



The Bemis Award Winning, Framedable, Ineluctable*

Early Word

NEWSLETTER Summer Edition

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



Westminster
Rotary
Club



Volume 31, Issue 7
August 26, 2026

The President's Corner

By President James Maxon



James Maxon

A National Treasure for the Fire Service

I am sorry to be missing this week's Westminster Rotary Club meeting, but I have a pretty good excuse—I am once again attending a class at the **National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.**

The National Fire Academy has an interesting history. In 1973, the landmark report *America Burning* called national attention to the tremendous loss of life and property from fire in the United States and recommended greater federal leadership in addressing the problem. Congress responded with the **Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974**, which was signed into law by **President Gerald Ford** and created what would become the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy.

The Academy initially operated in Washington, D.C. In 1979, FEMA purchased the former St. Joseph College campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and the first National Fire Academy classes were held there in 1980. Today, that historic campus is one of the premier educational institutions for America's fire and emergency services.

Each year, tens of thousands of firefighters, fire officers, investigators, inspectors, and other public safety professionals receive NFA training through resident, off-campus, and online programs. Students come from large metropolitan departments, small rural communities, and volunteer organizations. Everyone arrives with

a common purpose—to become better at serving their communities.

This week's trip continues a long relationship I have had with the Academy. **Over the past 29 years, I have attended the National Fire Academy 18 times.** Every trip has provided new knowledge, friendships, and opportunities to exchange ideas with fire service professionals from across the country.

Westminster Rotary also has a unique connection to the Academy. **Doug Hall and I are both graduates of the prestigious Executive Fire Officer Program.** The EFO Program began in 1985 and is the Academy's flagship leadership program for senior fire and emergency service executives. **It has been estimated that only about one percent of the fire service will complete the program,** making graduation a significant professional accomplishment.

After 18 trips to Emmitsburg, I still find something special about being on that campus. You are surrounded by people who have dedicated their careers to protecting and serving others while recognizing that none of us ever reaches a point where we have nothing left to learn.

That philosophy has a lot in common with Rotary. **Service Above Self** requires us to continually learn, grow, and become better leaders.

So, while I am sorry to miss everyone this week, I am spending it at a place that continues to remind me why **lifelong learning, leadership, and service go hand in hand.**

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Future Programs

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Rivers Promise**
By Jimmy Lakey
- 9 Visit to Every Country**
By Cameron Mofid
- 16 Colorado Water Issues**
By James Eklund
- 23 Congresswoman Petersen**
By David Aguirre

Breakfast

(Buffet service - Aug. 26)

Breakfast Burritos
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	29
Basic Members	22
Corporate	7
Rotary Alumni	6
Paul Harris Fellows	25
Michael Hayes Fellows	29
On Site / Zoom Attend.	21/2
% Attendance	53.4%
Make ups	1
Speaker Meals/Guests	2/3
Sergeant's Fines: (Dee -\$6)	\$47.00
Polio Donations	\$1,000
Member website logins this month	10 (16.4%)

Eric Holloway, our Rotarian of the Week



Please take a minute to greet Eric this morning.

Eric was born in South Bend, Indiana, and attended St. Joseph's High School. He then went on to Notre Dame and earned his BA, CU and MBA in finance.

Now Eric is a Financial Planner. He is married to Emily and they have two children, Will and Luke. Eric is heavily involved with Project Amigo, a funding program for students in Mexico, as well as working as a volunteer at his church. He also does Scouting

and tutoring.

Some of his interests are outdoor activities and reading. He also loves skiing, playing golf, biking, mountain climbing and travel. Other favorites include the movie Easy Rider, game shows, and PBS. His favorite foods are Mexican and Eastern European. He also loves Chocolate Mousse, but he will not touch Zucchini.

He is very proud of his sons' accomplishments. He speaks fluent Spanish. His motto is the Serenity Prayer.

Thank you, Eric, for being an integral part of our Family of Rotary.



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM...

