

The Metro Memo



VOLUME 32-33

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

18th Annual Metro Rotary Trivia Night

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and participated!

February 6, 2026

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Proceeds benefit



Child Advocacy Center

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!
Metro's 19th Annual Trivia Night
February 5, 2027

ROUND SPONSORS

J. Scott Christianson

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Les Gelband

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Thank you . . .

Charlene Boyes for presenting today's inspiration, leading members in the Pledge of Allegiance, and providing a fundraising opportunity.

Charlene has been a member of Metro since January 2013. She stated she joined Rotary because of its mission, and she appreciates the shared vision of service of all our members.

Announcements!

Metro's Board of Directors will meet **today** at 1:00 p.m.



The Afghan Bread Company has announced its next naan sale will be **February 16** from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Clover's Natural Market (2100 Chapel Plaza Court). A limited number of naan will be available on site, but you can be guaranteed to have fresh naan available to purchase by ordering online at <https://shorturl.at/XmCwW>.

Please note: Deadline for online orders is **February 14**.



Happy Hat



Sergeant-at-Arms **Casey Buckman** invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's lone contributor was **Sarah Read**.

Sgt. Casey levied a fine on himself and others at his table including **Win Burggraaff, Jim Cherrington, Les Gelband, and Jim Stock**. This group of men broke an unwritten rule of etiquette for Rotary by having only one gender represented at their table.

Sgt. Casey concluded by giving a brief overview of "Which Way is North?" to club members who are directionally challenged.



Members with Guests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Sarah Read.....	Susan Potrafka
Sarah Read.....	Mark Potrafka

Visiting Rotarians

<u>Member</u>	<u>Club</u>
Susan Potrafka	Rolla
Mark Potrafka.....	Rolla



Happy Birthday to **Lori Neidel** on **February 12!**

Happy Birthday to **Audrey Spieler** on **February 14!**

Congratulations to J. Scott Christianson! He won a \$50 gift card to Murry's donated by **Charlene Boyes**. We raised \$73 for Metro charities

Metro's Community Service Committee would like to assist local organizations whose missions align with Rotary's to help youth, education, and the environment. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for a form to complete.



PLEASE NOTE: Metro bylaws state that if the Columbia Public Schools cancel classes due to inclement weather, Metro Rotary will not meet. Please keep this in mind as winter weather continues.

Metro Snack Card



Metro's Board of Directors has implemented a "Snack Card" opportunity for members. Each card will cost \$10, which will provide five (5) punches for the purchaser to partake in tea/coffee/cookies during a regular weekly meeting. Cards will be available for purchase at our weekly meetings, or you can currently purchase one online.

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MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE



Rotary membership connects over 1.2 million professionals and community leaders worldwide to exchange ideas, build friendships, and take action on local and international projects. Odds are you know someone who would be a valuable member of our club.

Rotary Zones 30 and 31 are hosting an 8 in 8 Membership Challenge, a focused achievable effort to strengthen clubs through intentional growth. The goal is for a club to add 8 new members in 8 weeks (March 1-April 30). Clubs that successfully add 8 new members during this time period will be entered into a drawing for \$1,000 to host a member social event in May or June.

Start thinking today of someone you could invite to visit our club!



COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Award Academy. This is a four-day/three-night service leadership academy held on the campus of the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

RYLA is geared towards students who exhibit a heart for community service. The curriculum is designed to identify and enhance the qualities of servant leadership for each participant, educate them on how to successfully implement a service project, and inspire them to life a lifetime of "Service Above Self."

The first RYLA session will take place June 28 – July 1, and the second session will be July 12-15

If you know someone interested in attending, please contact **Sarah Wolf**.

Rotary Short-Term Exchange Program

Susan Potrafka (below) is a member of the Rotary Club of Rolla. She spoke to members about the District 6080 Rotary Short-Term Exchange Program (STEP) Committee. STEP offers cultural experiences for youth ages 15-19 as they experience a foreign exchange opportunity.



STEP can include a family-to-family exchange or summer camps abroad. During the family-to-family exchange, a student in the age range of 15-17 is matched with a student from another country. The US student travels to the host country and stays with the student's host family for 3-4 weeks. Then, the other student travels to the US and stays 3-4 weeks with the US student's family.

Summer abroad camps are a one-way international experience. Participants can be ages 15-25, and the camps/tours are sponsored by local Rotarians in that country.

If you know of someone who might be interested in this exchange opportunity, encourage them to visit <https://shorturl.at/vFwAt> for more information.



www.columbiametrorotary.org

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February Peace Challenge

Rotary's theme for February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month. **President Sarah** is asking members to evaluate the information they receive and convey during the next month.



Members were encouraged to use the CRAAP test when evaluating information sources:

- C**
 - Currency
 - When was the information published or posted?
 - Has the information been revised or updated?
 - Are the links functional?
- R**
 - Relevance
 - Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
 - Who is the intended audience?
 - Is the information at an appropriate level?
- A**
 - Authority
 - Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
 - What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?
 - Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?
- A**
 - Accuracy
 - Is the information supported by evidence?
 - Can you verify any of the information in another source?
 - Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?
- P**
 - Purpose
 - What is the purpose of the information?
 - Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?
 - Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda?



Rotarians are invited to make new connections and create unforgettable memories at the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, where traditional and contemporary culture intertwine beautifully. Join fellow changemakers from around the world to share innovative projects, exchange best practices, and form enduring friendships. The convention is packed with exciting breakout sessions, speakers, and more.

Registration fees:\$575 (before March 31)

Registration fees\$675 (April 1 or later)

All events will take place at Farglory Dome (Taipei Dome) and Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center (TaiNEX) unless otherwise noted.

Key Highlights: House of Friendship (networking/exhibits), inspirational speakers, and breakout sessions.

Housing: Hotel blocks are available at <https://shorturl.at/gYZjf>.

Do you think you can identify what is real and what is generated by AI? Take this test online and find out: <https://shorturl.at/HdH95>

Rotary Action Groups



Rotary Action Groups are independent entities affiliated with Rotary that each have a specific humanitarian focus, such as economic development, peacebuilding, addiction prevention, ending modern slavery, or environmental sustainability. Organized by Rotary members and nonmembers, the groups include people around the world who have knowledge, experience, or an interest in the topic.

If you would like to know more about this program or just see what groups are available, please visit <https://my.rotary.org/en/participate/programs/join-a-rotary-action-group>.

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JANUARY 7, 2026



Columbia Metro
Rotary Club

Community Service Committee: Community Support Proposal Form

Please complete the information below and return to Lisa Royse at roysel@health.missouri.edu.

Date: _____

Columbia Metro Rotary Member Name: _____

Community Organization Name: _____

Contact Person and Information at Organization: _____

Requested funding amount (maximum \$100): _____

Deadline for funds: _____

How does this organization contribute to our community and align with our club's mission to be a transformative influence in our community and in the world through our work with youth, education, and the environment? (2-3 sentences)

How will the organization use the funds if awarded? (2-3 sentences)
