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EarlyWord

NEWSLETTER Fall Edition

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Westminster Rotary Club

Volume 31, Issue 16
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The President's Corner

By President James Maxon



James Maxon

Leadership Isn't About a Title

Throughout life, we meet people whose influence we may not appreciate until years later. Some hold titles; others lead without them. Often, informal leaders make the greatest difference.

I learned this early in my career. At 21, as an Air Force firefighter at Albuquerque's Kirtland Air Force Base, I was promoted to Senior Airman. That qualified me to serve as a company officer, responsible for an apparatus and crew. My assignment was Crash 16, a fast-attack aircraft rescue truck. Kirtland also served Albuquerque International Airport.

My driver was Bill Butler, a civilian firefighter with over 30 years of experience. I was technically in charge, yet Bill had been fighting fires longer than I'd been alive!

We had three minutes after the control tower picked up the crash phone to reach any runway or taxiway. We were often first on scene. After a Delta 727 crash landing in July 1997, Bill laughed about how big my eyes got when we pulled onto the runway and saw light smoke coming from the airplane and passengers bailing out down the evacuation slides. He never let me forget!

But my greatest lessons didn't happen at emergencies.

They happened under a big tree outside Fire Station 5.

Every shift, Bill and I sat beneath that tree, watching planes take off just 100 yards away. We laughed and talked about life and firefighting. Bill had a wealth of experience and willingly shared it.

I've always said driving a fire truck is one of the best jobs. You drive big, cool trucks, and often become an informal leader.

Bill certainly was.



July 1997 — Delta Boeing 727 crash landing at Albuquerque International Airport. I am in the foreground holding the radio, with approximately 140 passengers in front of me.

The greatest lesson Bill taught me wasn't about firefighting. It was about **mentoring others**. Leadership wasn't about being the smartest in the room. It's about sharing what you know and helping others succeed.

That lesson stayed with me throughout my career, especially as I mentored younger firefighters and future officers.

Rotary is no different. Great leaders may never serve as club president. They encourage others, share experience, and lead by example.

Our Rotary theme is *Create a Lasting Impact*. Bill Butler did exactly that. By mentoring a young firefighter, he helped shape the leader I became. His influence continued through the firefighters and officers I later mentored. That's the lasting impact of mentorship: what we pass along can touch people we'll never meet.

So here's my challenge: **Who are you mentoring, and whose life might be better because you took the time to care?**

You don't need a title to lead. Sometimes all you need is experience, a willingness to share it, and a shady tree.

Martin Postma, our Rotarian of the Week



Meet Martin Postma—a true Rotarian extraordinaire. Martin has been a member of the Westminster Rotary community for more than 25 years, bringing dedication, leadership, and global perspective to everything he does.

Born in Newton, Iowa, Martin graduated from Newton Senior High School, earned his bachelor's degree from Central College, and completed his MBA at Drake University. He is married to Michelle and currently works for the City of Thornton.

Martin's Rotary service spans the globe. His many highlights include being named District 5450

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Future Programs

NOVEMBER

11 The Sameness Trap
By Forrest Dombrow

18 Rotary Int'l Foundation
By Mike Klingbiel

25 No Club Meeting
We're Dark!

26 Happy Thanksgiving!

Breakfast

(Buffet service - Nov. 4)
Avocado Toast
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	27
Basic Members	23
Corporate	8
Rotary Alumni	6
Paul Harris Fellows	25
Michael Hayes Fellows	29
On Site / Zoom Attend.	36/2
% Attendance	82.8%
Make ups	0
Speaker Meals/Guests	1/2
Sergeant's Fines: (Tracy +8.00)	$70.00
Polio Donations	$1,272
Member website Logins this month	10 (16.4%)

*Ineluctable: incapable of being evaded; inescapable

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM…

How Satellites Move in Space

Presented by 2nd Lieutenant Remington Aalbers

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 Heidi Wilhelm
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	30	Dec. 1	2	3	4 Steve Stahl	5

Advanced Notices

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

November 13--Next Foundation Board meeting. Yes, it's been moved up due to member schedules. Please make a note of it now.

