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EarlyWord

NEWSLETTER Fall Edition

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Westminster Rotary Club

Volume 31, Issue 18
November 18, 2026

The President's Corner

By President James Maxon



James Maxon

Hello Westminster Rotary!

Thanksgiving is almost here, and I'm the on-call fire investigator that day. I like all of you, but I really don't want to come to your house on Thanksgiving. After 34 years in the fire service, I can tell you that if I'm showing up for work, we're probably past the point where anyone is offering me pie.

Let's start with the turkey. If you're deep-frying it, keep the fryer off the wooden deck and out from under any wooden overhang. Set it outdoors on a sturdy, level surface at least 10 feet from the house. And please, never drop a frozen or partially frozen turkey into hot cooking oil. I've seen this go bad numerous times. The oil can boil over, hit the burner and catch fire in seconds. If you really want fried turkey, picking one up already cooked also gives you one less thing to do on Thanksgiving morning.

Then there are the candles. Over the years, I've seen numerous house fires start when a cat knocked over a lit candle. If you're using real candles, put them in sturdy holders, keep them at least 12 inches from anything that can burn, and place them where pets can't reach them. Blow them out when you leave the room. If your cat considers every flat surface part of its territory, battery-operated candles are a good investment. The cat will find something else to knock over.

In the kitchen, stay with the stove when you're cooking. If you step away to see whether that really was a touchdown, turn the burner off first. Keep dish towels and oven mitts away from the burners, turn pot handles toward the back of the stove, and use a timer to remind you to check on the turkey. Thanksgiving naps are the best. Save yours for after the cooking is done and the stove and oven are off. You've earned it by then anyway.

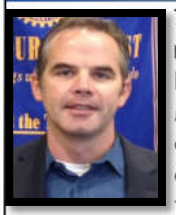


If grease catches fire in a pan and you can safely reach it, slide a lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it cools. Never pour water on a grease fire or try to carry the burning pan outside. If the fire is spreading or you can't safely cover the pan, get everyone out and call 911 from outside.

One thing I'm thankful for this year is getting to serve Westminster alongside all of you. I hope you get some time around the table with the people you love, a second helping of whatever you look forward to most, and enough leftovers that nobody has to cook on Friday.



Matt Seitz, our Rotarian of the Week



Take a moment this morning to reach out and greet Matt with a hearty handshake and welcome. Matt is a local resident and works as a Geological Engineer. He is currently the Chair of our International Service Committee which is a part of our Rotary Club Foundation. It helped fund and build the Nicaragua water project and included help from students from the School of Mines. It also supports water and other projects around the world.

Matt was born in San Diego, CA and attended Fairview High School in Boulder. He then went on to earn a BA degree in Geology at Colorado College then more studies in Geographic Information Systems at CU Denver.

Matt is married to Anita and they have three children. Matt volunteers for the Colorado Groundwater Association and is interested in just about everything. He's also a musician and plays bass guitar. He also does some skiing. Some of his favorites are chips and salsa, IPA's,coffee, and pumpkin pie. His greatest accomplishment was to get Anita to marry him. His motto is " Endeavor to be what you desire to appear."

Thank you Matt for being a part of the Westminster Rotary Club and our Family of Rotary.

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Future Programs

NOVEMBER

25 No Club Meeting We're Dark!

26 Happy Thanksgiving!

DECEMBER

2 TIP
By Dr. Chris Hovendon

Breakfast

(Buffet service - Nov. 18)
Tortillas/Gr. Chili
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	65
Breakfast Members	28
Basic Members	23
Corporate	8
Rotary Alumni	6
Paul Harris Fellows	25
Michael Hayes Fellows	29
On Site / Zoom Attend.	27/3
% Attendance	89.7%
Make ups	0
Speaker Meals/Guests	1/0
Sergeant's Fines: (Warren +$26)	$82.00
Polio Donations	$1,272
Member website Logins this month	10 (16.4%)

*Ineluctable: incapable of being evaded; inescapable

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM…

The Rotary Int'l Foundation

Presented by Mike Klingbiel

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

November 2026

…is The Rotary Foundation Month (as noted on the RI website)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 HYBRID Club Meeting 7:10 am Wednesday at Cottonwood Lodge	3	4	5	6	7
8  TIME TO PAY YOUR RO-TARY DUES	9	10	11  Justin Adcock	12  Mark Clark	13 Foundation Board Meeting 7:00 am on Zoom	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Club Board Meeting 7:00 am Via Zoom	20
22  Warren Blair	23	24	25 NO MORNING MEETING. WE'RE DARK. HAPPY THANKSGIVING	26 	27	28
29  WAY PAST TIME TO PAY YOUR ROTARY DUES	30	Dec. 1	2	3	4	5

Advanced Notices

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

November 25--No Morning Meeting. We're Dark. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Are you wearing your Rotary pin every day?

