

# THE HISTORY OF COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY

(April 1993 – June 2025)



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Annual summaries compiled by Dr. Win Burggraaff and Mr. Jim Cherrington



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## *Origins and Charter*

In 1993 the three existing Rotary Clubs in Columbia, Downtown, Northwest, and South decided that the moment was propitious to form a fourth club. The process was started by existing members proposing members for the new club. On May 5 the first meeting of potential new members was held at Columbia's Jack's Gourmet Restaurant. Approximately forty people, representing a wide number of classifications, gathered to learn about Rotary International. They were joined by District Governor James Prewitt, Columbia Downtown President Jim Roller, Northwest President Larry McCoig, South President Glen Ehrhardt, Northwest Directors Kathi Posch, Tom Smith, and Downtown Director Tim Donovan. Each of these active Rotarians shared their experiences with the organization. Tim, Jim, Kathi, and Glen became our mentors throughout the next few months as the new club was created.

Our second meeting marked the adoption of a formal name: The Rotary Club of Columbia-Metro, Missouri. A nine-member board of directors was elected, one of whom, John John, is still with the club. From that board of directors the Club's first officers were elected: James Shinn, president; Magie Roberts, vice president; Vicki Dunscombe, secretary; B. J. Hunter, treasurer; and Barbara Hodges, Sergeant at Arms.

Our next few meetings were devoted to learning more about Rotary International, organizing committees, and completing the charter process. The three sponsoring clubs presented our lapel pins, badge box, flags and stands, club banner, and bell.

Our BIG DAY was on June 10, 1993, when we were chartered and admitted to Rotary International as the Rotary Club of Columbia-Metro, Missouri, U.S.A. Admitted were thirty-four charter members--fourteen women and twenty men. As of the printing of this document, four of these charter members were still active in Metro: Win Burggraaff, John John, Audrey Spieler, and Jim Stock.)

On the evening of July 21, 1993, our charter was officially presented by Past District Governor James Prewitt at the Charter Night Banquet held at the University of Missouri Alumni Center. Sixty-four members, spouses and honored guests attended. District Governor Bob Hastings offered remarks and installed our officers. It was a rousing start!



## *YEAR 1 (1993-1994)*

Our first twelve months were busy and exciting. Officers and directors worked to develop policies and procedures for the club, centering on attendance and membership. Committees were formed to plan projects and activities in all four avenues of service. Our goal for the first year was to emphasize club service, and ensure this area was strong enough to support efforts in the other three.

Only a month after our charter banquet, Metro members were surprised by the resignation of their first president, Jim Shinn, who was transferred on short notice by his employer to Springfield, Missouri. Vice president Magie Roberts stepped in to become Columbia's first female Rotary Club president. New officers had to be elected, and in October 1993, elections were held for the 1994-95 Rotary year. Vicki Dunscombe was elected president, John John president-elect, and Jim Stock vice president.



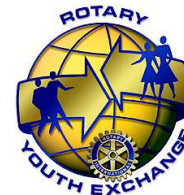
*Dr. Magie Roberts*

Highlights of that first year included fifty-one excellent programs arranged by Tom Henderson with help from other Club members. It also marked the beginning of a tradition of Metro happy hours to encourage fellowship, and the addition of fifteen new members. We also participated in four events with the other Columbia Clubs: the fall decathlon and family picnic, a Mizzou football tailgate, Christmas buffet and theater event at Stephens College, and a Rotary auction, the latter raising over \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity and bringing us \$3,000 for community projects. We also joined other District 6080 Rotary Clubs in sponsoring high school students for Student Government Day.

Also of note, during this first year five Metro members donated to the Rotary Foundation to become our first Paul Harris sustaining members, including Tom Henderson and John John.

To do its part for the community, Metro helped in clean-up efforts during the 1993 Missouri River flood, and adopted a family for Christmas. We also donated funds to the Senior All-Night Party, Advent Enterprises, Easter Seals, Lenoir Daycare Center, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Metro also sponsored inbound Ambassadorial Scholar Tewhan Hahn of South Korea, and Peggy Davis, selected by our District as outbound Ambassadorial Scholar. Thanks mainly to Audrey Spieler, Metro initiated its regular participation in Rotary's Youth Exchange programs. In January we welcomed our first Youth Exchange student, Yvonne Bunting, from the Republic of South Africa. We also agreed to sponsor Anne Tillema as an outbound Youth Exchange student to Belgium in 1994-95, and in April helped host the Group Study Exchange Team from South Korea.



As our inaugural year came to a close, we thanked Magie Roberts for her outstanding leadership. We began with thirty-four charter members, and ended with forty, an increase of 17.6%. Fifteen

members had 100% attendance, while the Club's average attendance was 80.04%. We also participated in the District conference held in April in Columbia.



## *YEAR 2 (1994-1995)*

Vicki Dunscombe assumed the leadership role for Metro's second year, which was a busy and productive one. With one exception, all goals set at the beginning of the year were met. Our attendance goal of 80% was a little short, averaging 77.36%.



*Vicki Dunscombe*

In club service we enjoyed fifty-one quality programs, covering all four areas of service, receiving high praise from District Governor George Gillerman for a successful year. Metro Rotarians attended Show-Me Rotary, The District conference at Tan-Tar-A, and District Rotary Foundation conference.

Sergeant at Arms Rick Frost initiated a weekly raffle to raise funds for community and other human needs. We averaged about forty dollars a week and were able to support the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, Woodhaven Learning Center, Rotary Foundation, Rotary Gardens at Ellis Fischel, Special Olympics Missouri, the Kobe, Japan Earthquake Relief Fund, Ronald McDonald House, Oklahoma City Bombing Relief Fund, Senior All-Night Party, and Columbia Public Schools Reading Day. In all, we gave \$3,900 to these worthy causes using raffle money and funds from the previous year's auction.

Metro continued in its tradition of fellowship with continued happy hours and a Metro family picnic. In addition, we showed strong participation in interclub events: decathlon and picnic, MU football game tailgate party, Christmas dinner and dance, and a Spring theater fundraiser. The latter event resulted in a \$2,500 donation to the MU Theater Department and \$1,700 to our Club for other projects. We also participated with other District clubs in the annual Student Government Day in Jefferson City.

Membership rose to forty-eight members, an increase of twenty percent. New members included current members Jake Halliday, Christine Carpenter, Teri Smith, Tim Springer, Jean Leonatti, Lori Pewitt, Helen Black, Don Ludwig, and Sabrina McDonnell.

Our continuing community service projects included providing Christmas gifts for a needy family and helping with the Easter Seals Telethon. We also formed a new Missouri Stream Team, spending the year orienting leaders and organizing for that effort.

Our vocational committee distributed framed copies of Rotary's Four-Way Test to all area secondary schools for display. We also organized an award to give annually to an outstanding public sector employee. The first Outstanding Public Sector Employee Award (1994-95) was presented in June to our own Robert Ross.



*Robert Ross*

International service continued as an active area for Metro. Yvonne Bunting, Youth Exchange student from South Africa, remained with us until January, when we said a sad farewell. As Yvonne left, Kelly Thomas arrived from New Zealand. Anne Tillema, our outbound Youth Exchange Student, spent the year in the French-speaking part of Belgium. We sponsored Cassandra Veney as a member of the District Group Study Exchange to Southern India. We also joined the other Columbia clubs in April to host the inbound Group Study Exchange team from India.

Gifts to The Rotary Foundation from Metro in 1994-95 totaled \$4,000. Barbara Rippel became our first Paul Harris Fellow for that year. Five other members became sustaining members.

The club also paid tribute at the last meeting of the Rotary year to President Vicki Dunscombe as she passed the gavel to John John. Retiring officers and directors were also thanked for their leadership.

Our club continues to grow, enjoying growing and sustaining fellowship, contributing to our community, world peace and understanding. We also received the Rotary Presidential Citation for our accomplishments in all four avenues of service.



### *YEAR 3 (1995-1996)*

Our year began with President John outlining three goals: 1) keep having fun, 2) bring membership up by a net of ten new members, and 3) donate \$5,000 to deserving organizations. While working toward these goals we made sure number one was met. "Wild-Card" make-ups were introduced and Vicki Dunscombe hosted the third Metro charter celebration in June. Led by Linda Phillips and the community service committee, our Stream Team helped clean up Hinkson Creek, which was reported in the local press. Several members also participated in insect identification and water quality testing during this clean-up. Our strenuous activity was followed by a post Stream Team potluck at Jake Halliday's. Susan Hart, our Interclub Projects Committee representative, helped coordinate a great tailgate party prior to the Mizzou-Oklahoma football game. The first annual Columbia Fellowship Cup, billed as the "Ultimate Golf tournament," also took place. We also attended an All-Rotary Christmas event at the MU Reynolds Alumni Center.



*John John*

Building on Rotary's tradition of service summarizes the 1995-96 year for Metro Rotary. Club activities included Stream Team, Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing, sponsorship of two Christmas families provided by the Voluntary Action Center, and assistance to the Central Missouri Food Bank.

Metro also sponsored Kelly Thomas from New Zealand in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Takeya Mizuno from Japan's Tokyo West club was our inbound Ambassadorial Scholar. Peggy Davis was our club's outbound Scholar to Austria. The Group Study Exchange team from Norway were guests and attended the district meeting in late April. Outbound Youth Exchange included sending Sara Schneider to South Africa and Steve Shafer to the Canary Islands.

Thirteen new members were welcomed. We had a net increase in membership from forty-eight to fifty-three, only slightly short of our goal.

Thanks mainly to the weekly raffle, now a club tradition, \$2,600 was contributed to various local organizations. We gave another \$2,800 to the Central Missouri Food Bank as proceeds from the Rotary Art Auction. The remainder, \$4,600, was donated to The Rotary Foundation.

Three club members became Paul Harris Fellows: Vicki Dunscombe, Tom Henderson, and Magie Roberts. Ten others are sustaining Fellows.

For this 1995-96 year we met all our yearly goals with exception of membership. We continued to grow, contributed to the community, and became a significant presence in the District and Rotary International. We received a commendation from District Governor Art Allen for contributions to The Rotary Foundation, an increase of 1,200%. At the last yearly meeting the Club thanked President John John for a job well done. The gavel was passed to Jim Stock.



#### ***YEAR 4 (1996-1997)***

Columbia Metro Rotary Club was alive and well as a frisky four year old. President Jim Stock, the board and officers got off to a good start by building on the foundation and momentum of our first three years. President Jim challenged the club to follow the new Rotary theme for the year--*Build a Future With Vision and Action*.

The year began with fifty-four members, adding eighteen to our roster during the year, while only six left. We ended the year with a net gain of twelve, far exceeding our original goal of five. Among the new members were Jim Cherrington, Rob Christensen, Jeff Davis, Stuart Scroggs and Betty Wordelman. Within a two-week period two new Paul Harris Fellows were recognized: B. J. Hunter and Win Burggraaff.



***Jim Stock***

Throughout the Rotary year our meetings were lively, the programs interesting, and attendance good. While Jim Stock was running the meetings smoothly, Sergeant-at-Arms B. J. Hunter maintained order and flexed the muscles of his position to the extent that Chip Cooper and John John accused him of "abuse of power," which only served to spur B.J. on to stiffer fines.

In June 1997 it was decided to move our club's meeting place from Jack's Gourmet Restaurant to the Columbia Country Club; we continue to enjoy its hospitality today. Other social events of the year included a club picnic at Rock Bridge State Park in September; an Interclub tailgate party before an MU football game in October; an Interclub Christmas party, featuring a dinner theater in December; and our annual Charter Day celebration dinner in June, at the Pasta Factory.

Metro remained a motivating force in community service, with three of these activities Christmas holiday related. A large contingent of club members served as volunteer bell ringers for the Salvation Army campaign. We also sponsored three needy families, consisting of eleven individuals, through the Voluntary Action Center's Christmas program. More unusual, several Metro elves turned out to assemble 50 bicycles to be distributed to underprivileged kids. Fortunately, Tryathletics was on hand to provide quality control.



Other community activities included purchasing a "block of time" to support the Boone County Courthouse square fundraising project. The block will be placed in the "wall of time," to be constructed as part of the Courthouse square renovation project. The block will recognize Metro Rotary Club and our charter date. Three Metro members were recognized for their work on Rotary projects that benefited others. Nancy Howard received a certificate for coordinating the adopt-a-family project for the VAC, and Don Ludwig and Linda Phillips were recognized for their efforts on behalf of the Stream Team project. Part of that project involved Metro members going on a scouting expedition of Hinkson Creek in October. Monetary contributions to local organizations included \$400 to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, \$100 to Habitat for Humanity and \$50 to the Ann Carlson Food Pantry. Finally, a club committee worked enthusiastically on a joint club fundraiser, which featured an art auction. The project raised \$10,300 shared by the participating clubs.

In the area of vocational service, several members participated in West Junior High School's Ninth Grade Career Day, where they assisted in career counseling and interviewing. Some members also participated in the Career Shadowing Day, where junior high students shadowed our hard-working club members.

Our club also recognized the importance of international service. Metro served as the lead in sponsoring the Group Study Exchange team from Brazil, who visited our District in May. Two team members were hosted by Metro families. Planning also began for hosting another inbound Youth Exchange student, a young woman from France.

At the end of this Rotary year, President Jim announced that we were one of only 16 clubs in the district to receive the Rotary Presidential Citation. He thanked club members for a good year and

presented certificates of achievement to the directors, officers, and committee chairs. He then passed the presidential gavel to Barbara Hodges.



### ***YEAR 5 (1997-1998)***

President Barbara Hodges, ably assisted by President-Elect Ginny Northcutt, Vice President Don Ludwig, Secretary Tim Springer, Treasurer Teri Smith, Sergeant at Arms Rick James and a strong board, guided us through our fifth year as a Rotary club.



***Barbara Hodges***

Club activities: Our program committee provided us with an excellent variety of programs, including some amusing classification talks. A new member orientation session was held in April. Three social hours contributed to our camaraderie: at Cornerstone Cafe in November, Chris McD's in January and Boone Tavern in April.

More socializing occurred February 11, when we participated in the Interclub Valentine dinner and dance at Holiday Inn Select. After an excellent meal we danced to the music of the Norm Ruebling Band. Metro's social life for the Rotary year concluded June 19 with a successful Charter Night celebration (marking the end of our fifth year) at the home of Don Ludwig and Sally Lyon.

Club business: In February 1998, an amendment to club bylaws was passed (to go into effect July 1, 1998) that provided for termination of members whose dues are considered in arrears (see Article X Finances, Section 5 [New].)

Community service: Metro continued to demonstrate its strong support for local service organizations. Our premier fundraising event was *Casino Night*, held May 15 at Boone Tavern, which raised over \$1,400 for Daniel Boone Regional Library. Metro was also able to contribute to these worthwhile organizations: \$400 to Comprehensive Human Services; Ronald McDonald House; Central Missouri Food Bank; King's Daughters Dental Aid; \$100 to Woodhaven; Central Missouri Humane Society; Meals on Wheels; Boys and Girls Club of Columbia; and \$50 to Lutheran Family Services, MADD, Girl Scouts, and the West Junior High Peer Mediation program.

In the area of education Metro members donated \$600 to help send students from Hickman High and West Junior High to compete in the *Odyssey of the Mind*, a competition that involves creative problem-solving strategy development. Both teams finished first in the state in their age divisions and went on to the national competition. In addition, we pledged \$400 to help send two Columbia students to a leadership seminar in Kansas City.

In what is becoming a three-part club Christmas holiday project, we participated in the Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing campaign on December 6 at Schnucks. We also "adopted" three

families for Christmas through the Voluntary Action Center, and for a second year participated in a bicycle assembly night at Tryathletics under David Litherland's supervision. The bikes will go to needy youngsters in the community.

Finally, Linda Phillips continued to head up Metro's participation in the Stream Team project, whose activities occur primarily in the fall and spring. Metro members also met with a representative from Rotary South to plan future projects. In fact, our activities to date have been so successful that we are even considering "adopting" another stream.

Vocational service: In October, Metro facilitated the Chamber of Commerce/MU College of Business job-shadowing program by interacting with ninth graders at Jefferson Junior and West Junior High Schools.

International service: Our most important international activity this year was hosting inbound Youth Exchange student Roselyn Gonon from Lyon, France. Although she had to return home briefly to attend to a medical problem, she came back to finish out a most enjoyable year here, thanks especially to the hospitality of the Cooper, Cowherd, and Danley families.



Metro also sponsored Erica Leak, a recent graduate of MU's College of Human Environmental Science, for a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, providing her the opportunity to study at the School of Architecture in London, England. Subsequently she went on to pursue her master's in architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle.

In addition, we sponsored Soichiro Arita from Japan, a graduate student in Rural Sociology at MU. During the first week in April we participated in welcoming the inbound Group Study Exchange team from Argentina. Our March 11 program featured Sarah Snyder, who spoke on her experiences as a Rotary exchange student in Durban, South Africa. In the spring Metro agreed to sponsor two outbound Youth Exchange students from local high schools, sending Jonah Brindley to Japan and Marie Tillema to Belgium.

Finally, two distinctions must be noted. Charter member Tom Henderson received a plaque to honor his service on the district's scholarship committee. And the Metro Club--now 68 members strong--received the 1997-98 Presidential Citation Award for distinguishing itself in all four avenues of service.



### ***YEAR 6 (1998-1999)***

President Ginny Northcutt, assisted by an able group of new officers, board members and committee chairs, led Metro-Rotary through a year of significant activity and accomplishment.

This year, in terms of community service, Metro joined with several other civic clubs in promoting Missouri Football Coach Larry Smith's Score Against Hunger. We purchased, along with the other Rotary Clubs, a semi-trailer for the Central Missouri Food Bank, contributing \$1,500. The semi was displayed at Rotary's District Conference and highly praised by District Governor Matt Eichor. Led by David Litherland, Metro volunteers also assembled forty bicycles for needy young people at Christmas. In addition, we raffled one bike, raising \$760 for Kosovo refugees. For the first time, all four local clubs helped construct a home for Habitat for Humanity. To conclude the year, we joined the other three clubs for a Talent Night, which brought our memberships together in fellowship, raising \$3,600 for Metro's designated charities. For the year Metro-Rotary donated \$8,100 to community organizations.



*Ginny Northcutt*

To continue doing our part for international service, Metro hosted members of the Friendship Exchange Team from Australia and the Group Study Exchange Team from Japan. Member Tom Henderson worked with our Ambassadorial Scholars and was counselor to Ericka Leake, outbound Youth Exchange Scholar to the University of Western Australia in Perth, and So Hyang Yoon, our inbound scholar from South Korea, who is studying Journalism at MU. Finally, we sent Columbia student George Onsongo to Nairobi, Kenya, to attend the funeral of his brother, killed during the terrorist bombing of our U.S. Embassy there.

During the year, our club continued its strong record of achievement, donating \$3,300 to the Rotary Foundation. We added five new Paul Harris Fellows--a record for our club. We brought in seven new members, but, because of high turnover, began the year with 69 members and ended with 65. Average attendance was a respectable 77%, with eleven members scoring 100% attendance.

Our combined efforts were rewarded when Metro-Rotary received the Presidential Citation from District 6080 for distinguished achievement in each of four areas of service.



### *YEAR 7 (1999-2000)*

President Susan Hart and her leadership team of officers, board members, and committee chairs steered Metro Rotary to a rewarding, productive, and successful year.

Community Service: Metro is particularly proud of one community service project, Operation Christmas Wheels, for which we were nominated for the District 6080 Significant Achievement Award. For five years club members have procured, assembled, and distributed bicycles to needy children during the holiday season. Typically 35 members donate about 180 man-hours of labor to assemble 50 bikes. To date, 250 bikes, valued at



*Susan Hart*

\$50,000, have been donated. Each recipient is expected to give back by contributing to the community; in 1999 these children rendered over 500 hours of community service.

International Service: This year Metro had the privilege of hosting inbound Youth Exchange student Darryl Pillay from South Africa. He established an excellent record at Hickman High School and was a delightful guest in several of our homes. He made many friends and will be missed. Our club also took the lead in hosting a Group Study Exchange Team from Morocco, who arrived in May. We arranged for support, housing, and assistance on Vocational Day from the other local clubs. In addition, Metro, along with the other Columbia clubs, helped finance vocational courses in Recife, Brazil. The specific target is One hundred-fifty teenagers and young adults who live in the Favele do Rato in downtown Recife. The vocational training will provide these inner city dwellers an alternative to drugs, prostitution and street gangs, so prevalent in this region.



*Darryl Pillay*

Our most exciting international endeavor was sponsorship of Madina Ounkhanova, a Chechen young woman who was living in exile in Prague. Having already courageously rescued family members from bombardment in Chechnya, she set a goal of obtaining a U.S. visa, finding suitable work in the U.S., and developing the resources to move her family safely to Europe. Madina's journey took her to Columbia, where she was provided with housing, good employment, medical care, and transportation. Metro raised over \$2,000 for this brave young woman and her dramatic story was highlighted in the local press. Our thanks to Chip Cooper, Karen Taylor, and other club members for their extraordinary humanitarian efforts.



### *YEAR 8 (2000-2001)*

Under the leadership team captained by President Tim Springer, Metro-Rotary had another busy and successful year.

Club Service: Despite valiant efforts by our members, membership suffered a slight decline, from sixty-five to sixty-two members, caused mainly by members moving away. A membership drive in conjunction with the regular noon luncheon, realized nineteen prospective new members. Gordon Brown became our first senior active member. Average attendance was a robust 75.44%. By the end of the Rotary year the number of Paul Harris Fellows had risen to fifteen, with the addition of Teri Smith and Jim Cherrington. The board also committed \$1,300 toward matches to increase the number of fellows and sustaining members. A special program was held on Foundation giving, with Susan Hart becoming our first Rotary Foundation benefactor. In fact Metro contributed over \$3,000 to the Foundation's annual programs fund and over half our members are now either fellows or sustaining members. Audrey Spieler received a Foundation District Service Award and four of our members attended the annual District 6080 Conference in Sedalia. We gave \$200 to the local



*Tim Springer*

Rotaract Club to help send Rotaract members to a leadership training conference in Washington, D.C.

