

# 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**

**BRAD MEIER:** President

**RYAN GILLESPIE:** Assistant District Governor

**ANNIE HARMAN:** Past President

**Thomas Bottema:** Treasurer

**LOIS NELSON:** Secretary

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

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Miller

Ryan Gillespie

Mike Jensen

Lois Nelson

Brad Vettrus

John Connor

Tom Partridge

Tom Bottema

Annie Harman

Brad Meier

Caleb Whalen

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

## PROGRAMS

June 22: Kat Linaker, President, Riverland College

June 29: Business

July 6: Reane Fry, County Administrator State of the County

July 13: Michael Jon Pease, Incoming District Governor

July 20: Off-site tour of Oak Hill Community Connections

July 27: Business

August 3: Annie Harmon's Story

August 10: Scott Kozelka, Preview of 2026 SCFF

August 17: Open

August 24: Open

August 31: Business

## ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, July 29, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

**THIS WEEK:** It's the end of the ROTARY year and the time to change Presidents. Brad Meier will be sworn in as new President, Thomas Bottama as new Treasurer and John Connor as new Foundation Chair.

**BIRTHDAYS:** None

**IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT:** Andrea, Italy. This is the last week Andrea will be with us. He leaves for home on July 6.

### **NOTES FOR ROTARIANS**

We continually talk about bringing in new members. But what about helping those new arrivals feel welcome, involved and truly a part of the ROTARY family? ROTARY'S research suggests many clubs are falling short in this crucial mission. Only 72% of new members surveyed recently said that they had a mentor to help them get acclimated, with even lower rates reported by women and members older than 70, and only 50% said their club experience met their expectations.

To turn new members into forever members, focus on friendship. "We're not here just to serve; we're here to connect," says club Membership Chair Barbara Najera. "When members become your friends, when you choose to spend time with those folks in or outside of your club, retention kind of takes care of itself.

**FROM RI PRESIDENT FRANCESCO AREZZO:** "As my year as President of RI comes to a close, I offer my heartfelt thanks to each member of our global ROTARY family. Your kindness, warmth and dedication have changed my life. During this past year I had the privilege of traveling across our world. In every place I saw ROTARY members and our partners working side by side to create lasting, positive change, reminding me that our strength lies in shared purpose. You have shown that when we UNITE FOR GOOD, there is no challenge we cannot meet if we stand together. Let us carry this momentum forward with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the safety and prosperity of all."

**NEW MEMBERS APPROVED:** David Berg, Adam Winkels

**MEMBERS DROPPED:** Jim Brunner, Brad Vettrus and Dick Slieter. Special thanks to Brad and Dick for your years of service to our club, and to Jim Brunner who served many years as our Treasurer.

**So Anyway:** Aliens probably ride past earth and lock their doors!