

Meeting summary 10/07/2026

Quick recap

The Westminster Rotary Club held its regular meeting, which began with the Pledge of Allegiance and an inspirational message about the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Tracy shared her experience of being selected for jury duty, and members discussed updates on the restaurant and staff. The club recognized the Rose Committee for their recent event and heard announcements about a potential group hike and the need for a host for the holiday party, which Tracy volunteered for. Financial updates were given on the Rotary Foundation and the Imagination Library, which received recent grants. The guest speaker, Sue Counterman from Seeds of South Sudan, presented the program about the organization's mission to educate refugee children and shared success stories of students. The

Sgt. at Arms fined members with happy dollars and questions, the Rotary moment included words about World Polio Day, a personal update from Kevin Massey, the Rotarian of the Week, and Warren presented the Thought for the day about kindness.

Other Announcements:

Barbara

- Meet with interested members at the Secretary's table after the meeting to discuss involvement in the Imagination Library.

Gary

- Prepare and send out a letter for club members to email to their friends, requesting support for the Imagination Library program via Colorado Gives.

Tracy

- Host the Rotary president's holiday party, determining the appropriate day and time.

Brian

- Send around a sign-up sheet for the proposed Rotary hike and lunch event on Saturday, November 7th, to gauge interest.

Collaboration

- Bill: Consider signing up to participate in the Rotary International Council on Legislation voting, starting October 8th.
- Sue Counterman: Consider donating computers (meeting Microsoft specifications) to Seeds of Sudan for their students.
- Anonymous: Attend the WASH symposium on October 17th.
- Sue Countrman: Consider attending the Seeds of Sudan luncheon at Montview, where a student from Simon Fraser University will be Zoomed in.

Summary

Westminster Rotary Club's Weekly Meeting

The meeting began with Westminster Rotary members gathering for their weekly meeting, welcoming returnee Kevin Massey who led the Pledge of Allegiance. James Jacobson provided inspiration about the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's on the CU campus on Saturday, explaining that the walk honors those living with Alzheimer's, remembers loved ones lost, and supports families and caregivers facing the disease. The conversation ended with members greeting each other as they settled in for breakfast and the start of the meeting. The meeting included announcements about a potential hike and lunch event in Evergreen on November 7th and a request for someone to host the annual holiday party.

Rotary Foundation and Programs Update

Tracy offered to host the annual President's Holiday party, and Doug provided an update on foundation activities, reporting that \$18,500 was awarded in grants, leaving a balance of \$3,300. Gary shared that the Imagination Library program had 10,968 enrolled children and 13,830 graduates, with recent grants from the Club Foundation and additional funding efforts underway. Bill explained the upcoming Rotary International council on legislation process, where members will vote on thirty-nine resolutions starting October 8th. Sue Counterman presented a program about Seeds of South Sudan, sharing the story of founder Arak Garong, one of the original Lost Boys of Sudan, and highlighting the organization's work with students in refugee camps.

She talked about Seeds of South Sudan's work educating refugee children from Kakuma camp in Kenya. She described the challenging conditions in the camp, including minimal healthcare, inadequate food distribution, and poor access to water, explaining how their program has grown from educating 100 children to now supporting 236 students. The organization has achieved significant success, with ninety-one high school graduates, forty-one college graduates, and their first medical doctor, Dr. Aaliyah Jha, who recently graduated from the University of Nairobi. The program requires students to volunteer in South Sudan for a year after graduation, and Westminster announced an upcoming November trip to Kenya for 11 volunteers.

She also shared the inspiring story of Yara, a student from South Sudan who overcame significant challenges to attend the University of Toronto, highlighting the work of Seeds of South Sudan in supporting refugee students through education. The discussion covered the organization's mission to help students return and rebuild South Sudan, though some students like Yara are pursuing opportunities abroad. The conversation ended with fun Halloween trivia and updates from members, including a reminder about World Polio Day on October 24th and Kevin Massey's real estate business and family updates.

Zoom attendance: Martin Postma, Matt Seitz, Tracy Egler, Justin Adcock
