

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

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FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/RotaryClubofOwatonna

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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, Oct. 19, 2026

Editor: Todd Hale

THIS WEEK: Meet the Candidates for State Representative and State Senate

BIRTHDAYS: Dave Klawiter: Oct. 24

IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT: Frederica: Italy

NOTES FOR ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

***FROM RI PRESIDENT YINKA:** "The final mile for ending polio can be the hardest. But we have walked too far, worked too hard, and protected too many children to stop here. Let us remember why we began. Let us listen to those who have experienced polio. Let us be the generation that creates lasting impact and ensures no one experiences polio again!"

*Collecting donations for women's shelters, shows how ROTARY'S Action Plan can guide even small clubs to expand their reach, increase engagement, and adapt to community needs. The project began five years ago when ROTARIAN Leanne Jaggs read about an Australian Club's handbag initiative in *Rotary Down Under* magazine. The initial goal was modest: collect 50 gently used handbags, fill them with essentials, and donate them to a women's shelter.

What started as a one-time project has evolved into an annual initiative, allowing the club to refine its approach and better serve the community. Items in the bags have changed based on feedback from the community. We started off with soaps, shampoo etc" Jaggs explains. "Some years we've concentrated on more feminine hygiene after hearing that was the need." One year, to support job-seeking efforts, the club selected bags appropriate for interviews and business settings.

*Another successful and well attended "Hotdish Hootnanny". Thanks to all who helped, volunteered, cooked and made the project successful.

*Note that there is an open date for a program on Nov. 16. Let ROTARIAN Todd know if you have a suggestion.

*The Owatonna Hospital Auxiliary invites all ROTARIANS to their upcoming Holiday Bazaar at St. John Lutheran Church this Friday from 8 am to 4 pm and Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm. Looking for Halloween costumes? They will have them. Vendors include hand-crafted sewn items, a bake sale, Apparel outlet, Sheets Galore, DHS Hope Co (homemade bath, body & hair products and candles), Neighbor's Meats, Lefse and Candullo's Coffee. Proceeds will be used for unfunded items at the hospital and scholarships for those students entering the medical field.