

# Rotary O-Pinion

## CREATE LASTING IMPACT

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**

**ANNIE HARMAN:** President

**RYAN GILLESPIE:** Assistant District Governor

**TOM PARTRIDGE:** Past President

**BRAD MEIER:** President Elect

**LOIS NELSON:** Secretary

**BRAD VETTRUS:** Treasurer

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

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Olson

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**THE ROTARY CLUB OF OWATONNA IS THE GO TO AND BELONG TO CLUB FOR CONNECTING PROFESSIONALS, EMBODYING SERVICE AND UPLIFTING YOUTH.**

### PROGRAMS

February 2: Deb McManimon: St. Vincent DePaul Society

February 9: Brad Meier, Chamber of Commerce

Feb. 16: Dan Jacott: Manager, Owatonna Country Club

Feb. 23: Rick Heidick, Rotary "Lift" Program

March 2: Amber Aaseth, Public Health Nurse

March 9: Anisha Zak: Junior Achievement

March 16: Open

March 23: Tour: Lakeside Foods

March 30: Patricia McLeese. Greater Rochester Rotary Club and Dist Foundation Chair.

April 6: Jenna Tuma, City Administrator: "State of the City"

April 13: Lon Thiele, Steele County Sheriff

## ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, February 9, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

**THIS WEEK:** ROTARIAN Brad Meier, President of Owatonna Chamber of Commerce

**BIRTHDAYS:** None

**STUDENT ROTARIANS:** Lauren Packard, Attley Klemmenson, Anna Hilgendorf and Lucy Jacobs

**IN-BOUND STUDENT:** Andrea, Italy

### **NOTES FOR ROTARIANS**

**\*FROM RI PRESIDENT FRANCESCO:** "This February, as we observe Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to channel the call to action into real change. Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one's family is not true peace. Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet, fear often blocks that path...fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don't understand."

**\*Brad may elaborate these two major projects for 2026:**

**Mineral Spring Estates:** new residential development on the N.E. side of town near the River Springs Water Park is designed to bring hundreds of diverse housing units (flats, town homes, single-family) to address the city's housing shortage, offering modern living with a mix of ownership and rental options, built in phases to expand Owatonna housing stock and amenities.

**Ascend South:** The younger sibling to the first Ascend project located on Oak Ave. along the Straight River will take shape this year. The building will span from Vine Street to the Firestone building. The building will consist of five floors, including 42 lower-level parking stalls, 3,000 square feet of retail space, 17,000 sq. ft. of office space, and 57 residential apartments. Plans are for demolition of the existing buildings in the spring and construction immediately following.

\*The OHS musical this year is "Les Misérables". Dates are Feb. 26-28: 7 pm., March 1, 1:30 pm, March 5-7: 7:00 p.m.

\*So anyway: Sven and Ole went duck hunting. They worked at it for a couple of hours and finally Sven says, "I vonder why aren't we getting any ducks, Ole?" "I don't know," says Ole. "I vonder if ver throwing the dog high enough."

Thanks to ROTARIAN Mike Jensen for printing and distributing the O'Pinion each week.