



# THE COG



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

**APRIL 2021**

## April Programs

**Yvette Campbell --- Program Coordinator--- April**

April 6.....	Julie Erickson.....	Brookings Police Dept. Foundation
April 13.....	Allison Schmitt.....	Helpline Center
April 20 .....	First Hybrid Mtg.....	Bkgs. Activity Center and ZOOM
April 27.....	Lacie Peterson.....	Option 1

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8	Ron Peterson
15	Alan Rogers
18	Tom Manzer
26	Rebecca Herman
26	Richard Smith
30	Bruce Lushbough
30	Paul Moriarty

April Sgt. at Arms will be the sagacious and hardworking Jim Gilkerson.

**Over the past year our Rotary Meetings have been held by ZOOM. Strong leadership from the Board and extraordinary buy in and commitment from membership has allowed us to function as a club and continue SERVICE ABOVE SELF!**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR APRIL

Spring – the Season of Renewal

*“Little darlin’, it’s been a long, cold, lonely winter. Little darlin’, it seems like years since it’s been here.”* From “Here Comes the Sun” written by George Harrison.

George Harrison was stating a universal truth when he penned “Here Comes the Sun” back in 1969. He said he was inspired in April of that year because “it seems the winter in England goes on forever and when spring comes, you really deserve it!”

And so it is with the Rotary Club of Brookings. After our “long cold lonely winter” of 2020, we’re restarting our in-person club meetings at the Brookings Activity Center (BAC) on April 20. We deserve a celebration! Some club members wanted to start the in-person meetings sooner. Some wanted to start later. This probably means that the timing is just about right. The BAC plans to open to outside organizations the day before we arrive.

But spring in South Dakota can be fickle. The high temperature in Brookings was 81 degrees on March 29 this year. The high temperature was 36 degrees the next day. Caution is the watchword for Spring, and so it is for the restart of our club. We want everyone to be safe and feel confident that they are safe when they return. Here are some points to think about:

- If you have completed your vaccination cycle, you should be fine at the “Reunion Celebration.” If you’re concerned, check with your doctor;
- We will provide for socially distanced seating for those so inclined (your choice);
- We will have hand sanitizer available at our meetings – we always have;

*(continued on back)*

**“Certainly it’s not going to be a pandemic for a lot longer because I believe the vaccines are going to turn that around.” – Dr. Anthony Fauci at a recent virtual health conference.**

To provide content for the COG please contact  
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April Service Anniversaries

4-01-85	Nadim Hassoun	36 yrs	4-05-11	Reva Johnson	10 yrs
4-01-87	Tom Manzer	34 yrs	4-25-17	Chuck Stangohr	4 yrs
4-11-89	Ginger Thomson	32 yrs			
4-01-07	Zeno Wicks	14 yrs			



*(President's message continued)*

- Bring your own food – there will be no charge for meals, but coffee and water will be available at the meetings. Everyone eats what he or she likes; and
- By all means, if you feel ill or just aren't ready to join the group in person, stay home and join us via Zoom. The Restart Team has worked hard to make our new meeting format interactive and fun!

Speaking of fun, each Rotarian, either attending in person or at home, will receive a gift bag with Rotary-branded goodies, our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pin, the RI slogan pin for this year, and other prizes.

**It's time to CELEBRATE!**

President Don



**Over 41 Rotarians logged into the first ever Brookings Rotary Club meeting held on Zoom.**

≡ YOU ARE ≡  
**BRAVER**  
 → THAN YOU BELIEVE →  
**STRONGER**  
 → THAN YOU SEEM →  
**SMARTER**  
 → THAN YOU THINK →  
**AND LOVED**  
 MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW



**READ ABOUT MEETING IN PERSON ON PAGE 3 OF THE COG. PLANS ARE TO MEET APRIL 20!!!!**

A quote from Winnie The Pooh

Brookings Rotary currently has 97 members. Sixty-six members have joined at least one ZOOM mtg. Average meeting attendance has been 38 members. We have ranged from 30-48 members in attendance.

**The ZOOM option will be continued. Starting April 20, 2021, our meetings will be "hybrid" meaning both in person and virtually via ZOOM.**

**Wedding Anniversaries for April**

Apr 1	.....Erich & Lauren Olson
Apr 4	.....Michael & Patricia Crinion
Apr 15	.....Rod & Deb Schaefer
Apr 27	.....Jane & Brad Hennings

**The following Rotarians had perfect attendance in March**

Keith Bartels	Gregg Jongeling	Erich Olson
Brad Blaha	Bruce Lushbough	Richard Smith
Steve Carnes	Teree Nesvold	Jennifer Soma
Darrell DeBoer	Don Norton	Della Tschetter
Jim Gilkerson	Kay Norton	Chad Vilhauer
Del Johnson	David Odens	

