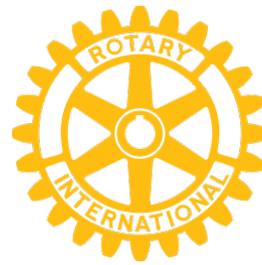


Rotary

Club of Westerville Sunrise



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**



Club Meeting

Westerville Sunrise
Meets at The Old Bag of Nails Pub
24 N State St Fl 3
Westerville, OH 43081-2119
Time:
Wednesday at 07:15 AM

Speakers

January 28, 2026
Connor Costakos
Make a difference recipient - Cancer Support Community Central Ohio

February 04, 2026
Jackie Barton & Katie Kaslow
Ohio Historical - William Fouse

February 11, 2026
Kathy Cocuzzi
Westerville Creamery

February 18, 2026
Greg Dayton
Westerville Centralized Customer Service

Birthdays

President's message

By James T. Caldwell



A very interesting presentation on Hoover Reservoir this past week. Since we are celebrating America 250 this year, it is my goal to have several speakers reveal the unique historical facts of our community. It is great to have the resources of the Westerville History Museum and Westerville Historical Society to remind us of our fascinating history.

It is Margarita in the Ville crunch time. Procrastinators need to stop procrastinating! January 30 is the deadline for Sponsorships, tickets and auction items.

If you want to help the auction, but don't know where to start, The auction team has put together a sign-up genius list of items that they are looking for. Please look at the list and donate as many items as possible.
Here is the auction item link.

[Auction Items](#)

This week's meeting will feature our first Make a Difference presentation for the year. Connor Costakos from Cancer Support Community Central Ohio will be our speaker.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, once we dig out from the snowstorm!

Happening This Week



January 28, 2026

Program: Make a Difference Recipient: Cancer Care Support Communities-Central Ohio
Speakers: Connor Costakos
Greeter: Megan Treptow
Invocation/Pledge: Abra Campbell

Save the Date! Upcoming Social and Service Events



January 26: Star House Lunch
February 7: Margarita in the Ville
February 21: WARM volunteer opportunity
February 23: Star House Lunch
February 28: Winter Assembly
April 24-25: District 6690 Conference
May 9: WARM volunteer opportunity

David Wartel
January 26th

Matthew
Stenberg
January 27th

Glenn R. Epting
January 27th

Angela Sillus
February 10th

Richard
Schorling
February 17th

Craig H.
Watterson
February 19th

Eugene L.
Hollins
February 21st

Gregory Ruban
February 24th

Years of Service

Glenn R. Epting
02-01-1995
31 Years

Paul E. Kulik
02-18-2009
17 Years

Robert K
Gibson
02-01-2012
14 Years

Terry W.
Burton
01-27-2016
10 Years

Allen Jefferson
Fox
01-27-2016
10 Years

Lewis
VanLandingham
01-27-2016
10 Years

Josh Plieninger
02-07-2024
2 Years

Niels Hansen
02-15-2024
2 Years

Beth Wilcox
02-19-2025
1 Year

Birthday Magic Kits



Amanda Klein is creating "Birthday Magic Kits" for kids at Siebert Elementary School in Columbus. These kits will be given to teachers to give to families at the school who cannot afford birthday celebrations for their children. If you would like to contribute items toward the kits, Amanda is looking for:

- Boxed cake mix (any flavor)
- 12-oz. cans of lemon lime soda
- Birthday candle packs
- Frosting
- Sprinkles

She will be collecting items until 1/28/26,

If you have questions, please reach out to Amanda at (614) 774-0140.

Riley Perone Honored with January 2026 Service to Youth Award



On January 14, 2026, the Westerville Sunrise Rotary proudly recognized **Riley Perone**, School Counselor at Westerville North High School, as the recipient of the **January 2026 Service to Youth Award**.

Riley has quickly distinguished herself as a dynamic and compassionate leader whose initiatives have transformed the student experience. She launched the popular "Lunch Bunch," a welcoming space where students can connect with peers, fostering inclusion and belonging. Her vision for expanding military outreach has also made a lasting impact, from organizing ASVAB testing to coordinating with recruiters and hosting a meaningful signing ceremony for students pursuing military service.

