The Metro Memo

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

VOLUME 34-11 | WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE COLUMBIA METRO ROTARY CLUB | SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

Thank you . . .

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



Anna has been a member of Metro since June 1999. She stated she enjoys the programs each week and the fellowship opportunities with members. In her spare time, Anna is an accomplished artist, and she also enjoys spending time with her family.

Members With Guests

Member	Guest
Laura Royse	Brian Asbury
Shane Winter	William Donohue
Adam Blumhagen	John Lyman

Visiting Rotarians

Member	Club
Kate Caskey	Butler
Myron Caskey	Butler



*Congratulations to **Cathy Scroggs** who will celebrate 23 years as a Metro Rotarian on September 10!*

*Congratulations to **Bill Costello** who will celebrate 25 year as a Metro Rotarian on September 12!*

*Congratulations to **Sarah Wolf**, and her husband Dennis, on the birth of their second child!*



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.



Congratulations to **Shelley Sigholtz** who won $50 cash from the private vault of **Anna Drake**. We raised $80 for Metro charities.

NEW MEMBER PROPOSED

Brian Asbury has been proposed membership in Metro Rotary. Brian is the Marketing Representative for A-1 Foundation Solutions. His proposed classification is Foundation Repair. Brian's proposal was submitted by **Laura Royse** and **Casey Buckman**.

INVITE A FRIEND



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.

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Happy Hat



Substitute Sergeant-at-Arms **Sarah Read** invited members to share good thoughts and news about the topic of their choice. Today's contributors were **Ron Bodenstab**, **Mark Claypole**, **Audrey Spieler**, **Adam Blumhagen**, **Charlene Boyes**, and **Sarah Read**.

Did You Know?

Rotary began on February 23, 1905, when Chicago attorney Paul Harris met with three business acquaintances to foster fellowship and professional connection.

Along with Harris, the founders of Rotary were Silvester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey. They called the organization Rotary because members took turns holding regular meetings at each other's offices and places of business.



Loehr, Schiele, Shorey, and Harris

What started small has now grown into an organization of over 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs across 530 districts worldwide. The focus remains on humanitarian projects, professional ethics, and world peace.

*Editor's note: Any resemblance of Gustavus Loehr to **Tom O'Connor** is purely coincidental.*

CPS BOARD PRESIDENT



John Lyman (right) is currently serving as the President of the Columbia Public Schools (CPS) Board of Education. He shared details about the local school district.

Members learned that out of 550 school districts in Missouri, CPS is the 4th largest with an enrollment of more than 18,370 students. The district is one of the largest employers in the area with nearly 2,000 total employees.

Members learned the district has 41 school and programs buildings with 3 support facilities. There are over 3,708,635 square feet of building space, and CSP maintains over 922 acres. Five buildings being used are over 100 years old!

John shared impressive data about CPS students from the last year. Some of the impressive accolades included 9 national merit finalists, 23 presidential scholars, 6 perfect ACT scores, CPS musicians performing at Carnegie Hall, teacher receiving the Fulbright Award, and an elementary school receiving national recognition for school counseling.

John indicated the district is currently in the process of developing a new five-year strategic plan and district vision. He spoke about costs that are increasing statewide and how the increased expenses impact the local budget.

Three community town hall meetings are planned this fall to discuss the district's long-range facility plans. Members were encouraged to consider participating in the forums to share thoughts and help shape the future of our schools and community. The meetings will be held September 22 (Lange Middle School), October 21 (Smithton Middle School), and November 17 (Gentry Middle School). Each session will run from 4:30-6:30 p.m.



September 12, 2026
9:30 AM Central Time

Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/55kOvBhsSA-y2hj-1-Ig5Q

IGNITE APP TRAINING

If you want to learn the fastest and easiest ways to maximize your personal and club use of Ignite, one informative session remains 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!

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September is National Suicide Prevention Month



This is a time dedicated to raising awareness, sharing resources, and breaking the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

How we care for and support each other in our clubs and in our communities is an important part of building positive peace. We all have opportunities to reach out and let others who are struggling know that they are seen, valued, and cared for.

Members were encouraged to look online for these helpful resources:

- Seize the Awkward offers advice for starting a difficult conversation with a friend who might be struggling. https://seizetheawkward.org/
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) publishes a good summary of signs of risk. https://www.nami.org/co-occurring-conditions/risk-of-suicide/
- Find a comprehensive toolkit that will help you plan ways to engage on this important issue at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. https://afsp.org/get-help/
- The United Career Institute also has resources, including a summary of how the semi-colon has become a symbol of suicide prevention. https://unitedcareer.edu/suicide-prevention-month/

Sobering statistics: Over 49,000 people die by suicide in the United States each year. This averages out to approximately one suicide death every 11 minutes. Suicide ranks as a leading cause of death for teenagers and young adults aged 10-24. White males account for a large majority (~68%), and those aged 85 and older experience some of the highest overall suicide rates by age.

For immediate support, call or text 988 to reach the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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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)

_____

_____

_____