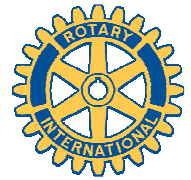


The Metro Memo

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

VOLUME 19-38

JANUARY 25, 2012



Thank you . . .

to **Susan Hart** for assisting with today's invocation, leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and providing us with our fundraising opportunity.

to **Cindy Whaley** and **Shane Winter** for greeting members and guests as they arrived at today's meeting.

Visiting Rotarians

Rotarian	Club
Chris Belcher	Northwest
Ted Stephenson	Downtown

Member Spotlight

Lynda Baumgartner was the focus of this week's Five Minute Interview. Lynda is the Coordinator of the Study Abroad Program for Stephens College.



Lynda has been a member of Metro Rotary since December, 2009, and she is a Paul Harris Fellow. She enjoys NASCAR in the summer and traveling. This summer, she and Steve will travel to France for the wedding of a former Rotary Youth Exchange Student that they hosted.

Next week . . .

February 1 Program:
Member Networking

Invocation/Pledge/Fundraiser:
Rob Christensen

Greeters:
Norm Benedict & Rob Bartel

Congratulations to **Shawn Barnes!** He was the lucky winner of a \$25 gift certificate to Café Berlin and a \$25 gift certificate to The Root Cellar donated by **Susan Hart**. We raised \$59 for our charities.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER REMINDER!!!

Les Borgmeyer will be available for a final time next Wednesday to collect donations that members have secured on behalf of the annual Metro Trivia Night fundraiser planned for **February 3** at the Knights of Columbus Hall. **Please note: This is the main fundraiser for our club for the year! Each member is expected to sell, sponsor or donate \$100 for the event. If you have not picked up raffle tickets yet or indicated your commitment, please contact Les Borgmeyer as soon as possible!** As a reminder, donations are still being accepted for the auctions. Please see **Marcia Machens** if you have items to donate.



Announcements

Jim Stock reported the recent Foundation Committee incentive program was a success. Before the promotion, three members (**Marnie Clark, Kristi Ray** and **Cindy Whaley**) were utilizing the automatic funds transfer to make regular donations to the Rotary Foundation. After members were educated by the Foundation Committee, eight additional members (**Rob Bartel, Anna De Jong, Jaime Freidrichs, Susan Hart, Jean Leonatti, Sandra Logan, Jim Sharrock** and **Jim Stock**) signed up to have their donations electronically transferred on a regular basis. Congratulations!

Scott Heck will be the Captain of Metro's Chili Cook-off Team for the 2012 Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff to be held **February 18** at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Please see Scott if you wish to participate. Proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Columbia.



Karen Brown informed members that there will be no February social due to the club fundraising event. The March social will be held Thursday, **March 1**. During this social, members are invited to bring prospective new members to learn more about Rotary. A location will be announced as soon as it has been confirmed.

Mark your calendars! **Casey Buckman** announced that **June 30** has been selected as the date for the 2nd Annual Metro Rotary Float Trip. More details will be announced as the date approaches.

Les Gelband and **Tom Rose** directed members' attention to eight "big books" that were displayed around the room. These were a sampling of books that were purchased with funds awarded during this year's Partner in Education Literacy Development Awards. Tom demonstrated how easy and fun it is to assist students by reading "What I Like About Me" to the members.

FAMILY OF ROTARY

Steve Baumgartner will celebrate his birthday on January 29!

Pat Hostetler reported that Eric is doing well. He celebrated the Chinese New Year this past Monday, and enjoyed delivering red envelopes to his American hosts and friends. Eric will leave Friday for Tulsa to interact with other Rotary Exchange Students visiting our country.

Norm Benedict's daughter was recently in an automobile accident. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

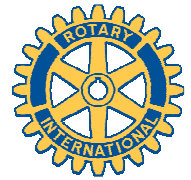
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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Dr. Chris Belcher presented today's program. Dr. Belcher has 28 years of experience working in education and has served as the Columbia Public Schools' superintendent since 2009.



Dr. Belcher provided a "State of the Schools" report providing details about the district's past activities and future plans. He commended the Board of Education for their expertise and devotion of time to the district during these tough times. He also expressed appreciation to the Secondary Enrollment Planning Committee (co-

chaired by Metro member **Don Ludwig**) for its work in re-aligning school boundary lines.

Dr. Belcher gave an update on the progress of the Administration Building addition and Battle High School (shown below). Each appears to be on schedule. The Administration Building should be completed this July, and Battle High School should be open for classes in the fall of 2013.

He spoke of the importance, now more than ever, of being fiscally responsible and maximizing financial resources. As state funding continues to diminish, alternative sources of revenue must be explored. One example of new funding came through the purchase of three new video scoreboards, one each for Hickman High School, Rock Bridge High School and Battle High School. Each of these items will be paid for by revenue generating from advertising sold on the scoreboards. As a result, the scoreboards will be paid for without using district funds, and excess revenue will be generated that can be used elsewhere in the district.

Dr. Belcher indicated current plans are for the district to place two issues on the April 3, 2012 election ballot. A \$50 million bond issue is planned that

would provide for the building of new facilities and repairing some current buildings. Specific examples for the use of some of the funds would be for a new elementary school, an early childhood center and additions to Shepard Elementary School and West Blvd. Elementary School. The bond issue will pass with a 4/7ths majority of the votes.

In addition, a 40-cent levy is proposed that would generate revenue to maintain current operating costs such as teachers' salaries. The tax levy will pass with a majority of the votes.



Future plans in the district's strategic planning process include a new elementary school in south Columbia, and necessary modifications to the district bus barn and parking lot. The ten-year plan calls for the eventual elimination of trailers and moving the students back into buildings.

The Columbia Public School district is the 9th largest district in Missouri with an enrollment in excess of 17,000 students. It currently has three high schools, three junior high schools, three middle schools, nineteen elementary schools and a career center. In addition, it has a Center for Gifted Education, a Center of Responsive Education, Early Childhood Education Center and a Title I Preschool.

