



Welcome
To
West Bend
Noon
Rotary

Service above Self

Dear Fellow Rotarian –

Welcome to the West Bend Noon Rotary. In this Welcome Packet, we will try and give you all the information you need to immediately feel welcomed and comfortable with your fellow Rotarians. However, if this does not answer a question you may have, please do not hesitate to ask it of any member.

History

Courtesy of Joe Huber

The West Bend Rotary Club began in 1925, under the sponsorship of the Hartford Rotary Club. Twenty-one made up the charter group. Among them were B.C. Ziegler, Arthur H. Klumb, John W. Gehl and Joseph J. Huber, all fathers or relatives of present Noon Rotarians. The first president was attorney Frank W. Bucklin.

In common with all Rotary Clubs, West Bend Rotarians supported many charitable and community activities, both on an individual and a group basis. In the early 1930's, the club was involved, for example, with the West Bend Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce, in a successful effort to secure a larger and more suitable building for the city Post Office. In 1929, the club sponsored the Port Washington charter. During the early 1940's, West Bend Rotary was also instrumental in sponsoring a number of International Institutes of Understanding, during which speakers focused on the world outside West Bend. In 1939, the Wisconsin American Legion started the Badger Boys State program, a one week experience in government for Wisconsin's high school boys. Since its inception, West Bend Rotary has sent boys to this valuable program each year and now also sends girls. Other youth outreach efforts over the years included: Career Days at the high school; World Affairs Seminars; Business World, a program of student-business interaction; weekly student guests from the high schools and the university center; and active involvement in student exchange programs through the RI and Group Study Exchange. West Bend Rotary also sponsored Boy Scout Troop 21, Sea Scout Ship 141 and currently is sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop at the Threshold.

In 1984, the club set up the Rotary Waterways Foundation to secure selected land parcels suitable for addition to the West Bend and Washington County park systems. To date, the Waterways Foundation has been instrumental in securing additions to Ridge Run Park and other park lands. The club underwrote the first Riverwalk Project from Regner Park to Washington Street. It now reaches beyond Highway G and recently expanded to Barton. These efforts were made using both private and government resources. The Waterways Foundation continues to research additional projects for the benefit of the community.

In 1972, the club began honoring fellow members with honorary Paul Harris Fellowships, named in honor of Rotary's founder. The Fellowships are awarded to members in recognition of their contributions to the club and community. The funds are donated to the Rotary Foundation by the club itself. To date, 61 individuals have been so honored as Honorary Paul Harris Fellows.

1972 was also the year that the club began its annual Fish Boil fundraiser which were patterned after the famous Door County Fish Boils and was originally held at the Bernie Ziegler Farm. Times change and it was re-christened as the Shrimp Boil and is now held at Ridge Run Park to accommodate larger crowds. Proceeds from this fundraiser are used to fund various Rotary projects on a district and international level.

Seafood Fest began in 1991 and is held in Regner Park. The proceeds from this 3 day festival primarily fund the Waterways Foundation.

International understanding continues to be a priority of Rotary, and the West Bend Club is active in this area through vigorous support of the Paul Harris Foundation and through cooperation with District 6270. PolioPlus, water wells in Haiti, wellness clinics, and a garden tractor plant in India are among the club's most recent projects.

Over the years, the club has published a bulletin – the earliest on record was the Rotary "Spokesman", published in 1944 on a quarterly basis. The early bulletins listed names of guests, programs and make-up's as well as program and project plans for the future. The club bulletin was re-established in the late 1960's as the monthly Rotary Key, changed to the weekly Rotary Update, and recently renamed "The Key".

Finding a "home" for club meetings became a moving experience. The West Bend Rotary's first home was at the Washington House. The club subsequently located to the Masonic Temple, the Moose Hall on the third floor of the former Merten Building on Main Street, the VFW clubhouse on the corner of 6th and Walnut, the basement of the Masonic Temple, the Moraine Hotel and back to the Washington House. Just before it moved to its present location on the Cedar Ridge Campus, the club met at the West Bend Inn.

