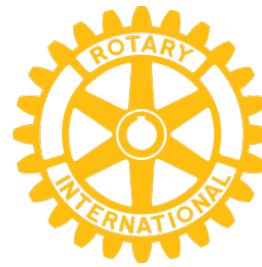


Rotary

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

February 25, 2026

[Greg Yoest](#)
Buckeye Trail Program

March 04, 2026

[Beth Domanick](#)
Life Care Alliance

March 11, 2026

[DG Sandy Knoesel](#)

March 11, 2026

[Sandy Knoesel](#)
District Governor Update

March 18, 2026

[Beth Weinhardt](#)
Westerville Fair & Minerva Park

Birthdays

Gregory Ruban
February 24th
Robert P. Freed

President's message

By James T. Caldwell



I am enjoying a beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and palm trees as I write this message. Hope you all are having a wonderful time in sunny Westerville.

I really appreciated Greg Dayton's presentation on Wednesday regarding Westerville Centralized Customer Services. It is good to hear the new initiatives that are going on managing our growing city. It was also interesting to hear that Dave Collinsworth grew up on Sesame Street. It makes you wonder if the reason Oscar the Grouch is so grouchy is that little Dave stole his tart cherry juice remedy for his gout.

For the next two months we will be focusing on another Zone initiative regarding membership. I will have more details next week but, in the meantime, I would like for each of us to think of that one person we know who would be a great Rotarian. Or that one person who could never make a morning meeting and introduce them to the Satellite club. Also think about the member you have not seen for a while that may need a phone call of encouragement. Westerville Sunrise Rotary has some great things going on and we need to share it with folks who would make great Rotarians.

This week, we will hear from Jeff Yoest about the Buckeye Trail Program. I look forward to seeing you all. Have a great weekend. I am going to the beach.

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 February 23. Please use the following sign-up link if you are able to participate: [February 23](#). (Please note that we are reusing the January sign up genius for February, as the January lunch was canceled due to weather.)

The remaining 2026 dates are:

- 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.

February 25th
 Mark Morgan
 February 26th
 Paul E. Kulik
 March 5th
 Michael Ley
 Collins
 March 10th
 Thomas F.
 Schmitt
 March 12th
 Patrick C.
 Kemmer
 March 17th
 James T.
 Caldwell
 March 24th

Years of Service

Patrick Knott
 03-14-2001
 25 Years
 Robert Hunt
 03-20-2002
 24 Years
 Lawrence C. Jenkins
 03-20-2002
 24 Years
 Jeffrey A. Daniels
 02-26-2003
 23 Years
 Patrick C. Kemmer
 03-09-2005
 21 Years
 Diane Jean Conley
 03-10-2010
 16 Years
 Julie Ann Colley
 02-29-2012
 14 Years
 Ron Pusateri
 02-27-2013
 13 Years
 John R. Kellogg
 02-26-2014
 12 Years
 Robyne A. Vasselo
 03-19-2015
 11 Years
 John Logue
 03-01-2017
 9 Years
 David A Lilley
 03-01-2017
 9 Years
 Helka Christine Casey
 03-01-2017

Happening This Week



February 25, 2026
 Program: Buckeye Trail Program
 Speakers: Jeff Yoest
 Greeter: Bill Bishop
 Invocation/Pledge: Chip Bruchac

Winter Assembly Offers Something for Everyone

Whether you're a seasoned Rotarian or a newer member looking to get more involved, the District 6690 Winter Assembly is designed to deliver practical tools, fresh ideas, and meaningful connections for every Rotarian.

The Winter Assembly will take place Saturday, Feb. 28 beginning at 9 a.m., at the Ohio State University–Newark Reese Center, located at 209 University Dr., Newark, OH 43055.

This year's agenda is packed with engaging and informative breakout sessions focused on the issues Rotarians care about most. Participants can choose from sessions on District Grant Training, Fundraising Strategies, and Satellite/Companion Clubs, along with a hands-on Ignite session and an interactive discussion on Club Best Practices. Each session is designed to provide ideas Rotarians can take back to their clubs and put into action right away.

Registration is just \$25, which includes lunch, making it an affordable and valuable investment in your club's success. All Rotarians are welcome to attend, and club leaders are especially encouraged to bring fellow members who want to learn, grow, and help strengthen their club.

Make plans now to join fellow Rotarians for a morning of learning, collaboration, and inspiration—because at the Winter Assembly, there truly is something for everyone.

9 Years
James T.
Caldwell
02-28-2018
8 Years
Mary T.
Chandler
03-21-2018
8 Years
Charles Edward
Durant Jr.
02-27-2019
7 Years
Theresa
Petraszak
02-27-2019
7 Years
Jason Seeley
02-27-2021
5 Years
Leigh Hollins
03-08-2023
3 Years
Andrew
Tompkins
03-11-2023
3 Years
Maggie Pope
03-02-2025
1 Year

REGISTER TODAY

Save the Date! Upcoming Social and Service Events



February 23: Star House Lunch
February 28: Winter Assembly
March 8: Westerville Noon club - Fish Fry
April 24-25: District 6690 Conference
May 9: WARM volunteer opportunity

Growing Leaders Through Service

By Angela Sillus



Service isn't just something we do — it's something we pass on.

