



The Bemis Award Winning, Framed, Ineluctable*

Early Word

NEWSLETTER Summer Edition

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



Westminster
Rotary
Club



Volume 31, Issue 9
September 9, 2026

The President's Corner

By President James Maxon



Make the Call: Remembering Dr. Frank Richardson

This week, I want to remember a dear friend, Dr. Frank Richardson, and share a lesson his friendship taught me about what Rotary and fellowship truly mean.

James Maxon I met Frank in 1998 while helping establish a fire science program at Santa Fe Community College. Frank was living in Delaware and reached out to offer his technical assistance. As a Vietnam veteran, he frequently traveled to New Mexico for the annual Vietnam Veterans Memorial events. We met during one of those visits and immediately became friends—a friendship that lasted nearly 30 years.

Frank spent decades as Fire Science Program Chair at Delaware Technical Community College and later became a program chair at the National Fire Academy. In 2000, Frank and I served on a national committee that helped develop the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) curriculum, creating a national framework for fire science education that remains in use today.

Frank was one of the smartest firefighters I have ever known, but his accomplishments aren't what I will remember most. I will remember my friend.

We talked several times each year and tried to meet in person every year or two. I visited his fire company, Aetna Hose, Hook & Ladder Company in Newark, Delaware, numerous times, and he visited Colorado several times. We both loved trains and the fire service, which led to some memorable adventures. I am especially thankful that my son Josh knew

Frank and enjoyed several chess matches with him.

In 2022, Frank called me the morning his wife passed away. It was a conversation I will never forget.

In 2025, Frank moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to his family. This April, he called and said, "You need to come visit."

I knew what he meant. His health was declining.

A week later, I was on a plane.

We spent an amazing weekend telling fire stories, laughing, remembering old adventures, and catching up. The morning I left, Frank was too weak to take me to the airport. A few weeks later, his son called to tell me Frank had passed away following a fall.

I will forever be grateful that I got on that plane.

That brings me to Rotary. The Westminster Rotary Club is about service, but it is also about **relationships**. We gather each week not simply to attend a meeting, but to build friendships, support one another, and become part of each other's lives. Fellowship isn't just a Rotary tradition—it is part of what makes Rotary meaningful.

Service Above Self can sometimes be remarkably simple. It can mean making a phone call, sharing lunch, listening to an old story, or simply showing up when someone needs you.

So, this week, **make the call**. Call the friend you've been thinking about. Visit the family member you've been meaning to see. Check on a fellow Rotarian.

Don't assume there will always be another opportunity.

Thank you for nearly 30 years of friendship, Frank. Rest easy, my friend.



James Jacobson, our Rotarian of the Week



Take a moment this morning to greet James, Past Club President and current President of the Westminster 7:10 Foundation.

James was born in California, grew up in South Africa, and eventually moved to Littleton, CO where he attended Heritage High in Littleton. As he grew in stature and wisdom, he attended UC, Boulder, then received a graduate degree at DU. He is now an investment advisor with Edward Jones.

James is married to Tina and they have three children. He has been active in the Chamber of

Commerce, Thrive and [Fathers in the Field](#).

Some of his hobbies are scuba diving, hiking and fishing. He also loves to travel and play soccer. Some of his favorites are the movie The Matrix, Seinfeld, Harrison Ford, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and comedian, Brian Regan. Food favorites are Hideaway Steakhouse, red wine, Peanut Butter cups, and Key Lime pie. His greatest accomplishment was to marry his wife, Tina. His motto is, "Where others see coincidence, I see providence."

Thank you, James, for being an integral part of the Westminster Rotary Club family.



Inside This Issue

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	2
<i>Advanced Notices</i>	2
<i>Get Ready for the Roast in One Week!</i>	3
<i>What Paul Harris Wrote</i>	3
<i>More Fun Stuff</i>	4

Future Programs

SEPTEMBER

16 Colorado Water Issues

By James Eklund

23 Congresswoman Petersen

By David Aguirre

30 5th Week Social-TBD

Breakfast

(Buffet service - Sept. 9)

French Toast/ Syrup

Scrambled Eggs

Breakfast Potatoes

BACON

along with:

Fresh Fruit

Assorted Danish

Plus: juice, coffee, and tea

Menus are subject to change at the whim of our masterful Chef.

Weekly Statistics

(from last meeting)

Total Club Members	64
Breakfast Members	28
Basic Members	22
Corporate	8
Rotary Alumni	6
Paul Harris Fellows	25
Michael Hayes Fellows	29
On Site / Zoom Attend.	18/2
% Attendance	60.3%
Make ups	0
Speaker Meals/Guests	1/2
Sergeant's Fines: ((Mark C. -\$78.00))	\$55.00
Polio Donations	\$1,000
Member website logins this month	10 (16.4%)



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM...

