



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 12, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 28



## DIANE & KEVIN KOSTER DID IT!

**After** more than 20 years working for non-profit organizations, Rotarian Diane Koster, with the able help of banker hubby Kevin, fulfilled a lifelong dream and entered the world of owning a small “for profit” business. They purchased a business they had often frequented, *The Grape*



*Life Wine Emporium*. Located in Davenport, Iowa. With members of Rocky's new Entrepreneur/Enterprise Class listening on, Diane told the story of how they got it done. According to Diane it started with lots of research and seeking out expert help. One of her first stops was the Small Business Development Center in Davenport who worked with the Kosters step-by-step through the adventure. Fortunately, they had the benefit of buying an entity that had been in business for seven years and therefore had a record on which to build. It was a learning experience for Kevin and Diane having to quickly gain knowledge in managing staff, budgeting, finance, and dealing with the public. They had to learn how to prepare three to five year projections and said they were very fortunate to enlist the help of fellow Rotarian Tom Hammar and his accounting firm. Diane used her past experience in promotion and development to work on improving the visibility of the business. One of the first things they did was change the name to *The Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge*, feeling it was a more accurate and understandable statement of what the business is. They also improved the exterior lighting and signage and added vineyard scenes in the windows. Even little things like adding signage to her car helped promote the business. Through Kevin's influence they added a craft bottled beer section as well as a substantial quality liquor department. They have local musicians provide live entertainment every Friday and Saturday night and plan to add a jazz night on Thursdays. In addition to typical day to day sales, the *Grape Life* offers private parties, tasting nights, wine education programs, wine clubs, and a selection of food snacks featuring cheeses, crackers and meats. As a feature of the store, they offer complimentary tasting before purchase whenever they have the item available. Diane suggest always taste before you buy! She also warned that in business ownership one must always expect the unexpected and gave an example of the store door lock breaking leaving her unable to lock up at the end of the night. She also said there will be surprises and gave the example of learning that they had to pay licensing fees to three different entities in order to allow musicians to perform live music. In summary Diane said that “timing is everything”. Their hopes and dreams came together when a business they enjoyed was offered for sale. Diane advised, “Go after what you want. Anything can be accomplished with determination and drive.”

### January - February Calendar

- Jan 12 - Diane Koster – “How We Did It”
- Jan 19 - Mayor Dennis Pauley – State of the City
- Jan 26 - Katie Benson - RI High School Orchestra
- Feb 2 - Scott Mullen, Exec. Dir. IWireless Center
- Feb 2 - Rotary Blood Drive
- Feb 9 - TBA
- Feb 16 - Jeff VenHuizen – Rock Island Police Chief and Tour of new station.
- Feb 23 - Rock Island H.S. Entrepreneur Class
- Mar. 1 - Dan Logan – Earl Hanson Principal



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## Officers

John Phillips, President  
Steve Morenz, 1st VP  
Bruce Peterson, 2nd VP  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Mike Locander, Past President

## Board Members

Angela Campbell  
Sue Cassatt  
John Daly  
Lawrence Davis  
Jeff Eder  
Mark Mayeski  
Carrie O'Neill  
Billy Puckett

Co-Sergeant At Arms  
Vic Boblett & Bob Swanson

## Program Chairs 2015-16

Dec.- Jan: John Wetzel  
Feb – March: Bob Swanson  
April – May: Kevin Koski  
June – July: Diane Koster

### NOTE ON NEW MEMBER DUES OPTION:

The Rock Island Rotary Club does allow for reduced dues for new members, and this dues reduction is awarded by the Board on a case-by-case basis. Dues may be reduced from the current \$150/qtr down to \$95/qtr and will continue at this reduced rate for no more than two (2) quarters or six (6) months from the date of induction. The proposer of a prospective new member should tell the prospective member of the availability of this option. It is then the responsibility of the proposer to make this request to the Board.

## Club Notes & Announcements!

### □ Welcome Guests!

Rock Island Student Guest, Betty Hall; Alleman Student Guests Jordan Polito and Ally Zahringer; Rocky Entrepreneurship Class guests Agok Ayuen, Allison Bradley, Isiah Morales, Lindsay Mumma, and Lauren Forslund. Assistant Rocky Principal, Karla Thies, a prospective member. Kevin Koster, spouse and “business partner” of our speaker Diane Koster. Our exchange daughter, Camila Velasco from Peru was greeted and we also welcomed visiting Rotarian Mark Zimmerman, (Davenport, IA Club)

□ **Meet and Greet at Earl Hanson** Rotarians planning to attend the Meet and Greet at Earl Hanson Elementary School tomorrow, Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> are advised to arrive at 2:30 to avoid the busses and parking lot congestion associated with school dismissal at 2:15pm. We want a good showing of Rock Island Rotarians to meet and chat with the teachers and staff of our partner school!

