

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 33-46

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



MAY 13, 2026

Thank you . . .

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

Rob has been a member of Metro since December 1996. Rob recalled that he originally joined Rotary in the state of California in 1986 to connect with locals there. He quickly learned there was much more to Rotary than just connections. After moving back to Missouri in 1995, he joined Metro. He stated Metro Rotary meetings "smelled much better than the sale barn for Bull Pen weekly livestock auctions that used to occur on the business loop."



Announcements!



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

On **May 22**, members will tour the former Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City. The tour will be from 12-2 p.m. Please contact **Shane Winter** by this Friday if you plan to attend.

Members will meet **May 28** at 5:30 pm in the MBS parking lot to pick up trash along our Adopt-a-Spot streets.

Metro's 33rd annual Charter Night celebration is planned for **June 5** at Tolton High School (3351 East Gans Road) beginning at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person.



**GROWING
MEMBERSHIP
INCREASES**
THE GOOD WE CAN 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.

Members with Guests

<u>Member</u>	<u>Guest</u>
Sandra Logan	Ron Jones
Sandra Logan	Damian Dean
Sandra Logan	Rochara Knight
Sandra Logan	Davion Stockard



Happy Birthday to **Anna Drake** on **May 18!**



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.



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.



to **Lori Neidel** who won a \$50 gift card to Old Plank Tavern donated by **Rob Christensen**. We raised \$39 for Metro charities.

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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 **Ron Bodenstab**, **Elaine Martin**, **Shelley Sigholtz**, and **Charlene Boyes**.

Today's fun fact: The Dayton Triangles won the first-ever National Football League game by defeating the Columbus Panhandles 14-0 on October 3, 1920.



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.

"Peace is not a dream. It is a responsibility."

-- Paul Harris

UNITED COMMUNITY BUILDERS

Bishop Damian Dean (right) is the Lead Pastor at United Community Cathedral. He also serves as the Executive Director of United Community Builders (UCB). UCB is a nonprofit organization focused on inspiring and educating people to achieve more through early childhood education, afterschool programming, job training, and community outreach.



Damian spoke about the UCB Academy which inspires and educates young learners and helps them to achieve in their academic careers. Last year, they served 56 students with over 22,100 instructional hours. The result was that the students were 76% proficient in mathematics and 81% proficient in Language Arts.

UCB also offers a Transformation program which helps adults build the soft skills needed to gain and retain sustainable employment. To date, over 375 individuals have completed this program, with 89% of graduates successfully gaining employment or being enrolled in school within 90 days.

Members learned that UCB recently moved into a new facility in northeast Columbia. Their location consists of a 22,500 square-foot community center that plans to host:

- Academic support and enrichment to help students stay on track and reach grade-level proficiency.
- Job readiness and workforce training to equip adults and teens with practical skills for long-term success.
- Recreation and wellness classes for youth and adults, promoting healthy lifestyles and positive engagement.
- Community events and gatherings that celebrate culture, connection, and shared purpose.

Members were invited to a UCB Community Block Party on June 27. If you would like to learn more about the programs offered by UCB or how you can contribute time or resources, please visit <https://ucbuilders.org/>.



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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)
