

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 33-44

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



APRIL 29, 2026

Thank you . . .

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



Lori has been a member of Metro since March 2010. She stated she joined Rotary because of its strong service history. She stated she believes a strength of our club is its membership diversity.



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

Metro's 33rd annual Charter Night celebration is planned for **June 5**. Watch future newsletters for details.

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.

Congratulations to **Tim Sullivan** who won a \$50 gift card to Murry's donated by **Lori Neidel**. We raised \$61 for Metro charities.

Please Recycle Old Magazines

Members are encouraged to bring their copies of *Rotary* magazine to future meetings once they have completed reading the magazines. The issues will be recirculated to spread the word about Rotary in our community.



NEW MEMBER PROPOSED

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 **Lori Dobry** who will celebrate 31 years as a Metro Rotarian on **May 1!**

Congratulations to **Joy Sweeney** who will celebrate 2 years as a Metro Rotarian on **May 1!**

Congratulations to **Michael Kramer** who successfully ran this past weekend in the Molly's Miles 5K/10K benefiting Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS). His time was of a national qualifying level!

Optimized CFO & Controller Services, owned by Metro Rotarian **Rebecca Knipp**, is a 2026 Small Business of the Year Finalist for the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Rebecca invited everyone to an open house at her business from 3-5 p.m. on **May 4**. For planning purposes, please let Rebecca know if you plan to attend.

Members with Guests

Member	Guest
Valorie Livingston	Ron Fauss
Valorie Livingston	Stefanie West
Sandra Logan	Susan Johnson
Jan Beckett	Emily Beckett
Tom O'Connor	Anna Do



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.

COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

www.columbiametrorotary.org



CHARTERED JUNE 10, 1993

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Happy Hat



Substitute Sergeant-at-Arms **Shane Winter** invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's contributors were **Rebecca Knipp** and **Michael Kramer**.

May Peace Challenge



Achieving a peaceful life involves a deliberate approach to transform conflict into understanding. As May is Youth Service Month, members are encouraged to help a younger person build and/or practice the three skills below to provide a better foundation for peace.

1. **Ander management** – identify the physiological and emotional signs of anger before they escalate.
2. **Empathy** – actively work to understand the needs, emotions, and worldview of others, even in conflict.
3. **Critical thinking** – evaluate situations by examining different viewpoints, not just your own.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

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.

Missouri Conservation Corps

Anna Do (below) serves as an AmeriCorps member with Missouri Conservation Corps (MCC) in the Columbia area. MCC is a volunteer-based 501(c)3 organization committed to restoring native habitats in order to benefit both the environment and the community. In addition to hands-on ecological restoration, they partner with local organizations to support climate initiatives and promote a sustainable future. Through teamwork and collaboration, they hope to preserve the region's natural beauty and foster environmental stewardship.

Anna informed members that MCC originated as a goodwill effort in Columbia's Kiwanis Park to remove invasive bush honeysuckle using volunteers, neighbors, and friends. Their first official workday was in April of 2021 during the pandemic. After a few workdays, they received encouragement and support from Volunteer Columbia, the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, and the Kiwanis Club. Today, they exist with a board of directors, and a funding agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation.



MCC currently organizes and hosts 45-50 volunteer work events annually. Through these events, they teach volunteers about native habitats. Members learned that some of the common invasive species in Missouri include busy honeysuckle, callery pear, wintercreeper, garlic mustard, autumn olive, and multiflora rose. Anna spoke about the removal process, and she noted the success that has been realized through their efforts. In Kiwanis Park, where MCC first began, over 16 acres (out of 20 total) have been cleared of honeysuckle. This is allowing for the return of native plants and animals.



Anna noted that youth are wonderful volunteers. By working MCC events, young people experience positive memories that establish or reinforce their relationship with nature and the environment around them. Members were invited to participate in any upcoming MCC events. To view a listing of upcoming MCC events, please visit their online calendar at <https://missouriconservationcorps.org/events/month/2026-05/>.

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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)