With bilingual skills, a vibrant personality, and a heart for underserved students, Riley brings empathy and insight to every interaction. She actively collaborates with staff and families, while also reaching out to colleges, military representatives, and local organizations to expand opportunities and resources for students. In just two years, her tireless dedication and fresh perspectives have reshaped the counseling department, reflecting her deep commitment to student success.

As part of the award, Riley received a trophy, a \$25 gift card, and cookies from Kroger. She will be formally honored at a Rotary breakfast meeting in May, and a flag will be flown in her name at the Field of Heroes over Memorial Day weekend—a fitting tribute to her service and impact.

The Westerville Sunrise Rotary celebrates Riley Perone not only for her professional achievements but also for the joy, vision, and humanity she brings to education. Her work exemplifies the spirit of service to youth and the power of community-centered leadership.

Deadline Approaching for Margarita in the 'Ville tickets

By Anne M VanBuskirk

We are approaching the deadline for buying tickets to Margarita in the 'Ville!

Deadline to buy tickets is **January 30**, which is when we have to inform Otterbein of our final numbers.

PLEASE don't wait until the last minute to get your tickets or sponsorships- click the link now: [Margarita in the 'Ville!](#)



50:50 Raffle at Margarita in the Ville!



Margarita in the 'Ville is featuring a 50:50 raffle!

Tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$10, or 10 for \$25! All proceeds will go to support local projects.

The 50:50 raffle is open now, and will continue through the event on February 7. Winner will be announced at the event, but you do NOT need to be present to win. The winner will be notified by email or text if they are not present.

You can buy your tickets here: [50:50 Raffle](#)

Margarita in the 'Ville- how to participate when you are away

By Anne M VanBuskirk

Some of our members will be in Florida, or other warm climates when Margarita in the 'Ville rolls around, while others have pre-existing commitments that prevent them from attending.

Never Fear, you can still participate!

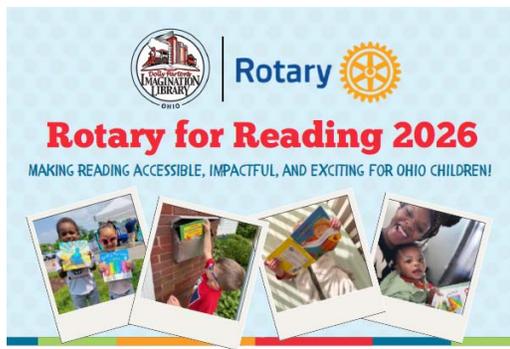
From now until the event, you can donate via the Zeffy site, or bid on silent auction items when the auction opens: [Margarita in the Ville](#)

OR, if you are feeling lucky, buy some chances for the 50:50 raffle here: [50:50 Raffle](#)



PETS Service Project: Ohio Imagination Library

By Theresa Petraszak



PETS Service Project: Ohio Imagination Library

Our PETS service project this year is **Ohio Imagination Library**. With Ohio's recent change automatically enrolling every newborn in the program, local program partners are experiencing increased demand—some already facing waiting lists.

This project is especially impactful because of how donations are distributed. Contributions made to **District 6690** are split evenly among all local program partners across the district. However, when a donation is made **in our club's name**, 100% of that gift stays in our local community with the program partner that serves our club.

The impact of your support is tangible and affordable. It costs **\$31 to sponsor one child for an entire year**, or **\$155 to sponsor a child for all five years of eligibility**, delivering high-quality, age-appropriate books directly to their home each month.

This effort is part of a **per capita challenge among Ohio's five Rotary districts**, which means we'll need to do twice as well as the other districts. District 6690 has won the trophy all but two years since the challenge began. Members are also encouraged to reach out to other community organizations—such as Eagles, Moose, Elks, VFWs, and other groups you support—to invite them to join us in supporting this project.

Donations can be made by check payable to **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio**, or by visiting:

CLUB <https://givebutter.com/OhioRotary/district6690/westervillesunrise>

DISTRICT <https://givebutter.com/OhioRotary/district6690>

District 6690 Winter Assembly Set for Feb. 28 in Newark

Rotarians across District 6690 are invited to come together for a day of learning, collaboration, and inspiration at the District 6690 Winter Assembly, scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026, at the OSU–Newark Reese Center, 12098 University Drive, Newark, Ohio.

