

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

December 17, 2025

Holiday Presentation
Westerville City Schools - Choir Holiday Presentation

December 24, 2025

No Meeting
No Meeting

December 31, 2025

No Meeting
No Meeting

January 07, 2026

Drew Dollmatsch
Cancer Free Kids

Birthdays

Edward T Wandtke
December 14th
Allen V. Rupiper
December 17th

Happening This Week

Happening This Week

December 17, 2025

Program: Westerville City Schools - Choir Holiday Presentation

Speakers: Holiday Presentation

Greeter: Megan Treptow

Invocation/Pledge: Anne VanBuskirk

Save the Date! Upcoming Social and Service Events



- December 22: Star House lunch volunteer opportunity
- January 19: MLK Breakfast
- January 26: Star house lunch volunteer opportunity
- February 7: Margarita in the 'Ville
- February 21: WARM volunteer opportunity
- February 23: Star House lunch volunteer opportunity
- April 24-25: District 6690 Conference
- May 9: WARM volunteer opportunity

President's message

By James T. Caldwell



Not having a Wednesday morning meeting, one would have thought it would have been a quiet Rotary week, but it was a very active week. On Wednesday morning, the Service to Youth Committee presented the December award to Nick McIlwain. Nick is the Director of Alternative Education & Assessment at the Academic Enrichment Center. Attending one of these presentations really makes you appreciate what is going on in Westerville schools.

On Thursday evening, the Youth Exchange committee, along with this year's host families, hosted our student Arthur's mother Sabine and sister Melina for a social time at Fattley's. Sabine and Melina will be joining us at Wednesday's meeting, so this will give you an opportunity to meet them.

Friday evening's Scrooge Shuffle was an awesome event. It was great visiting Westerville businesses and spending time with our club members. It was such a fun event, I think it may become a club tradition.



Charles Edward Durant Jr.
December 18th
Don Denton
December 18th
Aaron Steinger
December 19th
Michael Swartz
December 19th
John D. Pietila
December 19th
Wesley James (Jim) Hogle
December 20th
Anne M VanBuskirk
December 21st
Anthony Mujic
December 22nd
Robert A. Coco
December 24th
Jason Seeley
December 25th
Leigh Hollins
December 27th
Coutanya Coombs
January 2nd
Debbie Wiedwald
January 9th

Years of Service

Kyle Stroh
12-20-2000
25 Years
Rick Rano
01-01-2002
24 Years
David Wartel
12-21-2005
20 Years
Dennis A. Blair
12-17-2014
11 Years



On Saturday morning, several club members joined Andy Tompkins in laying wreaths on veteran headstones at Otterbein cemetery. This is part of a national effort by Wreaths Across America, and it provides one more opportunity to thank our veterans that have passed.

This coming Wednesday will be our last meeting of 2025. We will continue our tradition of having one of the school choirs come out and sing some holiday songs. Mimosas and Bloody Mary's will be available for \$8.

I look forward to seeing you all Wednesday morning.

Nick McIlwain Honored with December 2025 Service to Youth Award

By Angela Sillus



On December 10, 2025, the Westerville Sunrise Rotary proudly recognized Nick McIlwain, Director of Alternative Education & Assessment at The Academic Enrichment Center, as the recipient of the December 2025 Service to Youth Award.

Nick's leadership is defined by his commitment to students and his ability to turn everyday experiences into moments of meaning and growth. At EOS, he prioritizes what is best for students, fostering a culture of care, trust, and high expectations. His steady presence ensures students know they are never alone.

He has introduced traditions that make students feel valued, such as presenting new students with a key and celebrating milestones with bells and notes. Nick also brings joy to the school day with music, treats, and celebrations, while integrating wellness practices like yoga and meditation to build a calm, connected atmosphere.

Collaboration is central to his approach. He works closely with teachers and parents, offering solutions, training, and encouragement. His "Love List" ensures vulnerable students receive extra care, reflecting his whole-child philosophy. Whether coaching students through challenges or guiding staff in data-driven instruction, Nick's growth mindset and dedication inspire both students and educators.

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

The Westerville Sunrise Rotary celebrates Nick McIlwain not only for his professional achievements but also for the heart and humanity he brings to education. His work reminds us that service to youth is about more than academics—it's about building lives filled with care, joy, and possibility.

