core motto, "Service Above Self" and our "Unite for Good" theme!



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Club of Warren



AMERICA'S  
**250<sup>TH</sup>**

## 2-DAY BIRTHDAY BASH FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY & GIVE BACK TO THE LOCAL CHARITIES THAT MAKE TRUMBULL COUNTY SO GREAT!!

**SUNDAY  
JUNE 28TH**

WARREN AMPHITHEATER |  
PERKINS PARK



SCAN QR  
FOR DUCKS,  
TICKETS & 50/50



OR GO TO:

[WARRENROTARY.ORG](http://WARRENROTARY.ORG)

**ADOPT DUCKS (NOW) TO  
WIN \$500 - 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE  
(\$1200 IN PRIZES)**

DUCK RACE, LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD & GOODS VENDORS  
50/50 & BASKET RAFFLES  
AND JEEP MEET

**DOORS OPEN @ 12 PM**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**\$10-DUCK | 2 FOR \$17.76**

**LOTS OF KID ACTIVITIES!**

**SATURDAY  
JULY 4TH**

7/17 CREDIT UNION FIELD  
AT EASTWOOD



**\$10 UPPER BOX  
TICKET**

SCRAPPERS BASEBALL,  
KID ACTIVITIES  
BASKET RAFFLE,  
AUTOGRAPHED JERSEY AUCTION &  
FIREWORKS

**DOORS OPEN 6 PM  
GAME STARTS @7:05PM**

Event Proceeds Support:



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PROGRAM:  
BRENT RICE,  
ROTARY YOUTH  
EXCHANGE



The Rotary Club of Warren was honored to welcome several District 6650 dignitaries and special guests to our May 20th meeting! Pictured above with our Club President Tony Iannucci are Brent Rice, District 6650 Youth Exchange Chairperson, and Ryan Boyce, incoming District Governor. Also joining us were: Anita Brennan, District 6650 Membership Chair; Steve Simunich, Assistant District Governor; and our prospective Satellite Club Members, Eric Thompson and Melissa Phillips.

Brent Rice earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from Hiram College and an MBA at the University of Akron. His first experience with Rotary was as part of a District 6650 Group Study Exchange team in 2007 which visited Campania and Calabria, Italy. He has been a member of Wooster Rotary since 2008. He has served as the club's PR Chair and was elected to serve as club President during

# W A R R E N N R O T A R Y

the 2016 - 2017 Rotary Year. He currently serves as District Youth Exchange Chair. We were thrilled to have him speak with us this week about the Rotary Youth Exchange Programs.

The Youth Exchange Program began in the 1960s, and today, exchanges for students ages 15 to 19 years of age are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries. 15 districts collaborate on administrative processes for the program, including guiding students into their country selections. With approximately 40 clubs in District 6650, 8,000 of our students travel around the world each year, forming an interconnective web.

Long-term exchanges last a full academic year (10 to 12 months), and students attend local high schools in their country of choice, get involved in extracurricular activities, make new friends, and live with a host family. The short-term program (STEP) involves a family-to-family exchange. In these cases, students share their interests on their application, and they are paired with a family with similar characteristics. They typically stay in the host country for four weeks and then return home. The short-term exchange is not as involved with the schools.

To be eligible for the Youth Exchange Programs, students must be in good health, have good academic and behavioral records, be open-minded, flexible, creative, and inquisitive, and have an interest in learning about other cultures and languages. Some students treat the exchanges as a gap year before attending college. Others spend time away from their home school, sometimes during their senior year, as they see this time as more impactful on their lives.

You might ask why a young adult would want to leave their comfortable home and participate in a program like this. The benefits are numerous. Besides learning about another culture and foreign language, Youth Exchange students develop confidence, independence, and resiliency. They learn to rely on themselves and also develop a new network of support systems. The friendships they make are often lifelong. Finally, the experience gives them a new perspective on their own culture and what it is like to be an American and an Ohioan.

Rotary clubs participate for a variety of reasons as well. Rotarians are provided with an opportunity to host foreign students and/or to sponsor local students who want to go out of the country on an exchange. Clubs can make local students aware of the program, and then a district committee takes over and

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prepares them. The program benefits the local community, providing its young people with an enriching experience. It also aligns with our 4-Way-Test, building goodwill and better friendships, one student at a time, and training young peace ambassadors, one day and one action at a time. Peacebuilding training is something that students can carry into their adult lives.

Long-term Rotary youth exchanges cost the student \$6,000 to \$8,000 for the year, including travel, necessary documents, and supplemental travel opportunities. Short-term exchange students should budget \$3,500 to \$4,500 plus the cost of any extra-curricular activities. It also costs about \$1,500 to purchase travel and medical insurance packages which include benefits regarding parental travel in case of an emergency. 30 day coverage for STEP is less expensive.

Host clubs typically provide a stipend (monthly allowance) of approximately \$100 per month (U.S. dollars) for their students to use on personal spending, transportation, and personal care products. Anyone, Rotarians or non-Rotarians, can host a Youth Exchange student. They are required to complete an application, go through a vetting process, obtain personal references, and complete online training. The district also requires monthly reports. If Rotarians host a foreign student, it is important for fellow club members to be actively involved in inviting the student to various activities, dinner, club meetings, and hosting overnights in order to make the student feel as welcome as possible.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2027 - 2028 Rotary Year. The application deadline is 12/1/2026. Training will commence in January 2027, and students will be sent out on exchanges in August 2027.

**President-Elect Alicia Adams-Angelo is currently forming a committee to assist in organizing the Rotary Club of Warren's involvement in the Youth Exchange Program. If you are interested in joining the committee or assisting in hosting a student, please let Alicia know as soon as possible. A meeting will be scheduled next week, including interested members, spouses and kids, as decisions being made will impact entire families.**

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TRIPLE JACKPOT



This week, the Grand Jackpot totaled \$79.  
Congratulations to Daily Winner Ken LaPolla!

HAPPY BUCKS



- \*\*\* Ken LaPolla was a happy winner!
- \*\*\* Ted Stazak said Ken came in after he did and beat him out of the winning ticket! Ted enjoyed being back at CharBenay's. He offered a Happy Buck for the district dignitaries that joined us this week.
- \*\*\* Scott Lewis was thrilled to visit Williamsburg, Virginia recently for his nephew Dax's graduation and commissioning for the U.S. Army. Dax graduated with honors, and the Commissioning Oath was administered by Robert Gates, former

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United States Secretary of Defense. Congratulations Dax!!

\*\*\* Patti Augustine thought Ray Sinchak's Fellowship story was interesting. She had an uncle on a Naval ship that was sunk.

\*\*\* Mike Wilson reminded us that CharBenay's used to be the SCOPE center. He thanked Diane Sauer for bringing the newspaper article regarding his change in employment to his attention. He's thrilled to be bringing President McKinley to life once again at Mitch and Cindy's Bluegrass Jamboree this weekend. And he offered a Happy Buck for all of his friends in Rotary.

\*\*\* Cindy Matheson enjoyed our speaker and looks forward to the possibility of our club hosting a student. She's excited about her Jamboree this weekend. And she offered a Happy Buck for Mike Wilson and all he did for SCOPE and our community, as well as Eric Thompson, who has been her friend since Kindergarten!

\*\*\* Tony Iannucci offered a Happy Buck for our district representatives and prospective Satellite Club members.

\*\*\* Cheryl Oblinger was glad to have Mark Wetstein join us for our meeting.

