

# Rotary O-Pinion

## IMAGINE ROTARY

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

**GLEN MEGER** Past President  
**BRAD VETTRUS** Secretary

**ANN MILLER** President  
**JIM BRUNNER** Treasurer

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Slieter  
Ann Miller  
Lois Nelson  
Todd Hale

Dave Effertz  
Lonna Lysne  
Ryan Gillespie

Jim Brunner  
Mike Jensen  
Glen Meger  
Brad Vettrus

**THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF ROTARY IS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES THAT INCLUDE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES SO THAT MEMBERS WILL ENGAGE IN SERVICE ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD.**

### PROGRAMS

February 20: Steve Wencil, Blooming Prairie Stills

February 27: Club Business...Annie Harmon, Associate Editor, Owa. People's Press

**(MEETING AT TOREYS! - 2/27/2023)**

March 6: Michele Merxbauer, Exec. Director: South Central Human Relations Center

March 13: Rick Bussler, publisher, Blooming Prairie Times

March 20: Dr. Jason Wray Raabole: Owatonna Clinic update

March 27: Club Business: Annual Mtg.

April 3: Liz Andrist: "Let Africa Live"

April 10: Jen Swanson: Principal: St. Mary's

April 17: Jeff Elstad, Superintendent of Public Schools

April 24: Kaia (Duffus) Liang: 2006 Outbound Student to India, lived in China the last 7 years

May 1: Owatonna Foundation

May 8: Jared Hendricks, Energy Conservation Officer, Owatonna Public Utilities (addressing solar energy)

May 15: Open

May 22: Club Business

May 29: No meeting...Memorial Day

## ROTARY OPINION

Monday, February 27, 2023

Editor: Todd Hale

**THIS WEEK:** Monthly business meeting, plus new member Annie Harman, Associate Editor, Owatonna People's Press. Besides telling about herself, Annie will address fake news. **(MEETING AT TOREYS!)**

**BIRTHDAYS:** Jeff Mundale and Ryan Gillespie, March 2,

**STUDENT ROTARIANS:** Last week for Allison and Kaitlyn Wasieleski, Kassidy Hart, Taylor Busho and Emily Jacobs

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

**NEXT MONTH'S STUDENT ROTARIANS:** Joe Hellerud, Paiton Glynn, Ty Svenby and Drew Kretlow

### NOTES FOR ROTARIANS

This is the last week of the District "Share the Love" Campaign promoting the importance of giving to the ROTARY FOUNDATION ANNUAL-SHARE FUND. The SHARE THE LOVE CAMPAIGN rewards giving in the month of February with matching point incentives for Paul Harris Fellow awards. Last year our club set a new record for contributions.

So, this week is the time to make your contribution to the ROTARY FOUNDATION. Give it to ROTARIANS Dick Slieter or Jim Brunner.

A REMINDER THAT OUR CLUB'S ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE MARCH 27. RESERVE THAT DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR TO BE SURE AND BE HERE.

A bit of Owatonna History for ROTARIANS. This past Saturday was the anniversary date when Owatonna said "farewell" to its mobilized units of the 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry in 1941. The unit was known as the "Red Bull Division" and its members were leaving for a year of field training at Camp Claiborne, LA. A throng of close to 2,000 milled about the special train which had stopped at Union Station on Front Street to watch the soldiers depart. It was a sharp, cold February night. The Elks Band played lively marches and patriotic songs. Members of the American Legion Post and the Elk's Lodge led the farewell parade from the Armory downtown to the train station. The train of three baggage and three kitchen cars, ten tourist Pullmans and one standard Pullman traveled by way of Chicago, Memphis and Shreveport to the camp.

Joe Racek of Owatonna was the Platoon Sergeant who vividly remembered the day. "We marched them over to the train. Families were crying, the boys were crying, girlfriends were crying. Guys were crawling out the windows of the train to get that last kiss from their girl friends or family members.

The Owatonna Police Department continues to deal with Catalytic Converter thefts. If you see a suspicious vehicle casing parking lots, someone getting in and out of their vehicle, hear a power tool, or see someone underneath a vehicle nearby, please get a suspect vehicle description and plate number and report it to the Owatonna Police.

### SO ANYWAY

80-year-old Bessie bursts into the rec room at the retirement home. She holds her clenched fist in the air and announces, "Anyone who can guess what's in my hand can make love with me tonight!" An elderly gentleman in the rear shouts out, "An elephant?" Bessie thinks a minute and says, "Close enough."