



# "The Downtowner"

KIWANIS CLUB OF ROCHESTER, Rochester, MN  
July 2024

[www.kiwanisroch.org](http://www.kiwanisroch.org)

**The Kiwanis Club of Rochester meets at noon every Thursday in the Meeting Room at the Eagles, 917 15<sup>th</sup> St. SE**

Meetings last about one hour. Lunch is served including an entree, side, dessert and drink for (\$14.00 )

## Programs for July

July 4 - no meeting

July 11 - no meeting - Roger Krsnak memorial - Bethel Lutheran Church

July 18 - Kathy Davis, volunteer at 125 Live

July 25 - Christy Flanagan, Soldiers Field Memorial Foundaton

### Circle of Service for July

Colleen Maddox

### Circle of Service for August

Don Borcharding

### Circle of Service for September

Del Lawson



Thanks to all who helped with our multi-Club garage sale – especially to Austin, Dee Dee and daughter, Sue. We were able to raise over \$3,300 along with donations to Re-Store (Habitat for Humanity), Savers, Seasons Hospice, and Goodwill. Watson Recycling also paid for metal items.

2023-24 ACTIVE MEMBERS	Home	Office or Cell
Austinson, Paul	288-8735 <a href="mailto:pjaustinson43@gmail.com">pjaustinson43@gmail.com</a>	273-5518
Borcharding, Don	282-1783 <a href="mailto:dpborcher@hotmail.com">dpborcher@hotmail.com</a>	259-2679
Carlson, Dan	285-1098 <a href="mailto:danhope3904@msn.com">danhope3904@msn.com</a>	272-5215
Graham, Charlie*****	<a href="mailto:cgraham120@charter.net">cgraham120@charter.net</a>	507 358-8567
Hull, Linda	<a href="mailto:lindahull1025@yahoo.com">lindahull1025@yahoo.com</a>	282-8399
Jorgenson, Austin	<a href="mailto:austj4@gmail.com">austj4@gmail.com</a>	413-2134
Kalmes, Bill Treasurer	289-4056 <a href="mailto:w.kalmes@smithschafer.com">w.kalmes@smithschafer.com</a>	288-3277-office 951-7552-cell
Krsnak, Roger	282-2872 <a href="mailto:rdkrsnak@me.com">rdkrsnak@me.com</a>	358-5020
Lawson, Del	<a href="mailto:drdel22@aol.com">drdel22@aol.com</a>	951-4006
Landherr Maddox, Colleen	<a href="mailto:landherrmaddox@gmail.com">landherrmaddox@gmail.com</a>	280-7911
Nelsen, David	533-0225 <a href="mailto:nrockford9@aol.com">nrockford9@aol.com</a>	815-243-1223
Nelson, Daniel	<a href="mailto:dan61nelson@gmail.com">dan61nelson@gmail.com</a>	884-9829
Nehring, Irv	<a href="mailto:nehringirv@gmail.com">nehringirv@gmail.com</a>	507-226-1494
Oesterle, Scott	<a href="mailto:scottoesterle@msn.com">scottoesterle@msn.com</a>	282-7502
Schultz, Bonnie	280-6078; <a href="mailto:schultz.bonita@gmail.com">schultz.bonita@gmail.com</a>	605-261-8196
Tompkins, Mary	<a href="mailto:mtompkins14@charter.net">mtompkins14@charter.net</a>	273-5012
Warren, Clare	<a href="mailto:clarew60@gmail.com">clarew60@gmail.com</a>	254-2087

### 17 Active members as of Oct 2023

\*Senior Member    \*\*Privileged Member    \*\*\*Honorary Member

\*\*\*\*Senior & Long Term Perfect Attendance

\*\*\*\*\*Life Member

The preceding list reflects the official roster of active members according to Kiwanis International. If a name is missing or one is present that should not be, please let Colleen know.

### District & International web sites:

[www.kiwanis.org](http://www.kiwanis.org)    [www.mndak.org](http://www.mndak.org)

\*\*\*Jim Bouquet    651-560-4292  
\*\*\*Bob Fiss    288-7480

## Newsletter Changes

Remember to call Colleen (280-7911) or email [landherrmaddox@gmail.com](mailto:landherrmaddox@gmail.com) if you have anything you feel is newsworthy. Feel free to contribute something for publication!

**Be sure to read the roster once in a while and report any errors to Colleen**

**Why not!** If you have a computer, why not try to receive the Kiwanis **Newsletter via e-mail**. It is a quick and easy way for us to get the letter to you on time.

