

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?

OFFICERS

BRAD MEIER: President

RYAN GILLESPIE: Assistant District Governor

CALEB WHALEN: President-Elect

ANNIE HARMAN: Past President

THOMAS BOTTEMA: Treasurer

LOIS NELSON: Secretary

FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Miller

Ryan Gillespie

Mike Jensen

Lois Nelson

Tom Bottema

John Connor

Tom Partridge

Caleb Whalen

Annie Harman

Brad Meier

Jessy Grove

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: Renae 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 Harman's Story – "The NICU Survival Kit"

August 10: Scott Kozelka, Preview of 2026 SCFF

August 17: Brian Duncan, Exchange Club "One Nation, Many Stories"

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, July 27, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Business meeting plus we will hear from Patty Hall talking to us about a global grant and also information on the Unite for Water Initiative and her role as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Action Group for 5960.

BIRTHDAYS: Kory Kath, July 28, Thomas Bottema, July 31

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

FROM RI PRESIDENT YINKA: "The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don't just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how ROTARY has shaped who you are. Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here."

ST. PAUL ROTARY CLUB BRINGS BACK ST. PAUL JULY 4 FIREWORKS: For the first time in a decade, St. Paul celebrated the 4th of July with a fireworks show. While it took 10 years to bring the spectacle back, it took organizers just a few months to throw the celebration together. The St. Paul ROTARY Club pulled together the permits, the security, the music, the explosives and the \$125,000 it took to make it all happen in less than five months after deciding in February the group would lead the effort to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary.

After the club donated \$20,000 to kickstart the effort, some 300 donors kicked in more than \$105,000. Most were small gifts between \$20.00 and \$50.00.

By 2018, fireworks were no longer a priority for St. Paul when Maor Melvin Carter decided against a city sponsored fireworks display. Though Carter cited budget constraints, he also put the kibosh on last minute private or corporate fund raising even after the St. Paul Saints and CHS Field offered to line up sponsors. By then, St. Paulites wondered if fireworks would ever come back. The 250th birthday of our country made fireworks feel more important this year for members of the ROTARY Club. The group raced the clock this spring and managed to pull together all the money they needed and more. The fundraising effort exceeded the budget for this year's event, so it is hoped there will be money left over to start organizing the 2027 show. We are so fortunate in Owatonna to have fireworks on the 4th thanks to the members of the Early Edition ROTARY Club.

A reminder that Mega Ride tickets for the upcoming fair are now on sale at the service counter at Hy-Vee. Tickets are \$60.00 and entitle the wearer of the wrist band to unlimited rides on the Gold Star Midway the entire week of the fair. Fair dates are August 18-23.