

IF YOU MISSED THE MEETING



Westminster Rotary Club

Meeting Review

Date: October 21, 2026

Location: Cottonwood Lodge, Westminster, CO

Program: Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP)

1. Opening and Rotary Moment

The meeting opened with a welcome to attendees. Frank DeAngelis was invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance in recognition of his upcoming birthday.

Kurt Haidt delivered the Rotary Moment, emphasizing that choice is one of life's most powerful tools. He explained that every choice creates opportunities while closing off other possibilities, encouraging members to consider the impact of their decisions.

2. Club Announcements and Updates

Program Enrollment

Gary reported the following enrollment figures for its literacy program:

- **Total participants served:** 24,921
- **Currently enrolled:** 11,091
- **Graduates:** 13,830

Gary also provided an update on outreach efforts at Westy Fest, where approximately 200 people accepted a challenge to help identify additional children who could benefit from the program.

Gary also reported contacting seven donor-advised funds, three of which were already working with the Candid program.

Membership Development

Rich asked members to invite at least one guest to a Rotary meeting during the final quarter of the year to support the club's membership growth goals.

Upcoming Events

Eric announced the following events and programs:

- **Evergreen Hike and Lunch:** Saturday, November 7. Members were encouraged to sign up.
- **Baby Shower Community Outreach:** Saturday, November 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the former St. Anthony North location near 84th Avenue and Federal Boulevard. Members were asked to volunteer and help assemble baby supply packets.
- **Upcoming Club Programs:** Presentations featuring Linda Graybill and Space Force Lieutenant Remington Albers were announced.

Heidi asked members to purchase baby supplies, including baby lotion, Desitin, body wash, and pacifiers, for the baby shower packets. Receipts should be submitted to Lauren for reimbursement.

Colorado Gives Fundraising

Gary outlined plans to contact donors and families of program graduates to request contributions during the Colorado Gives fundraising period.

Social Media

Rich asked members to follow the Rotary Club of Westminster's Facebook page to stay informed about club activities and announcements.

3. Featured Program: Guatemala Literacy Project

Kristen presented an overview of the Guatemala Literacy Project (GLP), an international Rotary-supported initiative dedicated to improving educational opportunities for underserved students in Guatemala and helping break the cycle of poverty.

Program Overview

The project has operated for approximately 30 years and has served more than 330,000 students throughout Guatemala.

Kristen described several key components of the initiative:

- **SPARK Reading Programs:** Support the development of students' reading skills and literacy.
- **Textbook Distribution:** Provides educational materials to students who might otherwise lack access to them.
- **Technology Programs:** Expands students' access to educational technology and learning opportunities.

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- **RISE Youth Development Program:** Provides scholarships and support to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds continue their education and complete high school.

Kristen highlighted the impact of the RISE program, including the story of Julia, who overcame significant obstacles and pursued studies in engineering. Her experience illustrated how educational support can open doors to opportunities that might otherwise remain out of reach.

The presentation noted that approximately 1,200 students currently receive support through the RISE Youth Development Program.

Funding and Sustainability

Kristen explained how the GLP uses a revolving fund system to help sustain its programs and extend the impact of donations.

She also discussed how Rotary clubs can leverage district and international matching resources to increase the reach of their contributions.

The current global grant fundraising goal is **\$432,000**.

Kristian invited members to learn more about the project through upcoming tours planned for February and July 2027. These visits will provide opportunities to see the programs in action and observe their impact on students and communities.

4. The Rotary Moment: World Polio Day and PolioPlus Society

Kathe reminded members that **World Polio Day is October 24** and encouraged continued support for Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio.

She invited members to join the PolioPlus Society by making an annual contribution of \$100. Kathy noted that contributions are matched two-to-one by the Gates Foundation, significantly increasing their impact.

Members interested in joining were encouraged to see Kathe after the meeting to obtain the necessary forms.

5. Sgt. at Arms: Meeting Fines

Mark Clark gave his customary lighthearted fines segment, collecting contributions from members for various reasons, including tardiness and other circumstances.

6. Action Items

Gary

- Email contacts three times between November 1 and December 8 to request donations for Colorado Gives.
- Email families of program graduates up to three times between November 1 and December 8 to request donations.

Karen

- Attend the November 7 baby shower event to help with setup and provide information about Imagination Library enrollment cards.

Eric

- Distribute information about the November 7 baby shower event.
- Give receipts from members purchasing baby supplies to Loren for reimbursement.

Kathe

- Make PolioPlus Society enrollment forms available to interested members.

All Club Members

- Sign up for the Evergreen Hike and Lunch on November 7.
- Invite at least one guest to a Rotary meeting during the final quarter of the year.
- Volunteer for the November 7 baby shower event, scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Purchase requested baby supplies for the shower packets and submit receipts to Lauren for reimbursement.
- Consider joining the PolioPlus Society with an annual \$100 contribution.
- Follow the Rotary Club of Westminster on Facebook.
- Consider supporting the Guatemala Literacy Project and its current global grant fundraising goal.

7. Adjournment