The Winter Assembly is a valuable opportunity for members at every stage of their Rotary journey to deepen their understanding of Rotary and strengthen their clubs. The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the \$25 registration fee includes lunch, making it an accessible and worthwhile investment for clubs and individuals alike.

The program will feature a wide range of informative and engaging sessions, including:

- District Grants training
- Fundraising strategies
- Satellite and Companion Clubs
- A hands-on Ignite session
- Update on Rotary Youth Leadership Awards in July 2026
- An open forum on club best practices
- A Q&A session with district leadership

All Rotarians are welcome to attend, and members are encouraged to invite others from their clubs to join them. Club grant chairs are especially encouraged to participate, as the District Grants session will provide the annual training required to qualify for the upcoming district grant cycle.

A registration link will be released later this week. Mark your calendar now and plan to be part of this important district event that supports learning, connection, and Rotary excellence.

Help Homeless Youth at Monthly Star House Family Dinner

Westerville Sunrise Rotary Club and Westerville Noon Rotary Club members have been serving family dinners for homeless youth at Star House each month. We recently learned that due to funding cuts, they are closed from 2:30 to 10:30 pm until further notice. As such, we will be serving our monthly meals at lunch time.

Star House is no longer requiring background checks or trauma training in order to serve lunch! If you are able to serve lunch, we will set up at 11:30 am and be done around 1 pm.

We also need assistance with purchasing items and/or cooking. Food can be dropped off to Chris Herbert the Sunday before if it's non-perishable, or Monday before 10:30 am if it's hot food.

Our next lunch will be held on January 26. Please use the following sign-up link if you are able to participate: [January 26](#).

The remaining 2026 dates are:

- Feb 23
- Mar 23
- Apr 27
- May 18
- Jun 22
- Jul 27
- Aug 24
- Sept 28
- Oct 26
- Nov 23
- Dec 28

Your support is greatly appreciated.

WARM Food Pantry Volunteers - Save the 2026 Dates!

By Mary T. Chandler



Rotary volunteers strengthen our community in many ways. One Saturday per quarter we sort and box food at the WARM warehouse at 150 Heatherdown Drive from 10 am to noon. Our dates for 2026 are:

- February 21
- May 9
- August 8
- November 14

We invite you to join in on the fellowship and fun. Feel free to invite your family, friends, and prospective Rotarians to join us too.

For more information, please contact Mary Chandler at (614) 523-0437.

Thank you upcoming Greeters & Invocators



Date	Greeter	Invocation & Pledge
28-Jan-26	Wollenberg, Brian	Yoko, Gary
04-Feb-26	Treptow, Megan	Campbell, Abra
11-Feb-26	Burton, Terry	Bishop, Bill
18-Feb-26	Blair, Dennis	Bokros, Linda
25-Feb-26	Bowers, Tim	Bruhac, Chip

**Westerville
Sunrise
Rotary
Club**

PO Box 1200
Westerville, OH 43086

Meeting Location

Every Wednesday @ 7:00 am

The Old Bag of Nails Pub
Third Floor
24 North State Street
Westerville, OH 43081

Westerville Sunrise Hotline
614-523-7777



Club Leaders



James T. Caldwell
President



Theresa Petraszak
President-Elect



Allen Jefferson Fox
President-Nominee
Vice President



Mary T. Chandler
Treasurer



Angela Sillus
Secretary



Charles Edward
Durant Jr.
Club Membership
Chair



Tiffany McGinnis
iPast President



David A.
Collinsworth
Club Director



Amanda Klein
Club Director



Aaron Steinger
Club Director



Anne M VanBuskirk
Bulletin Editor
Club Director



Edward T Wandtke
Club Director



Jackie Washburn
Club Director
Club Programs Chair



Helka Christine
Casey
Club Public Image
Chair
Sergeant-at-Arms



Robert P. Horbatt
Club TRF Chair



Paul E. Kulik
Club Peace
Committee Chair



[Michael Ley Collins](#)
Youth Exchange
Officer



[John R. Kellogg](#)
Club 501c3
Chair/President