Community Service: The year was marked by extensive service to the Columbia community. We sent two local high school students to the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp at William Woods University. We gave \$500 and a computer to Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home. A Habitat for Humanity project was the beneficiary of a \$100 gift. In addition, we gave \$45 to the Voluntary Action Center and provided \$350 to our designated VAC Christmas family. \$500 grants were given to Access Arts, Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home, King's Daughters Dental Aid, and the Alzheimer's Association. And, three cheers for the thirty-five members who donated 180 hours of time to assemble bicycles (whether they knew how to or not) for disadvantaged youth. Special thanks also go to David Litherland for securing the grant to fund the project. To make it even more worthwhile, recipients must return the favor by giving service to the community. Club members and nine high school students also participated in the annual Student Government Day in Jefferson City. Several members volunteered for the holiday Woodhaven Festival of Lights, while six participated in an American Heart Association annual walk through the MU campus, raising \$865. Metro's attendance was excellent at the Score Against Hunger annual luncheon on behalf of the Central Missouri Food Bank. Metro raised enough funds and food to deliver 1,434 meals. Members also participated in the Salvation Army holiday bell-ringing campaign. Finally, the Rotary joint fundraiser featured a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" quiz show, plus a silent auction. Our club netted \$2,500 from the event, to be distributed to local charities. Finally, we raised about \$400 for charity as participants in the Interclub rose sale in November.

Vocational Service: Mike Hood, director of Columbia's department of Parks and Recreation, received our annual Public Sector Employee of the Year Award. Several members also participated in mock interviews with high school students.



*Mike Hood*

International Service: Metro participated in, and partially funded, a Group Study Exchange team to South Africa, with Audrey Spieler serving as team leader. We contributed \$128 to the inbound Group Study Exchange team from South Africa and hosted two of its members. An Interclub barbeque for Group Study Exchange was held at Chapel View Stables, with former Missouri Governor Roger Wilson in attendance. We sponsored Burke Bindbeutel as our outbound Youth Exchange student to Belgium, did a program on Youth Exchange, and sponsored the application of Rock Bridge High School student Casey Enright. Of special note, Susan Hart accompanied John Parfet and 18 outbound Youth Exchange students to deliver a Foundation grant for vocational training in the shantytowns of Recife, Brazil.

Last but not least, the Club's primary goal for the year was achieved: we were awarded the 2000-01 Presidential Citation by District 6080.



## *YEAR 9 (2001-2002)*

President Teri Smith and an enthusiastic group of officers, board members, and committee chairs led Metro Rotary through another productive year.



*Teri Smith*

Club Service: Total club membership climbed by a net of eighteen --from sixty-three to eighty-one. Our thanks to those who sponsored these 18 new members! Our number of Paul Harris Fellows rose from eighteen to twenty, and Gordon Brown became our second Foundation Benefactor. Several members attended the annual District 6080 Conference in Warrensburg and our club provided funds for Jim Cherrington to participate in the Show Me Leadership Conference. We also contributed \$150 to the local Rotaract Club. There was lively participation in our planned social events. One of the highlights was our tailgate party at the spring Black & Gold football game.

Community Service: Metro was active as always in service to its local community. We contributed \$1,250 to Special Olympics Missouri and supported two high school students' participation in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp at William Jewell College. We made a donation to the Red Cross, and a large contingent of Metro Rotarians attended the annual Score Against Hunger luncheon on behalf of the Central Missouri Food Bank. We also had excellent participation in the annual interclub rose sale, now our primary annual fundraiser. Our hefty share of the sale was destined for local charities.

Vocational Service: In June we presented our award for the Public Sector Employee of the Year to Robyn Kaufman, of Boone County Group Homes. Club members also participated in Oakland Junior High job shadowing and Boonework mock interviews.

International Service: Metro provided \$200 toward sponsoring Group Study Exchange Team member Bronwen Madden, of Columbia. We also sponsored and hosted our inbound Youth Exchange student, Cecilia Guerra, from Recife, Brazil. We also nominated Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman for the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace.



## *YEAR 10 (2002-2003)*

Under the able leadership of Jim Cherrington and his hard-working officers, board and committee chairs, our club put together another highly successful year.



*Jim Cherrington*

In the area of community service Metro Rotary was active and supportive. Early in the year we assisted Columbia Public Schools by ensuring an American flag would be available for display in every classroom in the District. We also (as we have done previously) participated in Salvation

Army bellringing at Christmas, volunteered for Woodhaven's Festival of Lights, sponsored three students to attend the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Camp, accompanied local students to Missouri Student Government Day in Jefferson City, and presented Steve Sapp of the Columbia Fire Department with the Metro Rotary Public Sector Employee of the Year Award.

The annual city-wide Rotary Rose Sale continued as our largest fundraising event of the year. We also participated in a city-wide Rotary fundraising event on October 25 at Chapel View Stables. Proceeds were donated to Rotary International's PolioPlus program.

Metro undertook three major projects this year, each designed to benefit the community. First, club members agreed to purchase a large tent for use by the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. The 60' by 40' tent has a large Metro logo located in the center of its white canvas top. The tent will be used by the Department at upcoming city and county activities.

Second, club members voted to fund the restoration of a 19th-century buggy once owned by Dr. Frank Nifong. A respected Columbia physician from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Pulled by a single horse, it was Nifong's primary mode of transportation. The buggy is historically important: Nifong was also one of the founders of the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Boone County Hospital, and Stephens College's Department of Health Education.

Third, a recently launched education initiative is a project that may have the most impact on club members for years to come. In April 2003 Metro became the first Rotary organization to serve as a Partner in Education for the Columbia Public School District. We agreed to partner with a particular program rather than with a single school. Specifically, Metro will serve as a Partner in Education for the Title I Program within the Columbia School District. Metro Rotarians will assist principally with preschool classroom support (helping 3-4 year-olds with language skills and problem solving), Reading Practice Beyond the Classroom (listening to children read and reading more difficult books to them), support at school events/field trips and support students, teachers, and parents at scheduled school events.



Metro also sponsored Belgium's Ben Struyven in the international service Youth Exchange program, with Chip Cooper serving as Ben's counselor. We also sponsored Dr. Susan Griffith's participation in the outbound Group Study Exchange Team to Japan in March 2003.

Metro Rotarians also had a good time interacting at monthly social events which included a four-club tailgate party prior to an MU football game, an MU volleyball game, and visits to a variety of local establishments.

Five new Paul Harris Fellows were recognized this year: Rob Christensen, Jacque Cowherd, Don Ludwig, Ginny Northcutt, and Linda Phillips. We welcomed eighteen new members while seven

submitted resignations. We completed the year with ninety-one members; quite a feat considering that just ten years ago Metro began its work with a group of only thirty-four.

At the annual District 6080 conference, Metro was presented with the coveted Presidential Citation. The 2002-2003 Rotary year culminated with our tenth annual Charter Night celebration, graciously hosted by Audrey and Jim Spieler at their home.



### *YEAR 11 (2003-2004)*

Metro Rotary began its second decade under the able leadership of President Jacque Cowherd, who was supported by strong and energetic officers and committee chairs.

Club: The goal of increasing our membership, despite holding a special membership event, was not met; we began and ended the year at Ninety-two. We gained thirteen new members but also lost thirteen. Attendance averaged sixty-nine percent. Classification policy, always a thorny issue, was addressed with some changes made in classifications.

We continued our tradition of holding fellowship events, which included outings to Top Ten Wines, Upper Crust, Cold Stone Ice Cream, a basketball game at Columbia College (in support of Coaches Against Cancer), and an MU women's basketball game. The year culminated with a well-attended Charter Night celebration at the Walters-Boone County Historical Museum.

Our program committee scheduled fifty excellent presentations, most of which were on themes related to club, community, vocational, and international service. For the two weeks in January when the Columbia Country Club was being renovated, we held one meeting at the Tom Taylor Building on the MU campus and the other at Missouri United Methodist Church, where we were treated to a recital by church organist David Cason on the church's magnificent, rare and historic pipe organ.

In terms of club business, the Metro membership voted to revise club by-laws in two ways: to increase annual dues from \$110 to \$130, and to increase the size of the board of directors from nine to fourteen to reflect our increased membership.

Community: Much of our community service consisted of providing funding to support local causes, including participating in the annual fall Score for Hunger luncheon on behalf of the Central Missouri Food Bank, Salvation Army bellringing, adopting a family through the Voluntary Action Center, and assembling bicycles (all at Christmas); and volunteering for and donating to the new Community Health Center. Our biggest fundraiser was the annual November



*Dr. Jacque Cowherd*

Rose Sale organized by John Felver and Melinda Powell. Of special note, Metro members donated \$200 to Rainbow House to honor Karen Taylor's contributions to the community.

Youth-oriented activities included funding two high school students to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp and taking several high school students to Student Government Day in Jefferson City. Our Title I Partners in Education involvement continued, with a number of members serving as reading volunteers. In addition, over 700 books were purchased and donated to the schools. We also donated a shed at West Boulevard Elementary School. Finally, our long-standing commitment to the community deepened when Metro became the *first* local service club to join the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Ambassadors and other officials came to a June meeting to recognize officially our membership in the Chamber.

Vocational: In this area two projects stand out. First, the vocational committee found a number of Metro members to volunteer as judges at the annual state conference of the Future Business Leaders of America in Columbia in April. Second, the committee selected retiring Sheriff Ted Boehm as Public Sector Employee of the Year. He was honored by the club at a luncheon meeting in June.

Centennial Project: Following the guidelines of Rotary International for a project to commemorate RI's one hundred years of service, a committee selected a project from several worthwhile proposals submitted by Metro members. A \$5,000 donation was made to the Walters-Boone County Historical Museum to aid in the construction of a pavilion to house local, but nationally recognized author, William Least Heat Moon's boat, *Nikawa*, which was featured in his best-selling book *River Horse*. This project was selected because, among other things, it fits in nicely with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, honors a nationally renowned local writer, and will be of enduring benefit to all.

Rotary Foundation: Inspired by Foundation coordinator Susan Hart, Metro members donated \$8,700 to the Foundation, the highest yearly total in club history. We also honored seven new Paul Harris Fellows and completed our commitment to PolioPlus one year early, bringing our total contribution to PolioPlus to \$3,525. Over eleven years the grand total of Metro's giving to the Foundation now stands at \$41,190.

International: Our commitment to building global good will continued through a number of activities. We sponsored Ambassadorial Scholar Patrick Brooks and inbound Youth Exchange student Jorge Dominguez from Taxco, Mexico, who was hosted by Steve Fleischer, John Mullette and Helen Black. We sponsored outbound Youth Exchange student Stephen Farris to Germany and short-term Youth Exchange student Kelly Seitz (Rock Bridge High School) to Latvia. We also agreed to sponsor outbound Youth Exchange student Duncan Bindbeutel for 2004-05. Finally, Metro matched the \$200 that Tom O'Connor and Prem Ravindram gave to the Wadia Hospital in India.

Our collective efforts paid off: the first year of our second decade saw us once again being awarded the Presidential Citation from District 6080.

In terms of club business, the Metro membership voted to revise club by-laws in two ways: to increase annual dues from \$110 to \$130, and to increase the size of the board of directors from nine to fourteen to reflect our increased membership.



### *YEAR 12 (2004-2005)*

At our first meeting, Team Christenson took the helm of Metro Rotary. Rob was ably assisted by Sharon Mitchell, president-elect; John Humlicek, secretary; Betty Wordelman, treasurer; Jacque Cowherd, past president; and Marcia Machens, sergeant-at-arms. Also advising President Christenson was a board of directors consisting of Norm Benedict, Sue Bliss, Win Burggraaff, Madonna Ferris, Dennis Lynch, Connie Martin, Melinda Powell, Tracey Littell, and Marnie Tutt.



*Rob Christensen*

*Club Service:* At the beginning of the year, club membership stood at 92. We ended the year with a net gain of two members. Sadly, board member Connie Martin underwent brain surgery in Texas and faces a long convalescence. Audrey and Jim Spieler attended the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International in Chicago, joining 40,000 other Rotarians from 163 countries. Our speakers for the year were an eclectic bunch that included Missouri director of economic development Greg Steinhoff. Social events were sprinkled throughout the year where members relaxed and enjoyed their favorite libation. Charter Night was not held in 2005. Instead, it was replaced by an all-Columbia Rotary Club picnic at Bethel Park on June 25. A Highlight for Metro was the 6080 District Conference held at the Holiday Inn Executive Center here in Columbia. Numerous Metro Rotarians participated as volunteers. In particular the Club—and the District—thank our own Susan Hart for doing a terrific job as co-chair of the conference!

Our thanks also to those who kept our membership and the community informed of our club's accomplishments and outreach activities, especially Sam Hargadine and Marcia Machens, Newsletter co-chairs; Bill Costello, program committee; Norm Benedict, public relations; Sharon Mitchell and Renee Hoagenson, family of Rotary; and Joy Block, fellowship.

*Community Service:* The centerpiece of our community service effort this year was our Rotary Centennial project, for which several members submitted proposals. The project selected was President Rob's. We generously contributed \$5,000 to a \$75,000 project to house author William Least Heat Moon's boat, Nikawa, at the Walters-Boone County Historical Society Museum. Nikawa was the protagonist of Heat Moon's best seller, *River Horse*, which chronicled his 5,000 mile aquatic journey through the U.S., much of it retracing the voyage of Lewis and Clark two centuries before. "Metro Rotary" appears on a permanent plaque in the River Horse Pavilion that houses Nikawa on the grounds of the museum. A major thrust of our community service is



our continuing Partners in Education partnership with Title I. In addition to supplying \$2,000 for books for young readers in Title I-funded literacy programs (four \$500 awards to Benton, New Haven, Rock Bridge and West elementary schools) about 15 members volunteered to help school kids with their reading. Another project to which we contributed was support for the Family Health Center. We also were active in three projects to help mold our young people into better citizens and community leaders: RYLA camp, to which we sent Janelle Harrison of Fulton (Joy Block's granddaughter); Youth Government Day in Jefferson City in March; and the annual Future Business Leaders of America state conference in Columbia in April, to which we volunteered several competition judges.

*International Service:* Club enthusiasm for international involvement remains high. We hosted an inbound foreign exchange student, Bia, from Brazil, and sponsored an outbound exchange student, Stephen Ferris (Madonna's son), who will spend the year in Germany. We also gave support to R. I.'s PolioPlus which is striving to permanently eradicate polio worldwide. We are proud that our club has raised \$3,400 for the Foundation. Our number of sustaining Paul Harris Fellows also grew. An exciting venture that energized the club was Shoes for Orphan Souls, co-chaired by Sharon Mitchell and Jim Sharrock. The R.I. project involved the purchase and donation of shoes to be delivered to orphanages in developing countries. Our donation amounted to \$800 and 1,012 pairs of shoes, presented at the District convention. District 6080 delivered a total of 30,000 pairs of shoes. Congratulations to everyone who took part, especially Sharon and Jim!

*Overall:* Club efforts in all four avenues of service were rewarded with the district 6080 Presidential Citation. President Rob, fellow officers, board members and committee chairs should be congratulated on another superb showing by a club committed to service above self.



### ***YEAR 13 (2005-2006)***

Metro's thirteenth year was presided over by President Sharon Mitchell, assisted by Betty Wordelman, secretary; Stuart Scroggs, treasurer; (and, briefly, president-elect John Humlicek who resigned from the Club in order to undertake a new position in Illinois). Lending further support to President Sharon was a board consisting of Norm Benedict, Sue Bliss, Bill Costello, Renee Hoagenson, Tracey Littell, David Mink, Rob Quinn, Ton Rose, and Marnie Tutt. Led by this group of enthusiastic leaders, the club proceeded to work in the traditional four avenues of service:



***Sharon Mitchell***

*Club Service:* Our club lost a valued and beloved member, Connie Martin, who succumbed to brain cancer after waging a valiant fight for several months. Connie left behind her husband, Greg, and two children, Kendall and Kayla. The Club sent cards, helped with medical expenses, and lent support to her and her family any way we could. Connie will be remembered for her warmth and vibrancy. In her memory, Metro in June dedicated a bench at the new Family Health Center facility. This occasion brought together family, fellow bank employees, and numerous Club members.



*Connie Martin*

As is our custom we engaged in a variety of fellowship activities during the year, meeting at various establishments. We also continued the practice of providing greeters to welcome members and guests to our weekly luncheons.

The loss of departing president-elect John Humlicek prompted the board to reconsider the necessity of the president-elect position, and led to a restructuring of the office ladder to bring it into conformity with R.I. guidelines. Briefly put, the membership approved a proposal from the board that the president-elect position be eliminated. In the short term it meant that Bette Wordelman would assume the presidency in July 2006, Stuart Scroggs, treasurer, would become secretary (and assume the presidency in July 2007), and Norm Benedict would move up from treasurer to secretary forthwith. Finally, special thanks go to Jim Cherrington for his ongoing work of updating the Metro website and for producing the “year in review” slideshow at the final meeting of the Rotary year.

*Community Service:* We gave financial assistance to the Central Missouri Food Bank to help with replenishing their local stock due to food being diverted to Katrina- ravaged Louisiana and Mississippi. It also aided hurricane victims who sought refuge here in mid-Missouri. Following established custom we “adopted” a Christmas family through the Voluntary Action Center and took turns ringing the Salvation Army bell on two Saturdays in December. Through our Partners in Education tie to Columbia Public Schools several Metro members volunteered their time to help early grade learners with their reading. We also disbursed a total of \$2,000 in equal amounts to Blue Ridge, Field, and Parkade elementary schools and to Park Avenue pre-school. In addition we started collecting clothes for pre-schoolers (who have accidents in class).

The highlight of our community involvement was our April gala fund raiser, “Light Up the night”. Working closely with the Family Counseling Center we brought off a dazzling, fun-filled event that raised over \$12,000. Special thanks to chair Tonya Wolff and her teams from Metro and the counseling center



*Judge Christine Carpenter*

*Vocational Service:* This year’s Metro Rotary Public Sector Service Award, administered by the vocational service committee, went to our own Christine Carpenter. Judge Carpenter was instrumental in the establishment and continuing success of our Drug Court, as well as the more recent Mental Health Court.

*International Service:* We had the pleasure of hosting Veronica, our Inbound exchange student from Mexico, for three months. Her big smile and personal warmth were captivating. Further afield, with the assistance of matching funds from our District, we funded a water filtration system in a school in Latur, India. Special thanks go to Tom O'Connor for his leadership on this project. We also started the process of working with Rotary Clubs in Mali, Africa, to provide "survivor wells" on dirt roads in that area as a long term international project. Thanks go to Ben Orzeske and Tom O'Connor for their leadership in this ongoing project.

*Overall:* Once again our efforts in all four areas of service resulted in Metro receiving the Presidential Citation from district 6080. On June 28, 2006 President Sharon Mitchell turned the presidential gavel over to Bette Wordelman.



### **YEAR 14 (2006-2007)**

President Bette Wordelman presided over Metro's fourteenth year assisted by Stuart Scroggs, president elect; Norm Benedict, secretary; and Bill Costello, treasurer; Les Borgmeyer, sergeant at arms; Sharon Mitchell, past president; and Win Burggraaff, historian. The board of directors was composed of Joy block, Renee Hoagenson, Tracey Littell, Marcia Machens, Dave Mink, Rob Quinn, Tom Rose and Jim Sharrock.



*Bette Wordelman*

*Club Service and Activities:* For the year Metro added 15 new members while seven members resigned, leaving a net gain of eight members. Of the 15 new members seven were women and one was from a minority group. To encourage sponsorship of new members Metro Mentor certificates of recognition were presented to those who recruited new members. The program committee did an excellent job of providing consistently high quality presentations by representatives of such organizations as the Literacy Action Corps, Boone Hospital Center, the Youzeum, Jefferson Farm Agricultural Institute, the PedNet Project and the University of Missouri's Discovery Ridge research park.

Our most ambitious fund-raising project, which also involves community outreach, was the second annual Light Up the Night fundraiser on April 13. We partnered with the Family Counseling Center, a locally based organization that provides professional therapy and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse and other social problems. Virtually all members were involved in planning, promoting and selling tickets to the gala event. Held at the Peachtree Banquet Center, LUN raised approximately \$14,000 before expenses. The balance went to the Center and other Metro charities.

One final club project should be noted. Several members have been active in securing a district grant that is to be used to promote Rotary's youth programs. Promotional spots on local television stations were run during April and May.

*Community Service:* Light Up the Night was described under club service above. Metro also continues to partner with Columbia Public Schools through our Partners in Education Title I program. Volunteers visit elementary schools on a weekly basis to read to (or to be read to by) students participating in the school district's Title I program. Our club also donated \$1,250 worth of reading materials for the libraries of Derby Ridge, Fairview and Russell Blvd. elementary schools.

We participated in several other community-related projects during the year. In August Metro participated in the Central Missouri Food Bank's annual Score Against Hunger drive by donating \$1,000, attending the annual luncheon, and making individual donations of time and money. As usual, Metro members joined with the Voluntary Action Center to purchase Christmas gifts and provide a holiday meal for a local needy family.

Metro also dramatically increased its support for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program (RYLA) by actively promoting program awareness in the high schools. RYLA district coordinator Valerie Anderson presented a riveting program on March 7. Metro, in fact, agreed to sponsor seven students for the upcoming RYLA camp in June.

*Vocational Service:* Throughout October our vocational service committee delivered four "info-mercials" about Rotary's role in vocational service at the local, national and international levels. In addition several weekly programs during the year focused on vocational themes. Club members have also been encouraged to mentor young people in the community through involvement in RYLA and through organizations such as Boys and Girls Town of Missouri, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Partners in Education. Finally, the committee selected Columbia Mayor Darwin Hindman as the recipient of our annual Metro Rotary Public Service Sector Award which was presented March 21



*Mayor Darwin Hindman*

*International Service:* Our club was delighted to have an Inbound youth exchange student from Brazil, Yasmin Santos. Yasmin frequently visited our club and presented a program in April about her country. We also sponsored two Outbound students: Tina Scholenlaub and Sonia Gonzalez. Metro was the lead host club in Columbia for the year's visit by a Group Study Exchange from Germany. One of our members chaired the committee that coordinated the visit of the five GSE members April 14-17. Metro was active also in sponsoring an all-club barbeque on April 15 in honor of the visiting team. In addition our club invited Amy Randles to present a program on December 27 about her participation in the GSE that visited District 1950 in Germany in the past year. Finally, the board approved funding to support an international water project in India. Work on this project is progressing.

