

# The Metro Memo



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

VOLUME 17-38

[WWW.COLUMBIAMETROROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.COLUMBIAMETROROTARY.ORG)

MARCH 17, 2010

## Opening

**President Bill Costello** welcomed members, visitors and guests to today's meeting. **Joy Block** led the group with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and **Jim Sharrock** introduced our visitors and guests.

## Attendance

### Members with Guests

**Mike Pitts**.....Casey Buckman  
**Karen Taylor** ..... Lonnie & Adam Taylor

### Visitors from Northwest:

Bob Schattgen

### Visitors from Downtown:

Andy Bonderer and RD Ross

### Visitors from South:

Josh Herron

## Announcements

Thanks to **Karen Brown** and **Shane Winter** for greeting members and guests as they arrived at today's meeting.

**Sarah Read** recognized the Youth Exchange committee for already recruiting three host families for next year for our youth exchange student from Germany. Sarah reminded people that they will need help with weekends and events. See **Britny Wright** or **Liz Magee** so that background checks can be completed.

There will be a welcome for the GSE team members from South Korea on March 28, 4-6 p.m. at the Youzeum. The event will be catered by Addison's and there will be adult beverages. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door.

**President Bill** encouraged members to visit the new web site and thanked MayeCreate Design for helping with the site at a reduced price.

## Family of Rotary

**Norm Benedict** reported that the first St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in New York in 1756, that the British evacuated Washington on this date in 1776 and that in 1910 Camp Fire Girls was established.

**Beth Lammers** announced the following birthdays:

**Mike Pitts** – March 17<sup>th</sup>  
**Marnie Clark** – March 19<sup>th</sup>

She also congratulated **Sarah Reed** on the nice article featuring her in last night's Tribune.

## Fellowship Event

**MU Baseball vs. Oklahoma State**

**Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Taylor Stadium**

**6PM**

**Adults \$5**  
**Children \$3 (Up to Grade 12)**  
**Seniors 60+ \$3**

**Email Ticket Orders by April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
[DonnieRay@Ludwig.com](mailto:DonnieRay@Ludwig.com)

## Sergeant-at-Arms

**Brad Nelson**, Sergeant at Arms, asked who was responsible for this quote, "It takes only one drink to get drunk, I just can't remember if it's the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>." The correct answer was George Burns and two tables had the correct answer.

## New Paul Harris Fellow

Congratulations to **Lori Pewitt**, Metro Rotary's newest Paul Harris Fellow! **Susan Hart** presented **Lori** with her certificate, medallion and pin and she explained that the \$1,000 donations to the Foundation can do such things as build a playground for orphans, help 120 abused children or set up a 10 small sewing businesses in Mexico.

## Proposed New Members

**Mike Pitts** has proposed **Casey Buckman** as a new member to Metro Rotary. Casey is the owner of Casey Buckman Photography in Columbia and his proposed classification is Photography.

**Bill Costello** has proposed **John Stringer** as a new member to Metro Rotary. John is a financial advisor for Edward Jones and his proposed classification is Investment - Sales.

## Upcoming Programs

- March 24** ..... Stephen Gaither  
Harry S. Truman Memorial  
Veterans' Hospital
- March 31** ..... Classification Talks
- April 7**...Mo Parks & Recreation Assoc.  
Jan Neitzert, Executive Director
- April 14**.....Get Physically Ready to  
Enjoy Outdoor Recreation Activities  
Damon Motley  
Boone Hospital Well Aware

## Assignments

Metro Rotary appreciates having the following members provide the raffle prize, sell the tickets, say the invocation, and lead the pledge. Please show your support by purchasing tickets that enable us to support our charities.

### Raffle/Invocation/Pledge:

March 24..... **Beth Lammers**  
March 31..... **Shawn Barnes**

### Next up for Greeters:

March 24..... **Scott Heck**  
& **Gary Warren**

March 31..... **Anna Dejong**  
& **Marcia Machens**

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## Program Summary

### Keep Columbia Safe Initiative By Karen and Adam Taylor



**Bill Costello** introduced fellow Rotarian **Karen Taylor** to the podium. **Karen** introduced her son Adam who shared his story about his attack on June 6, 2009.



*Karen Taylor*

Adam explained he left a group of friends in downtown Columbia to meet another group. He walked by himself and entered the parking garage at 10<sup>th</sup> and Cherry when he was attacked from behind by a gang of seven teenagers. He was immediately hit in the head and knocked out. The group left briefly, then came back and stole his wallet and beat him up. Adam saw no one and remembered nothing of the attack.

Upon regaining consciousness, Adam left and went home where his girlfriend called her father, Major Doug Schwandt. He took Adam to the hospital, where he, thankfully, found out he had no injuries. They then went back to the parking garage to discuss the attack when the Major noticed the video cameras.

On Monday, the video was obtained and within six hours five arrests were made. Three of the attackers were picked up and two turned themselves in. The other two remain unknown to police, and it is believed that the other gang members did

not know them either and that they have since left town.



*Adam Taylor, Capt. Brad Nelson, Karen Taylor*

The family went before the city council to request that they allow public comment on a proposal for the city to add cameras to downtown locations. The proposal was denied in a 4-3 vote.

The family created KeepColumbiaSafe.com and surveyed 1921 people, with 90% responding that they were in favor of cameras being placed downtown. Upon learning the opinions of others, and now knowing this was not just an emotional issue important only to the family, the Taylor's proceeded to with a petition initiative. They were told they needed 2579 signatures, 20 percent of the last election, and they gathered 3600 in their grassroots campaign. In all, they collected 3000 valid signatures, enough to take the initiative to the City Council. The Council could vote yes for the initiative, or, if members voted no, the initiative would be placed on the ballot. **Karen** told the Council that she preferred that the public have the opportunity to voice their opinions through a vote, so she asked the Council to vote down the initiative.

Proposition 1 will be on the April ballot. **Karen** explained that Prop 1 calls for the police chief to deploy the cameras in visible downtown areas, that they are not intended to be hidden. The proposition also states that the intended locations are

to be announced 30 days prior to installation in order to allow for public comment. She also reported that assaults downtown were up in 2009 over 2008 by 23 percent.

The Taylor's reported that one of the gang members was found guilty in only 20 minutes, and they believe that the video surveillance was the reason for that quick conviction. The teenager was sentenced to 10 years. One young man who turned himself in is serving five years, but was already up for parole. The board denied his parole based upon the videotape that they said showed that he was lying about the events of the night. One other teenager is still awaiting trial.

**Karen** and Adam wrapped things up with questions and by telling the group that even after the election, the Keep Columbia Safe group would continue to address other safety issues.

## Raffle

Congratulations to **Rob Christensen** the lucky winner of a \$40 gift certificate to Frameworks Gifts and Interiors courtesy of **Joy Block**. The drawing raised \$59.

*The March 17, 2010 newsletter notes were submitted by **Kris Farris**.*