



The Bemis Award Winning, Frameable, Ineluctable

Early Word

NEWSLETTER Fall Edition

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT



Westminster
Rotary
Club



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October 14, 2026

The President's Corner

By President James Maxon



James Maxon

Creating a Lasting Impact

One of the things I appreciate most about Rotary is how people from different backgrounds unite with a common desire to make a difference. Whether supporting students, helping families, or serving our community, we believe in something

bigger than ourselves

That's what *Service Above Self* is all about.

Our theme this year is **Create a Lasting Impact**, but do we always realize how much our actions can affect another person's life?

While moving recently, I discovered something that reminded me of that lesson: a thank-you card from a woman whose life I helped save when I was 17.

I was living in rural Santa Fe County, New Mexico, and volunteering with the Hondo Volunteer Fire Department. One night, our pagers sounded for an accident on Old Santa Fe Trail, practically in front of our driveway.

I arrived to find a head-on collision. One vehicle had a small engine fire, and an unconscious woman inside wasn't breathing. I pulled her from the vehicle and began rescue breathing. Thankfully, she responded.

As I provided patient care, my friend Dan arrived. I wondered why he wasn't coming to help. He was only 50 yards away! I was a 17-year-old handling a life-threatening emergency, with the burning vehicle providing the only

light on that dark stretch of road.

What I didn't know was that my radio transmission had never gone through. I was in a radio dead spot, and responding units had no idea what I was facing.

That night taught me an important lesson: **Never assume others know what you're experiencing. Communication matters.**

The woman was taken to the hospital. Several months later, I met her, and she gave me that thank-you card. **Nearly four decades later, I still have it.**

Recently, someone asked how I've dealt with the deaths I encountered throughout my fire service career. During six years with the New Mexico State Fire Marshal, I investigated fire deaths across the state. Over 34 years, I've witnessed several hundred deaths, and some experiences will never leave me.

My answer was simple: I've also had the privilege of helping countless people, and I choose to focus on those moments and the positive difference I hope I've made.

None of us accomplishes much alone. Throughout my career, I've worked alongside dedicated people who share a commitment to helping others. Rotary reflects those same qualities. Together, we accomplish far more than we ever could individually.

Thankfully, our Rotary meetings rarely involve emergencies, although some of our jokes might qualify!

(continued on page 4)



Ryan McCoy, our Rotarian of the Week



People often state, "Ryan looks nothing like Brad Pitt." And they're right—Brad never had the pleasure of serving as the Chief of Advancement and Strategic Partnerships for Westminster Public Schools, overseeing everything from post-secondary readiness to government relations to other duties as assigned. Ryan, however, does all that and still finds time to coach, proving that his energy levels defy logic (and possibly physics).

A sixth-generation Coloradoan, Ryan is deeply committed to his community's success. A longtime advocate for education and workforce development, he has spent years blurring the lines between industry and P-20 education, ensuring students are not just prepared for the future but thrive in it. He also serves on multiple boards, including the Westminster Community Foundation, because, apparently, he's allergic to free time.

When he's not championing educational initiatives or begging people for money to fund them, you can find him with his family or at a brewery or explaining—yet again—that he is not related to Matthew McConaughey either.

Ryan is grateful to be a Westminster Rotary Club member and part of the Family of Rotary.



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Future Programs

OCTOBER

21 Guatemala Literacy Prjt.
By Kristen & Alexa

28 Ghosts of Westminster
By Linda Graybeal

NOVEMBER

4 How Satellites Move through Space
By 2Lt Remington

Breakfast

(Buffet service - Oct. 14)
Tortillas / Green Chili
Scrambled Eggs
Breakfast Potatoes

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.	27/4
% Attendance	52.5%
Make ups	0
Speaker Meals/Guests	1/1
Sergeant's Fines: (Dee Martin)	\$49.00
Polio Donations	\$1,000
Member website Logins this month	10 (16.4%)



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM...

Mental Health First Aid

Presented by Dr. Melisa Sandoval

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

October 2026

...is Economic and Community Development Month (as noted on the [RI website](#))

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 TIME TO PAY YOUR RO-	HYBRID Club Meeting 7:10 am Wednesday at Cottonwood Lodge			1	 Brian Hall, Pat Wall Ezequiel Vasquez	3
4	5	6	7	8	 Lori Goldstein Ryan McCoy	10
11	12	13	14	15	 Frank DeAngelis	17
18	19	20	21	22	 James Maxon	24
 WAY PAST TIME TO PAY YOUR ROTARY DUES	26	27	28	29	 Steve Stahl	31
						

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

**Advanced
Notices**



Are you wearing your Rotary pin every day?

ANOTHER THOUGHT FOR TODAY

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit – Aristotle

Credit: www.smilingcolors.com

"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

A Guest Editorial

by Past President Doug Hall



Rotary International's October Theme: Economic and Community Development

Economic and community development is October's monthly theme. This month's theme supports R.I.'s commitment to fostering sustainable prosperity and opportunity worldwide. Strong communities are built upon access to literacy services, healthcare services, and ready access to quality-of-life resources, and economic stability within a community. Rotarians support projects and services that empower individuals through the creation of opportunities to become self-reliant while strengthening the community foundations of their local economies.

Many of these projects and services include providing vocational training, supporting entrepreneurship, and offering access to financial resources such as microloans. When individuals are equipped with practical skills and tools, Rotary clubs help communities achieve long-term stability instead of short-term relief. One of the key principles in all Rotary services is sustainability, which focuses efforts to ensure these various initiatives continue to benefit people long after the project is completed.

Many Rotary projects and services focus on empowering marginalized populations, including women and youth, who often face barriers to economic participation. Programs that teach job skills, literacy, or small business development not only improve the lives of the participants but also generates a ripple effect strengthening commu-

nities. Rotary's international reach enables clubs to collaborate in the sharing of knowledge and resources across borders. International service projects often connect Rotarians from developed regions with those in areas challenged by economic instability. These collaborations result in innovative and viable solutions tailored specifically to the unique community needs, whether it be developing agricultural cooperatives, promoting broader trade avenues, or creating markets for local crafts. Community development extends beyond economics. Rotary emphasizes building strong social ties, and creating, or supporting existing, infrastructure through the creation of an inclusive participation. Clubs often partner with local leaders, organizations, and schools to ensure that projects align with community priorities. These collaborative efforts create sustainability, build long-term trust, and ensure that outcomes are relevant and impactful. The spirit of **Service Above Self** continually drives Rotarians to envision communities where every individual can thrive. Through practical and functioning projects, our club's fundraising efforts, and collaborative partnerships, Rotary Clubs will be able to continue investing in the economic and community development of people everywhere. These efforts not only reduce poverty but also promote peace, stability, and hope for future generations.



Why I'm A Rotarian

What Paul Harris Wrote



"Why did Rotary come into being in the year of our Lord 1905? Social movements, like individuals, are subject to the laws of heredity and environment. Rotary inherited the growing spirit of tolerance and the "I WILL" spirit of Chicago, the incorporeal hereditaments of many generations. No president or officer of Rotary International, no district governor, no club president has failed to leave his imprint, and as the individual member is in turn the product of heredity as well as environment, it is necessary to look far back into history to find the Why of the rise of Rotary in Chicago in 1905."

Doris A. Lockey, Past President 2006/2007,
The Rotary Club of Conroe, Texas, USA, District 5910



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(from Page 254 "This Rotarian Age" 1935, Paul P. Harris.)



The Rotary Foundation Giving Program 2026-27								
As of 09/10/2026								
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	\$2,790	42.9%	\$21	\$5,000	\$890	\$3,680

