

# 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](https://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**

July 27: Business

August 3: Annie Harman's Story – "The NICU Survival Kit"

August 10: Scott Kozelka, Preview of 2026 SCFF

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

August 24: Public Safety Facilities: Police and Fire

August 31: Business Meeting

Sept. 7: Labor Day...no mtg

Sept. 14: Rotary LIFT program with Bernis Cunningham, Exec. Dir. of "Planting Change"

## **ROTARY O'PINION**

Monday, August 3, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

**THIS WEEK:** Our own Annie will share the story of her family's nearly 6-month NICU journey and the life lessons it revealed about resilience, grace, humor, and the strength we discover in unexpected places.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Troy Klecker, Aug. 2, Christian Fenstermacher, Aug. 4, Wes Cain, Aug 5.

### **NOTES FOR ROTARIANS**

A message from RI President Yinka: "Storytelling is also an excellent way to recruit new members and raise funds. We need more people standing with us and more resources if we are to end polio, spread peace and have a lasting impact on the world. We have set goal of increasing membership to 1.25 million ROTARIANS by 2030, just in time for ROTARY'S 125th anniversary. We want to "Create Lasting Impact" across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

Owatonna ROTARY is again volunteering at the Aurora Diner during fair week. The date is Wednesday, August 19. Children over the age of 12 are welcome workers too and you get a reduced price on food. The need is for eight individuals working from 2:15-5:30 pm or 5:30 to 9:00 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meetings or contact Lois Nelson: lmn0513@gmail.com.

There will be a number of "block Parties" tomorrow evening in Owatonna. It's that annual Minnesota Night to Unite, a program of the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, designed to: Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts, and to strengthen letting criminals know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

### **Fair notes**

\*The Schmidt family farm owned by Jon Schmidt has been named as this year's Farm Family of the Year. The operation includes 250 milk cows and 250 head of young stock, primarily registered Holsteins with a few registered Jerseys. Schmity Holsteins is located in Meriden Township. For five generations the Schmidt family has been dedicated to dairy farming. Jon Schmidt is the owner and the farm is managed almost entirely by the Schmidt family. Jon's parents, Myron and Sandy Schmidt, continue to live on the farm. The Schmidt children, Steven and Jacob, work on the farm full time assisting with milking and field work.

\*Honored and inducted into the Equine Hall of Fame this year will be Roger and Erin Pittman. They have raised and exhibited Clydesdales.

\*Anyway: Ad in the newspaper: Help Wanted...now hiring people that show up