

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 33-35

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Thank you . . .

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

Valorie has been a member of Metro since October 2024. She stated she belongs to Rotary because of a personal connection to its mission -- her aunt had polio. Valorie indicated she enjoyed being a member of the warmest, most-welcoming Rotary club in Columbia.



Announcements!



On **February 26**, Metro members will meet in the MBS parking lot at 5:30 p.m. for the monthly Adopt-a-Spot litter pickup along West Ash Street and North Fairview Road.

Members are invited to volunteer for the next Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build scheduled for **March 7** from 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Community United Methodist Church (3301 West Broadway). Please contact **Shane Winter** if you plan to assist.

Metro's Board of Directors will meet **March 11** at 1:00 p.m. at the Columbia Country Club.

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 3 of this newsletter for a form to complete.

*Congratulations to **J.D. Moran** who won a handful of lottery tickets donated by **Valorie Livingston**. We raised \$83 for Metro charities*



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 of a local student, or students, who may be interested in attending, please contact **Sarah Wolf** at your earliest convenience.



2025 RYLA attendees

Members with Guests

Member	Guest
Jan Becket.....	Emily Beckett
Sarah Read.....	Michael Gaik
Sarah Read.....	Brendan Deckerd

Family of Rotary

Happy Birthday to **Sarah Read** today!

Happy Birthday to **Ron Bodenstab** on **February 27!**

Congratulations to **Jean Leonatti** who will celebrate 31 years as a Metro Rotarian on **March 1!**

Happy Birthday to **Valorie Livingston** on **March 2!**

Happy Birthday to **John Fabsits** on **March 2!**

Congratulations to **Sarah Wolf**, and her husband **Dennis**, as they are expecting their second child!

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 33-35

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Happy Hat

Substitute Sergeant-at-Arms **Tom O'Connor** invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's lone contributors were **Valorie Livingston, Mark Claypole, Loretta Schouten, Audrey Spieler, Pat Hostetler, Sarah Read, Shelley Sigholtz, Jan Beckett, and Tom O'Connor.**



Members were invited to see the Mobile Funk Unit's live performance this Saturday at Rose Music Hall beginning at 8:00 p.m. If you go, pay attention, you might recognize someone in the band!



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 Police Officer Appreciation Luncheon

Columbia Police Officer Michael Gaik and Police Academy Recruit Brendan Deckerd presented today's program.



Brendan Deckerd and Officer Michael Gaik

Officer Gaik has been with CPD since December 2023. Originally from Addison, Illinois, he indicated his interest in human behavior led him to law enforcement. He described an "average day" of a local police officer, and detailed his assigned area of town to patrol. He spoke highly of the Columbia Police Academy, and he emphasized the importance of de-escalation techniques in calming down individuals who may become involved in stressful situations.

Recruit Deckerd is originally from the St. Charles area, and he originally came to MU to pursue a veterinary career. After transitioning to criminal justice, he is now prepared to enroll in the Columbia Police Academy. Members learned the academy is a five month in-class training program followed by at least four months of in-field training. The academy focuses on constitutional law, Missouri statutory law, as well as traffic law. Students learn proactive techniques that can be helpful in their daily work as a police officer.



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.

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 33-35

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



FEBRUARY 25, 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)
