

The Metro Memo



VOLUME 33-43

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

APRIL 22, 2026

Members with Guests

Member	Guest
Warren Prost.....	Debbie Prost
Pat Hostetler.....	Lynn Hostetler
Valorie Livingston	Ron Fauss
Valorie Livingston	Anne Omer
Win Burggraaff.....	Ruth Pojman
Win Burggraaff.....	Trudy Pojman



Members will meet **April 23** at 5:30 pm in the MBS parking lot to pick up trash along our Adopt-a-Spot streets.

The Metro Board of Directors will meet **May 13** at 1:00 p.m. at the Columbia Country Club.

The 16th Annual Float Trip is planned for the weekend of **July 25** near Steelville. For more information, contact **Casey Buckman** or watch for more information as the date approaches.

NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED

Susan Johnson has been proposed for membership in Metro Rotary. Susan is a retired public school administrator, and her proposed classification is Retired. Susan's proposal was submitted by **Sandra Logan**.

Ron Fauss has been proposed for membership in Metro Rotary. Ron is the owner of Branding Iron Marketing, and his proposed classification is Branding/Marketing. Ron's proposal was submitted by **Valorie Livingston**.



Congratulations to **Rebecca Knipp** who will celebrate 7 years as a Metro Rotarian on **April 24!**

April Peace Challenge



Pope Francis recognized that "living in peace is also living in harmony with Earth."

Our challenge as peacebuilders during April, which is recognized worldwide by Rotary as Environmental Sustainability Month, is to do something that is good for the environment!



Do you know someone who would make a great Rotarian? If so, the process to nominate him/her is simple. An application form is available on the Metro website at <https://tinyurl.com/23v53s44>.

Once you have the information completed, please forward to **Victoria Brees** at maybrees@hotmail.com.

Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus



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Happy Hat



Sergeant-at-Arms
Casey Buckman

invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's contributors were **Victoria Brees, Rob Christensen Sarah Read, Shelley Sigholtz, Shane Winter, and Mark Claypole.**

Today, members learned about the Arabia, a side wheeler steamboat that sank in the Missouri River on September 5, 1856. It was rediscovered in 1988 by a team of local researchers in what is now Kansas City, Kansas. Its recovered artifacts are housed in the Arabia Steamboat Museum.



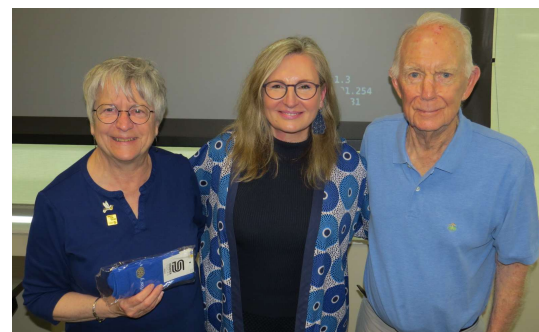
please note

Metro's Community Service Committee would like to assist local organizations whose missions align with Rotary's to help youth, education, and the environment. If you know of an organization/group/project that could benefit from additional funding, please see page 3 of this newsletter for an application form to complete.

Rotary Sure Start Program Will Help Those in Need

Ruth Freedom Pojman is the niece of Metro Rotarian **Dr. Win Burggraaff**. She is also a member of the Rotary Club Vienna Maria Theresia (RCVMT). Ruth traveled to the Ukraine/USSR on a Youth Peace Exchange trip in 1988. She was the first American to study at Moscow State University in the Fall of 1990, and she has an extensive career of working internationally in roles with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and with UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Members learned that RCVMT is currently partnering with the Rotary Club Kyiv Balzac on the *Rotary Sure Start* project which supports pregnant women and young mothers and their toddlers who have been affected by war and displacement in Ukraine. RCVMT provides early education, therapy, and parental support.



President Sarah, Ruth, and Win

The *Rotary Sure Start* project supports the renovation of the third floor (approximately 754 square feet) of a four-story community center operated by Save Ukraine in Irpin, Kyiv Oblast. Founded in 2014, Save Ukraine has emerged as the largest humanitarian organization dedicated to rescuing abducted Ukrainian children and providing critical support to children and families affected by war. The dedicated facility space will offer children and their families psychosocial, medical, and educational support, including early childhood development programs, parenting education, and assistance for pregnant women. The project will cover at least the first year of operational costs.

The child-friendly space will include a play and learning area, therapy room, classroom, and hygiene facilities, all designed to provide a safe and supportive environment for young children and their parents. Services will be offered on an out-patient basis, allowing families to attend daily sessions while continuing to live in their homes or temporary shelters.

Ruth informed members about the crisis of child sexual abuse and trafficking in Ukraine. Displaced individuals are more vulnerable, and exploitation has surged. It was noted that caregivers, overwhelmed by basic survival, often leave children exposed to traffickers. The *Rotary Sure Start* program will fill a critical gap for those in need.

Members were encouraged to consider supporting the RCVMT global grant application **2693650** which can be located under Rotary's area of focus "Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention" as well as "Improving Maternal and Child Health." Please visit <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> if you would like to contribute to this program.

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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)