**Copy on our website:** [www.kiwanisroch.org](http://www.kiwanisroch.org)



### 2023- 2024 Officers/Chairs/Committees

Roger Krsnak and Austin Jorgenson - Co-Presidents  
Colleen Landherr Maddox and Roger Krsnak – Immediate Past Presidents  
Bill Kalmes - Treasurer  
Don Borcharding - Secretary

### Committees

**Club Rep to District** – Co-Presidents  
**Membership, Growth and Education** – Dan Carlson  
**Public Relations** – Mary Tompkins, Al Lun, Webmaster  
**Newsletter Editor** – Colleen Landherr Maddox,  
**Associate Editor** – Clare Warren  
**Community Services** –  
**Ditch Cleanup** - Austin Jorgenson  
**Veteran Liaison** – Dave Nelsen  
**Second Stork** – Colleen Landherr Maddox  
**Adopt-a-Family** – Linda Hull  
**Food for Kidz** -  
**Youth Service - Key Club, Student of the Month Liaison, Scholarship Committee Chair, Reading Coordinator** – Bonnie Schultz  
**PROGRAMS – CIRCLE OF SERVICE**  
**Human and Spiritual Values** – Colleen Landherr Maddox  
**Finance** – Bill Kalmes, Linda Hull  
**Cashier** – Linda Hull & Mary Tompkins  
**Eagle Club Liaison** - Austin Jorgenson  
**Fund Raising – Pizza Ranch** - Roger Krsnak  
**Peanuts** - Austin Jorgenson  
**Hockey Festival** – Bill Kalmes, Del Lawson

## INTERCLUB – WELCOME!



Don B. is joined by Vernon Yetzer and Tony Gergen from the Sunrisers Kiwanis Club on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## CLUB DUES

Message from Club Treasurer Bill Kalmes

Dues for the Kiwanis Club of Rochester for the year October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 are now due in the amount of \$190. Please submit as soon as possible in total or pro-rated per half year. Remember the club will no longer be able to subsidize our meals. The contract at Fraternal Order of Eagles meal price is \$14.00. Members can pay at the door for the meals. Please try to have accurate change to create a smoother entry or write a personal check to Kiwanis of Rochester

Send dues payments to:

**Bill Kalmes, Treasurer,  
2511 – 20<sup>th</sup> Ave SE,  
Rochester, MN 55904**

or deliver in person at our meetings.

Remember – your dues cover the cost of International Dues - \$57; Divisional Dues - \$30; Kiwanis Magazine - \$8; Liability Insurance - \$13; Director and Officer Insurance - \$4; Downtowner Newsletter and other administrative costs of our club, so prompt payment is important.

**Thank you for your prompt response.**

## SPEAKERS:



Mary T and RPS Superintendent Dr. Kent Pekel

Superintendent Kent Pekel spoke to our Club on June 20<sup>th</sup> on the Rochester Public Schools referendum that will be held on the November ballot. RPS has also launched a

website dedicated to providing information about the referendum. The dedicated website - [RochesterSchools.org/referendum](https://RochesterSchools.org/referendum) - provides details about the district's proposed operating levy increase to "Ignite Student Learning."

As part of the general election on November 5, district voters will consider a proposal to increase the school operating levy by \$1,133 per pupil annually. This investment would raise \$19.4 million in revenue - the minimum amount needed to help protect staffing levels, class sizes, and student programs and services.

Like many school districts across the state, Rochester Public Schools has made difficult budget cuts over the past three years that have impacted student services, reduced teachers and staff, and prompted the possible closures of three schools. The State of Minnesota provides the majority of funding for school districts, but this funding has not kept pace with the rising costs of education.

**"We can't continue to provide a quality education without adequate and stable funding,"** said Superintendent Dr. Kent Pekel. **"With help and feedback from residents, the district has developed a plan to avoid more devastating cuts. I strongly encourage our community to learn more about the referendum and the consequences it will have for our students and our future."**

As a result of the shortfall in state funding and other factors, school districts across Minnesota have been forced to turn to their local communities to secure funding for programs that

many community members consider indispensable. While Rochester Public Schools is the seventh largest in Minnesota, the district ranks last in voter-approved operating levy funding compared to other districts with over 10,000 students across the state.

Without additional funding, the district will be forced to make about \$19.4 million in cuts ahead of the 2025-2026 school year that would vastly change education across all our schools. This would include closing multiple schools, eliminating teacher and staff positions, increasing class sizes, and reducing courses and programs at all grade levels.

**"This is truly a pivotal moment for our district,"** said School Board Chair Cathy Nathan. **"The 'Ignite Student Learning' plan would allow the district to continue providing the support our students need, rather than diminish the opportunities we can provide."**

If the referendum is approved by voters, a home valued at \$350,000 would see an estimated property tax increase of \$29 per month starting in 2025. Residents can find their estimated tax impact using the tax calculator

at [RochesterSchools.org/referendum](https://RochesterSchools.org/referendum).

