The Metro Memo

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

VOLUME 34-10 | WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB | SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Thank you . . .

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



Elaine has been a member of Metro since June 2022. She stated she admires how Metro Rotarians see a need and work together to assist and/or find a resolution. Elaine is retired, and she stated she enjoys spending lots of time with her grandchildren.

Members With Guests

Member	Guest
Tom O'Connor	Travis Kroner
Tom O'Connor	Nick Durkin
Tom O'Connor	Leah Durkin
Warren Prost	Garrett Rucinski
Laura Royse	Brian Asbury



UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Metro's Board of Directors will meet on September 16 at 1:00 p.m. at the Columbia Country Club.

On September 19, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture will host its 17th Annual Harvest Hootenanny from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at Columbia's Agriculture Park. Metro will display its Fishbowl Frenzy booth again for this event. Please contact **Laura** or **Lisa Royse** if you would like to volunteer your time. Donations of $5 gift cards and/or non-chocolate candy for the game participants are being accepted up until the event date.

Planning is underway for the 17th Annual Float Trip to be held the weekend of July 24, 2027, at Bass River Resort in July. Please contact **Casey Buckman** to make your reservation early!

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 **Victoria Brees** who won a $50 donation in her name to The Rotary Foundation courtesy of **Elaine Martin**. We raised $50 for Metro charities.

Family of Rotary

*Congratulations to **Susan Clark** who will celebrate 1 year as a Metro Rotarian on September 3!*

*Congratulations to **Shelley Sigholtz** who will celebrate 10 year as a Metro Rotarian on September 7!*

***Michael Kramer** shared that his play STUFF is going to be produced by the Columbia Entertainment Company! Performances will be on two weekends in late February 2027. If you enjoy local theater, mark your calendars!*

Garrett Rucinski informed members that he served as a Rotary Youth Exchange student over 20 years ago when he was a student in Ohio! He stated it was a life-changing experience, and he was very grateful for the opportunity.

Rotary Club Excellence

It was announced that Metro has received the Club Excellence Award from Rotary International for the 2025-2026 year. This is the highest and most significant honor a Rotary club can receive. This is the result of strong club leadership and members who volunteer and support our service activities. Kudos to all members for helping our club achieve this recognition.

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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 **Jim Cherrington**, **Mark Claypole**, **Valorie Livingston**, **Michael Kramer**, and **Garrett Rucinski**.



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

Need help coming up with a list of possible names to invite to a Metro meeting? You may find one, or more, of the following sources helpful.

- Work/personal contact list
- People you do business with
- Community volunteers
- Neighbors
- Active civic leaders
- Colleagues/local professionals
- Teammates
- Anyone looking to network, grow personally, and serve others

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

IGNITE APP TRAINING

If you want to learn the fastest and easiest ways to maximize your personal and club use of Ignite, three informative sessions are available for you to choose from. Ignite Chief Revenue Officer Patrick Longano and District 6080 Communications Chair Erik Janeczko will give a brief, high energy, overview of key features and functions you need to know along with several tips and tricks to make your club life easier! This open forum is intended to answer any questions you have as well! Multiple duplicate sessions are being offered to accommodate as many Rotarians as efficiently as possible, so you only need to attend one of the three sessions offered.

Sept. 8 - 9:30 AM Central Time
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yNRK8Zv7T9SEb4ClxuPlKQ

Sept. 9 - 4:30 PM Central Time
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/WwGhrvhuShKzAcGPlis_lg

Sept. 12 - 9:30 AM Central Time
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/55kOvBhsSA-y2hj-1-lg5Q

YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT RECAPS EXPERIENCE

Leah Durkin (below) is a freshman at the University of Missouri who participated in a Rotary outbound youth exchange to Nagoya, Japan last year. Nagoya is a city of approximately 2.3 million located on the Pacific coast between Tokyo and Osaka. It is the largest seaport in Japan.



Leah indicated she enjoyed her experience greatly. She spoke of cultural differences and shared information about festivals, castles, shrines, temples and other activities she attended.

She was enrolled at a local high school and spoke of the differences between Japan and the United States. In Columbia, she could get to her high school in about 15 minutes. In Japan, she had a two-hour commute one-way via train and subway to get to her school. She stated Japanese students were shy and not very receptive to foreign students. They were very focused on their studies but were polite and very responsible.

Leah stated her host family was wonderful, and she also enjoyed spending time with other exchange students in Japan. She thanked Metro for sponsoring her during her life-changing trip. She stated she hopes to return to Japan and visit again in the future.

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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.

Rotary 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)

_____

_____

_____