

The Metro Memo

VOLUME 34-06

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



AUGUST 5, 2026

Thank you . . .

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

Rebecca has been a member of Metro since April 2019. She stated she enjoys variety of programs each week at our meetings. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her family.



Announcements!

A fellowship event is planned for **August 13** at Delia's Mexican Grill (1400 Cinnamon Hill) beginning at 5:30 p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to bring a prospective Rotarian.



Metro's Board of Directors will meet **August 19** at 1:00 p.m. at the Columbia Country Club.

Members will meet **August 20** at 5:30 p.m. in the MBS parking lot to pick up trash along our Adopt-a-Spot streets.

Do you know of a 501(c)(3) organization in need of funding? If so, please contact **Ron Bodenstab** at your earliest convenience. He and his wife, Davida, are generously assisting qualified organizations.



to **Scott Christianson** who won a \$50 gift certificate to Flyover donated by **Rebecca Knipp**. We raised \$52 for Metro charities.

Service
ABOVE Self



Happy Birthday to **Jim Cherrington** on **August 6!**

Happy Birthday to **Barb Danuser** on **August 8!**

Congratulations to **Les Gelband** whose daughter, **Samantha Adams**, was selected as a member of the **COMO Business Times 20 Under 40 Class of 2026**.

Samantha is the Principal at Locust Street Elementary School.



Please keep **Susan Clark** in your thoughts and prayers as she undergoes arm surgery.

Congratulations to **Anna Drake** who has an art exhibit showing at the Ankeny Art Center from **July 30-September 22** in Ankeny, Iowa. This exhibit highlights her transformation of discarded plastic bags through crochet, knotting, sewing, and other domestic handcrafts to question how we assign value to objects, emotions, and one another. Two of Anna's pieces are highlighted below.



Not Present



Brain in Repose

Members With Guests

Member Guest

Anna Drake.....Mikala King



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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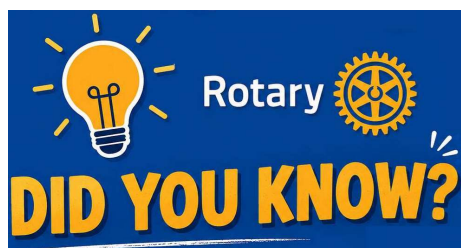
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Happy Hat



Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms **Victoria Brees** invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's contributors were **Les Gelband, Warren Prost, Scott Christianson, Josh Rickard, Jim Cherrington, Sherry Major, and Shelley Sigholtz.**



- Paul Harris originally considered "The Conspirators" as a name for his newly formed club before settling on "Rotary." The reasoning was that the members would "conspire" or plan together for mutual success and community betterment.
- For your Rotary name badge, proper etiquette dictates that it should be worn on the right side of your chest or lapel. This placement ensures that when you extend your right hand for a handshake, the other person's eye naturally follows your arm up and easily reads your name and club affiliation.
- The first donation to The Rotary Foundation was \$26.50 in 1917. Outgoing Rotary President Arch C. Klumph proposed the endowment fund at the Atlanta convention, and the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri gave the \$26.50 to start it.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

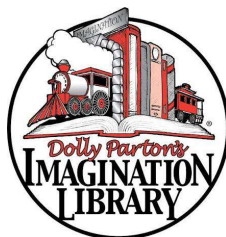
Mikala King (right) is a Section Leader and Outreach Coordinator within the Office of Childhood at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mikala spoke to members today about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Missouri.



The Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Missouri was launched in November 2023. This program is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by delivering high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to the homes of registered children under age 5, at no cost to the family.

The logic model used by this program includes having books mailed in the child's name to his/her residence. Book reading tips are included with each book. Caregivers are asked to read daily with children, which may include reading the same book multiple times. This model will create an enhanced home literacy environment and can create positive attitudes about reading. While this increases interaction between caregivers and children, it also is increasing the literacy skills of the children. The long-term result is that students enroll in kindergarten with literacy readiness.

Members learned that during the second quarter of 2026 (April-June), 169,575 children were actively enrolled in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Missouri. A total of 507,856 books were distributed during this quarter. Also, 10,262 children graduated from this program during the quarter. Overall, at least 70 children are registered in all 114 counties across Missouri.



On a sad note, due to the 2027 fiscal year state budget reduction, beginning July 1, 2026, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library does not have the funds to accept new applications to the program. Books will continue to be provided to families already enrolled in the program as funding allows.

Mikala shared how important partnerships are to the success of the program. Several partners across the state have helped with purchasing and/or shipping books to the students of Missouri. If you know of someone or some organization who may be interested in learning more about the program and/or establishing a partnership, please visit www.imaginationlibrary.com.

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Article excerpted from the August 2026 District 6080 newsletter:

Susan Hart Selected as District Governor Nominee

Susan Hart has been named District Governor Nominee for District 6080. She will serve as District Governor for the Rotary year 2028-2029.

Susan serves as president of Reinhardt Construction, a leading commercial construction firm serving Central Missouri and beyond. With more than three decades of experience in the construction industry, she has built a reputation for collaborative leadership, operational excellence and a strong commitment to community engagement.

She brings leadership experience to the District Governor role, having served as chair of the Board of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and chair of the Board of Regional Economic Development Inc. (REDI). She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Builders' Association, helping advance workforce development and industry excellence. She has served on numerous boards not for profit community organizations in Central Missouri.

A member of Columbia Metro Rotary since 1993, Susan served as club president in 1999-2000. In District 6080, she has held the position of Foundation Grants Subcommittee Chair since 2010. She is a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation, a Foundation Benefactor and a member of the Paul Harris Society.

With the addition of Susan, this is what the District Governor line looks like:



Andrea Brady
*Immediate Past
District Governor
District Governor 2025-26
Springfield Sunrise Rotary*



Brad Martens
*District Governor 2026-27
Columbia South Rotary*



Will Cologne
*District Governor-Elect
District Governor 2027-28
Springfield Sunrise Rotary*



Susan Hart
*District Governor-Nominee
District Governor 2028-29
Columbia Metro Rotary*

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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)
