



# "The Downtowner"



KIWANIS CLUB OF ROCHESTER, Rochester, MN

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

November 2024

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 November

Yet to be determined  
NO MEETING ON NOV. 28TH

## NOTE SENT TO SECOND STORK

At this time, Rochester Kiwanis will no longer have the members to participate in Second Stork. Best wishes in all your efforts for young mothers and their babies.

-Colleen Landherr Maddox



Dear Kiwanis,  
Thank you for your thoughtful card and very generous donation in memory of Paul. He loved being a member of the Kiwanis.

-Joan Austinson and family

2024-25 ACTIVE MEMBERS	Home	Office or Cell
Borcherding, 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
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
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

### 12 Active members as of Oct 2024

\*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

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



## 2024- 2025 Officers/Chairs/Committees

Austin Jorgenson - President  
Bill Kalmes - Treasurer  
Don Borcharding - Secretary

### Committees

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

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**SALVATION ARMY BELL  
RINGING SCHEDULE DEC. 11th,  
9 AM - 7 PM  
HY-VEE,**

**9-11 AM - Bonnie & Austin  
11 AM - 1 PM - Linda & Mary  
1-3 PM - Don & Colleen  
5-7 PM - Del & Dan**



## October 3<sup>rd</sup> Business Discussion

Austin conducted an open discussion on the status of the Club and possibilities for our future. Key is to recruit new members.

- **Election of Officers**
- **Confirmed we will continue to meet for lunch at the Eagles**
  - **There is no minimum number of meals required.**
- **Becoming a satellite club of Sunrisers**
- **Ended relationship with Second Stork**
- **Bonnie will no longer be liaison with Mayo High School and Lourdes High School for "Student of the Month" recognition.**
- **Linda confirmed Bell Ringing for Salvation Army on December 11<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Voted to make a \$500 donation to Adopt-a-Family program.**



**Al Lun with Clare & Charlie.**

Al Lun, former member, presented on Rochester Vision 2050 and had members fill out a survey. Members shared their responses. Al appreciated the excellent group discussion.

Follows is further information from their website:



Over the years, Rochester has had many dedicated community leaders whose efforts and accomplishments have helped our City to grow. All these efforts (and more) have helped create a more unified, prosperous, and healthy Rochester for future generations. Given the recent announcement by Mayo Clinic to invest \$5B establishing Rochester as a world destination for transformational health care far into the future, now is the perfect time to reach out to our community to better understand *their* hopes and dreams for how our community evolves and responds to this growth, and to learn from them what they believe the City needs to continue to thrive as a compassionate community where people want to live, work and play.

Rochester Vision 2050 (RV2050) seeks to help the community look into the future - close enough to remain aspirational and bold, but not too far to

seem beyond reach and imagination. It is the time when today's children will take the reins for the future. Some of the critical elements identified by the Steering Committee are ones necessary of any successful society: Quality Education; Economic Viability (poverty reduction of citizens, funding of City); Safety & Security (police, fire); Healthcare (assuring equitable access); Infrastructure (transportation, power, utilities, public spaces); Housing; and Sustainability. The goal is to achieve all of these in ways that accrue benefit, not deficit, to the common good. The City is certainly making investments in some of these areas already, but are those investments addressing the concerns and desires of our residents and those of our future? We should ask!

You can also share your feedback by email or telephone -- see above!



**Paula Craigo and Carol Shaffer**

Paula and Carol are volunteers who have spoken to many groups to help people understand the upcoming referendum for the Rochester School District. They

presented data about the need and what programs could be cut if it fails.  
(Information taken from the Rochester Public Schools website:

RPS is the 7th largest district in MN but ranks last in voter-approved school funding among districts with 10,000 or more students. The Ignite Student Learning referendum asks voters to consider an operating levy increase to help students thrive.

Guided by feedback from residents, Rochester Public Schools has put forward an investment plan, called "Ignite Student Learning." This November, Rochester voters will consider a 10-year operating levy increase that will generate \$19.4 million annually to stabilize the district's budget, strengthen academic and career programs, protect student support services and ensure students are ready for life after graduation.

We can't keep cutting our way to success - this plan is an investment in the future of our students and our community.

If voters approve the referendum

If the Ignite Student Learning referendum is approved, RPS will allocate the funds to four critical investment areas:

- 17% of the funding will support positions that assist students who need more support to thrive.
- 25% of the funding will support programs that challenge advanced

students and enrich learning for all students.

- 30% of the funding will support services that strengthen student wellbeing and mental health.
- 28% of the funding will support classes that prepare students for success in vocational and technical careers.