The Sunrise Rotary did not split off from the Noon Rotary, but was chartered as many individuals who wished to join Rotary could not attend at noon and so in 1991 the Sunrise Rotary was chartered, and we became the West Bend Noon Club.

Many of our members have served at the Rotary District level. Among these was D.J. Kenny who served as District Governor from 1940-1941.

West Bend and Rotary have worked together for nearly 80 years of mutual growth and progress toward a better community and a better world. Throughout the years, our club and its members have striven to exemplify Service above Self through individual, group and financial support for a wide variety of local and international projects. Through our membership in the ever growing fellowship of Rotary International, the opportunities for service also continue to grow.

Charter Members – 1925

Thomas Bruhy - Herbert Fuge - J.W. Gehl - A.H. Klumb - Dr. A.H. Heidner - Matthew Regner - Henry Regner - G.B. Rusco - Harlan Clark - C.W. Walters - B.C. Ziegler - D.E. McLane - Walter Kuehlthau - Louis Kuehlthau - F.W. Bucklin - H.B. Kaempfer - J.J. Huber - Walter Gehl - O.P. Klein - Edwin Pick - R.H. Rolfs

What is expected of membership?

You are expected to have a good time and enjoy the social interaction of fellow members of the West Bend community. However, there are some “obligations”. You are expected to regularly attend the meetings which are held each week. Unless you really have an important engagement elsewhere, in consideration of the Program Speaker, please remain throughout the entire meeting.

Time & Location: Monday from 12:00 Noon until 1:15 PM at the Top of the Ridge, the restaurant on the 3d floor of the Cedar Ridge Campus, 113 Cedar Ridge Drive (off Scenic Drive).

Attendance: One may be dropped from the club for 3 consecutive absences. Leaves of absence may be obtained for extenuating circumstances.

Dues: Club dues are billed quarterly and are \$125 per quarter.

Never Say No: When tasked for a project or asked to be on a committee, fellow Rotarians never say no. Try and enter into this understanding that this is an adjunct to the Rotary Motto “Service above Self”.

What happens at a meeting?

A buffet lunch is served and members are encouraged to sit with different members and get to know them during this time. After a passage of time, the meeting formally opens with a prayer. Members are encouraged to sign up as a Prayer Leader and for those that need a little help, ask the President about the Book of Prayers. The prayer is followed by the Song Leader who will lead the members in a Patriotic Song, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then a fun song. Members with birthdays, anniversaries and membership celebrations will be honored, followed by the Secretary’s Report, Kitty Kettle, announcements and

the Program. Members who have not finished lunch may continue to eat during the announcements and program.

What is Kitty Kettle?

Kitty Kettle is a fun fundraiser in which various members are recognized for appearing in the local papers or in some other ingenious, usually humorous, manner by the person responsible for the Kitty Kettle that week. Those recognized are expected to contribute a dollar to the Kitty Kettle. At the end of Kitty Kettle, those members with “guilt money” can make their announcements. Usually these announcements have nothing to be ashamed of!! Members will be randomly assigned a month of responsibility to the Kitty Kettle (Members of the Kitty Kettle Committee). If asked by the person responsible for that month’s Kitty Kettle, gather your courage and say “yes”.

What are Noon Rotary’s Main Events?

Seafood Fest: Normally held in the first weekend of June in Regner Park, this three day festival is the major fundraiser for the Noon Rotary’s Waterways Foundation. There are many functions to be accomplished in this event and members are expected to contribute their time and effort, and we will greatly appreciate the time and effort of family members. The major functions are headed by a “tent captain” who is responsible for getting supporting help. If you do not volunteer for a function, you will be assigned duties on an “as needed” basis. Seek out a Tent Captain and volunteer early in order to get the duty and shift you desire. You are responsible to sell 8 tickets totaling \$160. Meetings of the Seafood Fest Committee are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 11:00 AM in the 2nd floor conference room of the Cedar Ridge Campus before the regular meeting and attendance counts as a make-up.

Shrimp Boil: Normally held in August, this one day event takes place in Ridge Run Park and is not quite as large an affair. Duty assignments are similar to those for Seafood Fest. You are responsible for selling 8 tickets totaling \$108.