*Overall:* As has become the norm, Metro received the Presidential Citation from District 6080, demonstrating our strength and commitment in all the avenues of Rotary service.



## *YEAR 15 (2007-2008)*

Our team of leaders consisted of Stuart Scroggs, president; Norm Benedict, president-elect; Bill Costello, secretary; Cindy Whaley, treasurer; Bette Wordelman past president; Bob Unruh, sergeant at arms; and Win Burggraaff, historian. Board members were: Joy Block, Renee Hoagenson, Marcia Machens, David Mink, Tom O'Connor, Lori Pewitt, Rob Quinn, Tom Rose and Jim Sharrock.



*Stuart Scroggs*

*Club service & activities:* Metro Rotary added 12 new members but lost 12 due to resignations. We also helped the new Sunrise Southwest club get started by providing money to purchase their club banner. A number of informal social hours were held at a variety of local establishments. The social highlight was the celebration of our 15th year of service with a gala Charter Night anniversary event on June 12 at the Columbia Country Club. After hors d'oeuvres and music President Stuart recapped our 15 years of existence, emphasizing our monetary and volunteer contributions to numerous local charitable organizations. The program committee organized an outstanding array of weekly presentations, which included Mel George (who visited every species of penguin), Eddie Dziuk (owner of Uno, Best in Show Winner at Westminster Kennel Club), and MU athletic director Mike Alden. Finally, Metro sponsored three students for the annual summer RYLA (student leadership) camp.

*Community Service:* Metro continued its record of giving to local organizations. Recipients included Central Missouri Food Bank, Voluntary Action Center (Christmas project and Fish Fund), Salvation Army (bell-ringing for Christmas Drive), PET project, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, and Camp Wonderland. All told Metro contributed \$4,000 to community service projects (\$2,000 in additional contributions over budgeted amount). We also continued to be active participants in the Partners in Education program with Columbia Public Schools, providing volunteers who assist young learners to read and funds for books for early grade readers. A total of \$1,500 was disbursed in equal amounts to Benton, New Haven, Rockbridge and West Boulevard elementary schools.

Our principal fundraiser was Trivia Night, which came about after tabulating member preferences through a SurveyMonkey online survey. Our first Trivia Night proved to be a huge hit! Participation was approximately 85% of our club membership (!) plus scores of guests. We exceeded our goal of raising \$5,000 by \$1,500 (excess of 30%).

*Vocational Service:* In April the vocational service committee selected our own Columbia Police Department Captain Brad Nelson to be recipient of our annual Outstanding Public Sector Service Award.



*Captain Brad Nelson*

*International Service:* Our club continued actively to engage in international service in several ways. We again sponsored an inbound student, Livia Lages, from Brazil. In April we assisted with the visit of a GSE team from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which attended a Metro meeting and made an

entertaining presentation. We also contributed \$2,500 to international projects, including \$1,000 in additional contributions over budgeted amount. Furthermore, we donated \$1,050 to a clean water project in Chandanwadi, India.

*Rotary Foundation:* Foundation giving was the highest in five years and exceeded the 2007-08 goal by over 50% (goal was \$4,500 while giving totaled \$7,800) and was 92% higher than our 15 year average. In fact Metro ranked eighth highest of 48 clubs in District 6080 in Foundation donations. Another impressive achievement was the induction of six new Paul Harris Fellows. It should also be mentioned that, by raising dues, Metro will meet R.I.'s three-year challenge to support the R.I./Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation effort to eradicate polio worldwide.

*Overall:* First, our club distributed a total of \$11,865 to Rotary and non-Rotary charities. Second, Metro Rotary received the Presidential Citation award for District 6080 for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!



### **YEAR 16 (2008-2009)**

Our leadership team consisted of Norm Benedict, president; Bill Costello, president elect; Cindy Whaley, secretary; Jim Sharrock, treasurer; Cathy Scroggs, sergeant at arms; Stuart Scroggs, past president; and Win Burggraaff, historian. The board of directors was composed of Shawn Barnes, Les Borgmeyer, Jennifer Deaver, Renee Hoagenson, Marcia Machens, Tom O'Connor, Gena Patten, Lori Pewitt, and Rob Quinn.



**Norm Benedict**

*Club Service and Activities:* 1) *Membership* -- Despite various resignations Metro Rotary experienced one of its most dynamic years in membership growth. At the beginning of the year our membership stood at 90. By the spring we had passed the 100 mark but ended up with 94. The large influx of new members necessitated a more vigorous mentoring effort designed to integrate new members more quickly and smoothly into the club's four avenues of service. Past presidents Jacques Cowherd and Rob Christensen deserve our thanks for spearheading our mentoring initiative, along with Stuart Scroggs, who conducted periodic new member orientation sessions. 2) *Program* -- Co-Chairs Renee Hoagenson and David Mink and their committee brought to our podium a very interesting and eclectic group of programs and presenters. 3) *Metro Memo* --- We would be remiss if we did not heartily thank Gena Patton for doing a superb job of keeping Rotarians informed through her efficient editing and distribution of our newsletter. 4) *Social* -- The social committee organized a series of informal get-togethers at such establishments as Flat Branch Pub, Harpo's, Forge and Vine, and Tropical Liqueurs. In June we returned to Flat Branch to bid farewell to former president and long-time member Jacques Cowherd, who is headed to Fulton as its new superintendent of schools. The final fete of the year was the Charter Night reception on June 12, which was graciously hosted by President Norm and Szasz Benedict at their lovely home.

*Community Service:* Metro remained active in our community through volunteering and fundraising activities. On August 19 we participated once again in the annual Club Out Hunger luncheon at the Stony Creek Inn which featured a Celebrity Tiger Jeopardy contest. Several volunteers helped out with the Salvation Army holiday kettle drive and the club also provided Christmas gifts for a needy family through the Voluntary Action Center.



*Win Burggraaff & Cathy Scroggs*

The highlight of the year was our second annual Trivia Night fundraiser at Knights of Columbus Hall on February 13. Approximately 200 people matched wits in a spirited trivia contest emceed by our own Dr. Tom Rose. The event raised over \$5,000, most of which was donated to the new-to-Columbia Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free books to children from birth to five. Outreach to our public schools was led by our Partners in Education committee headed by Les Gelband and Tom Rose.

Through the PIE committee we donated \$1,500 to three schools—Blue Ridge, Park Ave, Parkade—to enable them to purchase reading materials through Title I. In addition several members helped early grade learners with their reading. Members also participated in the PIE Flag Ceremony and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner at the Missouri Theatre, both in May 2009. The Partners in Education and Community Service committees joined forces to enhance a new playground under construction at the Park Avenue Family and Child Development Center. Metro's contribution is to provide shade trees for the outdoor playground space. In the hot June sun several Metro members, assisted by other volunteers, planted seven trees in the playground area. The second phase of the project will be completed in the new Rotary year.

*Vocational Service:* The vocational service committee selected Columbia Chamber of Commerce president Don Laird for this year's Metro Rotary Public Service Sector Award. He was honored with a commemorative plaque at our June 3 meeting.



*Don Laird (left) with President Norm*

*International Service:* Lori Pewitt and Britny Wright did an excellent job of coordinating our role in sponsoring Outbound student Samantha (Samy) Hentschke, who spent her Rotary year in Switzerland, and French Inbound student Maelle Piquee, who spent the year in Columbia and studied at Rock Bridge High. Lori and Jeff Pewitt were also among her host families. In addition, Metro members joined other local Rotarians on the evening of April 30 for an All City Rotary reception for the visiting GSE team from Nigeria, an event held at the Reynolds Alumni Center. Finally, Tom O'Connor and Scott Christenson coordinated our role in a clean water project in India.

*Rotary Foundation:* Susan Hart and Jim Stock co-chaired our Club's participation in the work of the Rotary Foundation of R.I. This Rotary year five members became Paul Harris Fellows: Kim

Stonecipher-Fisher, Marnie Clark's daughter Bailey, Tom Rose, and Les Gelband's daughter Samantha. Susan Hart received her second Fellow designation. We also currently have 18 sustaining members. Three members have remembered the Rotary Foundation in their wills as Benefactors. We now boast 46 Paul Harris Fellows as members or associates of our club.

*Overall:* First, we are proud that, in an economically challenging year, we gave away a total of \$14,721! Second, Metro's efforts in all four avenues of service were rewarded with the District 6080 Presidential Citation. President Norm, officers, board members, and committee chairs in particular should be congratulated on another outstanding performance by a club committed to service above self.



### ***YEAR 17 (2009-2010)***

Bill Costello began his year as president with this slate of officers: Cindy Whaley, president elect; Jim Sharrock, secretary; Marcia Machens, treasurer; Norm Benedict, past president; Brad Nelson, sergeant at arms; and Win Burggraaff, historian. The board of directors included Shawn Barnes, Les Borgmeyer, Travis Cook, Jennifer Deaver, Les Gelband, Gena Patton, Lori Pewitt, Rob Quinn, and Britny Wright. Bill and his team led Metro to another busy, productive and fun-filled Rotary year.



***Bill Costello***

#### *Club Service Activities:*

**Membership and attendance:** We started the year with 94 members and finished with 99 members, an increase of five per cent. We take pride that our average attendance at regular meetings was slightly over 70 per cent, above average for district clubs.

**Program:** the program committee, co-chaired by Kristi Ray and Bob Unrath, provided a spicy variety of programs, including some unusual classification talks. Speakers included newly elected Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid. Two meetings in late December were devoted to DaCdb.com orientation—the new District online database that should enable us to communicate electronically more effectively.

**Social:** Metro continued its tradition of scheduling special and monthly social events. Happy hours were held at establishments like Boone Tavern and Forge and Vine. We had a good turnout at a MU baseball game on April 16. The highlight of the social season was our Charter Night celebration on, Friday, June 11, at the Kliethermes model home in the Cascades subdivision.

Club operations: Special thanks go to Sarah Read for serving as our first Committee liaison, and also to Gena Patton for continuing to serve so efficiently as editor and distributor of *Metro Memo*.

### *Community Service:*

**Partners in Education:** We continued to be partnered with Columbia Public Schools' Title I program through Partners in Education (PIE). Members volunteered time reading to or with early learners—preschool and early grades. We also provided literacy awards in the form of \$500 checks to four elementary schools: Derby Ridge, Fairview, Field, and Russell Boulevard. In addition we participated in three PIE Week activities in May: the Flag Ceremony at Courthouse Square, the PIE recognition breakfast, and reading to preschoolers at various schools.



**Community outreach:** Only a few of our more important efforts at outreach to the community can be mentioned here. Metro members' culinary skills were tested in the Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff on February 13 at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Our cooking team was headed by award-winning chili chef Scott Heck. It helped raise \$45,000 for the Boys and Girls Clubs. We raised approximately \$400 for our club through many members' attendance at the December 2 Big Bad Voodoo Daddy Big Band Swing Party at Jesse Auditorium, which was preceded by drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the Rotunda. During the holiday season we sponsored a Christmas family through the Voluntary Action Center and rang bells one Saturday for the Salvation Army Christmas Drive.

**Trivia Night:** Our principal fundraiser for local charities was our third annual Trivia Night held on February 12 at Knights of Columbus Hall. Led by our MC Tom Rose, we not only had considerable hilarity but also raised over \$15,000, \$2,500 of which went to the Voluntary Action Center. Special thanks go to organizers Les Borgmeyer and Liz McGee.

**Vocational Service:** Under the vocational service committee's auspices eight Metro Rotarians served as volunteer judges for the annual Future Business Leaders of America state convention on April 19-20 in Columbia. The committee, co-chaired by Sandra Logan and Joy Block, also selected the winner of the Metro Rotary Vocational Service Award. The award went to our own Karen Taylor, executive vice president of Boone Country National Bank, who was honored for her community involvement, including "Keep Columbia Safe," with a commemorative plaque at our June 2 meeting.



*Karen Taylor*

### *International Service:*

**Youth Exchange:** Our Inbound Exchange Student, Mizuho Komatani from Osaka, Japan, proved to be a delight, as well as an excellent student at Hickman High. Our appreciation goes to Steve

and Lynda Baumgartner and Jed and Pat Friedrichsen who served as two of the three host families. Lori Pewitt and Britny Wright deserve our thanks for shepherding an increasingly complex process so successfully.

Group Scholar Exchange: A GSE team from South Korea visited District 6080 and was feted at a dinner on March 28 at the Youzeum.

*Rotary Foundation:* This year Metro Rotary had our most successful year ever both in total donations and in new Paul Harris Fellows. During the year Paul Harris Fellows were awarded to Steve Baumgartner, Samantha Gelband, Lori Pewitt and Cindy Whaley.

All together 28 members donated to the Foundation and 21 members were listed by RI as Sustaining Members. Total donations this year to the Foundation were \$11,490.

*Overall:* Through carrying out our President's goals of being relational, relevant and relaxed as well as through the efforts of our energetic officers, board members, committee chairs and members at large, we again received the District 6080 Presidential Citation. Way to go, Metro!



*Mizuho Komatani*



### ***YEAR 18 (2010-2011)***

This year's leadership team was led by Cindy Whaley, president; Jim Sharrock, president elect; Marcia Machens, secretary; Shawn Barnes, treasurer; and Bill Costello, past president. Steve Baumgartner served as sergeant at arms and Win Burggraaff continued as club historian. Board members included Ron Bodenstab, Les Borgmeyer, Jennifer Deaver, Les Gelband, Beth Lammers, Gena Patton, Cathy Scroggs, Andrew Stone, and Britny Wright.



*Cindy Whaley*

#### *Club Service and Activities:*

We began the year with 99 members. We ended with 92. We added six new members but lost thirteen members. Attendance averaged 58% per meeting.

We continued our monthly socials at various establishments licensed to serve alcoholic beverages. In addition several special events were scheduled throughout the year: a Metro Family Day visit to Warm Springs Ranch on April 30 where Metro families interacted with the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales, a MU-Texas Tech baseball game on May 13, and a well-attended Charter Night event June 3 at Boone County National Bank which was hosted by President Cindy and featured a Mexican theme (margaritas). The final social event was our first ever float trip, June 17-19, organized by Casey Buckman, who hopes there will be a larger turnout of Metro families next year.

Program and communications: The program committee organized an excellent mix of outside presentations, classification talks and informal networking sessions, while Gena Patton is to be commended for yet another year of producing and distributing a high quality *Metro Memo*.

*Community Service:* Our primary fundraising event was again Trivia Night held this year on February 4 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Tom Rose served as MC and attendance was over 250. We raised a little over \$10,000. Out of this we made an immediate donation of \$2000 to the Boys and Girls Club.



*Tom Rose*

We also participated in the Central and Northeast Missouri Food Bank's Club-Out Hunger luncheon on August 24 at the Stoney Creek Inn. In the culinary arena Scott Heck and John Stringer led a Metro team in the Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cook-Off on February 18 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Proceeds went to the Boys and Girls Club. We also raised money for local charities through our All Rotary Club Thanksgiving luncheon held at the Tiger Hotel on Tuesday, November 23. As usual we sponsored a Voluntary Action Center family at Christmas and Saturday, December 11, we manned the Salvation Army kettles.

Les Gelband and Shane Winter co-chaired our Partners in Education committee, which made cash awards for the purchase of classroom materials to three Title I schools: Benton (\$250), Field (\$750), and Alpha Hart Lewis (\$500). Committee members participated in PIE Recognition Week, marching in the annual Flag Ceremony at Courthouse Square on May 5 and attending the Awards Breakfast at Holiday Inn Select on May 12. PIE committee members as well as other club members read with preschoolers and elementary school students throughout the school year. Our partnership with the Title I program is now well-established and growing stronger.

Led by Sarah Read numerous Metro Rotarians participated in the creation and planting of a Rain Garden at Park Avenue Pre-School. This followed Metro's tree-planting project on the site in 2009. The garden will be an outdoor learning experience that complements a new science center the school is implementing. It will simultaneously solve existing drainage problems. It will benefit not only Park Avenue pre-schoolers but school children from surrounding schools. Planting Day (May 20) brought out numerous club gardeners. Congratulations to Sarah, and the Community Service and PIE committees for their leadership in a highly successful venture. Thanks also to Boone Electric Cooperative for its vital assistance.



*Vocational Service:*

The committee has been especially active this year. We observed Vocational Service Month, with four of our weekly programs devoted to vocational service. In addition, copies of the Four Way Test were given to all new members, and eight club members spoke about their vocations at local schools. Under committee auspices several Metro Rotarians served as judges at the annual

Future Business Leaders of America state-wide conference in Columbia on April 18. This year the committee selected Bill Watkins, former Columbia city manager, to receive the Metro Rotary Vocational Service Award.

*International Service:*

Lori Pewitt and Britny Wright co-chaired the Youth Exchange Committee. Britny and her family were one of the host families for Anne Voshaar, our inbound youth exchange student from Germany. Our outbound exchange student, Eva Prost, spent the year in Ismir, Turkey. We plan to have an inbound exchange student, Eric Hsu, from Taiwan for the 2011-12 year while an outbound student, Stephen Turban, will be going to Taiwan.



*Eric Hsu*

Tom O'Connor spearheaded a project to improve water supply in a village in Niger. On April 20 Tom presented a program on this project and previous Metro-sponsored water projects in India.

*Rotary Foundation:*

Sandra Logan and Jim Stock headed our Rotary Foundation committee and kept our membership well informed on opportunities for members to donate to the Foundation. This year we added seven new Paul Harris Fellows. All together the club donated \$ 13,479 to the Rotary Foundation, bringing our grand total for 18 years to \$94, 580. Two members reached Paul Harris level +2 and Marnie Clark named her son, Brian, a Paul Harris Fellow. A total of 62 Paul Harris Fellows are credited to our club, 39 of which are current club members.

*Conclusion:*

Despite the increasingly complex criteria for consideration, Metro Rotary was awarded the District 6080 presidential citation once again! Our loudest hurrahs should go to President Cindy for keeping everyone on the same page throughout the arduous process. On June 29 Cindy eagerly handed the gavel to incoming president Jim Sharrock.



## *YEAR 19 (2011-2012)*

Jim Sharrock took the helm of Metro Rotary for the 2011-12 Rotary year supported by a strong team of officers and board of directors. Officers were Marcia Machens, president elect; Shawn Barnes, secretary; Gena Patton, treasurer; Cindy Whaley, past president; Rose Hayden, sergeant at arms; and Win Burggraaff, historian. Board members were Rob Bartel, Les Borgmeyer, Casey Buckman, Les Gelband, Rose Hayden, Brad Nelson, Andrew Stone, and Bob Unrath.



*Jim Sharrock*

### *Club Service and Activities*

The program committee provided the club with a wide variety of informative and stimulating programs, including some amusing classification talks by our newer members. Attendance at our meetings was 60.4% for the year, up slightly from the previous year. Our total membership as of May 31, 2012 was 82.

*Club business:* We began work on revising our by-laws and revised policies and procedures to produce a draft of the strategic plan. We also adopted a club Accountability Tracker to enhance our chances of winning the district Changemaker Award and the Presidential Citation. In February 2012 the Columbia Country Club raised the price of the weekly luncheon to \$9 from \$8. While President Jim was recuperating from hip surgery president-elect Marcia did an admirable job presiding at the meetings.

On April 26, President Jim hosted a first annual Past Presidents Breakfast where past club presidents and current officers brainstormed to produce recommendations for strengthening and enlivening our club.

*Club social activities:* In addition to well-attended monthly social gatherings at places like Shiloh's and D. Rowe's, social highlights included a night baseball game between Mizzou and Memphis on May 11, a second annual float trip at the Sandy Spring Resort on the Niangua River, and a Metro Rotary night at MU's Jesse Hall featuring a gala reception followed by a Nebraska Theatre Caravan presentation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The social calendar was topped off on June 8 with a well-attended and fun-filled Charter Night Celebration hosted by Marcia and Dave Machens at their home.

### *Community Service*

For the sixth consecutive year Metro sponsored a Trivia Night—Friday, February 3, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Approximately 250 attended our premier fundraising event. The major beneficiary that evening was the Douglass High School Bike Club, our newest outreach project. Over \$10,000 was raised for the bike club and other local charities. Special thanks go to Les Borgmeyer and Scott Heck, co-chairs of the event and to Tom Rose, our perennial trivia MC.



As mentioned above, a newly formed Douglass High School Bike Club has been formed under Metro auspices to provide students with bikes and to offer safety training. The club intends to expand into vocational and life skills training for Douglass students as well. Next door, at the Park Avenue Child and Family Development Center, several members spent May 18 working on the club's Rain Garden and related landscaping and cleanup.

Metro continued its Christmas traditions of adopting a family to receive holiday gifts through VAC and of manning the Salvation Army Christmas kettles, this year on December 8 at Hobby Lobby.

In March Shane Winter led a group of students to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

Metro's partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its ninth year. Jim Cherrington, the architect of our PIE effort, wrote up a valuable account of our relationship with the early grades literacy program. In fact our PIE initiative was highlighted at the Show Me Rotary President Elect Training Seminar in March as our club's signature project. On November 29, Metro presented its annual Literacy Development Award to four area schools: Derby Ridge, West Boulevard, Rock Bridge and Rock Bridge High School. The cumulative awards total was \$1500.



During the school year 12 members read to students, donating over 146 hours of their time. At school end we handed out Metro bookmarks to all Title I students. Metro members also provided pies to Title I teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week as well as donations to the Columbia Public Schools Foundation. Finally, during Partners in Education Week in May, Metro members participated in the flag celebration in Courthouse Square and in the PIE Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

### *Vocational Service*

The Vocational Service Committee sponsored a Vocational Service Day on April 24 at the Boys and Girls Club. Several Metro members made presentations on career opportunities, including Casey Buckman, Shatenita Horton, Brad Nelson and Tom Rose. The committee also worked with the Fellowship Committee to organize a vocational service event at D. Rowe's restaurant. Finally, the committee selected the winner of the 2012 Metro Rotary Vocational Service Award: Phil Steinhaus, CEO of the Columbia Housing Authority. Phil was presented with the award at our meeting on May 16.

