

The Metro Memo



VOLUME 27-43

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

MAY 6, 2020

Meeting conducted via Zoom videoconferencing



Today, Rob Bartel is celebrating 11 years as a Metro Rotarian!

On May 12, Tom O'Connor will celebrate 16 years as a Metro Rotarian!

A couple of Metro members have been spotted recently in television advertisements. Congratulations to Norm Benedict who, along with his wife, Szasz, appears in a national ad for Prevagen. Also, congrats to Win Burggraaff, who, along with his wife, Isabel, appears in a local ad for The Terrace Retirement Community.

Three of Andrea Jira's family members (not in Columbia) have tested positive for the coronavirus. Please keep Andrea and her family members in your prayers as they recover.

Rob Bartel remains at Landmark Hospital. Please keep Rob and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he continues his recovery.

Stay Safe

COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



via Zoom videoconferencing immediately following the regular weekly meeting.

A total of 41 members participated in today's online meeting.

The Metro Rotary Board of Directors will meet next week

via Zoom videoconferencing immediately following the regular weekly meeting.



The 2020 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) sessions have been cancelled for this summer. The annual sessions help high school students develop skills as a leader while having fun and making connections. Metro has been a strong supporter of the program in the past, and the club has sponsored students to attend every year.

Sarah Read stated that she met recently with Interact officers. Their planned TEDx talk was cancelled, but they are planning to broadcast their program on YouTube Premium. More details will be provided as the broadcast date is confirmed.

John Absinthe recently had a desktop computer unit donated to his office. Kudos to John for inquiring if anyone knows a local student who may benefit from the unit being donated.

Sarah Read and **Shane Winter** will assist with finding a student who would find the computer useful.



Please contact President-Elect **Tom Rose** if you have an interest in chairing one of Metro's committees during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Sgt.-at-Arms **Mandy Schick** quizzed members with game trivia. Members were asked what game was invented by Eleanor Abbott in 1948 as she recovered from polio in San Diego, California. The answer: Candy Land!



www.columbiametrorotary.org

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Classification Talk

Garrett Pearson is currently the Executive Director of City of Refuge. The Texas native has been with the organization for four years, and he lives in Columbia with his wife, Nicole.

Garrett graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor's degree in Communication. He also holds a Master's degree in Divinity, Counseling from The Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

After graduation from college in Texas, he moved to Guatemala to work with kids there. He also referenced experiences living in Madrid, Spain and working with immigrants there.

Before moving to Columbia, Garrett lived in Louisville, Kentucky. He spoke of how he enjoyed assisting immigrants there, and how rewarding his work was to him.

Currently, Garrett oversees the day-to-day operations of City of Refuge. The local non-profit



assists refugees and immigrant families living in the Columbia area. The services they provide are categorized as: Basic Needs Programs, Counseling and Professional Development.

The organization is financed by local donations of individuals and businesses as well as revenue from grants and foundations. They have a large volunteer base that assists with weekly events and one-time events. Garrett noted that the English Language Learners (ELL) program is their largest offering.

Garrett stated he joined Rotary after speaking with member Jim Sharrock. Garrett stated that serving others "fills me up." He liked the mindset of members and how the overall focus of Rotary International is serving others.

In his spare time, he enjoys being with his wife, and he noted that he is an avid reader of fiction, science fiction and fantasy books.

ROTARY'S SIX AREAS OF FOCUS



Basic Education and Literacy



Maternal and Child Health



Peace and Conflict prevention / resolution



Disease prevention and



Water and Sanitation



Economic and Community