**April Meal Schedule (your kitchen)**

Apr 6	.....your choice
Apr 13	.....healthy choice
Apr 20	....bring your own food/drink
Apr 27	....bring your own food/drink

**(coffee and water will be provided at the Activity Center)**

## **BROOKINGS ROTARY CLUB PREPARES TO RESUME IN-PERSON MEETINGS; WILL KEEP VIRTUAL OPTION**

**By: Kay Norton (provided to Brookings Register)**

BROOKINGS – After a full year of meeting via Zoom, the Brookings Rotary Club plans to resume in-person meetings on Tuesday, April 20 at 12 p.m. The meetings will re-convene at the Brookings Activity Center, although members and guests may still choose to participate virtually through hybrid technology.

The “2021 Reunion Celebration” will feature welcome back gifts, cake and long-anticipated fellowship for all participants, which will include masks and social distancing strategies for those attending in-person.

“Our primary objective is the safety and wellness of our members,” said Don Norton, Club President. “But we are hoping that by April 20, with increased numbers of vaccinations and continued masking and distancing precautions, we will be able to offer an in-person meeting option, as well as continuing to Zoom the meetings for those who have not yet been vaccinated or who do not yet feel comfortable meeting in person.”

The Activity Center is scheduled to re-open on April 19, and a technology grant from Rotary District 5610 will help the club provide the equipment needed to offer the hybrid option.

Norton said the club formed a “Restart Committee” months ago to explore options, but club leadership could not make any decisions until recently because of continued risk and community protocol restrictions. Then earlier in March, Rotary District 5610 offered pop-up technology grants designed to help clubs stay active and accessible for all members, and the Brookings Club was awarded one of the 18 approved grants. The grant, combined with club budget funds, will be used to purchase equipment that will allow in-person meetings to be “Zoomed” to those who prefer to continue meeting virtually. “We will continue to be interactive with all members, whether they are attending in-person or via Zoom,” explained Norton. “And we will buy all the equipment we possibly can from local businesses, so that’s a great way to help support our local businesses.”

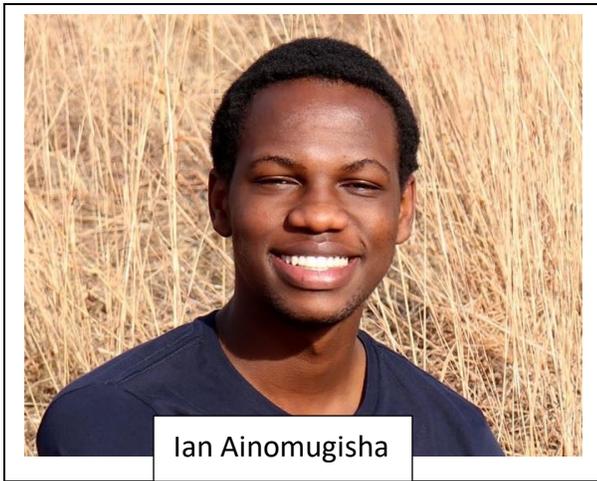
Rotary District 5610 Governor Dan Little, D.V.M., who is also a member of the Brookings club, said the district grant funds were available because of limited travel expenditures this past year due to Rotary International’s precautions against travel during the pandemic. “Now those funds can be used to help our district’s clubs stay vibrant and keep membership strong,” said Little.

“RI has indicated that districts and individual clubs may make their own decisions about re-convening in-person, based on community and regional situations,” Little continued. “I applaud the Brookings Club for taking advantage of this grant to celebrate the opportunity to offer both in-person and virtual meeting options, and for cautiously inviting their members to make their own choices about how they wish to participate.”

Norton said that all Rotarians – whether they attend in-person or virtually – will receive a “Welcome Back!” bag with Rotary-themed gifts. And the club also has purchased new signage to encourage current and prospective members to celebrate Rotary’s motto of “Service Above Self.”

“Our members have continued to creatively and actively participate in service this past year, while abiding by community regulations,” said Norton. “Service projects have included food drives for the community and SDSU pantries, the installation of a Rotary clock on Main Avenue commemorating our club’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and projects with the Boys & Girls Club, the Brookings Area Youth Mentoring Program, McCrory Gardens, the Brookings Arts Commission, the Brookings Marathon and more.” The club also continues to sponsor a student’s education in Tanzania, supports Rotary International’s global polio eradication effort and raises money each week through club “Scholar Dollars” for six annual scholarships to SDSU awarded to area high school students.

“The pandemic certainly presented unexpected challenges for us,” said Norton, who took office – virtually – July 1. “But after missing only two meetings in March 2020, Past President Jennifer Soma hit the ground running by launching the Zoom meetings last April. And we’ve never looked back. Our service to community and the world has never been needed more.”