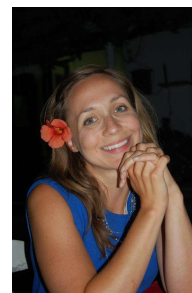


*Phil Steinhaus*

### *International Service*

Metro members marked our commitment to international service in a variety of ways. We helped furnish a water well in Africa. Club member Tom O'Connor assisted with the writing of a water and sanitation guide for Rotary Action Groups. In conjunction with our Fellowship Committee on February 23—RI's 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary—we held a polio awareness fundraiser at the Red Mango. A percentage of the profits from yogurt sales that day went to our club which sent it on to RI to help in its campaign to rid the planet of polio.

We also stayed active in youth exchange by hosting Eric Tsu from Taiwan, who studied at Hickman High. In June Eric summarized his year in Missouri with an entertaining presentation to the club. Thanks go to the two Metro families who served as hosts: Jed and Pat Friedrichsen and Pat and Lynn Hostetler. Meanwhile we sponsored outbound exchange student Stephen Turban, who spent the year in Taiwan. We also agreed to sponsor Marissa Fugate as ambassadorial scholar to South Africa. Finally, in October we assisted in hosting a Group Study Exchange team from Italy.



*Marissa Fugate*

### *Rotary Foundation*

During 2011-2012 Metro Rotary had its second most successful year ever both in total donations to the Foundation and in new Paul Harris Fellows. Donations to the Rotary Foundation totaled \$13,075 (the seventh highest in District 6080), which included \$6,745 in member donations, \$3,565 in club matching funds, and \$935 in memorial contributions to the Alice Bindbeutel fund. New Paul Harris Fellows were Karen Brown, Rose Hayden, Scott Heck, Tim Springer and Betty Wordelman. In addition Win Burggraaff's wife, Isabel, and Tom Rose's daughter, Maria, became Fellows. Steve Baumgartner and Marcia Machens also reached the multiple Paul Harris Fellow level.

In summary, 41 of our 80 active members are Paul Harris Fellows, slightly over one half of our membership. In 19 years we have given a total of \$107,655 to the Foundation. Our recent success in Foundation giving owes much to the inspirational leadership of Foundation Committee co-chairs Sandra Logan and Jim Stock.

### *Recognition*

President Sharrock was presented a recognition banner from Rotary International for our club's participation in Foundation giving. Metro was the only Columbia club that attained "Every Rotarian Every Year" status, and one of only six clubs in District 6080!



Finally, our successful year was recognized with the awarding to us of our 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive Presidential Citation from District 6080, as well as our receiving the newer and very selective Changemaker Award! Congratulations to President Jim, officers, board members, committee chairs and every single member of Metro Rotary who made this possible! We now look forward to the transfer of the gavel from Jim to our new president, Marcia Machens.



## *YEAR 20 (2012-2013)*

Marcia Machens served as president during the 2012-2013 year. Her supporting officers were President-Elect Shawn Barnes, Secretary Gena Patton, Treasurer Rose Hayden, Past President Jim Sharrock, Sergeant-at-Arms Kim Buckman and Club Historian Win Burggraaff. Board members were Les Borgmeyer, Casey Buckman, Andrew Stone, Rob Bartel, Brad Nelson, Jim Spieler, Karen Brown, Sandra Logan and Bob Unrath.



*Marcia Machens*

### *Club Service and Activities*

Metro was again fortunate to have a variety of educational and informative weekly programming. We heard from numerous professionals representing local organizations and associations. Rotary-related programming included presentations by District 6080 Governor Mark Pearce, Inbound Youth Exchange Student Dilara Sgalam, former Outbound Youth Exchange Student Stephen Turban, RYLA attendees Hannah Cote and Kyle Sprague and Rotary Foundation representative Dr. Raymond Plue.

One unique program was held in April where the membership took a “field trip” and met off-site. In celebration of Metro’s Partner in Education relationship with the Columbia Public Schools Title I program, Metro held its weekly luncheon meeting at Field Elementary School. An overview of the program was presented, and district officials spoke of the value this relationship has provided.



*Club business:* To assist with annual planning, a Board of Directors retreat was held August 23 at The District. Under the leadership of Sarah Read, Metro continued its work on revising by-laws and policies and procedures. A three-year strategic plan was adopted by the club. The second annual Past Presidents Breakfast was held in the spring. Several past club presidents and current officers met and discussed challenges and opportunities facing the club. Metro partnered with other Columbia Rotary Clubs in sponsoring a new Interact Club.

*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were held at area locations. For the first time, members were encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costumes for the regular luncheon meeting on October 31. Several members took advantage of the opportunity, and many children and grandchildren were present for the festivities. Metro members enjoyed an outing to enjoy Mizzou baseball vs Kentucky on May 17. Casey Buckman coordinated the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual float trip at SandSpring Resort in Lebanon May 31-June 2. The club’s annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 14 at the home of Jim and Audrey Spieler.



## *Community Service*

Metro supported the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri by participating in the 2012 Club Out Hunger luncheon on August 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Other civic organizations participated in a “Minute to Win It” competition. Metro was proudly represented by Scott Heck, Anna de Jong, Marcia Machens and Shane Winter. Bill Costello coordinated Metro’s participation in this event.

On November 21, members participated with other Rotary clubs in the All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon at the Courtyard by Marriott. Casey Buckman coordinated Metro’s involvement, and \$3,700 was donated to the Douglass High School project from the proceeds of this event.

Under the direction of Scott Heck, Metro sponsored a team in the 2013 Rootin’ Tootin’ Chili Cookoff. Team members were Casey Buckman, Beth Fisher, Rose Hayden, Tonya Wolff and Pat Hostetler.



*Scott Heck & Tonya Wolff*

Metro’s seventh annual Trivia Night was held February 1 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Tonya Wolff and Scott Heck were commended for their efforts in planning and coordinating this event. Approximately \$9,000 was raised to support Metro charities.

Metro continued its Christmas tradition by adopting two families to receive holiday gifts through the Voluntary Action Center. Also, members rang the bell for the Salvation Army on December 8 in front of the local Hobby Lobby.

On April 16, Shane Winter and Les Gelband led a group of students to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

Metro’s partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its tenth year. In October, 2012, Metro presented its annual Literacy Development Award to the Title I program. The cumulative awards total was \$1,500.

During the school year, members continued to support the Partner in Education program. Members volunteered time reading to students and distributing Metro bookmarks to all Title I students. Metro members also provided pies to Title I teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week as well as donations to the Columbia Public Schools Foundation. Finally, during Partners in Education Week in May, Metro members participated in the PIE Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Metro was recognized for ten years of service to students.



### *Vocational Service*

The Vocational Service Committee helped Metro stay active in the community. Jeremy Morton coordinated a clean-up day at Douglass High School and the Park Avenue Child and Family Development Center on August 13. Jeremy and Sarah Read also led the submission of a District 6080 Simplified Grant proposal. The proposal was awarded for \$10,000 to benefit outdoor science projects at Douglass High School. On October 25, members participated in the Missouri River Relief project coordinated by Douglass High School biology teacher John Reed. In January, Metro sponsored the first ever Career Day at Douglass High School. Rotarians served as mentors to Douglass students throughout the year.

Dr. Eryca Neville was recognized as the 2012-2013 recipient of Metro's annual Vocational Service Award. Dr. Neville is the principal at Douglass High School, and she was commended for adhering to the highest ethical standards in her work, including the fair treatment of employers, fellow employees, associates, students, parents and the general public.



*Dr. Eryca Neville*

### *International Service*

Tom O'Connor was Metro's liaison for a Rotary District 6080 Panama Project. In collaboration with the Missouri National Guard, Rotarians supported the project by donating clothes, walkers, crutches, sports equipment, children's toys, books and school supplies. Metro participated in a Tailgate for Haiti fundraiser on October 6 before a MU football game at Faurot Field.

Metro partnered with other Columbia Rotary clubs and sponsored a plastic surgery camp in India from February 23 through March 6. Doctors performed approximately 90 surgeries to correct facial deformities. Metro hosted a fundraiser for Polio Plus at Orange Leaf on March 14, and a portion of the profits were forwarded to RI to assist polio eradication efforts.

We also stayed active in youth exchange by hosting Dilara Saglam from Turkey. She continued her education at Rock Bridge High School during the school year. Thanks to the leadership and coordination by Rose Lloyd, Dilara enjoyed a fun-filled year in central Missouri. In addition, Metro assisted in sponsoring a Group Study Exchange Team from Panama in October, 2012. Finally, Metro served as sponsor of Outbound Youth Exchange student Bess Goodfellow. Bess spent her year in Turkey.



*Dilara Saglam*

### *Rotary Foundation*

Metro Rotary members continued their support of the Rotary Foundation. Donations have continued, and increased, thanks to the leadership of Rotary Foundation Committee co-chairs Sandra Logan and Jim Stock. They worked tirelessly educating and informing members about the value of supporting the Foundation.

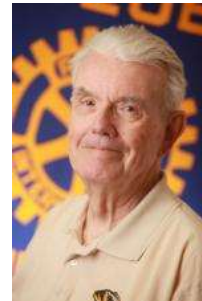
At the end of the year, 46 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Steve Baumgartner (+1), Susan Hart (+2), Scott Heck, Kathryn Machens and Maria Rose.

### *Recognition*

Metro received its 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive Presidential Citation from District 6080. Kudos to President Marcia, the Metro officers, board members, committee chairs and all members who helped make this possible.

New members who joined during the year included Karen Crabtree, Matt Cook, Jan Beckett, Beth Fisher, Charlene Boyes and April Melvin.

One of the sad events of this year was losing member Gordon Brown to cancer on June 1. Gordon was a valued member of the club who was always willing to lend his expertise to fellow members. He was a Rotarian in St. Charles, Illinois for 26 years. He was their club president and on the staff of five district governors of District 6440. He was a member of Metro for thirteen years.



*Gordon Brown*



### *YEAR 21 (2013-2014)*

Metro was fortunate to have the leadership of President Shawn Barnes during 2013-2014. Officers supporting President Shawn were President-Elect Gena Patton, Secretary Rose Hayden, Treasurer Don Ludwig, Past President Marcia Machens, Sergeant-at-Arms NAME and Club Historian Jim Cherrington. Board members were Les Borgmeyer, Casey Buckman, Andrew Stone, Rob Bartel, Brad Nelson, Jim Spieler, Karen Brown, Sandra Logan and Bob Unrath.



*Shawn Barnes*

### *Club Service and Activities*

Under the leadership of Barb Danuser and Shatenita Horton, Metro's weekly programming was again excellent. A wide variety of topics were covered by our weekly presenters ranging from Rotary-focused areas of interest, to local organizations and associations.

*Club business:* On June 20, Past Presidents met at the Columbia Career Center to assist incoming leadership with planning for the upcoming Rotary year.

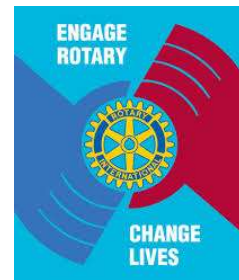
*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were held at area locations. Members enjoyed a tour of Warm Springs Ranch on October 12 where they were able to see the Budweiser

Clydesdale. On May 3, Metro members enjoyed an outing to enjoy Mizzou baseball vs Vanderbilt at University Field. Casey Buckman coordinated the fourth annual float trip at SandSpring Resort in Lebanon June 27-29. The club's annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 13 at Bleu Restaurant.

### *Community Service*

Metro again supported the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri by participating in the 2013 Club Out Hunger luncheon on August 20 at the Stoney Creek Inn. Other local civic organizations participated in a club fitness challenge. Metro was proudly represented by Shane Winter, Jeremy Morton, Shawn Barnes and Shane Winter. Shane coordinated Metro's participation in this event.

On November 27, members participated with other Rotary clubs in the All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon at the Courtyard by Marriott. Casey Buckman coordinated Metro's involvement, and over \$6,000 was raised for local charities.



Rose Hayden led Metro's team in the 2014 Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff. Metro's culinary skills were evident as Metro's team placed first in their flight!

Metro's eighth annual Trivia Night was held February 1 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Tonya Wolff and Scott Heck were commended for their efforts in planning and coordinating this event. Over \$17,000 was grossed in revenue from this event! Heart of Missouri CASA was selected as the charity to receive the major portion of the event proceeds.

Metro continued its Christmas tradition by adopting two families to receive holiday gifts through the Voluntary Action Center. Also, members rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Hobby Lobby on December 7.

On April 29, Shane Winter and Les Gelband accompanied 16 students from Oakland Middle School to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

Metro's partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its eleventh year. In October, 2013, Metro presented its annual Literacy Development Award to the Title I program. The cumulative awards total was \$1,500.

During the school year 12 members read to students, donating over 307 hours of their time. At school end we handed out Metro bookmarks to all Title I students. Metro members also provided pies to Title I teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week as well as donations to the Columbia Public Schools Foundation. Finally, during Partners in Education Week in May, Metro members participated in the PIE Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

### *Vocational Service*

Jeremy Morton led Metro's involvement to install equipment on the Douglass High School fitness trail on September 27. Members also participated in work days at the learning gardens behind Douglass High School in the fall and spring. Rotarians served as character mentors to Douglass students throughout the year.

On May 14, Metro recognized Sarah Read as the recipient of this year's Vocational Service Award. Sarah was recognized for her contributions to better the Columbia community. She has chaired numerous Metro committees, assisted with grants and volunteered numerous hours at Douglass High School.



*Sarah Read*

### *International Service*

Metro joined other Columbia Rotary clubs on March 6 in a fundraising event entitled "Breathing Life Into Georgian Babies." This event helped train over 100 doctors and nurses in neonatal resuscitation. The medical professionals then travelled to Georgia to provide medical support.

### *Rotary Foundation*

Metro Rotary members continued their support of the Rotary Foundation. Donations have continued, and increased, thanks to the leadership of Rotary Foundation Committee co-chairs Sandra Logan and Jim Stock. They worked tirelessly educating and informing members about the value of supporting the Foundation.

At the end of the year, 42 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Jan Beckett, Win Burggraaff (+3), Rob Christensen (+1), Jaime Freidrichs, Susan Hart (+3), Rose Hayden (+1), Scott Heck (+1), Pat Hostetler, Rose Lloyd, Terry Phillips, Tom Rose (+2) and Bob Unrath (+1).

### *Recognition*

Metro was recognized by Rotary International for attaining "Every Rotarian Every Year" status for the third consecutive year! Metro was the only club in Columbia to receive this recognition.

Metro received its 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive Presidential Citation from District 6080 with distinction! Congratulations to President Shawn, the Metro officers, board members, committee chairs and all members who helped make this year such a success.

New members who joined during the year included Monica Pitts, Connie Dewey, Jason Ramsey, Katie Essing, Jim Voigt, Travis Cook, Matt Hayes, Sherry Major, Will McWilliams, Dave Overfelt and Brian Toohey. Metro finished the year with 72 members.

For the second consecutive year, Metro's year concluded on a sad note. On March 21, Metro mourned the loss of member Jim Spieler. Mr. Spieler was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and he served as a devoted Rotarian since 1979. He was a founding/charter member of the Rotary South Club in 1989. He served on the Metro Board of Directors, was a member of The Rotary Foundation Committee, and he served as the club sponsor for the 2013-2014 Ambassadorial Scholar.



*Jim Spieler*



### *YEAR 22 (2014-2015)*

President Gena Patton led Metro during 2014-2015. Officers supporting President Gena were President-Elect Rose Hayden, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Don Ludwig, Past President Shawn Barnes, Sergeant-at-Arms Scott Heck and Club Historian Jim Cherrington. Board members were Karen Brown, Sandra Logan Bob Unrath, Anna Drake, Pat Hostetler, Andrew Stone, Shatenita Horton, Jeremy Morton and Tonya Wolff.



*Gena Patton*

#### *Club Service and Activities*

Metro once again enjoyed very informative and educational weekly programming. We heard entertaining classification talks by Dave Overfelt, Brian Toohey, Sherry Major, Will McWilliams, Laura Kogut, Matt Hayes, Marissa Todd and Heather McArthur. We learned about activities involving local organizations and local government. Rotary focused presentations focused on Rotary 4 Peace, The Rotary Foundation, Metro's Rotary Foundation Committee and Organ Donation/Rotary for Life.

*Club business:* As has become a tradition, Past Presidents met at the beginning of the year at the Columbia Career Center to assist incoming leadership with planning for the upcoming Rotary year.

*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were held at area locations. On May 2, Metro members enjoyed an outing to enjoy Mizzou baseball vs Ole Miss at University Field. Casey Buckman coordinated the fifth annual float trip at SandSpring Resort in Lebanon June 27-29. The club's annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 18 at the Columbia Country Club.

## *Community Service*

Under the leadership of Jaime Freidrichs, Metro members volunteered a week of service at Wonderland Camp from July 27-August 1. Jaime also coordinated a work day at the camp on October 18.



Metro again supported the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri by participating in the 2014 Club Out Hunger luncheon on August 21 at The Crossing. Other local civic organizations participated in a club fitness challenge. Metro was proudly represented by Shane Winter, Charlene Boyes, Casey Buckman, Sandra Logan and Jeremy Morton. Shane coordinated Metro's participation in this event.

On November 25, members participated with other Rotary clubs in the All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon at the Courtyard by Marriott. Casey Buckman coordinated Metro's involvement, and over \$6,000 was raised for local charities.

Metro continued its Christmas tradition by adopting two families to receive holiday gifts through the Voluntary Action Center. Also, members rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Hobby Lobby on November 15.

Cale Mitchell served as team captain for Metro's team in the 2015 Rootin' Tootin' Chili Cookoff on February 28 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. Scott Heck and Marissa Todd were team chefs. Over \$81,000 was raised through this event!



Metro's ninth annual Trivia Night was held February 6 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Tonya Wolff, Scott Heck and April Melvin did an excellent job of organizing the annual event. Over \$20,000 was grossed in revenue from this event! Woodhaven was selected as the charity to receive the major portion of the event proceeds.

On March 10, Shane Winter and Les Gelband accompanied 50 students from Battle High School, Douglass High School and Oakland Middle School to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

Metro sponsored two students to participate in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held June 28-July 1 on the campus of William Woods University.

Metro's partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its twelfth year. On October 2, Metro presented its annual Literacy Development Award to the Title I program. The cumulative awards total was \$1,500.

During the school year 16 members read to students, donating over 330 hours of their time. At school end we handed out Metro bookmarks to all Title I students. Metro members also provided pies to Title I teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week as well as donations to the Columbia Public Schools Foundation. Finally, during Partners in Education Week in May, Metro members participated in the PIE Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.



Metro joined with other Columbia Rotary clubs to participate in a day of service at the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri on June 27. During the day, Steve Dulle was installed as Governor of District 6080 and all local club officers were installed.

### *Vocational Service*

Metro again supported students at Douglass High School through mentoring efforts. Sarah Read also coordinated volunteer opportunities at the school to assist with resume review/job application assistance, DHS Family Night at Stephens Park and assistance with the new Title I pre-school at DHS. On September 30, members participated in the Missouri River Relief project coordinated by Douglass High School biology teacher John Reed. On October 9, a social event was sponsored and other Rotary clubs in Columbia were invited to learn about the Metro's successful partnership with Douglass students. Metro also assisted with an Empathy Museum event at DHS on December 9 and a Job Fair on April 8.

An effort to establish Interact Clubs in the three Columbia high schools was an ongoing project throughout the year with local Rotary Clubs. Douglass High School was designated as Metro's Interact partner.

Metro recognized Dr. Tom Rose as the recipient of this year's Vocational Service Award. Tom was recognized for being "an excellent example of a Rotarian who lives life according to The Four Way Test. His loyalty to his family, friends, and colleagues is never doubted." Tom has been very involved in public education on the state and local levels. In 2013, he was named Missouri's Child Advocate of the Year. He has served tirelessly on Metro's Partner in Education Committee since its inception, and he served many years on the Board of Dr. Tom Rose Education for the Columbia Public Schools.



*Dr. Tom Rose*

### *International Service*

Metro joined other Columbia Rotary clubs in hosting a GSE Team from India November 10-13.

Tom O'Connor headed the successful efforts to secure a \$4,000 Rotary District Simplified Grant and matching funds for a women's empowerment project in Ankleshwar, India. Thanks to these funds sixty women were hired and trained to operate twenty-five new sewing machines.

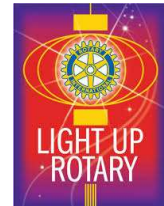
Business was reported to be so great that they had to transfer to a larger facility to meet the demand for their services!

Metro again joined other Columbia Rotary clubs in a fundraiser to fund training and equipment for Georgian medical professionals to resuscitate newborns who are struggling to breathe. A Mardi Gras Missouri-Style fundraiser was held February 26 at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

Metro and three local Rotary clubs financially assisted local Rotaractor Josh Beck as he visited Beirut, Lebanon. Josh joined five other Rotaractors from around the world for one week as they promoted understanding, cooperation and goodwill.

### *Rotary Foundation*

Metro Rotary members continued their support of the Rotary Foundation. Donations have continued, and increased, thanks to the leadership of Rotary Foundation Committee co-chairs Sandra Logan and Jim Stock. They worked tirelessly educating and informing members about the value of supporting the Foundation.



At the end of the year, 39 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included J. Scott Christianson, Jackson Winn (grandson of the late Jim Spieler), Dr. Courtney Barnes (wife of Shawn Barnes, Carl Block (husband of Joy Block), Shane Winter, Don Ludwig (+1), Jim Stock (+1), Rob Bartel (+1), Jean Leonatti (+2), Rose Hayden (+2), Audrey Spieler (+2) and Travis Cook.

### *Recognition*

Metro received its 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive Presidential Citation from District 6080! Congratulations to President Gena, the Metro officers, board members, committee chairs and all members who helped make this year such a success.

New members who joined during the year included Doug Shull, Laura Kogut, Gary Duncan, Heather McArthur, Marissa Todd, Ryan Maris and Rosi Fowler. Metro finished the year with 76 members.