Residents can

visit [RochesterSchools.org/referendum](https://RochesterSchools.org/referendum) to learn more about the referendum and its impact on our schools. The website includes detailed information about the district's financial challenges, the proposed investment plan, the cost of the plan, and voting. Residents can submit questions and feedback by

emailing [rpvote@rochesterschools.org](mailto:rpvote@rochesterschools.org) or calling 507. 328.4777.



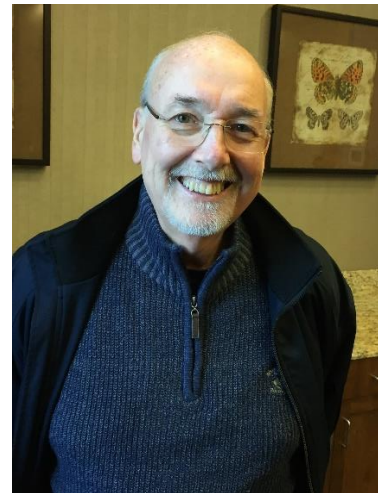
## ROGER KRSTNAK



April 15, 1950 - June 15, 2024  
ROCHESTER, Minn. - Roger D. Krsnak, 74, Rochester, Minn., died Saturday, June 15, in Seasons Hospice House. Visitation will be from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, at Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home in Rochester, Minn. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., Thursday, July 11, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester. Arrangements by Ranfranz & Vine Funeral Homes.



It is with great sadness, the Rochester Kiwanis Club says "Good Bye" to one of our most active and dedicated members. Our prayers and sympathies to his family and many friends.



The Rochester Kiwanis Club will be making a donation to a community youth program in memory of Roger.

Roger Dean Krsnak, age 74, of Rochester, Minnesota, passed away on June 15, 2024, at Season's Hospice in Rochester, surrounded by his wife and three sons after a five-year battle with pancreatic cancer. He fought long and hard to remain with his family, and his faith in God never faltered throughout his struggle.

Roger was born on April 15, 1950, in Ada, Minnesota, to Ruth (Norby) and Ralph Krsnak. Raised on a small farm without an interior bathroom, he was the middle of five children. Alongside his two brothers and two sisters, Roger helped around the farm from an early age, learning to drive at just six years old. He cared for various animals, including cows and horses, and mowed ditches for the county to earn extra money for his family. He graduated from Gary High School in 1968 and attended Moorhead State and North Dakota State University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1972. Roger paid his way through college with grants, scholarships, and by driving a school bus. He completed his Master of Electrical Engineering degree from North Dakota State University in 1974.

In 1972, he married the love of his life, Sharyn (Littlejohn), in Fargo, North Dakota. They moved to Rochester, Minnesota, in July of 1974, where Roger accepted a job at IBM. He retired after 46 years of service as a Senior Engineer and Manager due to his cancer diagnosis. At IBM, he worked extensively on some of the first computer modems, the AS/400 mainframe computer systems, and printing capabilities for large customers such as banks and governments. Roger was known among his peers for his leadership skills and tireless work ethic, often returning to the office late into the evening after putting his children to bed. Roger and Sharyn had three wonderful sons: Joshua, Benjamin, and Timothy. He was immensely proud of their accomplishments and shared a special bond with each of them, loving them deeply. His eleven grandchildren adored him and were the light of his life. His family is his legacy.

Roger had a kind and gentle spirit with a special love for children. He coached basketball and baseball for all three of his sons and continued coaching for a total of 35 years, even after his children went off to college. Known as Coach K, he led many championship-winning teams. Roger also served on the Rochester

Youth Basketball board for many years after retiring from coaching. He was a devoted fan of all Minnesota sports teams, including the "darn Vikings," and kept up with all their statistics. Additionally, he enjoyed regularly attending local high school sports games, often watching and cheering for the young athletes he had coached years before.

Roger loved to volunteer. He was an active member of Bethel Lutheran Church and its stewardship team, serving many pancakes and root beer floats over the years. He was also a Rochester Kiwanian for 35 years and an active member of the BSF Men's Fellowship at Autumn Ridge Church.

A jack of all trades, Roger could fix or build anything, especially anything mechanical or electronic. He routinely spent weekends helping his sons fix up their homes. Roger also chased his entrepreneurial spirit by running a leadership consulting business and, later, a vending machine business. Roger is preceded in death by his parents, Ruth and Ralph Krsnak, and three siblings: Joan Sjolie, Don Krsnak, and Sheri Moen. He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Sharyn; his three sons: Joshua, Benjamin, and Timothy; a

brother, Kim; and his eleven grandchildren: Morgan, Charlotte, Michael, Nina, Maeve, Eloise, Elin, Rosemary, Roger, Henry, and Evangeline.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 10th, from 5 PM to 8 PM at Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home, located at 5421 Royal Place NW in Rochester, MN. A Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, July 11th, at 11 AM at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Avenue SE in Rochester, MN, with a visitation preceding it at 10 AM. Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Krsnak family; to share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.ranfranzandvinefh.com](http://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com)