□ **Rotary Blood Drive** Don't forget our Rotary Blood Drive, Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30am until 1pm. Be sure to sign up for a time slot. Non-Rotarians are welcome too, so invite and encourage co-workers and family members to join the crowd and give the gift of life.

□ **Plan Ahead ...** Jeff VenHuizen, Rock Island Chief of Police will present our program on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting will adjourn after his comments AND WILL RECONVENE at 1:30 for all who can attend at the new Rock Island Police Station/Jail. Jeff will then conduct a tour of the new facility. Adjust your schedule so you don't miss seeing Rock Island's newest facility.

□ **Rotary Foundation Committee** The Rotary Foundation Committee will meet at 11:15 next Tuesday just prior to our regular January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Let Bud know if you cannot attend.

□ **Rotary Membership Committee** Our Membership Committee will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:15pm just prior to our regular meeting. Notify Steve Morenz if you are unable to attend.

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** For January publication send newsletter items to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). For February publication send to Holly Sparkman at [hksparkman@gmail.com](mailto:hksparkman@gmail.com).

### RAFFLE SUPPORTS FOUNDATION

Two raffles were held at today's meeting. The first, our weekly raffle featured wine from Lo Milani's cellar as well as cash. Ruth Lee won the cash and donated her winnings to the Rock Island Club Foundation. Betty Hall, a student guest won the wine and being underage quickly donated it to Bill Stengel who had purchased the ticket for her.

The second raffle was a deluxe wine and chocolate basket and a gift certificate for a 1-hour massage. Tickets had been sold over the past month with proceeds going to the Polio Plus campaign. Bud Phillis was the lucky winner. \$510 was raised to help eradicate polio!

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!!**

### PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNIZED

Perfect attendance awards have been presented to the following Rock Island Rotarians: Sam Wray, Mark Mayeski 1yr; John Phillips 2yrs; Frank Lambert, Bob Swanson 4yrs; Stan Coin, Italo Milani 5yrs; Mike Locander, John Neary 6yrs; Carrie Crossen, Tom Hammar, Ann McGlynn 7yrs; Jim Moran 8yrs; Marcy Bell, Jeff Dimer, Mary Fislar, Ruth Lee 11yrs; Richard Phillis 28yrs; Larry Tadlock 35 yrs; Ardo Holmgrain, Fred Luckenbill 45yrs and Fred Houlton 51yrs.

Congratulations to these dedicated Rotarians. Who either attend our meetings or “make-up” absences by attending Rotary board or committee meetings, or other Rotary Club meetings either in person or via the internet. When you do a make-up it is important you report your make-up to our Club Secretary, Anne McGlynn. Committee Chairs need to report attendance at their meetings to Anne as well so make-ups can be credited. Additional make-up opportunities will be shared in later meetings and in this newsletter. Many are listed in your Club Roster Book.

### Dining Books!

You missed it! Fred Luckenbill reports all of our 2015-2016 Quad City Dining Tour Books have been sold! Thanks to all who purchased. If you missed out, plan ahead for next year!



### CAN YOU HELP?



Rotarians help students select their “Birthday Book” at Earl Hanson Elementary School. Each month Rock Island Rotary presents books to Earl Hanson students who celebrate their birthdays during the month. Tricia Barron and Anne McGlynn graciously act as chairmen for the monthly event. However, they like to have fellow Rotarians come and assist. Fred Houlton typically brings his harmonica and entertains the kids and Rotarians autograph the books and hand them out to grateful children. How about helping out? It only takes a few minutes of your day. The birthday book dates for the rest of the year are January 28, February 25, March 31, April 28, and May 26. We start handing out books at 2:30 each date, so it’s best to arrive around 2:20-2:25. You’re all done and out of there by 3pm. Try to attend one or more of these fun events this year!

### INTERACT CLUB GETS RYLA INFO!

Gary Francque from the Moline Rotary Club did a presentation about RYLA for the Interact Club at Rock Island High School. Several members from the Club expressed interest in participating in RYLA this year. For newer members, RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award which is a weekend “camp” held May 6th, 7th and 8th in Oregon, IL. Rotary brings is an outstanding staff to work with students on leadership skills, team building, building relationships, and promoting the Rotary ideals of truth, ethics, and building friendships and better understanding.