*Sarah Read, Lori Neidel,  
Gena Patton, Charlene Boyes  
& Marissa Todd*

On April 14, member Nicole Galloway was appointed Missouri State Auditor by Governor Jay Nixon. At the time, Nicole was serving as the Boone County Treasurer, and her appointment will complete the term of the late Tom Schweich.



## *YEAR 23 (2015-2016)*

Rose Hayden assumed the presidency for the 2015-2016 year. She was supported by President-Elect Sarah Read, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Don Ludwig, Past President Gena Patton, Sergeant-at-Arms John John and Club Historian Jim Cherrington. Board members were Anna Drake, Pat Hostetler, Andrew Stone, Shatenita Horton, Jeremy Morton, Tonya Wolff, Charlene Boyes, Jaime Freidrichs and Lori Pewitt.



*Rose Hayden*

### *Club Service and Activities*

Shatenita Horton and Katie Essing co-chaired Metro's Program Committee for the year, and our programming was again excellent. A new addition to the programming rotation was the inclusion of "re-classification talks." These talks were presented by veteran members of the club, enabling the newer members to learn more about those who have been members for an extended period of time. Members participating in these talks were Cindy Whaley, Ryan Maris, Bette Wordelman, Les Gelband, Karen Brown, Rob Christensen, Bill Costello, Shatenita Horton, Casey Buckman, Scott Heck, Barb Danuser, Anna Drake, Sandra Logan, Joy Block, John John, Don Ludwig, Tim Springer, Audrey Spieler,

New members presenting their classification talks included Rosi Fowler, Mandy Schick, Carl Neitzert, Keith Shaffer, Scott Mackey, Leanne Geiss, Andrew Jira,

Metro joined other Columbia Rotary clubs in sponsoring a new club. The Columbia Evening Club began meeting in the spring of 2016.

On February 22, Metro joined other clubs at Shakespeare's South in observance of Rotary Day.

Metro's programming was once again varied, informative and entertaining. We learned about local organizations, associations, and Metro Committees.

*Club business:* Sarah Read oversaw an update to Metro's three-year strategic plan. The plan was approved by the Board of Directors in December, 2015.

*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were enjoyed at The Industry, Bleu, Room 38, 44 Canteen, Tropical Liqueurs and Agave Mexican Restaurant. Casey Buckman coordinated the sixth annual float trip at Bass River Resort near Steelville on June 10-12. The club's annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 16 at President Rose's home.



## *Community Service*

For the month of July, Metro participated, along with other clubs in District 6080, in a “Food Fight.” Clubs were divided into two teams (north vs. south) depending upon their respective location in the district. Donations of time, money or food made to legitimate charitable organizations and activities, preferably those involved with Feeding Missouri, a coalition of the six Missouri Food Banks were counted. For Metro’s part, a volunteer day at the Food Bank was held on July 30. Rotarians also volunteered at the Food Bank on October 7.

Jaime Freidrichs again served as a liaison for Metro members to volunteer a week of service at Wonderland Camp from July 26-31.

Metro again supported the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri by participating in the 2015 Club Out Hunger luncheon on August 25 at the Elks Lodge. Other local civic organizations participated in a club fitness challenge. Metro was proudly represented by Casey Buckman, Tonya Wolff, Les Gelband and Mandy Schick. Casey coordinated Metro’s participation in this event.



***Les Gelband, Mandy Schick,  
Tonya Wulff & Casey Buckman***

Metro’s partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its thirteenth year. On October 7, Metro presented its annual Literacy Development Award to the Title I program. The cumulative awards total was \$1,500.

On October 17, President Rose and Leah Christian represented Metro and taught children about energy conservation as part of the Light Up Rotary community service project, a partnership with the CoMo Energy Challenge and CMCA’s Weatherization Program to provide energy efficiency education and products to Columbia residents.

On November 24, members participated with other Rotary clubs in the All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon at the Courtyard by Marriott. Shatenita Horton coordinated Metro’s involvement, and proceeds benefitted Welcome Home and Rotaract.

Joy Block coordinated the bell ringing schedule as members assisted the Salvation Army at Hobby Lobby on November 14. Also, Shawn Barnes and Leah Christian coordinated Metro’s efforts to again adopt a family for Christmas through the Voluntary Action Center.

Ryan Maris and Cale Mitchell served as co-captains for Metro’s team in the 2016 Rootin’ Tootin’ Chili Cookoff on February 27 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

Metro’s ninth annual Trivia Night was held February 5 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Laura Kogut and April Melvin served as the event’s organizers, and they had a strong supporting cast of volunteers. True North was selected as the charity to receive the major portion of the event proceeds.



***Heather McArthur, Ryan  
Maris, Cale Mitchell &  
Laura Kogut***

On March 9, Shane Winter and Les Gelband accompanied 41 students from Battle High School, and Oakland Middle School to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.



Metro sponsored Jadie Arnett, a sophomore at Rock Bridge High School to participate in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held June 28-July 1 on the campus of William Woods University.

On April 29, Metro members participated in an All-Columbia Blood Drive to benefit those in need.

During the school year, a Metro record 20 members volunteered over 400 hours to our Title I Partner in Education relationship. As in the past, personalized Metro bookmarks were distributed at the end of the school year to all Title I students. Metro members also provided pies to Title I teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Finally, during Partners in Education Week in May, Metro members participated in the PIE Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Executive Center.

#### *Vocational Service*

Leah Christian assisted with the successful funding proposal “Light Up Rotary” which allowed for 38 local families to each receive LED lights. The project directly related to the local COMO Energy Challenge.

Metro continued its support of Douglass High School students. On October 15, Rotarians accompanied Douglass students on a Missouri river trip to study the effects of human behavior on water quality and healthy ecosystems. On October 27, Rotarians assisted with a Mock Job Fair at the school. In addition, Metro continued its mentoring efforts with Douglass students as Sarah Read coordinated volunteer opportunities at the school. The Third Annual Job Fair at Douglass High School was held on April 14.

Metro recognized Dan Scotten as the recipient of this year’s Vocational Service Award. Dan has been active in the Columbia community since 1975, when he came to Columbia to serve as President of Commerce Bank. Dan was lauded for being an active Rotary member for many years. He served as president of Northwest Rotary Club in 1985, and he played an active role in the establishment of half of Columbia’s current Rotary clubs. Dan was commended for his activeness in the local community. He was one of the founders of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, and he has been involved in celebrating the opening of over 2,500 local businesses! Dan is a 24-year prostate cancer survivor, and a long-time fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, the Cancer Research Center and Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. He was the first chairman of the Relay for Life in 1995.

In addition to Rotary and the local Chamber (of which he which he served as President in 1982), Dan has given his time and talents to numerous other entities. He served 18 years as a member of the Columbia College Trustees, and he has served as an active fundraiser for Stephens College, the University of Missouri and the University of Central Missouri (his alma mater). For years, he served as a volunteer and assistant Crusade Chair for the United Way. He was chairman of Advent in the 1980s (now Job Point), and he has been an adviser and fundraiser for both the Missouri State Historical Society and the Boone County Historical Society. Finally, he has twice served on the Missouri Lions Eye Research team.

### *Rotary Foundation*

Sandra Logan and Jim Stock continued their stellar leadership of this committee. Metro was recognized by District 6080 as a district that achieved the honor of being recognized as a club that satisfied Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) giving for the past year. The initiative encourages Rotary members to contribute \$100 each year to support local and international projects.

At the end of the year, 43 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Tonya Wolff, Charlene Boyes, Travis Cook, Greg Logan, Sandra Logan (+1), Rob Bartel (+2), Win Burggraaff (+4), Lori Pewitt (+1), Sarah Read (+1), Marissa Todd, Audrey Spieler (+3), Susan Hart (+7), Shawn Barnes (+2), Jan Beckett (+1), Norm Benedict and Heather McArthur.



*Shawn Barnes, Jan Beckett,  
Norm Benedict & Heather McArthur*

### *Recognition*

For this year, Metro received the Gold Presidential Citation! District 6080 recognized Metro's accomplishment, and Metro was commended for receiving its 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Presidential Citation. Congratulations to President Rose, the Metro officers, board members, committee chairs and all members who helped make this year such a success.

Kudos to Jaime Freidrichs and Casey Buckman for implementing a new Membership Committee process which brought many new visitors to weekly meetings. New members who joined during the year included Mandy Schick, Carl Neitzert, Keith Shaffer, Scott Mackey, Leanne Geiss, Andrea Jira, Victoria Brees, Jason Knipp, Craig Martin, Jeremy Winter and Tim Sullivan. Metro finished the year with 81 members.

Thanks to the efforts of Sarah Read, Metro enjoyed having a Service Learning intern for the January-May time period. Hannah Younger was a senior at MU majoring in International Studies, and she graduated in May. Originally from St. Charles, Hannah was very helpful with Metro projects.



## *YEAR 24 (2016-2017)*

The Rotary International theme for this year was “*Rotary Serving Humanity.*” Sarah Read began her leadership of Metro on July 6, 2016. Her officers for the year were President-Elect Tom Rose, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Don Ludwig, Past President Rose Hayden, Sergeant-at-Arms Jaime Freidrichs. Board members were Chris Dohm, Shatenita Horton, Tonya Wolff, Charlene Boyes, Jaime Freidrichs, Lori Pewitt, Lori Neidel, Monica Pitts and Audrey Spieler.



The Metro year began with a restructuring of committees. The new structure was outlined as follows:

- Club Administration
- Communications
- Foundation and RI
- Fundraising
- Membership
  - Application Review & Membership Recruitment
  - Family of Rotary
  - Fellowship
- Programs
- Service
  - Community Service
  - International Service
  - New Generations Service
  - Partners in Education
  - Vocational Service

During the year, the club bylaws were reviewed extensively, and suggested edits were recommended. The revised bylaws were approved by club vote on April 5, 2017.

### *Club Service and Activities*

This year’s Program Committee was co-chaired by Rose Hayden and Scott Heck. Excellent programming occurred during the year, and Metro was honored to host District 6080 Governor David Bixler on July 14. New members presenting their classification talks included Victoria Brees, Jeremy Winter, Craig Meyer, Jason Knipp, Dave Driscoll, Tim Sullivan, Susan Brandt, Brian Cracraft, Jenny Flatt, Shanda Davis, JJ Musgrove, Shelley Sigholtz and Beth Lammers.



During the year, Metro co-sponsored a “Leadership Serving Humanity” series with Rotaract. The first session was held August 25 at Woodhaven and the program was entitled “Leadership: What and Why.” The second event was held October 27, and the focus of the presentation was

“Managing Up.” The third presentation of the series was entitled “Board Basics,” and it was held March 23.

On October 24, members participated in World Polio Day with other local clubs by attending a live webinar presentation by the Centers for Disease Control. The event was held in the Community Room at First State Community Bank.

On August 27, Metro members attended the Sunrise Southwest Rotary Club’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kick Off Cook Off at Parkade Plaza. The event provided delicious tailgate-style food and beverages served up by Columbia’s tastiest restaurants. Numerous local Rotarians, family members and friends enjoyed food, beverages and fellowship.

### *Club Business*

Metro’s Membership Committee was co-chaired by Katie Essing and Casey Buckman. They began an incentive program whereby members who brought guests to the weekly meetings were entered into a monthly drawing for a free lunch or tickets during the weekly fundraising opportunity. Winners throughout the year included Rob Bartel, Shatenita Horton, Mandy Schick, Jeremy Winter, Tim Sullivan, Jean Leonatti, Sarah Read, Lori Neidel and Laura Kogut.

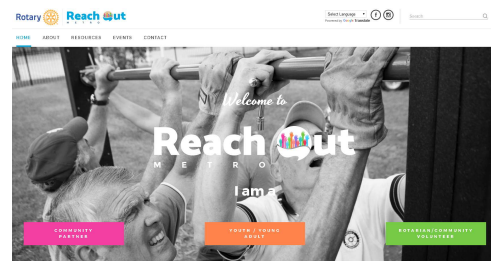
Metro concluded the year with 77 members. New members added during the year included Brian Cracraft, Shelley Sigholtz, William Kerwin, David Driscoll, Susan Brandt, Shanda Traiser, Beth Lammers, Jenny Flatt, JJ Musgrove, Rose Lloyd and Stephany Schler.

*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were enjoyed at Logboat Brewing Company, The Moose Room, Billiards on Broadway, and Dickey’s Barbeque Pit. Metro Rotarians supported Rotaract’s annual “Taste of the Tropics” event on March 16. On April 14, members joined other local Rotarians for a Rotary Day at the ballpark as the MU Tigers baseball team hosted the Kentucky Wildcats. Casey Buckman coordinated the seventh annual float trip at Bass River Resort near Steelville on June 23-24. The club’s annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 16 at the historic Blind Boone Home in downtown Columbia. Special thanks to Carl Neitzert for coordinating this successful event on behalf of the club.

### *Community Service*

Early in the year, Metro was notified that it was the recipient of a District Simplified Grant which will help build on our club’s past mentoring experiences. The funds were used to build a mobile-friendly website, “Reach Out Metro,” connecting youth ages 16-26 in the Columbia area to Rotary projects, programs and resources. The official kick-off of the program was held January 24, 2017. As part of the project, four “Meet the Managers” sessions were

held throughout the year at the Family Impact Center. Each session provided local youth the opportunity to learn about different job areas and interact with local professionals. The first



session was held February 28, and the topic discussed was “General Expectations; Working in an Office.” The second session was March 28, and it covered “Jobs in Healthcare.” The third session was held on April 25, and it highlighted “Jobs in Construction.” The final session was held May 23, and it focused on “Jobs in Technology.” Numerous Rotarians volunteered time to serve as panel members and speak to local youth in attendance.

Rotary Week at Wonderland Camp was held July 24-29. A few Metro members were able to attend for a day and help the campers with programs and services. On May 7, Rotary Day at Wonderland Camp was held which featured the donation of new playground equipment donated by various Rotary clubs.

Metro’s partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its fourteenth year. On September 28, Metro presented its annual Literacy Development Award in the amount of \$1,500 to the Title I program. Since the inception of this partnership, over \$20,000 has been awarded by Metro to the Title I program. In addition, Metro Rotarians participated in the Columbia Public Schools’ “Read for the Record” on October 27, 2016. This was a national campaign launched over a decade ago to assist young children with reading skills.



Leah Christian coordinated two service events for members in October and November. On October 15, members participated in a sweet potato harvest at the Metro garden behind Douglass High School. Over 300 pounds were harvested at the event! On November 4, members celebrated the harvest with students at a bonfire at Stephens Lake Park.

Leah Christian also played a key role in Metro sponsoring a row in the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture garden. The garden is located on a 1.3 acre tract of land near downtown Columbia. Crops grown in the garden are used in the “Planting for the Pantry” program which ensures that fresh produce from the farm reaches those in need. It is estimated that in one year’s time a row will produce 760 servings of tomatoes, 338 servings of kale, 638 servings of collards, 178 servings of carrots or 625 servings of green onions and scallions. On May 6, Metro Rotarians volunteered a day of service at the farm.

Responsibility for organizing the annual All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon rotates between the local clubs. This year, Metro was the lead club. Thanks to Laura Kogut and Victoria Brees for organizing the successful event.

Rotarians continued the annual tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army in front of Hobby Lobby. Joy Block again coordinated Metro’s efforts, and members braved the weather on December 10 on behalf of the charity.

Metro's tenth annual Trivia Night was held February 3 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Laura Kogut and Victoria Brees served as the event's organizers, and they had a strong supporting cast of volunteers. EnCircle Technologies was selected as the charity to receive the major portion of the event proceeds, and the organization's members sold over ten tickets to the event! Tom O'Connor's team was this year's victorious team.

On April 6, Metro co-sponsored a speaker and concert event with EnCircle Technologies. Aaron Likens, spoke about his experiences as an individual diagnosed with autism and the challenges and gifts of those who have autism. Local singer/songwriter Merry Ellen Kirk performed a special concert for attendees at the Columbia Art League.



In April, Shane Winter chaperoned 45 students from Battle High School, and Oakland Middle School to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

Metro sponsored local students Cole Galbraith, Logan Widhalm and Jack Winn to participate in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held June 26-29 on the campus of William Woods University. The students spoke to Metro on August 10, and they relayed their learning experiences and appreciation for Metro's support.

Metro members continued their strong volunteering efforts through the Partner in Education relationship with the Columbia Public Schools' Title I program. Over 20 members read to students, or had students read to them throughout the school year logging over 400 hours in service. During end-of-year celebrations at the schools, Metro bookmarks were presented to Title I students. As in the past, Metro made/purchased pies for Title I teachers which were delivered during Teacher Appreciation Week. The annual PIE Recognition Breakfast was held in May, and Metro members attended in support of the relationship.

### *Vocational Service*

In addition to the new ReachOut Metro program, Metro continued its support of Douglass High School students through mentoring and other volunteer efforts.

Metro recognized Dan Scotten as the recipient of this year's Vocational Service Award. Dan has been active in the Columbia community since 1975, when he came to Columbia to serve as President of Commerce Bank. Dan was lauded for being an active Rotary member for many years. He served as president of Northwest Rotary Club in 1985, and he played an active role in the establishment of half of Columbia's current Rotary clubs. Dan was commended for his activeness in the local community. He was one of the founders of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, and he has been involved in celebrating the opening of over 2,500 local businesses! Dan is a 24-year prostate cancer survivor, and a long-time fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, the Cancer Research Center and Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. He was the first chairman of the Relay for Life in 1995.

In addition to Rotary and the local Chamber (of which he which he served as President in 1982), Dan has given his time and talents to numerous other entities. He served 18 years as a member of the Columbia College Trustees, and he has served as an active fundraiser for Stephens College, the University of Missouri and the University of Central Missouri (his alma mater). For years, he served as a volunteer and assistant Crusade Chair for the United Way. He was chairman of Advent in the 1980s (now Job Point), and he has been an adviser and fundraiser for both the Missouri State Historical Society and the Boone County Historical Society. Finally, he has twice served on the Missouri Lions Eye Research team.

### *The Rotary Foundation*

District 6080 honored Jim Stock for his leadership and efforts on behalf of The Rotary Foundation. A Charter member of our club, Jim has worked tirelessly to encourage new and continued contributions to The Rotary Foundation.



To continue, and increase, donations to The Rotary Foundation, Metro's Foundation Committee organized a fundraising opportunity whereby members could purchase glasses to safely view the upcoming solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. The glasses were very popular, and the fundraiser was a tremendous success.

Sandra Logan and Jim Stock continued their stellar leadership of this committee. Metro was recognized by District 6080 as a district that achieved the honor of being recognized as a club that satisfied Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) giving for the past year. The initiative encourages Rotary members to contribute \$100 each year to support local and international projects.

At the end of the year, 44 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Anna Drake, Scott Mackey, Lori Neidel, Andrew Stone, Tom Rose (+3), Karen Brown (+1), Jim Cherrington (+1), Don Ludwig (+2), Rose Hayden (+5), Shane Winter (+1), Marnie Clark (+4), Susan Hart (+8), Heather McArthur (+1), Jim Stock (+2) and Carl Neitzert.

### *Recognition*

Metro received its 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive Presidential Citation from District 6080! Congratulations to President Sarah, the Metro officers, board members, committee chairs and all members who helped make this year such a success.

Because Metro is composed of many outstanding professionals, numerous recognitions occurred during the year for personal and professional contributions to the Columbia community. Victoria Brees was named a finalist in the Professional Excellence category for the 2016 Columbia Daily Tribune Women in Business Awards. Anna Drake won First Place in the Fiber Art category during the Boone County Art Show in October at Central Bank. Tim Springer was presented the

A.C. Burrows Award by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives at the organization's annual meeting. This award recognizes directors and employees of electric cooperatives for outstanding service to their cooperative, community and service areas. Laura Kogut was a finalist for the 2017 Young Athena Award which is presented annually by Women's Network to an exceptional individual who is an emerging leader in his/her business profession, who gives back to the community in meaningful ways and who clearly serves as a role model for young women both personally and professionally. Finally, Bette Wordelman's skills were so impressive that she was lured away from Columbia. Bette became the Deputy of Director of the Finance Department for the City of Lee's Summit in March, 2017.

For the second year in a row, Metro enjoyed the services of a Service Learning intern. Morgan K. Morgan was a senior Psychology major at the University of Missouri.



### ***YEAR 25 (2017-2018)***

The Rotary International theme for this year was “*Rotary: Making a Difference.*” Dr. Tom Rose presided over his first meeting as club President on July 5, 2017. Officers for the year were President-Elect Karen Brown, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Laura Kogut, Past President Sarah Read and Sergeant-at-Arms Jason Knipp (later Mandy Schick). Board members were Charlene Boyes, Jaime Freidrichs, Lori Pewitt, Lori Neidel, Monica Pitts, Audrey Spieler, Rob Bartel, Don Ludwig and Craig Meyer. Tom began the year by offering to meet members, as they are available, for breakfast on Saturday mornings at the Hy-Vee location on Nifong.



### ***Club Service and Activities***

Craig Meyer served as the chair of the Program Committee for the year. A wide variety of programming was again featured with excellent presenters. Metro was honored to host District 6080 Governor Dr. Melvin Platt on August 30. New members presenting their classification talks included Rose Lloyd, Leigh Anne Haun, Jessica Lehmen, Molly Rippel, Margaret Conroy, and Graham Kent.

On August 26, Metro participated in the Columbia Rotary clubs' Kick-off Cook-Off. Delicious, tailgate-style food was provided by thirty of Columbia's tastiest restaurants. Proceeds from the event were used to support humanitarian service projects.

On October 24, members participated in World Polio Day with other local clubs by attending a live webinar presentation by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk. The event was held at Woodhaven.

On May 19, member Rotarians, family members and friends met at University Field on the University of Missouri campus to watch the Tigers host the Tennessee Volunteers in SEC baseball action. Fun and fellowship were enjoyed by the attendees.

### ***Club Business***

A new initiative began this year with the implementation of Visitor's Day on March 7. On that day, members were encouraged to bring prospective members to the weekly meeting. A total of 21 visitors were present to learn more about Rotary.

Metro concluded the year with 78 members. New members added during the year included Leigh Anne Haun, Les Borgmeyer, Molly Rippel, Jessica Lehmen, Jackie Walters, Graham Kent, Margaret Conroy, Amanda Lucas and Loretta Schouten.