Polio Plus Football Squares Available for Cotton Bowl

Help end polio by participating in the Polio Plus Football Pool for the Cotton Bowl on December 31, 2025!

Payouts will be \$100 per quarter for the first 3 quarters and \$200 for the final quarter.

Squares can be purchased from Jamie Maze for \$10 each at this week's Rotary meeting. You can also contact her via email at jamie@jamiemaze.com or via text at (614) 580-7000.

Go Bucks!



Margarita in the Ville Sponsorship Opportunities

By Anne M VanBuskirk

You have the opportunity to support our Westerville Sunrise Foundation, WARM and Children's Hunger Alliance AND take advantage of year-end tax deduction savings if you donate to or sponsor Margarita in the 'Ville before Dec 30th!

There are varying levels of support- no amount is too small or too large. You can write a check for a sponsorship and give to either Anne VanBuskirk or Jim Caldwell, or use the Zeffy site below to sponsor or donate



[Margarita in the 'Ville](#)

Presenting Sponsor (only 1 available)- \$5000

- 16 Event Tickets
- 16 tickets to Sponsor VIP reception, reserved seating at VIP reception
- Reserved Tables for 16 (2 tables of 8, in location of choice, exclusively for Presenting sponsor)
- Paul Harris Fellowship recognition
- Limited edition Margarita in the Ville swag
- Signage at event
- Logo on event program, and slide show loop

Parrothead Sponsorship- \$2500

- 8 Event Tickets
- 8 tickets to Sponsor VIP reception
- Reserved Table for 8 in location of choice, exclusively for Parrothead sponsor
- Logo on event program and slide show loop
- Signage at event
- Limited edition Margarita in the Ville swag

Sunset Sponsorship- \$1,500

- 6 Event Tickets
- 6 Tickets to Sponsor VIP reception
- Reserved Seating for 6
- Logo on event program and slide show loop
- Limited edition Margarita in the Ville swag

Paradise Sponsorship- \$1,000

- 4 Event Tickets
- 4 Tickets to Sponsor VIP reception
- Reserved seating for 4
- Logo on event program and slide show loop

- Limited edition Margarita in the Ville swag

Island Sponsorship- \$500

- 2 Event Tickets
- Tickets to Sponsor VIP reception
- Reserved seating for 2 at event
- Logo on event program and slide show loop

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.

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 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 December 22. Please use the following sign-up link if you are able to participate: [December 22](#).

The 2026 dates are:

- Jan 26
- 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.

MLK Breakfast- Join the Westerville Sunrise Rotary Table

By John R. Kellogg

We have reserved a table for the MLK Breakfast on Monday, January 19 at the Renaissance Hotel. Doors open at 8:30 and the event ends at 10:30. We have a table for 8 people.

If you would like to be part of the Rotary table, a seat is \$50. The table seats 8.

To reserve your seat, text or email John Kellogg. Checks should be made out to the Westerville Sunrise Rotary Club.

Email Jrk847@gmail.com

Cell (614) 323-2136

First come first serve!



Thank you for the Donated Socks!



Thank you note received from a Socktober sock recipient:

Dear Rick, Amanda & all at Rotary Sunrise,

Thank you so very much for the generous gift of socks to our "In the Garden" and "The Longest Table" outreach in downtown Columbus. Socks are always in demand and much appreciated by our guests.

Thank you for your generosity and outreach to our neighbors.

Blessings to all,
Lori D, coordinator of In the Garden

Thank you for the Poinsettias



Dear Westerville Sunrise Rotary members,

Thank you very much for all the donations of the beautiful poinsettias to the Ravine at Central College Apartments! They truly brightened our Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks and blessings to you all at this special time of year,
Tracy White

Thank you upcoming Greeters & Invocators



Date	Greeter	Invocation & Pledge
17-Dec-25	Treptow, Megan	VanBuskirk, Anne
24-Dec-25	No Meeting	
31-Dec-25	No Meeting	
7-Jan-26	Washburn, Jackie	Treptow, Megan
14-Jan-26	Whittaker, Stuart	Washburn, Jeff

**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



Amy Ellett Bauman
Club Grant
Coordinator



Robert P. Horbatt
Club TRF Chair

Paul E. Kulik

Michael Ley Collins

John R. Kellogg



Club Peace
Committee Chair



Youth Exchange
Officer



Club 501c3
Chair/President