



ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | October 8, 2025 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

Today's program



City Administrator and fellow Rotarian **Brad Ratliff** will explain the three proposals being submitted to Harrisonville voters on Nov. 4.

Future programs

October 15 - Annie Knox's speaker will be **Aron Wilburn** on her flower bulb business.

October 22 - R. J. Knox

October 29 - District Gov. **Andrea Brady**'s official club visit

November 5 - Jill Filer

November 12 - Abigail Lowrimore

November 19 - Doug Meyer

Birthdays

October 8Keith Mills

October 10Denise Cox

October 14Abigail Lowrimore

October 16Chuck Weedman

October 29Avelicia Rosales

Officers & Directors

PresidentGrant Purkey

President-ElectErik Winkler

President-NomineeAnnie Knox

SecretaryDawson Dickey

TreasurerJesica Junge

Sergeant-at-ArmsJudy Franklin

Past PresidentJon Taber

DirectorsJenna Giess, Larry Pfautsch, Cassie Wieberg, Jayden Love, Vanessa Hargrave

District GovernorAndrea Brady

Asst. Gov.Bing Schimmelpfennig

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Lay pastor dedicated to helping addicts recover and restore their lives

One of every three Americans is touched by addiction issues, Steve Fleshman told club members last week. He explained why he became involved 15 years ago in providing help and counseling through a ministry he founded called Life Issues. Steve is the lay pastor of Heartland Family Fellowship south of Harrisonville. He spoke as the guest of Jesica Junge, who became acquainted with him through the Cass County Drug Court.

Steve was accompanied by a recovered addict, Charles Newton, who shared his journey from opioid addiction to being "clean" for seven years.

In a brochure handout, Steve cited these interesting statistics:

- Alcohol is the most commonly abused substance by Cass County youth.
- The average of first use of alcohol and/or cigarettes for Cass County youth is 12, and for marijuana, 13.
- Substance abuse is often linked with mental health conditions. About 26% of Cass County students reported self-harm, 15% reported feeling hopeless about the future, and 10% have considered suicide in the past year.
- In 2020, Cass County had 285 DWI arrests, 351 drug-related arrests, and 355 were admitted to substance abuse treatment programs.



Life Issues is a Christ-centered ministry that holds regular meetings at 7 p.m. every Friday at the church. It does not have a residential facility, so it uses a 1:1 sponsorship model to guide addicts through a 3-6 month program centered on "helping, saving and freeing." Steve's current work evolved from his work in jail ministry. It holds an annual homecoming fundraiser. At its meetings, Life Issues participants can expect things like videos presenting / bible truth to combat addiction and overcome temptations, testimonials, transportation, and childcare.

Charles titled his remarks as "grace and mercy." He said addiction is a choice, and the journey to recovery begins with that first step. "Nothing is more important than community," he said. "We (addicts) like to take the easy way out."

Announcements from last week's meeting

- Chuck Weedman won the Secret Greeter dollar coin.
- Erik Winkler contributed to the PolioPlus bank celebrating his 17th anniversary with Commerce Bank.
- Erik reported a good turnout for Wings and Wheels with an estimated 200 kids receiving airplane rides and Rotary serving several hundred people for pancake and sausage breakfast. He recommends we participate in the event next year.
- Jill Filer announced that our Classroom Partner visit at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, will focus on making sensor boxes for preschool kids.
- Jayden Love encouraged Rotarians to complete the school district's community survey and to vote in the T-Mobile Friday Night Lights contest.

Club Calendar

Friday, October 10

Classroom Partner Visit - 2:30 p.m.,
McEwen Elementary.

Saturday, October 18

District Conference - Springfield.

Monday, October 20

Teacher Lunch - Rotary and Kiwanis serve hamburger lunch. Time and location to be announced.

Thursday, October 23

Monthly Social Hour - 4-5 p.m., El Puerto Restaurant.

Sunday, October 26

Trunk or Treat - 3-5 p.m.
Harrisonville Square.

Monday, November 3

Monthly Board Meeting - 12 noon,
Family Center Farm & Home.

Friday, November 21

Rotary helps at Food Pantry - Two shifts: 9 a.m. - Noon and 1-5:30 p.m.

Minutes from Oct. 6 board meeting

The board held its monthly meeting at noon Monday, Oct. 6, at Family Center Farm & Home. Attendees: Jon Taber, Vanessa Hargrave, Judy Franklin, Jesica Junge, Jenna Giess, Dawson Dickey, Erik Winkler, Cassie Wieberg, Jayden Love, Tina Witty.

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by President-Elect Erik Winkler. The September board minutes were reviewed and Jesica Junge motioned to approve, Jon Taber seconded and the motion was approved.

Jesica Junge presented the Treasurer's report. In September, total income was \$3,835.58. Expenses were higher than usual because of student gifts and events like the CASCO picnic. Jon Taber moved to approve the report, Jayden Love seconded. Board approved.

Old Business

2025 - 2026 club goals: Club goals are on track. In September, we completed four service projects, gained one new member, and Erik Winkler will attend the District Conference on Oct. 18.

50th Anniversary Project: Grant was not at the meeting and will give an update at the next board meeting.

Trunk or Treat: Jill Filer is collecting information on the Oct. 26 Trunk or

Treat event, with 14 participants signed up so far. Erik suggested branding the event with new banners that can be used for future activities; Vanessa

Hargrave will design these and present them to the board. Rotarians are needed to volunteer for the event.

Rotary T-Shirts: The board approved new T-shirts with the Rotary logo on the pocket and a saying on the back. Vanessa will design them for board approval. Sizes will be collected to determine quantity and pricing.

Teacher PD Lunch: Rotary will serve lunch to Harrisonville teachers with

Kiwanis on Oct. 20. Rotary will provide hamburgers for the event. Jeanna Giess has arranged for Rotary to use a grill from Hope Haven, and Jon Taber will explore options for acquiring a grill for the club. Jayden Love will coordinate with Larry Pfautsch to distribute a signup sheet for the event.

New Business

Membership Application: Bing Schimmelpfenning has sponsored Denise Cox for membership. The board reviewed her application. Jesica Junge motioned for approval, Jenna Giess seconded. Board approved.

Polio Bingo Fundraiser: Tina Witty addressed the board regarding the PolioPlus bingo fundraiser, an initiative where club members and community participants purchase bingo cards and complete tasks related to polio. Completed cards are submitted for a chance to win a prize. Funds raised will be donated to The Rotary Foundation. The board expressed support for the concept, and Vanessa suggested potentially structuring the event as a raffle to encourage broader participation. Additional discussion included setting the participation fee at \$20 and considering a possible 50/50 split on the proceeds. Due to the required preparations, the event is projected to take place in November of this year or may be scheduled for October next year. Board will continue coordinating details with Tina.

High Five Friday: Rotary members will join High Five Friday, greeting students with high fives as they arrive. Volunteers will be needed for the event.

Resignation: Jenna Giess informed the board of Emily Bolinger's resignation. Erik Winkler moved to approve, Cassie Wieberg seconded. Board approved the resignation.

Rotary Young Professional of the Month Enhancement: Will be discussed at the next meeting.

The next board meeting will be held at noon Monday, Nov. 3, at the Family Center Conference Room.

Motion to adjourn was made by Erik Winkler at 1:13 p.m. Dawson Dickey seconded. Motion passed.