On February 21, 11 Westerville Sunrise Rotarians were joined by 10 adult guests and 8 incredible kids to sort hundreds of cans of food at Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM).

Yes, we stocked shelves.

Yes, we helped local families.

But we also did something just as important — we modeled service for the next generation of leaders. Because today's can-sorting kids are tomorrow's community changemakers.

Join us May 9 from 10 a.m. to noon and be part of it.

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:

- 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.



Westerville Noon Rotary - 2026 Fish Fry



THANK YOU to the Westerville community for its ongoing support of our fundraisers and philanthropic efforts!

The Noon Rotary Club of Westerville Fish Fry returns for 2026 after a several-year hiatus due to Covid and renovations at the Campus Center.

Please join us for the relaunch of this event started in 1968, from noon to 5:30 p.m. Sunday March 8, in the dining room at the Otterbein Campus Center, 100 W. Home St.

New this year: Kids under the age of 8 eat free! And, added to our menu this year is yummy chicken tenders along with your Rotary Fish Fry favorites: Fried Fish, Baked Fish, fries, cole slaw, and a dessert prepared by the Otterbein dining staff!

Satellite Club Events



Everyone is welcome to join the Satellite Club at one of their upcoming dinner meeting:

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 6:30 at Jimmy V's in their private room (1 S. State Street, Westerville, OH). Everyone may order food and beverages from the menu and pay their own bill.

Community Service Opportunities



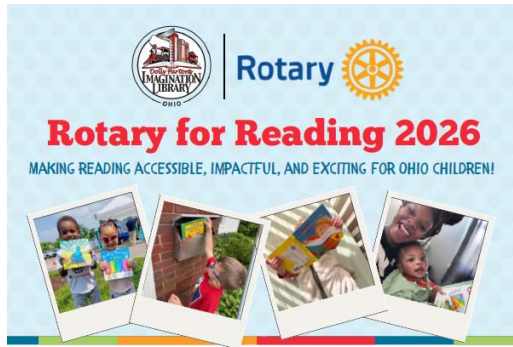
StarHouse is looking for a volunteer bookkeeper. The job duties would entail entering donations and acknowledgements into Salesforce, as well as invoices into QuickBooks. It could also include things like adding contact info or notes from forms and events. It's not the flashiest work, but it's really important and helps keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes.

Please contact Kat Earles at kearles@starhouse.us if you are interested or pass this along to someone who may be

interested.

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>

Registration Opens for Stronger Together District Conference

The Stronger Together District Conference is more than an event for district leaders – it's a gathering for every Rotarian who believes in service, connection, and making an impact.

Whether you're a first-year member or a longtime Rotarian, this conference offers inspiration, practical learning, and meaningful fellowship that strengthens both your club and our district. Rotarians across District 6690 are invited to come together for an inspiring, high-energy District Conference on April 24 - 25, and registration is now open!

REGISTER TODAY Register by March 1 to save \$25 with the early-bird discount

Packed with fun, fellowship, learning, and service, the District Conference promises an engaging experience that celebrates what it means to be Stronger Together.

Friday evening highlights include the Rotary Foundation Gala, featuring keynote speaker Michael McGovern, chair of Rotary International's PolioPlus Committee. McGovern will also lead a breakout session on Saturday, offering Rotarians a deeper look into Rotary's historic and current fight to end polio. Saturday morning opens with an energizing keynote by Michael Angelo Caruso, who will share practical insights on sharpening communication skills, reading people more effectively, solving problems proactively, and using time-management hacks.

A variety of breakout sessions will be offered. Scheduled for the morning breakout sessions are:

- Michael McGovern on ending Polio,
- Michael Angelo Caruso on leadership and becoming a great speaker, and
- Renee Caruso on Health and Leadership Vitality.

Additional breakout sessions include:

- Revamping and age-old project (I Can)
- Leveraging Corporate Sponsorships and Service (Career Path Awards)
- Youth Exchange and its Impact presented by Youth Exchange students
- Global Grants featuring the Haiti Water Project
- Discover Rotary beyond your club
- Growing your club through Companion and Impact clubs

[Read More](#)

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who sponsored, donated, volunteered and/or attended Margarita in the 'Ville! We had a great evening raising funds for WARM, CHA and the Westerville Sunrise Foundation!

We had around 160 attendees who enjoyed delicious food, music by Scott Sopata, a photo booth and games. Approximately 38% of our attendees were from outside Sunrise Rotary, which is a big increase from years past.

Our games winners were Vice Mayor Kelly Stocker in the Limbo, and our very own Stu Whittaker in the Ring Toss! Congratulations to them both- they took home a very stylish Margarita in the 'Ville Coffee Mug for their efforts.

Diane Conley won the 50:50 raffle.

Once we have the final invoices from Otterbein, we will know how much we cleared for our beneficiaries and will share that information with the club. What we do know right now is that we are on track to make more than last year.



Thank you upcoming Greeters & Invocators



Date	Greeter	Invocation & Pledge
25-Feb-26	Bishop, William	Bruhac, Chip
04-Mar-26	Campbell, Abra	Carmichael, Audrey
11-Mar-26	Case, David	Chandler, Mary

18-Mar-26	Chapman, David	Cochran, Troy
25-Mar-26	Collins, Michael	Collinsworth, David

**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 Steininger
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