

# Rotary O-Pinion

## UNITE FOR GOOD

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**

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**RYAN GILLESPIE:** Assistant District Governor

**TOM PARTRIDGE:** Past President

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**LOIS NELSON:** Secretary

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

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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

November 24: Business Meeting/Classification: Ray Stawerz

December 1: Paul Harris/Vern White Luncheon

December 8: Robert Jarrett, County Attorney

December 15: OHS Carolers and Annual Meeting

December 22: No Meeting

December 29: No Meeting

January 5: Anisha Zak, Junior Achievement

January 12: Open

January 19: Open

January 26: Business

## ROTARY O'PINION

Monday, December 1, 2025

Editor: Todd Hale

**THIS WEEK:** Welcome to all our guests this week. This is the annual Paul Harris/Vern White Luncheon. Our recipient of the Harris/White award is Tim Penny.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Diane Holland, December 6

**DECEMBER ROTARY STUDENTS:** William Meyman, Eric Xie, Harrison Liedtke

**IN-BOUND EXCHANGE STUDENT:** Andrea from Italy

### NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS AND ROTARIANS

\*Tim Penny, our honoree this year, was Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's President/CEO from 2007 to 2025 when he retired. Penny's extensive background complements SMIF's key interests, including early childhood and entrepreneur development.

Penny represented Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1982-1994. Previously he was a member of the Minnesota State Senate from 1976-1982. Most recently, Penny was Senior Counselor at Himie Horner, a Twin Cities-based public affairs firm, and a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute.

As a member of the Minnesota Senate, Penny served as vice-chair of the Transportation and Finance Committee. While in Congress, Penny served on the Education and Labor, Agriculture and Veteran's Affairs committees. He chaired the sub-committee on Veterans' Education and Training and the Foreign Agriculture and Hunger Subcommittee.

Through his congressional career, Penny placed an emphasis on budget issues. He chaired the Democratic Budget Group as well as the Porkbuster's Coalition.

Penny has co-authored three books: Common Cents; The 15 Biggest lies in Politics and Payment Due. He was born and raised in southeastern Minnesota and was Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve.

We welcome all of the members of Tim's family as our special guests.

\*Vern White was a native Owatonna. He was active in numerous organizations in Owatonna including co-chairing of the Pool Committee. It was through his leadership in this and many other organizations that Owatonna has been a better place to live. Today we welcome Vern's wife, Patsy, as well as other members of his family.

The Owatonna High School Christmas Carolers will appear at ROTARY on December 15. A reminder that the 15th is the annual meeting. There will be no ROTARY meetings on December 22nd and 29th.