Gary Francque with member of Rocky's Interact Club





# A LITTLE OFF KEY

a dueling pianos event

hosted by Rock Island Rotary & Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours

Thursday  
**March  
3rd**

**River  
Music  
Experience**

129 N. Main St., Davenport

**7:30pm**  
doors open @ 6  
**\$45**

includes heavy hors d'oeuvres

Come be entertained for the evening by FunPianos, a traveling dueling pianos group.



Tickets can be purchased online at **Eventbrite**  
or

contact Sue Lerschen-Cassatt at 309-644-0101,  
SLerschen-Cassatt@FirstStatell.com

Money raised from the event will go to support local youth programs and other Rotary projects!





## INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF WINING ROTARIANS!

Please join your fellow Rotarians (and guests) at the first meeting of the Quad Cities Area Fellowship of Wining Rotarians. We have a unique opportunity to meet and sip at The Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge in Davenport, corner of Kimberly and Elmore. Recently purchased by Rock Island Rotarian Diane Koster and her husband Kevin Koster, The Grape Life offers an ideal spot for our group to gather. Diane and Kevin will close the store to the public on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., and we can mix and mingle until 7:30 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but it is expected that each of us will purchase at least one glass of wine or other liquor/beer. Just a little heads up, there is no corkage fee so you might consider purchasing a bottle to share, or take home your partially consumed bottle. The Grape Life offers munchies for purchase, but you are welcome to bring your own food/snacks. If you have a small group, for instance you might want to purchase a fruit or meat/cheese tray before you come. Your choice. Diane and Kevin will be available to answer wine questions. If we have sufficient interest, we would like to make this an ongoing Fellowship opportunity. We can discuss future planning on the 15<sup>th</sup>. So we have an idea of numbers, please email Ruth Lee at [rotarianruth@gmail.com](mailto:rotarianruth@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Include total number if you are bringing guests/spouses. We're anticipating a great time, and hope you will be part of it!



## Our Newest Member

Rock Island Rotary was pleased to induct our newest member, Courtney Boothe at today's meeting. Courtney is employed by WHBF-TV as Digital Media Manager. Courtney lives in Moline and celebrates her birthday on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We're pleased to welcome her into the Rock Island Rotary Club!

Sponsor Steve Morenz presents Courtney with her Rotary pin as President John Phillips looks on.



## ROMANCE NEVER AGES!!

Rotarian Dr. Larry Tadlock asked President John for a minute to make an announcement at today's meeting. He then proclaimed that 53 years ago while in high school he met his sweetheart, JoAn. Three years later they were married and have enjoyed 50 years of marital bliss. In honor of the event Larry donated one dollar per year and presented \$53 dollars to the Rotary Foundation!



## Presidential message

K.R. Ravindran  
President 2015-16

January 2016

There is a story told in my Hindu tradition of two sages, Shaunaka and Abhipratari. They were worshippers of Prana, the wind god. One day, the two men were about to sit down to lunch when a poor student knocked on their door, asking for food.

"No, boy, do not bother us at this hour," was the reply. The student was surprised but very hungry, so he persisted.

"Tell me, honored sirs, which deity do you worship?" "Prana, the wind god," they answered impatiently.

"Do you not know that the world begins and ends with wind, and that wind pervades the entire universe?"

The two sages were by now very irritated by their impertinent guest. "Of course we know it!" they replied.

"Well, then," continued the student, "if Prana pervades the universe, then he pervades me also, since I am but part of the universe. He is also in this hungry body, which stands before you begging for a bite to eat! And so in denying food to me, you deny it to the very deity whom you say you serve."

The sages realized the student spoke the truth and invited him to enter and share their meal. For they understood, at that moment, that by opening the door to one who sought their help, they were not only serving that individual – but reaching toward a larger goal.

Our experience of Rotary is, for the most part, based in our own communities. We meet every week in our clubs, in the same places, with the same familiar friends. While almost all of us are involved in some way or other in international service, the Rotary we see and share from day to day feels very local. It can be easy to lose sight of the larger picture – of what our service truly means.

Every impact you have as a Rotarian, individually and through your club, is multiplied by the power of our numbers. When you feed one person who is hungry, when you educate one person who is illiterate, when you protect one child from disease, the impact may seem small. It is anything but. For it is only through the power of numbers, through the power of our individual actions and gifts, that we can have the impact we seek: to truly *Be a Gift to the World*.