Within each of these four categories, the school district has identified a set of positions and programs that will receive support. The precise levels of funding that the positions and programs receive within each category may change over the ten-year life of the operating levy as students' educational needs and interests shift, parent priorities evolve, and state and federal laws and regulations are adopted, revised, and repealed. Each year, the school district will include a detailed update on how referendum funds were spent during the previous year in its budget book and each year the RPS School Board will review and approve the referendum spending plan for the following year. A dashboard summarizing how referendum funds have been spent will also be continually updated

#### **If the referendum fails**

If the referendum fails, RPS will need to make **major cuts in all four of these areas** and will need to **close schools** and **raise class sizes** across the district in order to close the projected \$19.4 million deficit.

While it is possible to identify the broad types of budget reductions that RPS would need to make if the referendum fails, it is not possible to provide the public with a detailed budget reduction plan at this time. That is because the development of the school district's budget is an eight-month process through which new information is received and analyzed and stakeholder input is conducted, and that process for the 2025-2026 school year has not yet started, much less concluded.

At the School Board meeting on Tuesday, October 8, the School Board voted unanimously to direct Superintendent Pekel to develop a 2025-2026 general fund budget recommendation that includes reductions if the Ignite Student Learning referendum plan is not passed by voters on November 5, 2024. The budget recommendation would include:

1. **Closing three elementary schools to save \$2,304,392.** The schools the administration recommends closing if the referendum fails must be identified before January 1, 2025.
2. **Increasing class sizes** at all grade levels by three students to save \$5,643,396. Financial savings from increases in class size result from eliminating approximately 50 FTE teaching positions.
3. **Reducing central office positions and non-instructional positions** at the school level to save

\$2,381,608. This would mean eliminating approximately 20 FTE positions, including positions in the superintendent's cabinet, central office administrators, principals, clerical staff, maintenance staff, and operations staff.

4. **Reducing programs and positions in the four investment areas** in the Ignite Student Learning Proposal to save \$6,378,956. Those reductions would be made in the four categories of the Ignite Student Learning plan. Based upon analysis that would be conducted following the failure of the referendum, some of the positions and programs in the ignite student learning plan might be eliminated, some might be reduced, and some might be continued with no changes. :

1. *Positions that assist students who need more support to thrive*
2. *Programs that challenge advanced students and enrich learning for all students*
3. *Services that strengthen student well-being and mental health*
4. *Classes that prepare students for success in vocational and technical careers*

The full resolution and board item are on the school district's website.





After a lot of deliberation and evaluation, I have concluded that I should resign from Kiwanis. I have reached the point where I am able to do less and feel a loss there, physically and emotionally. Best wishes to the club and the fine people I have met with over the years.

I joined Kiwanis in Chelsea Michigan in August 1960. That was the small town June and I had lived in near Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. After graduation from dental school, I joined the U.S. Air Force for a 2-year hitch. You would never believe it, but they sent us to Madison, WI for those years. I worked in a small clinic on the base located on the city airport. We enjoyed Madison a lot. We got active in a local church, and I had lots of time to play golf. Our first child, Mark, was born that first winter. They didn't have adequate on-base housing, so we got a stipend to find our own housing. That worked out fine.

The time in Madison passed quickly. Then, after considering practicing in Madison, we went back to Chelsea MI. The next 40 years were spent in that small town and all it had to offer.

The town had some of the usual clubs like Kiwanis, Lions, several churches for community support. I joined Kiwanis partly as a business decision, which was the custom at that time. I'm not sure I ever benefited from that, but it was a great group to know and have business connections.

By 1995 we had lived a full 'normal' life in that town and area. It was 15 miles from

Ann Arbor, 69 miles to Detroit, Flint and Lansing. I was active in Kiwanis holding all the offices during my tenure. I also held the president's job on the local school board for one four-year term (enough)

We had all the community and personal experiences you might expect. We had one son, Mark, and three daughters, Shelley, Marcia, and Carol while in Chelsea. All the kids graduated from the local schools and the girls attended Central MI Univ, MSU, and the Univ. of MI at times. Mark followed a different path which has led him to a career in the construction of stained glass products. I think we are all happy from our years growing together.

By 1995 I had some heart problems, so we made the decision to retire and move to Rochester, MN where the three girls had ended up. This is the home of the Mayo Clinic, (tongue in cheek). We have had 30 years of experience with them. We have lived in the city most of that time, so church activities and volunteering at Mayo for 25 years occupied our lives.

Curt Taylor and Richard Kersten were members of the church of which we joined. They were both Downtown Kiwanis members, and our son-in-law, Steve Sperling, D.D.S. was a Rotarian. I attended both and the Kiwanis seemed a better fit for me. I vowed to be less involved in this group than I was in earlier years. It ended up that I avoided a lot, but still did the Treasurer's job and Editor of the newsletter for 20 years. Now I'm done.

I've more physical problems at 90. My goal is to emulate Charlie G. at 93. Mobility is more difficult and hearing, (even with the current sound system) I miss much of the talks.

I have greatly appreciated the friendships of all of our members.

I would like to think I could be a visitor any week (pay my own) and I'd like the new editor of the Downtowner to keep me on the mail list.

With great appreciation for your friendships,

Sincerely - Clare