

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

PROGRAMS

Sept. 28: Meet the Candidates School Board...Lunch at 11:30

Oct. 5: Meet the candidates" City At Large & Ward 3...Lunch at 11:30

Oct. 12: Meet the Candidates: City Ward 1 and Ward 5...Lunch at 11:30

Oct. 19: Meet the Candidates: State Rep. and State Senate...Lunch at 11:30

Oct 26: Meet the Candidates: Congressional, District 1....Lunch at 11:30

Nov. 2: Steele County, District 1 and 2...Lunch at 11:30

Nov. 9: Alfred Zdrazil

Nov. 16: Open

Nov. 23: Ethan Rindfleisch, Public Health Specialist

ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, October 5, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Meet the candidates for City At Large and Ward 3. Welcome to our guests.

BIRTHDAYS: Dennis VonRuden, Oct 5

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT: Fredericka: Italy

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

*The ROTARY INTERNATIONAL Convention is in Barcelona, Spain...June 26-30

*FROM RI PRESIDENT YINKA: "If we hope to create Lasting Impact, the kind that resounds for generations, we will need more people standing beside us to help carry out our work forward. Let us come together, not only this month, but every month of every year, to make ROTARY stronger, more joyful, and more like the family it has always been to me."

LOOKING BACK

One just doesn't smell the enticing aroma of a pipe anymore. I sporadically smoked a pipe during my college years and for a number of years after I arrived in Owatonna. Actually, the aroma of someone else's pipe was more alluring than the actual act. My business partner, Jerry Boos (a former ROTARIAN) was probably the most expert pipe smoker that I ever met. He could make a pipe full of tobacco last longer than anyone I knew. His favorite pipe was made of a corn cob. The Pool Hall always had a selection of corn cob pipes on their counter.

I finally relented! I went over to the Pool Hall to buy my own corn cob pipe. They also had a selection of tobacco for pipes. Boo's favorite was Cherry so I bought a pack. I would always overdo it and as a result my tongue burned so bad I could hardly talk! My wife would become irritated with the small holes in my shirts from coals that fell out of my pipe. So, I'd put the pipe away for a month or so until my tongue healed up and I got the urge to try again.

Boos would smoke a pipe until the crust on the inside of the bowl was so thick there was barely room for new tobacco! "That's when it tastes the best," he'd tell me. "They smoke cooler when you have that buildup".

Back in those days, we allowed smoking in the radio station. I found it awkward to smoke my pipe when I was on the air. About the time I got the pipe going, I had to put it down to talk. Then the pipe would go out and I had to re-light.

Yes, I enjoyed smoking a pipe but I recall that I appreciated the aroma from someone else's pipe other than my own! Every time I cleaned my pipe and saw that brown yuck come out, I figured that was lungs looked like. So, I found it best to retire the pipe. I remember a lot of my friends (some deceased) that smoked a pipe. I can remember Ron Schleif, Virgil Schroeder, Chuck Hosfield, Claire Peterson, Marshall Webster, John I Pirkel, Dusty Rhoades, Eddie Skalicky, and Julius Stark, just to name a few.