Hole in One Tournament: Normally held on the same week as Shrimp Boil, this is another fundraiser in which members are expected to fill numerous duty positions during the day. There are normally three shifts each day. You are not assigned any tickets to sell.

What is a Make-up?

Members may make-up missed regular meetings by visiting other Rotary clubs and also attending other Noon Rotary meetings such as a Board of Director Meeting (1st Monday of the month at 11 AM), Seafood Fest Committee Meeting (2nd Monday of the month at 11 AM), and Waterways Foundation Meeting (4th Monday of the month at 11 AM). Members need to tell the committee secretary

of their attendance. If one is visiting another club's meeting, one needs their Secretary to execute a visitor form and turn it into our Secretary for credit.

What do I do as a Visitor to Another Club?

Visiting Rotarians are always welcome as a guest at other clubs and one does not need to make arrangements ahead of time. As mentioned above, one needs to check in with the Secretary and have them execute a visitor's form for you to turn in to our Secretary so you will receive credit for a make-up. You are also responsible for paying for your meal. If you are visiting a far flung or international club, check with our Secretary and obtain a West Bend Noon Rotary banner to give to the club you are visiting.

What do I do if I bring a Guest?

Guests are always welcome to a Rotary meeting. Check in with our Secretary and execute a Guest Form. You are responsible for paying for your guest which may be billed on your next quarterly statement. You will be asked to introduce your guest during the Secretary's Report.

How are Committee members selected?

Membership to a committee is decided by the Board of Directors. The "never say no" doctrine is essential here. If any member wishes to be on a committee, please make it know to the Board or the President.

What is the Rotary Foundation?

The mission of the Rotary Foundation is to support the efforts of Rotary International in the fulfillment of the Object of Rotary, Rotary Mission and the achievement of world understanding and peace through local, national and international humanitarian, educational and cultural programs. Members are encouraged to donate to the Foundation. Members who give \$1,000 become Paul Harris Fellows, named after the founder of Rotary. Each year an outstanding Rotarian or member of the community is recognized for their outstanding contributions to West Bend and a \$1,000 donation in their name is donated to the Rotary Foundation by the Noon Chapter. One can contribute \$100 per year and the Club will match the first \$100 contribution. November is Rotary Foundation Month. Jim Spella is our local club chairperson.

Who is responsible for the Weekly Programs?

If you are lucky enough to be selected to the Program Committee, you will be responsible for coming up with a month's worth of programs. Programs should be of general interest to the membership and informative.

Who are the Rotary Students?

Outstanding students at West Bend High School are asked by the school to be our guests at lunch. They do not need to have any Rotary connection to be so honored. They visit for two consecutive meetings and give a short talk about themselves on the second meeting. Each year the chapter also sponsors an international exchange student and the student visits frequently during the year.

What is a Classification Speech?

Rotary classifies their members generally by their occupation. This is your "classification". As a new member, in order for the membership to get to know you better, you will be asked to give a brief "classification speech". The speech should emphasize your occupation, but also give a brief background of yourself and your interests and hobbies.

What is the Waterways Foundation?

Our chapter has been a leader in developing parks in West Bend. The primary focus for the Waterways Foundation is improving and maintaining the West Bend Riverwalk. The Waterways Committee meets monthly on the 4th Monday of each month. Attendance at this meeting constitutes a make-up.

What is The Key?

The Key is the Noon Rotary weekly newsletter. It announces the programs and other information such as greeters, prayer leaders, Kitty Kettle and song leaders up to 3 weeks in advance. It announces weekly birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations (anniversary of membership). It contains other announcements as needed and if you have an announcement, please submit it to the editor. The current editor is Richard Blakely and he can be contacted by phone at 306-1186 or by e-mail at rblakely44@earthlink.net. After you join, he will ask you for some biographic information to run in the "Meet Your New Noon Rotarian" feature.

Does Noon Rotary have a Website?

You can find the Noon Rotary Website at www.westbendnoonrotary.org.