**COLE-DAI, AINOMUGISHA NAMED ROTARIAN STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (By: Kay Norton for the Register)**

**Brookings, SD** — Brookings High School seniors Nathan Cole-Dai and Ian Ainomugisha have been honored as the Brookings Rotary Club’s March Students of the Month.

Cole-Dai is the son of Phyllis and Jihong Cole-Dai. A National Merit finalist, he has been a member of Environmental Club, German Club and National Honor Society and also has been active with Broboca (the school newspaper), Bobcat Yearbook, Orchestra, Jazz Strings and the BHS Fall Musical Pit Orchestra. He works as a cashier at Hy-Vee and is a volunteer with Feedings Brookings. Cole-Dai has three orchestra letters, won first place in the local Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., essay contest, was an Orchestra section leader for seven semesters, and was a U.S. Presidential Scholarship nominee.

He plans to pursue a degree in biology or environmental studies, and is considering Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis.

Ian Ainomugisha is the son of Emmanuel Byamukama and Agatha Ampaire. He has been very active in music, including the BHS Marching Band, where he served as Drum Major. He also has been active in Jazz Band, Winter Drumline and Concert and Symphonic Bands. Additional honors include recognition as Lead Tenor, Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Freshman and Outstanding Senior.

He is a Boy Scout and a member of National Honor Society. Ainomugisha plans to study computer science at Rice University.

Each month during the school year, the Brookings Rotary Club recognizes students who excel in exhibiting its motto “Service Above Self” and fulfill the ideals of the organization’s Four-Way Test.

**ROTARY GRANT PROVIDES TECH, PROGRAMMING SUPPORT FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF BROOKINGS** By: Kay Norton for the BKX Register

**BROOKINGS** – Young people who participate in the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings have received an assist in technology as well as career preparation advice, thanks to the Brookings Rotary Club and Rotary International District 5610.

Supported by a special district grant opportunity offered in response to the pandemic’s impact on communities, the Brookings Rotary Club was able to purchase five computer screens, five televisions and support equipment with the grant, supplemented by club funds. In addition, club members and other community leaders were interviewed virtually by BGCB staff about various topics related to career preparedness, and those interviews are now available for the young people to review as part of their academic success programming options at BGCB.

“The BGCB implemented significant operational changes when the spread of the virus resulted in a heavy dependence on technology to continue quality programming, including academic success programs,” said Nicole Bieber, the Rotarian who wrote the district grant. “Supplementing the technology options available helped the Boys & Girls Club provide needed additional equipment to offer virtual programming to our young people.” And

even after all programming resumes in-person, the equipment will be used by teachers to help them assist and track progress of program participants, especially low- and average-achieving students.

The BGCB expressed gratitude for the gift. “The TVs and computers donated by Rotary have been such an asset to our Clubs this school year,” said Erinn Thomas, Teen Center Director. “With the additional technology, our kids have had the opportunity to connect with their communities despite COVID-19 restrictions through online and Zoom programming. We have been able to talk to astronauts, learn from SDSU students, and even meet with pen pals across the country.”

In addition to the equipment, valued at \$2,000, Rotarians also stepped up to offer their real-world advice on career preparation. Six Rotarians and community leaders were interviewed, providing advice on the importance of academic preparation, community involvement and personal integrity as necessary components of workforce readiness. Participating in the hour-long interviews that are now available for students to view were Rotarians Rebecca Herman, Kay Norton, Yvette Campbell, Jackie Lanning and Don Norton. Also contributing time and expertise was Dan McColley.

“Our teens in Workforce Development enjoyed watching the Career Readiness videos filmed by Rotarians,” noted Thomas. “Having the opportunity to still be able to connect with community members despite all that’s going on was very beneficial. We are thankful for the additional resources to expose our kids to impactful programming outside our doors when it is unsafe or we are unable to physically do so!”

Rotary Club President Don Norton said this was another example of Rotarians collaborating with other organizations to improve community quality of life. “This grant was a great opportunity for the Brookings Rotary Club to help the young people in our community during a time that has been especially challenging for them,” said Club President Don Norton. “The project specifically addressed basic education and literacy, which is one of the six areas of service of Rotary International, and we were able to implement this assistance right here in our own community.”



**Children in the Elementary Center at the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings enjoy an activity for their “NASA: Mission to Mars” experience with a real astronaut via Zoom, thanks in part to technology provided by the Brookings Rotary Club.**



**A student in the Boys & Girls Club of Brookings Teen Center focuses on a video provided by Jackie Lanning, one of six Rotarian volunteers to pre-record interviews about career readiness and job preparation. Lanning is the Brookings City Engineer.**