

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 33-49

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB



JUNE 3, 2026

TODAY is the 33rd anniversary of our club charter! Special thanks to our four remaining charter members:



Win Burggraaff



John John



Audrey Spieler



Jim Stock

Thank you . . .

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

Sherry has been a member of Metro since April 2014. She credited Jan Beckett with inviting her to visit our club. Sherry stated she joined Metro because of the many helpful projects our club has participated in and because she believes in Rotary's mission and vision.



During Metro's Charter Night celebration last Friday evening, eight members were recognized for advancing their Paul Harris Fellowship giving levels status.



Left to right: **Shane Winter (+8)**, **Lori Neidel (+6)**, **Jim Stock (+5)**, **Cathy Scroggs (+5)**, **Heather McArthur (+4)**, **Jaime Freidrichs (+2)**, **Laura Royse (+2)**, and **Michael Kramer (+1)**

Congratulations to all our members who were recognized and thank you for your continued support of The Rotary Foundation.

2026 Vocational Service Award Recipient

During Charter Night, **Loretta Schouten** (below) was named the recipient of Metro's 2026 Vocational Service Award.



This award is given annually to an individual whose work exemplifies the Rotary ideal of Vocational Service. Loretta truly lives the Rotary Four-Way Test professionally and personally.

Loretta has devoted countless hours of service to the PeaceBuilders Committee, and she has been a driving force behind the success of the Afghan Bread Company and The Stitch Initiative. A multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Loretta served as our club's 31st president during the 2022-2023 year.

Members with Guests

Member	Guest
Bill Costello	Sam Nassar
Bill Costello	Justin Keehler
Bill Costello	Erin Rogers
Bill Costello	Steve Spellman



COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

www.columbiametrorotary.org

CHARTERED JUNE 10, 1993

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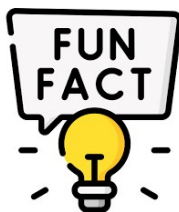
WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Members will meet **June 18** at 5:30 pm in the MBS parking lot to pick up trash along our Adopt-a-Spot streets.

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.

Metro Fun Fact: It was announced that the cumulative years of Metro Rotary membership by our existing 69 members exceeds 893 years!



Happy Birthday to **Tim Sullivan** on **June 13!**

Congratulations to **Loretta Schouten** who will celebrate 8 years as a Metro Rotarian on **June 13!**

Congratulations to **Anna Drake** who will celebrate 27 years as a Metro Rotarian on **June 16!**

Congratulations to **Win Burggraaff** who won a \$50 gift card to Flat Branch Pub & Brewing donated by **Sherry Major**. We raised \$79 for Metro charities.

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 **Rob Christensen, Jim Cherrington, Victoria Brees, Audrey Spieler, and Mark Claypole**.

Members were alerted that the 2026 FIFA World Cup begins tomorrow!

2026-2027 Committees Forming

Metro Committees for the 2026-2027 year are beginning to be organized. Please contact President-Elect **J.D. Moran** to sign up for a committee (or more) that you would like to be a part of for the upcoming year.

If you would like more information about committees, a summary description of each committee is listed on the Metro website on the Committees page which is located under the About Metro drop-down header.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Dues invoices for the 2026-2027 fiscal year were recently distributed. Please remit your payment timely to Treasurer **Rebecca Knipp** online or to P.O. Box 109, Columbia, MO 65205.



For the month of June, **President Sarah** is encouraging members to focus on doing something to bring more beauty to the world while also promoting peace and hope.

This doesn't have to be a grand, overwhelming gesture. Small, intentional acts can create beautiful ripples. Some ideas to get you started may include:

- Leave uplifting notes around Columbia establishments to brighten a stranger's day.
- Create "kindness rocks" to spread messages of hope.
- Volunteer to help garden a public space.
- Support local animal rescues.
- Organize a neighborhood cleanup project with friends.

Please contact **President Sarah** if you would like to be a member of our PeaceBuilder Committee.



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.

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Matching Opportunity!

For a limited time, District 6080 will match new individual donations to The Rotary Foundation, **up to \$500 per donor**. This is a "first come, first serve" opportunity until District's designated resources are used up. ACT FAST if interested to fast-track your way to a new Paul Harris level!

How it works:

1. Make your donation to The Rotary Foundation (Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or other eligible fund) by calling 1-866-976-8279 or going on-line at www.rotary.org/give.
2. Send confirmation of your donation to John Horton, District Foundation Chair at john@JohnJHorton.com.
3. The district will apply matching recognition points to your Rotary Foundation account, up to a maximum of 500 points.

Contribution Note:

A minimum \$100 donation is required for a match to be considered.

Emerging Professionals in Columbia

Sam Nassar, Justin Keehler, and Erin Rogers (pictured right), presented our weekly program. Sam is the President of Emerging Professionals in Columbia (EPIC), Erin is the President-Elect, and Justin serves as the Chamber of Commerce liaison to the organization.



Sam, Erin, and Justin

EPIC began as a division of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce 21 years ago. The group targets employees ages 22-40 who want to become more involved in the Chamber, meet new people, and develop their leadership skills. EPIC's mission is to engage, develop, and celebrate emerging leaders through professional growth opportunities and social interactions. Members of EPIC can be Chamber members or non-members. It was noted that existing members of the Chamber receive a discount on their annual dues.

Members learned that EPIC focuses on coordinating four service projects each year. Through these projects, members become more knowledgeable about local issues, events, and opportunities available in our community. EPIC also provides professional development opportunities for members. Events may vary from a lunch format, to a mixer event, or a breakfast gathering.

Members were encouraged to learn more about EPIC's mentorship program (as either a mentor or a mentee). This is an excellent opportunity for established professionals to assist up and coming employees. More information about the program, along with application forms, can be located on their website at <https://epic.comochamber.com>.

"No one can tell us what Rotary will be tomorrow, but one thing is certain: what Rotary will be tomorrow depends upon what Rotarians do today."

- Arch C. Klumph

Father of The Rotary Foundation



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FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

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 complete the form below.



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)