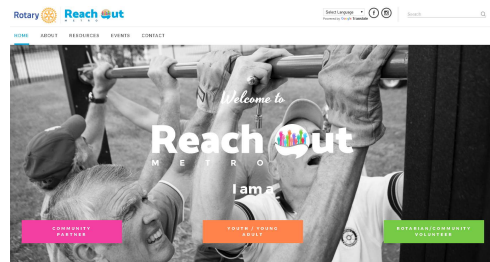
*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were enjoyed at Sparky's Ice Cream, The Heidelberg, DogMaster Distillery, Barred Owl Butcher & Table, Access Arts and Flat Branch Pub & Brewing. Members continued their support of Rotaract by participating in the local club's annual Taste the Tropics fundraiser. This year's event was held March 22 at Tropical Liqueurs on South Providence.

The club's 25<sup>th</sup> annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 14 at the Boone County Historical Society. One of the highlights of the event was the karaoke machine, and several members shared their talents.

### ***Community Service***

In July, members participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Boone County Back to School Health Fair. Members donated school supplies for needy students.

Metro continued its presence of helping local youth through the Reach Out Metro program. Sessions were again presented at no charge to area youth who were interested in learning more about opportunities that may be available to assist them. All of the programs were held at The Family Impact Center. Sessions entitled "Meet the Manager" were held, and good attendance was reported. Topics discussed included: Technology; Arts, Hospitality & Tourism; Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; and Business Management & Administration, Finance, Marketing. Also, a youth mental health first aid training opportunity was held on April 28. The session informed participants about how to assist someone who may be encountering a mental illness or crisis.



On March 17, Sarah Read moderated a panel discussion at Jabberwocky Studios. The topic for the evening was Immigration, and attendees enjoyed an informative evening.

Rotary Week at Wonderland Camp was held July 23-29. A few Metro members were able to attend for a day and help the campers with programs and services. Wonderland Camp hosted a Friends of Camp Donor Recognition Event at the Eldon Community Center on February 17 to recognize individuals and organizations that have been supporters of the camp.

Metro's partnership with Columbia Public Schools Title I program completed its fifteenth year. On April 11, Metro presented a check for \$7,000 to the program to assist with growing the library at the Center for Early Learning-North. The weekly meeting was moved to the learning center, and members enjoyed a tour of the facility as well. The funds presented represent a 50/50 match from District 6080, and the three-year grant was awarded early in the fiscal year. Since the inception of the partnership, over \$27,000 has been awarded by Metro to the Title I program.



Leah Christian coordinated Metro's participation in the Harvest Hootenanny, an event that annually raises funds for the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. Leah also organized volunteers for Clean Up Columbia on April 14. Members cleaned up an area of the MKT Trail near the Scott Boulevard access point.

November 21 was the date of the annual All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving luncheon. The event was held at the Courtyard by Marriott. Thanks to Victoria Brees for coordinating Metro's participation in the luncheon.

Thanks to Joy Block's coordination, Metro Rotarians once again rang bells for the Salvation Army. Members ran the bells on December 2 in front of Hobby Lobby on behalf of the charity.

In December, members volunteered time to assist the Voluntary Action Center with their Holiday Program collection and distribution. Members also contributed items to fulfill a Douglass High School student's Christmas wish list.

Metro's 11<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night was held February 2 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Anna Drake did an excellent job coordinating the event, and members were very supportive of the fundraiser. First Chance for Children was this year's charity, and a check for \$3,500 was presented to the organization. Congratulations to Rose Hayden's team for being this year's champion!



On April 19, Rotarians Shane Winter and Les Gelband chaperoned 16 students from Battle High School and Oakland Middle School to Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

Metro sponsored local students Riley Cole and Grant Bradshaw to participate in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held on the campus of William Woods University.

Riley attended from June 25-28, and Grant attended from July 9-12. Grant spoke to Metro on August 9, and he shared experiences learned from the week and expressed his appreciation for Metro's support.

In April, Metro celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> year as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Public Schools' Title I program. Our club was recognized at the annual PIE Recognition breakfast on May 4. Throughout the year, over 20 members read to students, or had students read to them logging over 400 hours in service. During end-of-year celebrations at the schools, Metro bookmarks were presented to Title I students. As in the past, Metro made/purchased pies for Title I teachers which were delivered during Teacher Appreciation Week. In June, Metro presented retiring CPS Title I Preschool Program Director Mary Rook with an engraved set of Rotary glasses in appreciation of her devotion of time and talents to the club's Partner in Education relationship.

On May 30, Metro Rotarians volunteered at the Kilgore's Community Garden. They worked prepping the soil for the upcoming crop season. The garden supplies fresh produce to the Nora Stewart Early Learning Center and the Central Food Pantry.

Throughout the year, Metro Rotarians participated in the Rotary Tree Planning Project. Rotary International President Ian Riseley challenged all Rotary Clubs to plant one tree for each member. A highlight of the project was a mass planting of 350 trees in partnership with the City of Columbia along the Forum Nature Trail. Trees were donated for planting by Forest ReLeaf from St. Louis. Species planted included oak, walnut, cherry, birch, redbud, holly and hackberry.

Members donated numerous pairs of eyeglasses to District 6080. The eyeglasses will be transported to countries during upcoming mission trips to help those less fortunate.

### ***Vocational Service***

On July 19, Dr. Cathy Scroggs (right) was recognized as the recipient of Metro's 2017 Vocational Service Award. A member of Metro since 2003, Dr. Scroggs retired in early 2017 as Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at the University of Missouri. Dr. Scroggs began her career in education as a high school science teacher, and she got her start in student affairs at Stephens College as a residence hall director. Prior to becoming vice chancellor, she served as director of Student Life and assistant director of Residential Life/Greek Life at MU. Dr. Scroggs is married to Rotarian Stuart Scroggs, and they have two daughters and one grandchild. In her spare time, she is active with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Heart of Missouri United Way and Voluntary Action Center. She was the 2009 chair of the local United Way campaign, and she has also served as their board president. In 2013, she received the Jack Mathews Award for leadership, dedication and achievement on behalf of United Way. She has been an active member of Metro Rotary since 2003. She has been supportive of Metro activities and served as our club's Sergeant-at-Arms during the 2008-2009 year.



## ***The Rotary Foundation***

The Rotary Foundation Committee sold solar eclipse glasses in early 2017. Members used the glasses to view the total solar eclipse on August 21. In total, 1,500 glasses were sold, and net proceeds from the sales were \$1,774. Proceeds from the sale of the glasses benefit The Rotary Foundation.

Metro has been fortunate to have the consistent and capable leadership of Sandra Logan and Jim Stock as co-chairs of this committee. Their devotion to The Rotary Foundation helped Metro to again be recognized by District 6080 as a club that satisfied Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) giving for the past year. The initiative encourages Rotary members to contribute \$100 each year to support local and international projects, and Metro met this requirement.

At the end of the year, 41 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Ginny Northcutt (+1), Les Gelband (+3), Casey Buckman, Charlene Boyes (+1), Scott Mackey (+1), Win Burggraaff (+5), Joy Block (+2), Tom O'Connor (+1), Pat Hostetler (+1), Jean Leonatti (+3), Jim Cherrington (+2), Stuart Scroggs, Cathy Scroggs, Shane Winter (+2), Rose Hayden (+5) and Rob Bartel (+4).

## ***Recognition***

Metro received its 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive Rotary Citation, formerly the Presidential Citation, from District 6080! Congratulations to President Tom, the Metro officers, board members, committee chairs and all members who helped make this year such a success.

During the 2017 All-Columbia Rotary Club Thanksgiving Luncheon, Rotarian Susan Hart was recognized as the District 6080 Rotarian of the Year! This award is given in recognition of dedicated service and loyal devotion to the ideas of Rotary. In addition, Susan received the Citation for Meritorious Service from the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation.

On February 21, Metro celebrated Rotary International's 113<sup>th</sup> birthday (two days early). Members also celebrated Rotaract's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Susan Hart's district recognitions.

Metro members continued to be recognized in the community. In October, Anna Drake received a First Place ribbon for her art work "No Brain." Her art was displayed at Central Bank downtown for a month.



## *YEAR 26 (2018-2019)*

Karen Brown (right) began her term as Metro's 27<sup>th</sup> president on July 11, 2018. The Rotary International theme for this year was "*Be The Inspiration.*" Officers for the year were President-Elect Cathy Scroggs, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Laura Kogut, Past President Tom Rose and Sergeant-at-Arms Mandy Schick. Board members were Lori Neidel, Monica Pitts, Audrey Spieler, Rob Bartel, Don Ludwig, Craig Meyer, Les Borgmeyer and Victoria Brees.



### *Club Service and Activities*

Metro's Program Committee again did a stellar job of securing interesting and educational speakers. Metro was honored to host District 6080 Governor Susan Haralson on July 25.

Metro entered a team into the PolioPlus Cornhole Tournament on September 16 at Katfish Katy's.

### *Club Business*

Metro's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Visitor's Day was held March 6. Members were again encouraged to invite prospective members to the weekly meeting. A total of 13 visitors were present to learn more about Rotary.

Metro concluded the year with 78 members. New members added during the year included Tatha Todd, Rebecca Knipp, Todd Mackey and John Absinthe.

Victoria Brees worked tirelessly to lead the Membership Committee during the year. She encouraged members to regularly invite prospective members to weekly luncheon meetings and educated members about underrepresented classifications.

Kudos to Lori Neidel and Sarah Read who headed up a review of the club's strategic plan. After much work and discussion, an updated plan for 2019-2022 was drafted and presented to members for review. The plan was approved on April 10.

*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were enjoyed at Broadway Brewery, Shiloh, Gunter Hans, Pressed, The Vault, Room 38, 44 Canteen, The Roof and Flat Branch Pub & Brewery. Members continued their support of Rotaract by participating in the local club's Craft Beer & Carts fundraiser on June 23. The event was held at Logboat Brewing Company, and personal energy transportation (PET)/mobility carts were purchased, constructed and donated to benefit Mobility Worldwide. Metro's cart was constructed in memory of Stuart Scroggs.



The club's 26<sup>th</sup> annual Charter Night celebration was held on Jun3 21 at the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri.

Casey Buckman coordinated the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual float trip on July 20 at Bass River Resort near Steelville.

### ***Community Service***

Mandy Schick coordinated Metro's participation in Boone County's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Health Fair. Members donated school supplies for needy students.

The Reach Out Metro program continued to help local youth. Members provided job shadow opportunities to interested youth and served as mentors for Battle High School students. Members assisted students with planning and composing resumes as well as scholarship applications/essays. The "Meet the Managers" sessions returned for another round, and the first session was held September 25 and discussed the importance of networking skills. The second session was held October 23, and the program covered building a resume, finding a job and keeping a job. A third session was held November 27, and youth learned about what to expect in an interview and practiced their interviewing skills. On February 26, a leadership course was provided to local youth.

Metro coordinated a celebration of youth on July 31. Reach Out Metro, RYLA, Rotaract and Interact were highlighted. During the event, "little libraries" were constructed for the Kate's Heart charity. On October 6, members met at Jabberwocky Studios to paint four additional libraries that were constructed for the charity.

Metro sponsored local student Aya Bellaoui to participate in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held on the campus of William Woods University.

Metro provided a "Stop the Bleed" training program on August 8 at the Columbia Country Club. Attendees learned how to deal with traumatic events and assist people suffering from severe blood loss before medical help arrives.

On November 1, members participated with other Columbia Rotary Clubs at the dedication of a new playground at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. A District Simplified Grant provided the funds to construct the new playground which is fully accessible to special needs children. A work day was held June 24 to ensure the playground was ready for children to access during the summer.

In March, Metro had its sponsorship of a new Interact Club at Battle High School certified by Rotary International! The club was very successful with energetic members. During their first year, they created and facilitated the MAC Achievement Conference, secured Battle's TEDx license, assisted with two STEAM Night presentations, partnered with Metro Rotary on Clean Up Columbia and led the Spartan Stream Team clean up of Franklin Island.

Thanks to Reach Out Metro, local youth were provided an opportunity in January to participate in a MU Law School mediation session. MU professors guided the discussion for students who are considering a future legal career.

Mandy Schick served as the coordinator for Metro's participation in Clean Up Columbia 2019 on April 13. Members cleaned up an area near Capen Park off Rock Quarry Road.

Metro members had a strong showing at the All-Columbia Rotary Club Thanksgiving luncheon. This year's luncheon meeting was held November 20 at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

Joy Block once again coordinated Metro's participation in the annual ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army. Members ran the bells on November 17 in front of Hobby Lobby on behalf of the charity. In April, Major Jack Holloway, Area Business Administrator for the Salvation Army and Lori Benson, Community Relations Director presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Metro Rotary for members' continued support of the Salvation Army's bellringing campaign.

Craig Meyer coordinated Metro's 12<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night. This year's event was held February 1 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Jabberwocky Studios was this year's charity, and a check for \$3,500 was presented to the organization. Congratulations to Tom O'Connor's team for being this year's champion!

On April 18, Rotarians Shane Winter and Les Gelband chaperoned four students from Columbia schools Jefferson City for the annual Student Government Day. They visited the State Capitol, met with state officials, and ate ice cream at Central Dairy.

In April, Metro celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> year as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Public Schools' Title I program. Throughout the year, members read to students, or had students read to them logging over 400 hours in service. During end-of-year celebrations at the schools, Metro bookmarks were presented to Title I students. As in the past, Metro made/purchased pies for Title I teachers which were delivered during Teacher Appreciation Week.



In June and July, Reach Out Metro partnered with Youth Volunteer Corps to provide summer projects for local youth. Locations for the projects were: Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri, Salvation Army Thrift Store and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

### ***The Rotary Foundation***

On August 15, Dr. Raymond Plus visited Metro and announced to members that Susan Hart had achieved Major Donor: Level 1 status with The Rotary Foundation! Individuals are recognized as a Major Donor once their contributions reach a cumulative total of \$10,000.

At the end of the year, 47 members held Paul Harris Fellowships. New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Craig Meyer, Karen Brown (+2), Rob Christensen (+2), Tom Rose (+4), Beth Lammers, Sandra Logan (+2), Sarah Read (+3) and Rob Bartel (+5).

## ***Recognition***

Tom Rose attended the 2018 Rotary District 6080 and District 6110 joint conference in October. He returned to report that Metro was the recipient of the 2017-2018 Rotary Citation. In addition, Metro was recognized as a member of the 100% Giving Club for its support of The Rotary Foundation last year. Congratulations to all the members who helped make the past year such a success.

Metro was saddened at the unexpected passing of member Stuart Scroggs (right) on October 24, 2018. Stuart joined Metro in December, 1996, and he served our club in many leadership roles. He served on our Board of Directors from 1999-2002, he was our Sergeant-at-Arms during the 2002-2003 year, and he served in every officer position. He was our 16<sup>th</sup> Club President during the 2007-2008 year. Stuart was a successful architect in Columbia for over 35 years. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and active community member. Metro forwarded a donation in Stuart's memory to the Voluntary Action Center.



In September, member Monica Pitts' company, MayeCreate, was recognized as an Outstanding Small Business by the Central Missouri Fundraising Professionals.



## ***YEAR 27 (2019-2020)***

Rotary International's theme for the 2019-2020 year was "*Rotary Connects the World.*" On July 3, 2019, Cathy Scroggs (right) began serving as Metro's 28<sup>th</sup> president. Officers for the year were President-Elect Craig Meyer, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Laura Kogut, Past President Karen Brown and Sergeant-at-Arms Mandy Schick. Board members were Rob Bartel, Craig Meyer, Les Borgmeyer, Victoria Brees, Anna Drake and Mandy Schick.



The year was unique in that the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Columbia. March 11 was Metro's last regular weekly in-person meeting for the year. Like other people and businesses, Metro adjusted, and weekly meetings were held virtually to conclude the year. Members are to be commended for their flexibility and willingness to work together to continue the mission of Rotary.

## ***Club Service and Activities***

Weekly programs continued to be a highlight for the club. The tradition of high-quality speakers continued with a wide variety of topics covered. Metro was honored to host District 6080

Governor Paul Reinert on August 21. Members presenting their classification talks during the year included Todd Mackey, Rebecca Knipp, John Absinthe, Garrett Pearson and Ajay Vinzé.

To encourage donations to The Rotary Foundation, Katie Essing and Mandy Schick provided unique opportunities for members to contribute. On September 25, “Pie to End Polio” was the theme, and Shane Winter was a good sport and took a pie to the face to encourage contributions. On October 2, a pie eating contest was held, and Casey Buckman was the winner. On October 9, a representative from Peggy Jean’s Pies (PJP) attended our weekly meeting and sold baby pies to members. PJP generously agreed to donate 25% of the pie sales to Polio Plus!

Metro entered a team into the Corn Hole Tournament on October 20 at Katfish Katy’s. Proceeds from the event benefitted Polio Plus.

### ***Club Business***

Metro concluded the year with 78 members. New members added during the year included Ajay Vinzé, Garrett Pearson, Penny Kuhns-Knarr and John Fierke.

*Club social activities:* Monthly social events were enjoyed at Shiloh, Flat Branch Pub & Brewing, Shakespeare’s Pizza West, Fuzzy’s Taco Shop and COMO Growlers & Pints.



### ***Community Service***

Metro members were once again generous with their donation of school supplies as the club successfully participated in Boone County’s 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Back to School Health Fair.

Reach Out Metro began the year by partnering with the Secondary EEE students in the Columbia Public Schools. Metro members assisted the students with internship planning. Rotarians also served as mentors with Battle High School students. In addition, members volunteered time to speak to students during a career fair held at Rock Bridge High School. Members worked with students from the Douglass High School ELL program and provided dialogue training to 22 Interact Students at Centro Latino. Loretta Schouten and Sarah Read led over 50 local high school students through dialogue training and helped them plan for an upcoming TEDx program. Members continued to help students with resumes, interviewing and other job-related skills.

For the second year in a row, Metro coordinated a celebration of youth. On July 22 at Shakespeare’s Pizza West, students from Reach Out Metro, RYLA, Rotaract and Interact were highlighted. Kudos to Sarah Read and Loretta Schouten for organizing the event.

Metro sponsored local students Liam Rose and Josephine Bolte to participate in the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held on the campus of William Woods University. Liam visited Metro on August 14 and expressed his appreciation for Metro’s sponsorship and shared experiences he encountered during his week at RYLA.

Members participated in a workday on September 21 at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. Thanks to Mandy Schick for organizing this event.

Metro Rotary joined other Columbia Rotary clubs in purchasing thirteen new markers for the African-American Heritage Trail in Columbia. The final markers were unveiled during a special ceremony on October 23.

In January, Metro presented \$5,000 from a District Simplified Grant to the Hallsville School District to help purchase computer equipment for their special education students.



Members volunteered time at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri on February 26.

As in past years, Metro members were supportive of the All-Columbia Rotary Club Thanksgiving luncheon. This year's luncheon meeting was held November 26 at Hampton Inn & Suites. Special thanks to Molly Rippel and Beth Lammers for serving as our club's liaisons for this event.

On December 7, Metro members volunteered their time to ring bells for the Salvation Army in front of Hobby Lobby. Thanks to Joy Block for coordinating this event.

Katie Essing coordinated Metro's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night (below). This year's event was held February 7 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Kate's Heart was this year's charity, and a check for \$3,500 was presented to the organization. The winning team was The Jackson Five. Special kudos to Charlene Boyes who worked tirelessly in securing donations for the event's auctions.



In April, Metro celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> year as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Public Schools' Title I program. This year was unique for the relationship in that members reading to students was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, over twenty Rotarians spent meaningful time reading to students from August – March. In April, Metro was notified that a District Simplified Grant in the amount of \$3,200 was approved to be used for curriculum funding for the next three years by the preschool program!

### ***International Service***

Metro partnered with other Columbia Rotary Clubs to support a clean water project in Uganda this year.

Metro participated in an international project that provided personal protective equipment to individuals in India. Along with donations from other Rotary clubs and matching funds from Rotary International, the project provided over \$42,000 worth of needed equipment. Thanks to Tom O'Connor for his leadership in this project.

### ***Vocational Service***

Shawn Barnes (right) was recognized as the recipient of the 2019 Vocational Service Award. Shawn served as our club's 22<sup>nd</sup> president during the 2013-2014 year. In addition to his Metro leadership, he was instrumental in establishing the Little Free Libraries in cooperation with Kate's Heart. He has also been active in the local United Way and with the Voluntary Action Center.



Tom O'Connor (right) was recognized as the recipient of the 2020 Vocational Service Award. A member of Metro since 2004, Tom is the owner of H<sub>2</sub>O'C Engineering. He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and he has served in club and district leadership positions. Tom has been instrumental in securing numerous water and health grants for projects internationally.



### ***The Rotary Foundation***

New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Scott Mackey (+2), Katie Essing (+2), Lori Neidel (+1), Les Borgmeyer (+1), Jaime Freidrichs (+1), Jan Beckett (+2), Joy Block (+2), Karen Brown (+3), Marnie Clark (+5), Jim Sharrock (+1), Heather McArthur (+2), Rose Hayden (+7) and Shane Winter (+3).

Metro was commended during the year for having the highest per capita giving to The Rotary Foundation of any Columbia Rotary club. Kudos again to Sandra Logan and Jim Stock for their leadership of this committee.

### ***Recognition***

Susan Hart was recognized by Inside Columbia magazine as one of "10 People Transforming Columbians' Lives." She was lauded for her work on behalf of The Rotary Foundation. The same magazine also recognized Susan Brandt for her expertise as a Workplace Consultant and Rebecca Knipp for her skills as a Certified Public Accountant.

COMO Living magazine named Sherry Major Most Impactful Staff Member. Sherry works for the Missouri Women's Business Center where she helps people who want to open or grow their own businesses.

Alissa Gerke was named the 2019 Realtor of the Year by the Columbia Board of Realtors.

Garrett Pearson's organization, City of Refuge, received the Group 2020 Diversity Award during the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration in January.