Mirror Image Arts

Presented by Theresa Mazza

**CREATE
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IMPACT**

Rotary

August 2026

...is **MEMBERSHIP** and **EXTENSION** Month (as noted on the [RI website](#))

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HYBRID Club Meeting 7:10 am Wednesday at Cottonwood Lodge						1 Margaret Gutierrez
2 TIME TO PAY YOUR ROTARY DUES	3 Roberta Bourn Jamie Hollins Dee Martin	4	 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Dinner 5:30 pm	6	7 David Janak	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Sherri Young	15
16 Ed Moss	17	18	19	20	21 Club Board Meeting 7:00 am Via Zoom	22
23/30 23 - Lindy Willis	27/31	25	26	27	28 Rich Seymour	29

Advanced Notices



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

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 Soon!

2026 Celebrity Roast

Westminster Rotary Club Foundation

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON WESTMINSTER

COCKTAILS 5:00 PM

DINNER & PROGRAM 6:00 PM

WESTMINSTER ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION PRESENTS

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

CHARGES:

☒ Excessive Dedication

☒ Inspires Students & Staff

☒ Sets the Bar Too High

☒ Supports Teachers

☒ Making Us Look Good

VERDICT: **ROASTED!**

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

FACULTY DIRECTORY

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION COMMITTEE

★ Phil Spare

★ Beau Foubert

★ Meagan Hofer

★ Mark Clark

HOMEROOM TEACHERS

★ Ryan McCoy

★ Lori Goldstein

SERVING AS CO-EMCEES

Join community leaders, educators, elected officials, and friends for an evening of laughter, fellowship, live and silent auctions, 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. 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!

Rotarians Against Slavery

Ref: Rotary.org

While many people would like to think that slavery was a tragedy of the past, the truth is that it still exists today, with up to 46 million people enslaved worldwide.

[The Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery](#) (RAGAS) has a strategy for fighting this horrible problem, working at the local level.

"It's this Rotarian attitude – you give them a problem and instead of throwing their hands up in dismay, they start chipping away at it piece by piece," says Carol Hart Metzker, a member of the action group. "Maybe slavery won't be solved in my lifetime, but in two more years, we're going to have a whole hamlet free."

The RAGAS project will support the efforts in one of those villages for three years. The name of the village, which is in the Uttar Pradesh state, is kept secret to protect the villagers and aid workers.

Poverty, illiteracy, innumeracy, and natural disasters that destroy crops or homes can leave villagers vulnerable to debt bondage in rural villages.

In a village in northeastern India, the action group is tackling the problem of debt bondage. With the help of 13 clubs, a district grant through the Rotary Club of Binghamton, New York, USA, and other sources, the action group is providing \$36,000 toward the work of [Schools4Freedom](#), a project of the organization Voices4Freedom. Schools4Freedom works with local partner organization [Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan](#) (MSEMV) to battle debt bondage.



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.

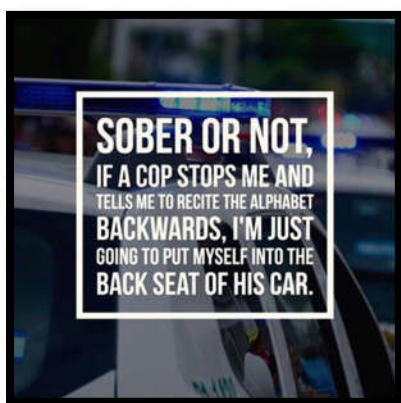
The writer has no doubt that it will be accomplished in the course of time."

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 Mark Harris



Become A Sponsor

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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

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jmaxon@westminsterco.gov
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rich@richwithfarmers.com
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W.blair@comcast.net
Past Club President: **Doug Hall**
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bcsdonaldson@me.com
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loren.donaldson@comcast.net
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tracyegler1@gmail.com
Director **Curt Heidt**
cdhiowa@gmail.com
Director **Eric Holloway**
ericholloway6@comcast.net

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President: **Doug Hall**
fdadminchief@comcast.net
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jmaxon@westminsterco.gov
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HeidiLWilhelm@gmail.com
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Loren.donaldson@comcast.net
Director: **Bill Fine**
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finabguide@gmail.com
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rich@richwithfarmers.com
Director: **Tom Wilson**
tommnoel@gmail.com
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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.