A Visit to Every Country

Presented by Cameron Mofid

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary

September 2026

...is BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY Month (as noted on the [RI website](#))

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 TIME TO PAY YOUR ROTARY DUES	HYBRID Club Meeting 7:10 am Wednesday at Cottonwood Lodge	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	 Doug Hall	12
 13	14	15	 Claire Carmelia	 18-Charlie Botnick	18 Club Board Meeting 7:00 am Via Zoom	19 Rotary Roast
 WAY PAST TIME TO PAY YOUR ROTARY DUES	21	22	 23	24	25 Foundation Board Meeting 7:00 am on Zoom	26
27	 Lisa Chrisman	29	30 Social — 5th Wednesday NO Morning Meeting	Oct. 1	2	3

See Rotary5450.com for many functions and programs going on in our district.

Advanced Notices

Sept. 19, 2026 --**The Rotary Club 7:10 Foundation Annual Roast**. Save the date!

Superintendent Chris Gdowski will be the Roastee with four wildly funny Roasters poking fun and sharing inside stories. Join us at the Double Tree Hotel, 8773 Yates Dr., Westminster for some real fun.



Are you wearing your Rotary pin every day?

ANOTHER THOUGHT FOR TODAY

- Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
- Half the people you know are below average.
- 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- 82.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

Thanks to Mark Harris

"Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all!"

SAM EWING — Contributed by Mark Harris

Coming Sept. 19th 2026 Celebrity Roast

Westminster Rotary Club Foundation

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON WESTMINSTER

COCKTAILS 5:00 PM

DINNER & PROGRAM 6:00 PM

THE SUPERINTENDENT GETS GRADED

One Night. One Superintendent. Zero Extra Credit.

SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION. NOBODY GETS AN A.

Honoring
CHRIS GDOWSKI
Superintendent
Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Colorado Superintendent of the Year Adams 12 Five Star Schools

2026 COLORADO SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR
ADAMS 12 FIVE STAR SCHOOLS

DISCIPLINARY FILE
Name: Chris Gdowski
Position: Superintendent
District: Adams 12
Five Star Schools

REPORT CARD
SUBJECT GRADE
Leadership A+
Student Success A+
Community Impact A+
Vision A+
School Spirit A+
Surviving the Roast ?
Final Grade Released SEPTEMBER 19

HALL PASS
Issued To: Chris Gdowski
Valid For: ONE NIGHT ONLY
Purpose: Escape From Roasting
Status: DENIED

LEADERSHIP 101
PUBLIC EDUCATION EXCELLENCE
STRATEGY & VISION
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

VERDICT: **ROASTED!**

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION COMMITTEE
★ Phil Spare
★ Beau Foubert
★ Megan Hofer
★ Mark Clark

NONROOM TEACHERS
★ Ryan McCoy
★ Lori Goldstein
SERVING AS CO-EMCEES

Join community leaders, educators, elected officials, and friends for an evening of laughter, fellowship, fun and great food, and good natured roasting as we honor one of Colorado's most respected educational leaders.

★ PROCEEDS BENEFIT WESTMINSTER ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION PROGRAMS SUPPORTING YOUTH, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. ★

Invite your friends. Share the Facebook link with everyone! Get your ticket, table, or sponsorship at:
www.westyRotary.com

Why I'm A Rotarian

For many years, we have been sharing **Why I'm a Rotarian** stories—insightful reflections from fellow Rotarians about their personal motivations for joining and remaining in Rotary. Now, we invite you to share your own story.

The staff and management at the **EarlyWord** Communications and Financial Offices are eager to hear your perspective. In approximately 150 words, please tell us why you are a Rotarian.

Submissions may be sent via email to our Publishing Editor, Loren, at

Loren.donaldson@comcast.net. Thank You!

Support Westminster Rotary Riders

DENVER CENTURY RIDE
Presented by CommonSpirit

Every mile ridden helps strengthen our community. The Westminster Rotary Club is proud to participate in the Denver Century Ride, and we're inviting you to support our riders as they take on this challenging and inspiring event.

Your donation directly supports Westminster Rotary local and international service projects, helping us make a lasting impact where it's needed most.

From youth leadership programs and student scholarships to community improvement initiatives and humanitarian efforts around the world, Rotary members work year-round to create positive change. By sponsoring our riders, you're helping turn every pedal stroke into meaningful service. Go to www.westyRotary.com to make a generous donation.

What Paul Harris Wrote

"Rotary International has been extremely fortunate in its selection of presidents. It would be impossible for the writer to over-express his appreciation of their joint and several contributions to the movement; it would be impossible for him to over-estimate their loyalty, their devotion, the sacrificial spirit which they have so frequently made manifest.

He wishes that it might be permitted him to write the stories of their various administrations, but to do so would be to write the history of the movement and would require several volumes.

The writer has no doubt that it will be accomplished in the course of time."