For the second year in a row, Metro was saddened to unexpectedly lose a member during the year. After suffering a stroke during surgery in February, Rob Bartel (right) passed away on May 10, 2020. Rob joined Metro in May 2009. He served on our club's Board of Directors from 2011-2014 and from 2017-2020. He was the President-Elect for the 2020-2021 Rotary year. Rob was very generous in his support of the Rotary Foundation. He was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow having achieved a +5 status in his cumulative giving! A software developer by vocation, Rob was the "go to guy" for all things IT for our club meetings and special events. Metro made a financial contribution to Kate's Heart in memory of Rob.



Congratulations to Metro Rotarian Chris Horn who was elected to the Columbia Public Schools Board of Education on June 2. He will serve a three-year term.



### ***YEAR 28 (2020-2021)***

For the first time in club history, Metro began the year with an individual serving his second term as president. On July 1, Tom Rose began serving as Metro's 29<sup>th</sup> president. Tom previously served as our club president during the 2017-2018 year. Rotary International's theme for the 2020-2021 year was "*Rotary Opens Opportunities.*" Officers for the year were President-Elect Margaret Conroy, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Rebecca Knipp, Past President Cathy Scroggs and Sergeant-at-Arms Tom O'Connor. Board members were Les Borgmeyer, Victoria Brees, Anna Drake, Mandy Schick, Charlene Boyes and Andrea Quiroz-Jira.



Metro's meeting schedule was modified, and members met virtually for the first and third Wednesdays of each month and met in person for the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

### ***Club Service and Activities***

While the meeting location varied between online and in-person, weekly programs continued to be very informational and educational. Metro was honored to virtually host District 6080 Governor Jacqueline Howard on June 2.

Members presenting their classification talks during the year included John Fierke and Rachel Owen. The club's annual Charter Night celebration was held on June 11 at Shiloh Bar & Grill.

### ***Club Business***

Metro concluded the year with 65 members. New members added during the year included Rachel Owen, Chris Horn, Lisa Royse, Nick Williams and Renae Goodman.

*Club social activities:* Metro adjusted its social event routine, and numerous gatherings were held virtually throughout the year. Members did enjoy a couple of safe-distanced events at Shakespeare's Pizza South and Pierpont General Store. Shane Winter was very active in securing prizes to be awarded during the various events. In late April, a "Meet My Pet" virtual event was held with President Tom donating his time to answer any pet-related inquiries. Metro's final meeting of the year was held at the Farmer's Market Pavilion at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. President Tom Rose generously provided a catered lunch for members.

Thanks to the coordination efforts of Jean Leonatti, a viewing of eagle nests at Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area was arranged in early April. The huge nests were incredible in size, and baby eaglets were easily visible along with at least one eagle guarding each nest.

Members continued their support of Rotaract by participating in the local club's Craft Beer & Carts fundraiser on August 30. The physical event itself was cancelled, however Metro joined other individuals and businesses in purchasing a personal energy transportation (PET)/ mobility cart to be donated to Mobility Worldwide.

### ***Community Service***

Members donated scrapbooking supplies to City of Refuge. In addition, members volunteered time to help children served by City of Refuge with homework needs.

As school was not physically in session much of the year, members volunteered to help with school lunches. Thanks to a grant secured by the Columbia Public Schools, lunches were available for students, but needed to be delivered. Members volunteered time to deliver lunches to students throughout the year.

Sarah Read and Loretta Schouten oversaw members assisting local youth by teaching job skills, helping them set goals, advising them on job application completion and training for interviews. ReachOut Metro also provided Dialogue Training in January, which was well received by local

youth who attended. A dialogue session about gun violence was facilitated by Battle High School students on February 3. Kudos to Sarah Read and Cathy Scroggs for assisting with this presentation. ReachOut Metro continues to be a valued program for local service.

Members volunteered time at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri on March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3.

The annual All-Columbia Rotary Club Thanksgiving luncheon was a casualty of COVID-19 and did not occur this year.

Metro's annual tradition of bellringing for the Salvation Army did not occur this year. However, an alternative fundraising option was presented, and members donated funds as well as recommendations for recipients of the funds. All donations were placed into a jar, and all nominated charities were placed into another. On December 23, the Center for Urban Agriculture was selected as the charity to receive the funds. The organization received \$544.50. They were nominated by Jessica Lehmen.

On February 5, Metro hosted a virtual FUNraiser. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> year for the trivia night event, but the first time it was held virtually. City of Refuge was this year's charity, and a check for \$2,000 was presented to the organization. The winning team was Les Borgmeyer's Family & Friends.

In April, Metro celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> year as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Public Schools' Title I program. Members adjusted their reading processes as members were recorded reading books for the students instead of reading in person. Rather than buy books for the program this year, Metro used funds to purchase reading buddies for the students. The feeling buddies were used by teachers to help students label their feelings and accept and manage their emotions.



### ***International Service***

Peacebuilder Committee: In September, President Tom informed members that Metro had been recognized as a Peacebuilder Club. The mission of this program is to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the promotion of programs and projects that align with Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. A big thank you to Sarah Read for all her hard work in making this happen. A Peacebuilding program was presented online in October for all members to view. Also, three Peace Café sessions were presented in February and March. The three sessions were titled: Understand Peace; Investigate Peace; and Activate Peace. In late March, the Peacebuilder Committee hosted two screenings of the documentary "Purple." The screenings were made possible through a District Peacebuilder Grant. A big thank you to Sarah Read and Margaret Conroy for drafting a \$4,000 grant application for Rotary district funds to purchase peacebuilding books for local youth.

### ***Vocational Service***

Steve Smith (right) was recognized as the recipient of the 2021 Vocational Service Award. Steve currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Job Point in Columbia. In addition to his passion for serving others through his vocation, he has an extensive resume of service to the Columbia community through the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Columbia Public Schools and Heart of Missouri United Way. Steve is very well respected in the Columbia area, and is a tremendous example of someone who puts others before himself.



### ***The Rotary Foundation***

New Paul Harris Fellows recognized included Victoria Brees, Rebecca Knipp, Andrea Quiroz-Jira, Tim Sullivan, Sherry Major, Sandra Logan (+X), Lori Neidel (+2), Jim Stock (+3), Shane Winter (+4), Win Burggraaff (+6), Anna Drake (+1), Rose Hayden (+8), Les Gelband (+3), Beth Lammers (+1), Tom Rose (+4), Audrey Spieler, (+4), Rob Bartel (+7), and Jim Cherrington (+3).

### ***Recognition***

Metro Rotary was the recipient of the Rotary Citation for the 2019-2020 year. The citation is only awarded to a few clubs that achieve established goals of increasing club membership, developing sustainable service projects, giving to The Rotary Foundation and building awareness of Rotary in the community. Congratulations to all the members who helped Metro achieve this prestigious recognition.

Rebecca Knipp was named a finalist in the area of Finance for the COMO Magazine's 2021 Women of Excellence Award!

Sarah Read was recognized at the 2021 Rotary District 6080 Conference as the recipient of the Peacebuilder Award!

Katie Essing was named the 2021 recipient of the Shelter Insurance Teaching Excellence Award in Marketing at the University of Missouri!

Susan Hart received the Women's Network 2021 Athena Leadership Award. This award is given annually to someone who strives toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, excels in their chosen field, devotes time and energy to their community in a meaningful way and forges paths of leadership for other women to follow.

On June 4, a Little Free Library was dedicated at the Farmer's Market Playground on the premises of the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. The Cradle to Career Alliance created the library in honor of Metro President Tom Rose. Children's books purchased with Rotary District 6080 Peacebuilder grant funds were placed in the library.



Shane Winter, and his son Andrew, became the first two-time winners (2020 and 2021) of the Columbia Parks & Recreation Golden Hiking Boot Treasure Hunt. They found the boot at the monument of the original railway bridge #12 on the MKT Trail.



### ***YEAR 29 (2021-2022)***

Past District Governor Jacque Howard attended Metro's first meeting of the year and installed officers and board members for the new year. Margaret Conroy served as Metro's president during this year, and Rotary International's theme was "*Serve to Change Lives.*" Officers for the year were President-Elect Loretta Schouten, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Rebecca Knipp, Past President Tom Rose and Sergeant-at-Arms Tom O'Connor. Board members were Anna Drake, Sarah Read, Charlene Boyes, Andrea Quiroz-Jira, Rob Christensen and Penny Kuhns-Knarr.



### ***Club Service and Activities***

As in the past, weekly programs were excellent. A wide variety of topics were presented, and many positive comments were received about the informative topics covered. Metro was honored to host District 6080 Governor Joan Kramer on November 3. Members presenting their classification talks during the year included Lisa Royse, Nick Williams, Renae Goodman, Josh Stanfast, Valerie Ninichuck, and Adam Blumhagen.

### ***Club Business***

Metro concluded the year with 65 members. New members added during the year included Josh Stanfast, Megan Steen, Molly Rippel, Valerie Ninichuck, Adam Blumhagen, Elaine Martin, and Sarah Johannaber.

*Club social activities:* During the weekend of July 17-18, Casey Buckman hosted the annual float trip near Leasburg. Casey organizes this event every year and generously devotes his time and energy to making it fun for all attendees. Metro continued its social events throughout the year providing an opportunity for fellowship on a regular basis. Some of the locations visited included Ozark Mountain Biscuit & Bar, Waves Cider Company, Pierpont General Store, Shakespeare's South, Booche's, Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant, Bur Oak Brewing Company,

Members continued their support of Rotaract by participating in the local club's Craft Beer & Carts fundraiser on July 11 at Logboat Brewing Company. Along with other organizations, businesses and individuals, Metro purchased and decorated a personal energy transportation (PET)/ mobility cart which was sent overseas to help individuals with mobility needs. Proceeds from the event benefitted Mobility Worldwide.

Metro concluded the year by holding its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Charter Night celebration at Shiloh Bar & Grill. A large number of members attended and enjoyed a relaxing evening of fellowship.

### ***Community Service***

Veterans United Foundation contributed \$10,000 to Metro's "*Fund Your Future*" program. With these funds, ReachOut Metro provided financial literacy education to students at City of Refuge. The ReachOut Metro program also assisted local students with resume building, networking, and interviewing skills.

Metro Rotary was awarded a \$3,400 Rotary District Simplified Grant to help First Chance for Children purchase playground. Metro matched the grant total with \$3,400 of its own funds.

Sarah Read worked with Catholic Charities to help support Afghan refugees in our community. Sarah also took the lead in securing a \$500 grant from Rotary District 6080 to purchase supplies for an art therapy program for refugees.

Metro continued its support of the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA). The club sponsored Liam Schrader and Maggie Meade to attend the sessions held in late June and early July on the campus of the University of Central Missouri.

Metro members volunteered time and talents numerous times during the year:

- Members volunteered at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Hootenanny on September 18. Jessica Lehmen organized Metro's participation in the event.
- Members volunteered the first Thursday of each month at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.
- In April, members again participated in the annual CleanUp Columbia event.

- In May, Metro signed up to participate in the City of Columbia's Adopt-A-Spot Litter Program. During the summer months, members volunteered an evening a month to pick up litter along West Ash Street and North Fairview Road.

Metro Rotary joined other Columbia Rotary clubs in purchasing thirteen new markers for the African-American Heritage Trail in Columbia. The final markers were unveiled during a special ceremony on October 23.

Metro adopted three families for the holiday season through Love Columbia. A special thank you to Laura Kogut, Lisa Royse and Shane Winter for organizing this event.

On February 4, Metro hosted its annual Trivia Night fundraiser. After the event, a check for \$2,500 was presented to Day Dreams Foundation. The winning team was The Pod Squad.

Shane Winter and Les Gelband again chaired Metro's Partner in Education committee. Members continued their reading in the Columbia Public Schools for the 19<sup>th</sup> straight year.

### ***International Service***

Metro's PeaceBuilder Committee continued to thrive. In November, the district hosted a screening of the documentary PURPLE, a dialogue on how we as Rotarians can help build peace in our communities. Included in that activity was an opportunity to talk with the film's co-producer Helen Kramer. The committee also worked with the Rotary Action Group for Peace and World Beyond Ware as a mentor for the U.S.'s first-eve cohort to pass through the Peace Education and Action for Impact course. The course brought together young peacebuilders from over twelve countries to learn about the foundations of peace. The committee also worked closely with the WakeUp! Interact Club to bring together community members and leaders through dialogue and civil conversations on rising gun violence in our community. The community discussion was held April 22 at Battle High School. The result was District 6080 awarding the 2021 Interact Project Challenge Award to Wake Up! Interact.

### ***Vocational Service***

Jim Cherrington (right) was recognized as the recipient of the 2022 Vocational Service Award. Jim served as our club's 11<sup>th</sup> president during the 2002-2003 year. Prior to that, he served in every officer capacity for Metro. He initiated the process for Metro to become Partners in Education with the Columbia Public Schools' Preschool Program in 2003, and he has been a regular reader to students in the schools during this program's inception.



### ***The Rotary Foundation***

Sandra Logan and Jim Stock led another fantastic year for Metro's Rotary Foundation Committee. Donations to The Rotary Foundation continued to grow, and members were recognized regularly for their giving. New Paul Harris Fellows for the year included:

Members recognized during the year for advancing their Foundation giving included:

- Casey Buckman reached a New Paul Harris Fellow level of giving, and named designated his wife, Cory, to receive the fellowship.
- Members advancing their Paul Harris Fellowship standing included: Sandra Logan (+3), Margaret Conroy (+4), Marnie Clark (+6), Sarah Read (+4), Jean Leonatti (+4), Rose Lloyd (+1), Lori Dobry (+2), Joy Block (+3), Heather McArthur (+4), Sherry Major (+1), Karen Brown (+4), Jim Cherrington (+4), Audrey Spieler (+5), and Win Burggraaff (+7).

### ***Recognition***

Past District Governor Jacque Howard visited Metro on July 7 and recognized Shane Winter and Jim Cherrington for Club Service. Sarah Read was recognized for her Youth Service Work, and Susan Hart was recognized for her continued commitment to The Rotary Foundation.

Metro's Partner in Education, the Columbia Public Schools' preschool program, was named the 2021 Early Childhood Program of the Year by the Missouri School Boards' Association FutureBuilders Foundation in December.

Megan Steen was named to the 2022 COMO Magazine 20 Under 40 list. This is an annual recognition of outstanding professionals under the age of 40 who excel in their industry, are company leaders, and are good community citizens.

Anna Drake continued to have her art shown at various galleries around the state and win awards for her talent. She received numerous accolades, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ribbon for her artwork displayed at the Columbia Art League.

In April, Katie Essing received the Raymond and Mary Ann O'Brien Excellence in Teaching Award at the University of Missouri.

In May, Loretta Schouten's daughter, Ella, was named the American Midwest Conference softball pitcher of the year, Freshman of the Year, First Team All-Conference and Academic All-Conference.



## *YEAR 30 (2022-2023)*

On July 6, 2022, Loretta Schouten began her term as Metro's leader for the 30<sup>th</sup> year. Rotary International's theme for the year was "Imagine Rotary." For the first time, Rotary International was led by a female president, Jennifer Jones from the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada. John Horton from the Springfield Southeast Rotary Club served as Rotary District 6080 Governor.



Loretta encouraged members to dream big and become active with club projects as the year progresses. Loretta was supported by President-Elect Laura Kogut, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Rebecca Knipp, Past President Margaret Conroy and Sergeant-at-Arms Tom O'Connor. Board members were Charlene Boyes, Andrea Quiroz-Jira, Rob Christensen, Penny Kuhns-Knarr, Tonya Ford, and Sarah Read.

### *Club Service and Activities*

#### *Club Business*

Metro concluded the year with 65 members. New members added during the year included Warren Prost, Joe Allison, Tom Trabue, John Fabsits, J. Scott Christianson, and Michael Kramer.

Past President Tom Rose coordinated and led a new member orientation session for new members on July 20.

Metro was proud to sponsor Laney McCaleb and Ella Beckett to attend the 2022 annual Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) held on the campus of the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg. On August 17, these two young ladies visited Metro and shared what they learned.

Past President Sarah Read coordinated and led an impressive committee that reviewed, revised, and help update Metro's Strategic Plan. A brainstorming session with members was held August 3, prior to the final version being drafted. The approved 2022-2025 document was placed online for members to reference during the year.

Rob Christensen served as Chair of the Program Committee, and the committee organized some of the best programming ever. Members were pleased to hear numerous educational and informative programs throughout the year. On September 21, Metro was honored to host District 6080 Governor John Horton. Members presenting their classification talks during the year included Elaine Martin, Sarah Johannaber, Joe Allison, Warren Prost, and Michael Kramer.

*Club social activities:* As in the past, Casey Buckman organized an annual float trip and invited members to attend. This year's float was held during the weekend of July 15-16 at Bass River Resort in Steelville. Metro continued its social events throughout the year providing an

opportunity for fellowship on a regular basis. Some of the locations visited included Tropical Liqueur's South, Pappo's Pizza, Stadium Grill, Pressed, Pasta Factory, Addison's South, Sophia's, and Barred Owl.

Rotaract held their annual Craft Beer & Carts fundraiser on July 17 at the MU Health Care Pavilion to benefit Mobility Worldwide. Metro purchased a personal energy transportation (PET) mobility cart that was decorated and sent overseas to help individuals with mobility needs.

Metro concluded the year by holding its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Charter Night celebration at the home of Audrey Spieler. Current members, former members, and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.

### *Community Service*

Metro members volunteered time and talents numerous times during the year:

During the summer months, Metro members picked up trash the second Tuesday of each month as part of the City of Columbia's Adopt-A-Spot Litter Program. Metro adopted a portion of West Ash Street and North Fairview Road.



During the winter, members volunteered the first Thursday of each month at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

Members volunteered at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Hootenanny on September 24. Metro's booth placed second overall in the judging! Thanks to Laura Kogut and Lisa Royse for coordinating Metro's volunteers.

On September 9, members participated in a fence painting day benefiting First Chance for Children. Thanks to Margaret Conroy for coordinating Metro's participation in this event.

On September 10, members joined other Columbia civic organizations in a cleanup of Cosmo Park. After working, all volunteers were invited to the Downtown Optimist Club for fellowship and ice cream.

On October 8, members participated in the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's at Faurot Field. Other Rotary clubs challenged each other for most walkers and total funds raised. Metro finished a solid second in the competition. Kudos to Bill Costello for organizing Metro's participation.

Metro continued its support of local youth and participated in a College and Career Fair on October 21 at Rock Bridge High School. Members spoke about their respective jobs and responsibilities and fielded questions from attendees. Thanks to Loretta Schouten for taking the lead on this volunteer opportunity.

Metro served as the lead organizer club for the annual All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving Luncheon. Laura Kogut and Lisa Royse played key roles in planning the annual luncheon. The event was held November 22 at the Hampton Inn and Suites.

Sarah Read worked diligently on a District Simplified Grant that would benefit Afghan refugees new to Columbia. The grant helped the refugees with their entrepreneurial skills and provided needed training. A kick-off event was held at the Regional Economic Development, Inc. Hub location in downtown Columbia in early December. Club members volunteered time and talents to assist the refugees. As a result, a Sewing Group was organized (The Stitch Initiative), a Baking/Cooking Group was organized, and a Gardening Group was organized. The Stitch Initiative has been quite successful in selling their creations. In May, a local home goods shop in downtown Columbia, Coming Home, began offering store space (right) to sell some of the products made by The Stitch Initiative. In April, a Rotary Afghan picnic was hosted by Metro at Bonnie View Park Shelter.



Also in December, Metro women participated in a dialogue with Afghan refugee women. The event was held at Catholic Charities, and it was reported that everyone enjoyed the informational event.

Metro's PeaceBuilders Committee looked to strengthen the resilience in the community through Mental Health First Aid training sessions. Numerous training sessions were held monthly beginning in December, and attendees learned how to recognize signs of substance abuse and mental illness, including anxiety, depression and disorders involving psychosis, and how to offer and provide initial help. A huge thank you to Audrey Spieler and Lake Regional Health Systems for helping provide this valuable training.

Laura Kogut, Lisa Royse, and Shane winter coordinated Metro's participation in Great Circle's 2022 Winter Wishes Toy Drive. Members donated items from a provided "wish list" to benefit at-risk children and their families in the local community.

On February 3, 2023, Metro hosted its annual Trivia Night fundraiser. Les Borgmeyer led an amazing committee that planned and worked this annual evening of fun. The event featured a dinner buffet catered by Big Daddy's BBQ followed by a rousing evening of trivia led by emcee Tom Rose. After the event, a check for \$2,500 was presented to the Great Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America Scouting Adventure Center. The winning team was Quiz Pro Quo.

In February, Metro members joined other Columbia Rotary members in a "reboot" of the local Rotaract club. After six months of regular meetings, the Rotaract club was fully reorganized, and operating with a renewed energy and purpose.

On April 15, Metro members volunteered time to pick up trash at Smithton Park for the 2023 Clean Up Columbia program. On April 22, members volunteered at a gardening workday at a local Afghan refugee home.

In May, Metro was recognized for 20 years of its Partner in Education relationship with the Columbia Public Schools preschool program. Since 2003, members have provided thousands of dollars to purchase literacy materials and spent thousands of hours reading with students one-on-one. Thanks to Shane Winter and Les Gelband for chairing this committee again.

On June 2, members volunteered their gardening expertise at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

### *International Service*

Metro's PeaceBuilder Committee met monthly online with distinguished speakers talking about important topics that were then discussed. The PeaceBuilder Committee was also awarded a grant that allowed them to host screenings in March and April of "*A Home Called Nebraska.*" This documentary is a community-run series showing films on social issues. Discussion sessions followed each screening.



During October, Metro held special fundraisers for PolioPlus. Auctions were held weekly. Four jars of homemade apple butter were auctioned off for \$90. Beautiful artwork (left) from Anna Drake was auctioned off for \$300. Fabulous jewelry created by Andrea Quiroz-Jira was auctioned off for \$245. Through the auctions and member contributions a total of \$1,117 was raised for PolioPlus.

### *Vocational Service*

Gary Moreau (below) was recognized as the recipient of Metro's 2023 Vocational Service Award. Gary has served as the Executive Director of Mobility Worldwide (MW) since 2013. He started his career with MW in 2004 as a volunteer, and he later served as a board trustee.