ANOTHER THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Whenever I have to fill out a form that asks, "who to call in case of an emergency"…I always put "Ambulance," because no one in my family is going to answer a call from an unknown number.

Thanks to Bill fine

"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*

Happy Thanksgiving - A Guest Editorial

By Past President David Janak



David Janak

Next week is Thanksgiving. The traditional day to eat way too much turkey, watch way too much football, and spend way too much time on the sofa sleeping/napping. Families all over the United States consider this holiday the gateway to the winter holiday season. Christmas, Hanukkah, and the New Year are right around the corner, with Black Friday and the beginning of the Christmas countdown. Junk e-mails with Amazon's next biggest sale item fill the inboxes of every computer. Cruises are booked, ski trips planned, exotic destinations are all set for after or during the family barrage.

Once upon a time these holidays were not the merchandising extravaganza that they have become. There was not a Macy's parade, no Westminster Dog Show, no Black Friday. These days were times for family and friends to have a day of rest from work. Family gatherings were not unusual years ago. Many extended families (mine included) all lived in the same geographic area. My parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and their brothers, sisters and children all lived within 20 miles of Winner, SD.

Sundays were often spent visiting extended family, having lunch around a common table. Now my mother is in SD, one brother in LA, and another in VA. Common gatherings of family are rare, as all of us have busy schedules and fail to make time to gather. Rotarians value being around a table, face to face, to converse. This is evident by most of our club members who want a meeting at 7:10 over breakfast. We average about 30 members coming together each week to catch up, plan events, and generally enjoy each other's company. The organization was founded on the principles of business people coming together.



We are evolving now in redefining what coming together is. During COVID the club pivoted, as did so many, to a virtual space on ZOOM. Necessity created an opportunity. Unlike many clubs our members accepted the change and continued to gather on Wednesday mornings. Now we have what has been called a hybrid meeting, with some participating on ZOOM and many in person.

Several members have been able to participate while out of town over the ZOOM link. This added option has brought additional flexibility to our members' experience and very likely helped to retain some.

This year, as the holiday season rushes by, remember that there are options to reconnect with family and friends that are not at the table any longer. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

The Thanksgiving That Almost Wasn't

Thanks to the Library of Congress Magazine

Her name was Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor who spent 17 years writing letters to presidents and government leaders, urging them to establish a national day of Thanksgiving. Despite years of unanswered requests, she never gave up.

Finally, in 1863, during the dark days of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln listened. He proclaimed the last Thursday in November a national day of Thanksgiving, inviting Americans to pause and give thanks despite the hardships dividing the country.

So, as we enjoy our holiday traditions, remember Sarah Hale—a woman whose determination helped give America a reason to gather, reflect, and be thankful.

Why I'm A Rotarian

It was at a District Assembly in Maine when I experienced my "aha" moment and became a Rotarian.

It was polio and a photograph of an iron lung. I hadn't seen one in decades. Realizing Rotary was working to eradicate polio worldwide showed me how it brings individuals together to become part of something bigger than themselves.

Since then, I've seen Rotary transform lives in countless ways: from third graders receiving dictionaries to international disaster relief, educational programs promoting peace, and clean water projects. Together, these efforts make a difference worldwide.

A great Rotarian I'm proud to know once said, "Rotary changes people, and Rotarians change the world." That summarizes why I'm a Rotarian.

James Barrington, Canyon RC. TX

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 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 for him to write the stories of the 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

The Rotary Foundation Giving Program 2026-27

As of 11/10/2026

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	**58/60 (goal)**	**$6,500**	**$4,200**	**64.6%**	**$72**	**$5,000**	**$1,993**	**$6,193**

Are you wearing your Rotary pin every day?

More Fun Stuff

Thanks to *EarlyWord* Graphics Dept.



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www.westminsterRotary.com

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

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www.facebook.com/rotarywestminster

Newsletter deadline: Monday by Noon

The Westminster

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Weekly On-Site and Zoom meetings

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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.*