



*Celebrating 40 Years of Service  
To the Community  
Rotary Club of White Bear Lake*

*Meetings  
Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.  
Hybrid - at Rudy's Redeye  
Grill and via Zoom*



**December 8, 2021**

**PROGRAM:** Ellen Schreder &  
Gymp's Sunel, Mango Haiti Farm

**CHAIR:** Patty Hall

**CLASSIFICATION:** Jim Muellner

**MERCHANT MINUTE:** Lynn Dahle,  
Auto Glass MN

**INVOCATION/INSPIRATION:**  
Bob Gehrke

**WRITER:** Darrell Stone

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Wednesday Morning Meetings are Hybrid—in person at Rudy's Redeye Grill or via Zoom.

Topic: White Bear Lake Club Meeting  
Social Time starts at 7:15 a.m.; Actual meeting starts at 7:30 a.m. and finish by 8:30 a.m.

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87159321038>  
Meeting ID: 871 5932 1038

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WBL Rotary Club Celebrates 5:01- NOW  
CALLED 4:01- at Rudy's. Join us for end-of-week social time with Rotarian friends.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Ken Galloway** reported that all major sponsors for the 2022 Bear'ly Open are locked in! Polar Bear sponsors and auction sponsors are still being sought. He hopes that there will be interest this year in having a Rotary tent at the event.

The December 4 Braver Angels workshop has been postponed. **Jeanne Hartle** explained that the extremely high numbers of Covid cases coupled with multiple events competing for time during the holiday season, held people back from registering for this workshop. We will re-visit bringing it to the White Bear Lake area next Spring. In the meantime, visit [braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org) or [braverangels.org/mn](http://braverangels.org/mn) for other online programs.

**Steve Griffith** reported that the Board has approved the establishment of a new satellite club: the Northeast Metro Club, that will meet the first and third Thursday each month at 6:00 PM. He invited Rotarians to visit this club if interested to learn more.

**Jackie Reis** reported that the Minnow Tank coaches at Willow Elementary are having fun! We are looking for judges on December 20 from 12-2 to hear and rate the student presentations on their selected charities.

**PROGRAM NOTES FROM 12/1/21: Jane Graupman, Executive Director  
International Institute of Minnesota**

The International Institute, located on Como Avenue in St. Paul, has been providing comprehensive services to New Americans for over 100 years. Their services and resources seek to empower New Americans (*immigrants and refugees*) in the pursuit of their goals. In 2021, it will have served over 4,000 people from more than 100 countries. It's a diverse and busy place.

The Institute is one of five organizations in Minnesota (4 in the Twin Cities; 1 in southern Minnesota) involved in refugee resettlement. Thirty years ago when Jane became involved with the Institute, refugees waited 2-3 years before being able to leave their camps; today the wait to resettle can be as long as twenty years. Today there are 24-25 million people with refugee status as determined by the United Nations.

Refugee levels in the U.S. have been low since 2017 resulting in the dismantling of the infrastructures of resettlement agencies. However, the ceiling for 2022 has increased to 125,000 arrivals (up from about 85,000), with 1,900 predicted to arrive in Minnesota. Individuals from the Congo, followed by those from Ethiopia, and Burma will make up the majority of this number coming to Minnesota. Agencies are in the process of building back up their program capacities to meet the needs of this significant increase in new Americans.

**-See more notes on the next page of this Bulletin-**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Read how Rotary clubs will help communities with COVID 19 vaccine ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org))

Fighting disease is one of Rotary's main causes, so members already support efforts to promote proper hand washing techniques, teach people other ways to stay healthy, and supply training and vital medical equipment to health care providers. Now they're helping health authorities communicate lifesaving information about COVID-19 and donating protective gear and other supplies to clinics and hospitals that are under strain because of the pandemic.

Members are also ramping up efforts to help communities navigate the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic: vaccines. Rotary will tap into its decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication, to highlight the power and efficacy of vaccines. Rotary's tenacity, strategic partnerships, and innovation can all support the effort to protect communities from COVID-19.

**YEAR-END DONATIONS**

**If Rotarians want to make end-of-year contributions to the Rotary/Paul Harris Foundation, and you want it sent through our club, we need the check by December 13 (and notify Marlyce) that you are doing this. Contact Curt Akenson or Marlyce Paulson with questions.**

**Program Notes from 12/1/21: Jane Graupman, Executive Director  
International Institute of Minnesota**

The United States has a history of humanitarianism and until 2017 resettled more refugees each year than the rest of the world combined. Until the 1980 Refugee Act, which put federal and state level resettlement systems in place, refugees were referred to as “displaced people”. Individuals and families are awarded refugee status before coming to the U.S. after at least two years of “vetting” – from 9 federal agencies, including 17 security vettings, and extensive health screening, DNA testing, etc.

In the last few months, 359 Afghanis (97 families) have been resettled in Minnesota—single individuals as well as families of 8-10 people. Because of their long exposure to Americans in Afghanistan, they have integrated quickly. While previously Afghanis arrived in Minnesota under the SIV (special immigration visa) program, today’s arrivals are known as “parolees” because of the urgency in leaving their country, with no time for the necessary vetting. Most (95%) come to reunite with family members already in Minnesota.

How do they build a new life? Refugees receive 90 days of case management services; a one-time resettlement grant of \$1,050 per person; a loan (that must be repaid) for the plane ticket; and a requirement that they find employment as soon as possible.