Since 1994, MW has been bringing the gift of mobility and dignity to those in developing countries who are unable to walk. By using carts produced by MW, individuals with mobility limitations are able to do more and to do things independently. The community MW serves is global as they ship carts to many different countries. In 2022, they produced and shipped over 1200 mobility carts. In 2023, the goal is to make 50 carts per week or over 2500 carts for the year.

MW provides other services as well. For example, they refurbish old sewing machines and ship them around the globe. They pack the sewing machines with cloth materials instead of usual packing materials to provide the recipients material for making clothes or other household goods.



## ***The Rotary Foundation***

Sandra Logan and Jim Stock once again co-chaired this committee, and the results were extremely impressive. For the year, the club donated \$15,240 to The Rotary Foundation and \$1,117 to the Polio Plus program. At the conclusion of the year, 45 members were Paul Harris Fellows, of which 35 members are multiple Paul Harris Fellows!

Members recognized during the year for advancing their Foundation giving included:

- Win Burggraaff (+8)
- Audrey Spieler (+6)
- Margaret Conroy (+5)
- Shane Winter (+5)
- Les Gelband (+4) – Les designated his son-in-law, Jacob Adams, as the fellowship recipient
- Jan Beckett (+3)
- Rob Christensen (+3)
- Sandra Logan (+3) – Sandra designated her daughter, Trina Boone, as the fellowship recipient
- Lori Neidel (+3)
- Jim Stock (+3) – Jim designed his three children, Jennifer, Amanda and Matt, as fellowship recipients
- Charlene Boyes (+2)
- Casey Buckman (+2) – Casey designated his son, Taylor, as the fellowship recipient
- Anna Drake (+2)
- Cathy Scroggs (+2)
- Rebecca Knipp (+1)
- Laura Kogut

## ***Recognition***

In October, Metro was notified that the club was the recipient of the Rotary Citation for the 2021-2022 year. Congratulations to President Margaret Conroy and all the Metro members who played a part in this prestigious recognition. Metro was ranked in the top three clubs in the district for per capita giving during the past year. Also, the club achieved Every Rotarian Every Year status which means that each Rotarian contributed at least \$25 to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund.

Valerie Ninichuck was recognized by Inside Columbia magazine as “The Face of Insurance” in their 2022 Faces of Columbia feature.

In March, Valerie Ninichuck was an invited speaker at the 2023 That's What She Said inaugural event at the Missouri Theatre. The event featured professional community women sharing their stories of success, joy, hardship, and overcoming barriers.

The businesses of three Metro Rotarians were recognized in the 2023 Best of Columbia survey sponsored by Inside Columbia magazine:

- Casey Buckman Photography was awarded second place in the Best Photography category
- Rolling Hills Veterinary Hospital (Tom Rose) was the runner-up in the Best Veterinary Practice category.
- Valerie Ninichuck – Shelter Insurance was the runner-up in the Best Insurance Agent category.

In May, Megan Steen was named the Women’s Network 2023 ATHENA Young Professional of the Year! This category honors emerging leaders who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and serve as a role model for young women.

The Revenues for Refugees program was selected by District 6080 as the Project of the year for 2022-2023!



### ***YEAR 31 (2023-2024)***

Metro began its 31<sup>st</sup> year under the leadership of Laura Kogut (right). The Rotary International theme for the year was “Create Hope in the World.” Laura focused on this theme, and tried to organize events and projects throughout the year that reduced any stigma of mental health, promoted virtual international exchanges, and empowered girls.



The officers who served with Laura included President-Elect Penny Kuhns-Knarr, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Rebecca Knipp, Past President Loretta Schouten, and Sergeant-at-Arms Tom O’Connor. Board members were Rob Christensen, Penny Kuhns-Knarr, Tonya Ford, Sarah Read, Lisa Royse, and Jim Stock. Jim Cherrington continued in the role of Club Historian.

### ***Club Service and Activities***

### ***Club Business***

Metro began the year with 64 members. New members added during the year included Maizie Brown, J.D. Moran, Sara Jeffrey, Stacie Kane, Jaime Freidrichs, Mark Claypole, Austin Kingsland, Ron Bodenstab, and Joy Sweeney. President Laura hosted a new member orientation on December 6 at the Columbia Country Club.

Rob Christensen again served as Chair of the Program Committee, and the members were treated to another year of interesting programming from local businesses, community professionals and Rotary dignitaries. On August 9, Metro was honored to have District 6080 Governor Jimmy Stanfast present the weekly program. One unique item this year involved a club field trip. On October 11, due to construction at the Columbia Country Club, members elected to meet at the Planetarium located within Rock Bridge High School. Members heard an informative program that provided insight on all the planets and their moons.

Members presenting their classification talks during the year included Maizie Brown, J.D. Moran, Sara Jeffrey, Mark Claypole, and Ron Bodenstab.

*Club social activities:* Casey Buckman organized the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Metro Rotary Float trip for the weekend of July 26-28 at Bass River Resort. Shane Winter and Anna Drake co-chaired Metro's Fellowship Committee, and social events were held throughout the year at Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant, Addison's South, Witches & Wizards Arcade, Shryock Corn Maze, Flat Branch Pub & Brewing, Ozark Mountain Biscuit & Bar, Hexagon Alley, Twain: Missouri BBQ & Taproom, and Logboat Brewing Company.

Metro again supported the annual Rotaract Craft Beer & Carts fundraiser on July 16 at the MU Health Care Pavilion located at the Farmer's Market. Proceeds from the event went to benefit Mobility Worldwide. Metro purchased a personal energy transportation (PET) mobility cart (right) that was decorated and sent overseas to help individuals with mobility needs.



Metro concluded the year by holding its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Charter Night celebration at D. Rowe's Restaurant on June 7. Members and guests enjoyed a great deal of fellowship as Paul Harris Fellows were recognized, and the Vocational Service Award was presented.

### ***Community Service***

During the summer months, Metro continued its community service of picking up trash along the streets adopted as part of the City of Columbia's Adopt-A-Spot Litter Program. During the winter months, members volunteered monthly at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

Members volunteered at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Hootenanny on September 16. Metro's booth placed first this year in the judging which resulted in a \$500 donation for club activities! Thanks to Lisa Royse for coordinating Metro's volunteers. Metro members joined other Columbia civic organizations in Clean Up Columbia on April 6. Members picked up trash at Fairview Park and along the streets designated as our Adopt-a-Spot locations.

Valerie Ninichuck organized Metro's participation in the 2023 Walk to End Alzheimer's at Faurot Field on September 30.

Instead of the annual All-Columbia Rotary Thanksgiving Luncheon, local Rotary clubs met in a social setting at Cooper's Ridge Event Center the evening of November 14. Heavy hors d'oeuvres were served, live music was provided, and raffle baskets and a live auction were available with proceeds benefitting the Columbia Rotary Foundation.

Sarah Read and Loretta Schouten devoted countless hours in support of The Stitch Initiative. This is a group of Afghan refugees who were brought together, thanks to a Rotary District Simplified Grant, to hone their entrepreneurial skills and provide training. The group was quite successful in selling their homemade clothing, bags, and jewelry throughout the Columbia community. Members were supportive of the group by providing childcare and donating equipment and furniture for the ladies.

Metro Rotary supported the Voluntary Action Center and adopted two families for the Christmas season. Members donated cash, clothing, household items, and children's toys to the families. Kudos to Lisa Royse for coordinating Metro's participation in this worthwhile event.

In cooperation with the Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri, Metro's PeaceBuilder Committee hosted a documentary about sex trafficking, *Hope Road*, on January 25, 2024. The event was held at the REDI Hub in downtown Columbia. Following the film, a discussion was held about human trafficking.

February 2, 2024 was the date for Metro's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night fundraiser. Sarah Johannaber served as the chair this year, and she had a talented group of volunteers assisting her with planning the working the event. As in the past a dinner buffet was catered by Big Daddy's BBQ followed by a fun-filled evening of trivia led by emcee Tom Rose. After the event, a check for \$4,500 was presented to the Girls on the Run, Heart of Missouri chapter. This year's winning trivia team was Simmons Bank.

On April 24, Metro took a break from the regular meeting schedule and went on a field trip to Mobility Worldwide south of Columbia. Members fellowshiped and ate lunch there followed by a service opportunity with this fine organization. Members helped assemble the personal transportation vehicles that will be shipped overseas for those in need.



Metro has completed its 21<sup>st</sup> year as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Public Schools preschool program. The relationship began in 2003, and members have volunteered thousands of hours reading with students one-on-one in local schools. Special thanks to Shane Winter and Les Gelband for providing leadership to this effort once again.

### ***International Service***

Under the leadership of Sarah Read, the PeaceBuilder Committee submitted a district grant application to help fund the erection of a Peace Pole at Battle High School. A Peace Pole (sample at right) is an internationally recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family. It is a four-sided monument that displays the message “May Peace Prevail On Earth.” Peace Poles are intended to inspire unity among people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. The pole was dedicated on April 30 accompanied by a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.



Metro continued to mentor students in the Battle Interact Club under the direction of Sarah Read. They are planning to bring back TED talks within the next year, and they have had a growing interest in students wishing to attend the annual Student Government Day in Jefferson City. Kudos again to Les Gelband and Shane Winter who accompanied the students to Jefferson City on April 18 for the annual event.

At the 3-District “Funvention” on April 19-21 at Osage Beach, Metro contributed to the Shoes for Orphan Souls service project. This was a joint meeting of Rotary Districts 6040, 6060, and 6080. The club contributed \$350 which went toward the purchase of new shoes for those in need.

### ***Vocational Service***

Penny Kuhns-Knarr was recognized as the recipient of Metro’s 2024 Vocational Service Award. Penny is the Chief Human Resource Officer for the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. Penny was lauded for her commitment to serving others through her profession and her personal life. She has helped many through her efforts as an employee at her non-profit employer, but she has also volunteered numerous hours outside of her work time to assist with sorting and packaging food items. Rotary has been an important part of her community service, and she has generously agreed to serve as our club’s president during the 2024-2025 year. We are very fortunate to have her as a member of Columbia Metro Rotary. Congratulations, Penny!

### ***The Rotary Foundation***

Sandra Logan and Jean Leonatti served as co-chairs of Metro’s Rotary Foundation Committee. Members continued their generous giving in support of the Foundation’s activities. In October, Metro set a goal of raising \$500 to support Rotary’s PolioPlus program. Members were encouraged to bring loose change to weekly meetings, gift certificates were auctioned off, and three jars of Audrey Spieler’s homemade apple butter were auctioned off as well. A total of \$650 was raised during the month! As in the past, during Rotary Foundation Month (November), matching incentives were offered to members contributing to the Rotary Foundation.

Metro’s Rotary Foundation Committee started a new trend this year by transferring 100 Paul Harris Fellowship points to The Rotary Foundation in the name of each new member inducted into club membership.

Members recognized during the year for reaching a Paul Harris Fellowship and/or advancing their Foundation giving included:

- Loretta Schouten
- Tim Sullivan (+1)
- Tonya Ford (+1)
- Les Borgmeyer (+2)
- Pat Hostetler (+2)
- Ginny Northcutt (+2)
- Casey Buckman (+3) – Casey designated his son, Miller, as the fellowship recipient
- Lori Dobry (+3)
- Jan Beckett (+4)
- Cathy Scroggs (+3)
- Sandra Logan (+4)
- Jim Stock (+4)
- Jim Cherrington (+5)
- Jean Leonatti (+5)
- Sarah Read (+5)
- Margaret Conroy (+6)
- Shane Winter (+6)
- Marnie Clark (+7) – Marnie designated her grandson, Owen, as the fellowship recipient

### ***Recognition***

Anna Drake was recognized for her artistic abilities numerous times. In October, her artwork was recognized for excellence at the 2023 Boone County Art Show. In addition, she was commissioned for a permanent art installation at the new Compass Health facility in east Columbia.

Michael Kramer was one of the playwrights featured in the 2023 Starting Gate New Play Festival hosted by Talking Horse Productions in October. Two of Michael's plays were selected and performed at the festival. Michael also had a 10-minute play selected to be performed at MU's Comedies in Concert on June 4.

In April, Katie Essing was honored with the University of Missouri's Outstanding Faculty Award. Each year, the Honors College recognizes faculty who have made a substantial and lasting contribution to the academic and intellectual lives of our students. Nominees are solicited from students and other faculty and chosen by a selection committee based on the criteria of who best represents the mission and values of the Honors College through their teaching, outreach, collaboration, and engagement.

In late March, Metro was saddened to hear of the passing of Norm Benedict. Norm served as Metro's 17<sup>th</sup> president during the 2008-2090 year.



## *YEAR 32 (2024-2025)*

Penny Kuhns-Knarr served as President of Columbia Metro Rotary during the 2024-2025 year. The Rotary International theme for the year was “The Magic of Rotary.” Penny wove this theme into the weekly meetings and stressed “the magic of YOU” to each member. One of the memorable adjustments made during the year was implementing a moment of inspiration before the pledge of allegiance to begin each meeting.



Officers elected to serve with Penny during the year included President-Elect Sarah Read, Secretary Shane Winter, Treasurer Rebecca Knipp, Past President Laura Royse, and Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Kramer. This year, an Assistant Treasurer was added to the officers, and Tim Sullivan served in that position. Board members were Shelley Sigholtz, Sarah Read, Lisa Royse, and Jim Stock, Susan Brandt, and J.D. Moran. Jim Cherrington continued in the role of Club Historian.

### ***Club Business***

Victoria Brees served as Chair of the Membership Committee, and Metro’s membership increased by one member at the first meeting of the year as Wade Schuette was inducted as a new member. During the year, new members who joined were Sarah Wolf, Valorie Livingston, Bette Wordelman, and Robin Westphal. Metro concluded the year with 70 members.

Margaret Conroy served as Chair of the Program Committee, and the members were treated to another year of educational and informative programming from local businesses, community professionals and Rotary dignitaries. For the second straight year, the club participated in a field trip opportunity. On July 31, members met at the Aurora Organic Dairy plant north of Columbia. After lunch, members heard an interesting presentation by local plant manager Doug Geshell and enjoyed an educational tour of the facility. On September 18, Metro was honored to have District 6080 Governor Rowland Geddie III visit the club and present the weekly program.

Members presenting their classification talks during the year included Wade Schuette, Joy Sweeney, Sarah Wolf, Bette Wordelman, and Valorie Livingston.

Metro has completed its 22<sup>nd</sup> year as a Partner in Education with the Columbia Public Schools preschool program. The relationship began in 2003, and members have volunteered thousands of hours reading with students one-on-one in local schools. On August 14, CPS Preschool Director Nicole Langston presented Metro’s weekly program, and she was accompanied by several teachers. The district expressed its appreciation to Metro members for their generous devotion of time and resources to local students. Special thanks to Shane Winter and Les Gelband for providing leadership to this effort once again.

*Club social activities:* Casey Buckman organized the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Metro Rotary Float trip for the weekend of July 26-28 at Bass River Resort. Shane Winter and Anna Drake co-chaired Metro’s Fellowship Committee, and monthly social events were held throughout the year at Addison’s

South, 44 Tavern, Endwell Taverna, 50 Yard Line Sports Bar & Grill, Flat Branch Pub & Brewing, Delia's Mexican Grill, Teller's, Barred Owl, and Trail Stop Brewery.

Metro again sponsored a personal energy transportation (PET) mobility cart for the annual Craft Beer & Carts fundraiser supporting Mobility Worldwide. The event was held July 14 at the MU Health Care Pavilion located at the Farmer's Market. After the event, over 130 PET carts were sent overseas to help individuals with mobility needs.

On June 6, Metro hosted its 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Charter Night celebration at The Kitchen. Members and their guests enjoyed an evening of good food, and even better fellowship. Paul Harris Fellowship recognitions were announced, and President Penny recapped the successful year.



### *Community Service*

During the summer months, Metro continued its community service of picking up trash along the streets adopted as part of the City of Columbia's Adopt-A-Spot Litter Program. During the winter months, members volunteered monthly at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

Metro again hosted a booth at the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Hootenanny. The event was held September 21 at Columbia's Agriculture Park. Metro's booth won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the event, which was a \$350 prize! The funds were placed in a designated fund to help needy programs in the Columbia area. Applications were accepted throughout the year for programs/projects whose missions align with Rotary's to help youth, education, and the environment. Thanks to Lisa Royse for coordinating and overseeing this fund.

On November 21, an all-Columbia Rotary Club Thanksgiving gathering was held at Bur Oak Brewing. Several members participated and represented Metro.

Sarah Read and Loretta Schouten continued their tireless support of The Stitch Initiative. Thanks to a Rotary District Simplified Grant authored by Sarah, Afghan refugees were brought together to hone their entrepreneurial skills and provide training. This has been a very successful endeavor as they have sold homemade clothing, bags, and jewelry at local events and fairs in the area. Another organization that resulted from the District Simplified Grant was the Afghan Bread Company. A group of Afghan women gathered together regularly to bake from Afghan recipes. The items were sold to the public with proceeds being used to fund further Afghan projects.

Metro's Community Service Committee, headed by Lisa Royse, established a process whereby members could apply for funding to local organizations whose missions align with Rotary's to help youth, education, and the environment. The first organization to receive funding through this program was the CoMo Mobile Aid Collective. This is an organization that provides direct aid and immediate assistance to the homeless and helps to provide services to individuals in crisis.

As a Christmas season service project, Metro collected bedding items for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. This project organizes, builds, and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep. Metro members participated in a bed build on March 15 at Community United Methodist Church to further support this organization.



Metro hosted its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Trivia Night fundraiser on February 7, 2025. The event was again held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in north Columbia. Tom Rose again served as emcee for the event, and a full house enjoyed food provided by Big Daddy's BBQ. After the event, a check for \$4,500 was presented to the Job Point YouthBuild program. The winning trivia team from the event was "The Tortured Marketing Department."

Metro members volunteered on April 12 for the 2025 Clean Up Columbia program. Trash pick-up was coordinated at Fairview Park and along the Adopt-a-Spot streets Metro regularly cleans.

### ***International Service***

On October 10, the Peacebuilder Committee hosted a screening of the documentary *Purple*. The documentary tells the story of Americans with opposing viewpoints investigating their differences and discovering the concerns and experiences that lie behind each other's positions. This documentary was previously screened by Metro in 2021. Thanks to Sarah Read for coordinating the documentary and the discussion that followed the screening.

Metro's Peacebuilder Committee encouraged members to watch a documentary entitled *Childhood 2.0*. This documentary focused on understanding the world children are navigating as they grow up in the digital age. A discussion about the documentary followed as a weekly program in May presented by J. Scott Christianson and Loretta Schouten.

### ***The Rotary Foundation***

Jean Leonatti and Sandra Logan once again served as co-chairs of Metro's Foundation Committee. In October, Metro implemented a "Change for Change Bucket" challenge. Members were encouraged to donate their spare change weekly for PolioPlus fundraising efforts. A total of \$700 was raised during this challenge!

Metro members continued their generous support of The Rotary Foundation. Metro ended the year with 49 Paul Harris Fellows. Of these members, 38 have achieved multiple Paul Harris giving status!

Members recognized during the year for reaching a Paul Harris Fellowship and/or advancing their Foundation giving included:

- Adam Blumhagen
- Penny Kuhns-Knarr
- Lisa Royse
- Loretta Schouten (+1)
- J.D. Moran (+2)
- Rebecca Knipp (+2)
- Rose Lloyd (+2)
- Sherry Major (+2)
- Tom O'Connor (+2)
- Charlene Boyes (+3)
- Mark Claypole (+3)
- Anna Drake (+3)
- Pat Hostetler (+3)
- Joy Block (+4)
- Cathy Scroggs (+4)
- Karen Brown (+5)
- Les Gelband (+5)
- Lori Neidel (+5)
- Tom Rose (+5)
- Margaret Conroy (+7)

Also, Metro was proud to honor Audrey Spieler as she became a Paul Harris Society inductee. The Paul Harris Society recognizes donors from around the world who notify The Roary Foundation of their intent to contribute \$1,000 or more every year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved global grants.

### ***Recognition***

In August, the artwork of Metro Rotarian Anna Drake appeared as a solo exhibit at Talking Horse Productions.

Also in August, Metro Rotary was selected by Girls on the Run International for “volunteering which has gone above and beyond in our community to forward our mission, drive positive change, and inspire tomorrow’s leaders.” During the presentation, the organization stated that “a group like Metro Rotary is at the heart of what makes Girls on the Run a program unlike any other.” Girls on the Run, Heart of Missouri Chapter was Metro’s charity partner for the 2024 Annual Trivia Night fundraiser.

Metro Rotarians Megan Steen and Sarah Wolf were recognized by Inside Columbia magazine as members of Women to Watch 2024. This annual recognition highlights women who “know how to continuously raise the bar in all aspects of life, especially in their careers.”

In October, Metro Rotarian Michael Kramer, and his wife, Carla, performed Joseph Haydn’s The Creation, as members of the Columbia Chorale. The Chorale also performed at the *Holiday Market-A Missouri Christmas* at the Missouri Theater in December.

The State Historical Society of Missouri publicly commended Metro’s Dr. Winfield Burggraaff, and his wife Isabel MacLeod Burggraaff, for their donation of a painting by George Caleb Bingham. The painting depicts Sarah “Sallie” Harris Rodes Rollins, mother of James Sidney Rollins, often considered the “father” of the University of Missouri, and one of Bingham's closest friends. The oil on canvas piece was painted in 1834. The Burggraaff’s generous donation was made in honor of Isabel’s mother, Mary Bennett MacLeod, a descendant of the Rollins family.

In January, Maizie Brown received the ExCel Award from the National Women’s Council of REALTORS® at the state level! This award recognizes a realtor who has positively influenced

others and reinforced the efforts of the Women's Council of Realtors leadership. The recipient demonstrates excellence in cooperation, education, and leadership.

Also in January, Valerie Ninichuck and Joy Sweeney were chosen to participate in the 2025 Great Missouri Leadership Challenge. This program is regarded as the premier women's professional development program in the state of Missouri.

Michael Kramer performed in the Columbia Entertainment Company's production of *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* in April. For the second year in a row, Michael had another 10-minute play he had written be selected to be performed at the MU Comedies in Concert. His piece entitled "*I Might Be a Serial Killer*" was performed on June 10 inside McKee Gymnasium on the MU campus.

