

The Metro Memo



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

VOLUME 17-51

WWW.COLUMBIAMETROROTARY.ORG

JUNE 16, 2010

Opening

President Bill Costello welcomed members, visitors and guests to today's meeting. The newly-wed **Tim Cox** led the group with the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance and **Jim Sharrock** introduced our visitors and guests. **President Bill** also thanked today's greeters, **Kristi Ray** and **Don Ludwig**.

Attendance

Visitors & Guests of Members:

Beth Lammers.....Terry Phillips

Visitor from Northwest:

Larry Mead

Announcements

Sarah Read said committee lists for the next year were on the tables and members were asked to add their names to a committee they are interested in joining or delete their name if they no longer wished to be on a particular committee. If members have not signed up for a committee by next week, one will be assigned to them.

The Fellowship and Community Services Committees are teaming up with support from Boone Electric Cooperative and Rotaract to host an August Blood Drive. The date is August 3rd. See **Kimberly Earnest** for more information.

President Bill read a note from **Karen Taylor**, winner of this year's Vocational Service Award, thanking Metro Rotarians for their help this past year.

President Bill applauded **Don Ludwig** and **Rose Hayden** for the outstanding job they did in putting together last Friday's Charter Night. He also gave a special thanks to **Mike Pitts** and **Dan Kliethermes** for hosting and providing the wonderful venue for the event. Photos can be found on the Metro website at:

<http://columbiametrorotary.org/photo-gallery/?album=4&gallery=9>. **Don Ludwig** asked those who attended to let him know since it will count as a makeup.



President Bill also announced that **Jim** and **Audie Spieler** celebrated their 50th anniversary by attending Charter Night.

Cathy Scroggs and **Shawn Barnes**, members of the Voluntary Action Center Board of Directors presented the "Heart of VAC" award to fellow Rotarian, **Rob Christensen**. **Rob** was recognized for his activities to support VACs Christmas efforts to provide food vouchers and toys for needy kids.

Amanda, from the Columbia Country Club, announced a golf tournament to be held next Tuesday, the 22nd, in support of Lance Armstrong's Live Strong Foundation. They are hoping to make the record books with the largest shotgun start in history. Those interested should contact her for more information.

President Bill announced that nine of our fellow Metro Rotarians took advantage of the matching fellowship offer, donating over \$2000 toward a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Family of Rotary

Norm Benedict presented interesting facts about this date in history, including the fact that in 1963 Valentina Tereshkova of the USSR became the first woman launched into space (and he added "unfortunately she came back").

Groans were heard following that comment. **Norm** also noted that several Metro Rotarians were seen in last week's news: **Les Borgmeyer's** son was recognized for winning a \$5,000 Missouri Alumni Association scholarship to MU, and **Cathy** and **Stuart Scroggs** were photographed at the Voluntary Action Center "Spring into Action" event.

Sonja Derboven's birthday is June 20th, and **Rose Lloyd** will also be celebrating her birthday on the 21st.

On a more serious note, **Norm** advised that Lanny Johnson, son of **Lyle Johnson**, is scheduled for surgery in Kansas City this week, and asked for members to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brad Nelson levied fines of \$1 to those members who did not attend Charter Night. He also fined **Norm Benedict** \$2 for his remark about Valentina Tereshkova.

Upcoming Programs

June 23....Univ. of Mo Research Reactor
Ralph Butler

June 30.....President's Message
Bill Costello

July 7.....The Voice of the Tigers
Mike Kelly

July 14.....President's Address
Cindy Whaley

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.

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Raffle/Invocation/Pledge:

June 23.....**Anna De Jong**
June 30.....**Tina Ehrhardt**
July 7.....**Rob Christensen**
July 14.....**Jeff Davis**

Next up for Greeters:

June 23.....**Steve Baumgartner
& Casey Buckman**

June 30.....**Sarah Perry
& Lori Neidel**

July 7.....**Josh Kittle
& John Stringer**

July 14.....**Phil Lesley
& Gena Patton**

Program Summary

Mid-Missouri Bomb Squad
Detective Corey Bowden and
Fire Battalion Chief James Weaver

Brad Nelson introduced today's presenters, Detective Corey Bowden of the Columbia Police Department and Jim Weaver, Battalion Chief of the Columbia Fire Department, members of the Mid-Missouri Bomb Squad.



Battalion Chief Jim Weaver

Chief Weaver provided information about the Mid-Missouri Bomb Squad unit indicating it is a regional resource for northern and central Missouri. The unit was started in 1999 with a mission to provide citizens with highly trained members who can respond to dangers from hazardous materials, bomb threats, WMDs, found or recovered explosives, IEDs, and military ordinance. In addition they also perform post-blast

investigations. The unit was trained and works with the FBI when needed and is part of the Region F Homeland Security Response Team. In addition to its glistening black truck with Power Puff Girls and MU Tigers emblems, the squad has accumulated bomb suits, a remotely controlled robot and two bomb-sniffing dogs.



In honor of the truck's Power Puff Girls theme, the remotely controlled robot has been named Buttercup. Why Buttercup? "Well, Buttercup has got an attitude," Weaver said. Buttercup provides a valuable asset to the SWAT team. Buttercup has an on-board camera, microphone, speakers, and recording device. It can be run on wireless or fiber optic cable. She can climb stairs, carry hazmat monitors, and can operate in very hazardous situations.



Buttercup

In addition, Buttercup has the capability of firing a water cannon, as well as a 12-gauge shotgun for breach situations. Because of its precision, she also has the capability of searching aircraft. The cost of this device is between \$120,000 - \$130,000 for the basic platform; with

98% of the cost being grant funded. In addition to Buttercup, the Bomb Squad has other tools at its disposal, including bomb suits, digital x-rays for looking inside packages.

Some of the squad's work involves sweeping Memorial Stadium before football games and assisting the Secret Service during visits by political figures, like President Barack Obama's in October.

Chief Weaver and Detective Bowden took questions from the members, and a demonstration of Buttercup's capabilities and precision followed.

Raffle

Buttercup drew the winning raffle ticket. It was a \$50 coupon to L.C. Betz Jewelers courtesy of **Tim Cox**. The raffle raised \$68.

Thanks to Roma Wonneman for providing the notes for the June 16, 2010 Metro Memo.