Resettlement services address housing, employment, school enrollment, health care, public health, food support, documents like Social Security and work permits, English classes, community orientation, familiarity with public transportation. The goals are to provide safety and security and the tools necessary to build independence, to work towards self-sufficiency, and to integrate within the community. More than 84% of new Americans become citizens; 57% own houses; and 13% start businesses; they become valued members of our Minnesota communities.

Quickly after their arrival, new Americans add to the U.S. tax base through their employment. A study found that 97% of new workers in Minnesota from 2016 to 2017 were immigrants. The labor force ranges in age from 25-54; 61% of new Americans are in this age range while the national average is 32%. Neal Kashkari, head of the Minneapolis federal bank, has stated that the most efficient and cost-effective way to grow our economy and to address the labor shortage is through immigration.

A highly successful workforce development program led by the International Institute is their medial careers pathway. Nursing assistants are trained and placed with more than 120 employer partners; the average one-year job retention rate is 94%. Financial assistance is available for many to continue on to become R.N.s.

The International Institute is undergoing a major building expansion effort and is scheduled to re-open in spring 2022. They would welcome visitors and volunteers after that time.

NOTE: If you are at the airport and see a family with a bag that has the initial I O M, they are immigrants just arriving in the U.S. Welcome them!

Thank you, Jane!

*Writer of the week: Jackie Reis*

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
“Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, with the same hopes and ambitions as us...”  
— Khaled Hosseini

**ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST:**  
⇒ Is it the truth?  
⇒ Is it fair to all concerned?  
⇒ Will it build good will and better friendships?  
⇒ Will it be beneficial to all concerned?  
**IS IT FUN?**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**  
  
**December 15: Giving Hope in Difficult Times**  
**Pastor(s) Art Hancock, Bill Eaves, Bob Gehrke**  
**Chairperson: Mike Lovett**  
**Classification: Kelley Skumautz**  
**Club Elections for Rotary Year 2022-2023**  
**Invocation/Inspiration: Bill Eaves**  
**Writer: Carol Nelson**

**REMINDER: There will be NO ROTARY MEETINGS on December 22 & 29**

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN 2022:**  
**January 5: Club Assembly:**  
**Reflections & Looking Forward**  
**Chairperson: Mike Lovett & Bob Timmons**  
**Classification: None**  
**Invocation/Inspiration: Steve LaLiberte**  
**Writer: Dick Galena**

**January 12: Jackie Reis presents Leigh Anderson, Minnow Tank Project**  
**January 26: Ken Baltzer presents: Gretchen Harriman**

**MAIL OR PHONE CLUB NEWS TO THE  
WBL ROTARY OFFICE:  
MARLYCE PAULSON  
P. O. BOX 10809 WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN  
55110**

**OFFICE: 651.738.3022**  
**E-MAIL: WBLROTARY1@COMCAST.NET**  
**WEB SITE: WHITEBEARROTARY.ORG**  
**BEAR BULLETIN DEADLINE: FRIDAY,  
5 P.M.**

**WBL ROTARY PODCASTS:  
WWW.WBLROTARY.PODBEAN.COM**  
**OR GO TO: ITUNES AND TYPE IN  
WBLROTARY**

**WBLROTARY TEAM MEETINGS—**  
**BOARD MEETINGS:** Meets 4th Tuesday of month, 7a.m.  
**CLUB SERVICE TEAM:** Meets 2nd Tuesday of month, 7a.m.  
**COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM:** Meets last Wednesday of month, 12 o'clock noon  
**EQUITY & INCLUSION TEAM:** Meets first Friday, 8:30 a.m..  
**FUNDRAISER TEAM:** Meets immediately following Wednesday meeting (seasonal)  
**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TEAM:** Meets 2nd Thursday of month, 7 a.m.  
**MEMBERSHIP TEAM:** Meets 3rd Tuesday of month, 7:30 a.m.  
**PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM:** Meets 3rd Thursday, 8:30 a.m.  
**VOCATIONAL SERVICE TEAM:** Meets 1st Thursday of month, 7 am  
**2021-22 Officers/Directors**  
**President..... Michael Lovett**  
**President-Elect ... Bob Timmons**  
**Past President .... Pat McClernon**  
**Treasurer ..... Ashley Filipovich**  
**Secretary ..... Kevin Donovan**  
**Exec. Secretary ... Marlyce Paulson**  
**Public Image ..... Kevin Donovan**  
**Bob Timmons**  
**Rotary Foundation. Curt Akenson**  
**Community Service. Darrell Stone**  
**John Channon**  
**Vocational Service Derrek Skeie**  
**Ryan Boog**  
**Club Service ..... Pam Tschida**  
**Craig McNulty**  
**Membership .....Greg Bartz**  
**Miriam VanDuuren**  
**International .... Patty Hall**  
**Fred Treiber**  
**Equity & Inclusion....Jackie Reis**  
**Kevin Donovan**  
**Youth Exchange .. Tim Wald**  
**Bulletin Writers ... Mark Sather**  
**Darrell Stone**  
**Greg Young**  
**Dick Galena**  
**Bob Timmons**  
**Jim Rathburn**  
**Jackie Reis**  
**Carol Nelson**  
**Invocations .... Rich Ramsay**  
**Bill Rust**  
**Bob Gehrke**  
**Steve LaLiberte**  
**Rita Pechmann**  
**Bill Eaves**  
**Art Hancock**  
**Carol Nelson**