Paul P. Harris, "This Rotarian Age" 1935, page 210

**The Rotary Foundation Giving Program 2026-27**

As of 08/10/2026

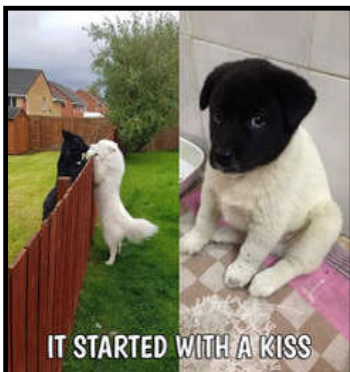
Club Name	Number of Members	Annual Fund Goal	Annual Fund Giving	Goal % Annual	A.F. per Member	Polio Fund Goal	Polio Fund Giving (Act.)	Total Rotary Foundation Giving
Westminster	57/60 (goal)	\$6,500	\$1,200	18.5%	\$21	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$2,200

More Fun Stuff

Thanks to Bill Fine

THE SHEEP WILL SPEND ITS
ENTIRE LIFE FEARING THE
WOLF, ONLY TO BE EATEN BY
THE SHEPHERD.

African Proverb



A PESSIMIST sees
a dark tunnel.
An OPTIMIST sees
light at the end
of the tunnel.
A REALIST sees a
freight train.
The TRAIN ENGI-
NEER sees 3
idiots standing
on the tracks!

Become A Sponsor

...we'll make room.



Find us here:
8687W 108th Ave
Suite D, Westminster,
CO 80021
Call: 303.421.7424

<http://www.richwithfarmers.com>

We provide quality, local and professional
service for your family, in Auto, Home, Life,
and Business Insurance.

CORNERSTONE
Real Estate & Property Management LLC

KEVIN MASSEY
(303) 875-0403

MASSEYSELLSCOLORADO@YAHOO.COM

Opening Doors For You!



Mr. J. Scott Williams-President



OneCore
ELECTRIC

Exceeding Our Customers Expectations Is Our #1 Goal
American Disabled Veteran Owned and Operated Company

303-288-4363 www.onecoreelectric.com

FREYA
CONSTRUCTION



**BUILD WITH PURPOSE.
RENOVATE WITH VISION.**

Call Kristian Reynolds: 720.492.4814



...become our
next Sponsor.

...become our
next Sponsor.



WE'RE ONLINE

www.westminsterrotary.com

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/rotarywestminster

Note:
Scan this Quick Reference (QR) code with your smart phone's camera. It will take you directly to our web page.

**Newsletter deadline:
Monday by Noon**



**The Westminster
Rotary Club**

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

**Weekly On-Site and
Zoom meetings**

PO Box 350141
Westminster, CO 80035



Editorial and Webmaster
Loren Donaldson
Published by:
Donaldson's
Letter Shop



Phone: 303-919-7018
Fax: 303-465-1786

Email:
loren.donaldson@comcast.net

ROTARY CLUB BOARD

President: 2026-27 James Maxon
jmaxon@westminsterco.gov
President-Elect: 2027-28 Rich Seymour
rich@richwithfarmers.com
P.E. Nominee: 2028-29: Warren Blair
W.blair@comcast.net
Past Club President: Doug Hall
Fdadminchief@comcast.net
Secretary: Barbara Donaldson
bcdonaldson@me.com
Treasurer: Loren Donaldson
loren.donaldson@comcast.net
Director Bill Fine
wfine46@verizon.net
Director Tracy Egler
tracyegler1@gmail.com
Director Curt Heidt
cdhiowa@gmail.com
Director Eric Holloway
ericholloway6@comcast.net

FOUNDATION BOARD

President: Doug Hall
fdadminchief@comcast.net
Vice President: James Maxon
jmaxon@westminsterco.gov
Secretary: Heidi Wilhelm
HeidiLWilhelm@gmail.com
Treasurer: Loren Donaldson
Loren.donaldson@comcast.net
Director: Bill Fine
wfine46@verizon.net
Director: Wayne Farlow
finabguide@gmail.com
Director: Rich Seymour
rich@richwithfarmers.com
Director: Tom Wilson
tomnnoel@gmail.com
Director: Pat Wall
patwall@hotmail.com
RI Foundation /7:10 Investments Rep: Martin Postma
rotarymartin@gmail.com
Grant Request Committee: Ed Moss
EdMossWsty@gmail.com
International Service Committee: Matt Seitz
Seitz18@gmail.com
Westminster Scholarship Foundation: Ron Schaefer
rjwestpark@gmail.com

NEED A MAKEUP?

Do you need to make up a meeting? Take a
moment to visit our web site:
www.WestminsterRotary.com. There you will
find links to District 5450 and to Rotary.org as
well as to the E-club One website.

The Four Way Test

Of the things we
think, say, and do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and
better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all
concerned?

The Westy Vision

*The Westminster Rotary Club is a
vibrant group of Coloradans who join
for Breakfast, enjoy lively Banter, and
provide meaningful Service to
communities throughout the world.*