

# Rotary *O-Pinion*

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Meeting each Monday 12:00 p.m. – Owatonna Country Club  
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?

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### **OFFICERS**

**ANN MILLER:** Past President

**TOM PARTRIDGE:** President

**ANNIE HARMAN:** President-Elect

**LOIS NELSON:** Secretary

**BRAD VETTRUS:** Treasurer

**RYAN GILLESPIE:** Assistant District Governor

**KELLEN HINRICHSEN:** President-Elect Nominee

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**FACEBOOK PAGE:** [www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna](http://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna)

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Slieter

Ann Miller

Lois Nelson

Tom Partridge

Lonna Lysne

Ryan Gillespie

Brad Vettrus

Tom Dufresne

Kellen Hinrichsen

Mike Jensen

Glen Meger

John Connor

Annie Harman

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ROTARY IS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES THAT INCLUDE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SO THAT MEMBERS WILL ENGAGE IN SERVICE ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD.**

### PROGRAMS

Jan. 20: Charlie Mandile, Executive Director, Free Clinic

Jan 27: Business Meeting/Erin Baker, Camp Enterprise Attendee

Feb 3: Christina Wright-Peterson, Executive Director: Season's Hospice

Feb. 10: Pearl Randon, United Way Youth Support Coordinator

Feb. 17: Edna Ringhofer: Healthy Seniors

Feb. 24: Business Meeting: Classification Talk and review of Owatonna, 2024: Brad Meier

March 3: Kris Busse: State of the City

March 10: Open

March 17: Open

March 24: Business Meeting

## ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, January 20, 2025

Editor: Todd Hale

**THIS WEEK:** Welcome to Charlie Mandile, Executive Director, Free Clinic

**BIRTHDAYS:** Gregg Draeger, Jan. 20, Glen Meger, Jan. 25

**STUDENT ROTARIANS:** Hannah Parrish, Lily Trager, Logan Langeberg, Brielle Burns, Isabella Schultz

**IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT:** Lea, Belgium

### **NOTES FOR ROTARIANS**

From RI President Stephanie A. Urchick: "If you're looking for that sense of joy in your meetings, don't be afraid to ask yourself and your fellow members some tough questions. If you were a prospective member to our club would you join our current club? It's a powerful question, but don't stop there. Do members of our club feel they belong? Are your meetings fun? When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our club strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

### **AROUND THE SCHOOLS**

\*In case you haven't read it, Owatonna Public Schools Superintendent Jeff Elstad has announced his retirement from public education effective June 30, 2025. During his eight years as OPS superintendent, Elstad has led the staff through the pandemic, and the creation of Owatonna Online, which is now the fastest growing online school in Minnesota. He nurtured business and community partnerships that resulted in the passage of a successful bond that led to the new high school opening in 2023 with the largest amount of donations to a public school district in the state. He is a former member of our club, and is now a member of the morning club.

\*Marc Achterkirch has been named the Region 1AA Activities Director of the Year. Marc is an amazing activities director, coach and mentor to students at Owatonna High. He works extremely hard to ensure successful experiences for our students, coaches and advisors in all of our high school activities and athletics.

So anyway: How true: At age 4, success is not piddling in your pants, At age 12, success is having friends, at age 17, success is having a driver's license, At age 35 and 50, success is having money, At age 70, success is having a driver's license, At age 75. success is having friends, At age 80, success is not piddling in your pants.

I met my wife at a Singles Night. I was surprised because I thought she was at home with the kids.