Are you wearing your Rotary pin every day?

ANOTHER THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Everything that has a beginning has an ending.
Make your peace with that and all will be well.

Thanks to Jack Kornfield

"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 Special Award

Pictures by Rich Seymour



Pictured here: Patty, Gary and Barb



Last week, Westminster Rotarians Gary Cooper and Barb Donaldson were recognized for their outstanding work supporting Imagination Library. Patty Burnett, representing the Englewood Rotary Club, presented them with an award honoring their efforts in organizing a program that has helped enroll more than 11,000 children who get a book each month sponsored by the Westminster Rotary Club.

Their dedication has helped put thousands of books into the hands of young children, giving families a valuable resource and helping prepare children for success when they enter kindergarten.

Congratulations to Gary and Barb for their commitment to literacy and their continued efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children throughout our county!

A Guest Editorial

By Past President Chris Hovendon

What is a Rotarian? It's a question I get asked frequently. People find out that I was our club's president and it is typically the first follow up question. I'm always taken aback because I've known about Rotary since my time in my Interact club. I'm shocked how many people don't have a clue what Rotary's purpose is or who Rotarians are. I can tell that most people view Rotary as an almost secret society where we perform ritualistic acts and other unspeakable things. The reaction when they hear we are a service club luckily takes away their previous illusions.

Because I've been asked frequently, and have had to answer these questions, I felt a need to work on a solid response. I researched Rotary's mission statement, looked at the organization's motto (Service Above Self) and this year's presidential theme (Imagine Rotary). This is what I came up with...Rotary's purpose is to improve the lives of others through fellowship. Fellowship is the bedrock of ours or any other club. Through fellowship, Rotarians accomplish the impossible again and again. Fellowship is what drives our projects. I've loved getting to know different members by working together, and I am excited to volunteer for new things because of the opportunity to get better acquainted with and learn about other members of my club!

Fellowship, the essence of Rotary! It raises us to the highest of highs and helps to lift our community, and world, with us. This is the importance of regular attendance and the necessary ingredient to make any of our projects and activities successful. Haven't volunteered or signed up for something recently? Maybe now is the time. Come for the fellowship, stay for the world changing!

Why I'm A Rotarian



I HAD VOLUNTEERED to help The Rotary Club of Lake Conroe (not my club, but a close neighbor) with a rest stop for the "Burn Your Buns" bike ride benefiting Bridgewood Farms, a local facility for the mentally challenged.
"Service Above Self" is not just our motto. Rotarians live and breathe the motto in everything we do. Bridgewood Farms benefited with the dollars raised from the fundraiser, but the Rotarians, friends and family on hand to work the rest stop were the real winners. The fellowship shared was priceless.

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

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

The Rotary Foundation Giving Program 2026-27

As of10/10/2026

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	$4,030	62.0%	$69	$5,000	$1,272	$5,302

Are you wearing your Rotary pin every day?

Rotarian of the Week

(Continued from page 1)

Rotarian of the Year in 2002, speaking at United Nations Headquarters in 2006, and receiving the Rotary International President's Volunteer Service Award in 2011. He has led Group Study Exchange Teams to England and China, participated in a PolioPlus vaccination mission in Ethiopia, helped launch community health fairs in southeastern China, and assisted in starting a school in rural Brazil. Martin has also worked with Uplift Internationale in the Philippines and Honduras and led numerous Rotary Foundation–funded projects.

Locally, Martin served as president of the Westminster 7:10 Rotary Club in 2007, later as Assistant District Governor, and now as the club's Foundation Financial Planner.

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

Become A Sponsor ...we'll make room.



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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.

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/rotarywestminster

Newsletter deadline: Monday by Noon

The Westminster

Weekly On-Site and Zoom meetings

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ROTARY CLUB BOARD

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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.*