



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 5, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 27



## TAG TEAM COVERS FOR ILL SPEAKER!

Receiving a call just 2 hours before meeting time, President John Phillips learned our scheduled speaker was under the weather and unable to attend today's meeting.

Never fear, John swung into action, called on tag team partner Gary Rowe and the two provided an excellent



(notwithstanding last minute) program for today's meeting. John provided an outstanding update of the first six months of this year's Rotary year. President John reported the following accomplishments for the first six months of his presidential term. **Administratively** the Board approved a balanced budget; made committee assignments and had each committee establish goals for the year. New members were assigned to committees and the new Roster Book was published and distributed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Most committees have been active planning and implementing their programs.

**Youth Exchange** is enjoying a successful year with outbound student, Melissa Haggerty enjoying her year in Spain and inbound exchange daughter, Camilla Velasco doing well at Alleman High School and being a delight to have with our club. Our partners, **Jordan EarlyAct**, **RIHS Interact**, and **Augustana Rotaract Clubs** are all thriving and supporting community and international projects. **Fundraising** has been successful with Birdies for Charity under the leadership of Kevin Koski raising \$1,900; Trivia Night chaired by Kathy Trone and Sue Cassatt bringing in \$3,800; and Fred Luckenbill nearing \$1000 in Dining Book proceeds. **Membership** has done very well with 10 new members inducted since July 1<sup>st</sup> and at least two more currently pending. Unfortunately, 5 members have resigned due to relocation of employment changes. Club membership now stands at 94. **Programs** for each week's meetings have stressed either informing or entertaining our members and President John complimented our program chairman for the quality speakers that have been provided. **Social Activities** were also highlighted including our Holiday party at Circa 21, our participation in the Labor Day Parade, our Social at the Blue Cat Pub, joining with the RAH Club for the Jingle Jaunt, and helping member Diane Koster celebrate opening her new business, "It's A Grape Life". **Projects and Programs** included our partnership with Early Hanson School led by Anne McGlynn and Tricia Barron; providing monthly Birthday Books to kids; collecting school and personal supplies needed by the children; seeing that 47 youngsters had presents for Christmas from our Angel Tree; taking 84 children to the Pumpkin Patch; and giving 200 books to children as part of the Summer Enrichment Program. **Budget Priorities** made grants to Two

### January - February Calendar

- Jan 5 - Dave Ross - R I County Administrator
- 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.

Rivers YMCA, the Riverbend Foodbank, Loving Kindness, WVIK Radio, and Jason's Box, totaling \$2,800. Our Club supported the **Bike the Ride** event to promote family activities partnering with the Two Rivers YMCA and Activate Rock Island. We also participated in the **Salvation Army Bell Ringing**, an annual Rotary event. President Phillips also reported that in the first half of the year, 43% of our members have contributed to the Rotary International Foundation, including 63% of our board members. We were recognized by the District for having the highest level of support for Polio eradication of any club in the District during the last fiscal year. Our own **Rock Island Rotary Foundation** continues to grow and have a greater impact on our community. Last year our club committed \$10,000 to lead a \$100,000 fund raising effort to begin an *Entrepreneurship/Enterprise Class* at Rock Island High School. Students in that program will be presenting a program for our club in February. The board also approved an \$8,250 grant for the Summer Enrichment Program in Rock Island for this coming summer. This is a reading and recreation program in collaboration with several community partners. Overall it has been an exciting and satisfying first six months, with much more to come and much more to do to fulfill our 2015-16 call to be **"A Gift to the World"**.

In the second portion of our program, Rotarian Gary Rowe took the podium and reported on the Quad City Genesius Guild. Free theatre in the park... all summer long ... featuring Shakespeare, Greek drama, Greek comedy, opera, and ballet, the Genesius Guild provides a unique classic theatre experience in Rock Island, Illinois. Celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> year in 2016, Gary pointed out that the organization is one of its kind in the nation. Founded and still lead by former local weatherman and State Senator, Don Wooten, Gary emphasized that the group is open to all both as spectators and participants and invited anyone interested to "just show up" and become part of the cast or support crew. He reviewed the upcoming season with all shows starting at 8:00pm in Lincoln Park. On June 3, 4, 5 the presentation will be Ballet Under the Stars – featuring Ballet Quad Cities. On June 11, 12, 18, 19 the Guild will present *The Tender Land*: Aaron Copland – Opera at Augustana. June 25, 26 will usher in Sounds & Sweet Airs followed on July 2 by Bucktown Revue and July 3 by the Big River Brass Band. On July 9, 10, 16, 17 *Aeschylus: 7 Against Thebes Sophocles: Antigone*. Shakespeare will be on tap July 23, 24, 30, 31 with *Much Ado About Nothing*. The season wraps up on August 5, 6, 7 with Aristophanes: *The Birds*. Thanks to John and Gary for both an informative and entertaining program!



### New Quarter, Time for Dues

Let's keep Treasurer Carrie smiling by promptly replying to her email dues billing we will all be receiving soon. If you happen to have fallen a bit behind, now's the time to catch up! Dues are \$150 per quarter which includes local, district, and international dues, plus lunch each week! With 12 - 13 lunches each quarter, it's a bargain!





Rotarians with January Birthdays were serenaded by the Club. Congratulations to Bill Green, Fred Houlton, Tom Torrey, Bob Swanson, Ted Kutsunis, and Jim Moran.

### ATTENDANCE RECOGNIZED

Fred Luckenbill presented pins in recognition of perfect Rotary attendance to Sam Wray for 1 year and to Bob Swanson for 4 years. Fred pointed out that missed meetings can be made up on-line or at any Rotary committee or board meeting and especially at any Rotary Club as we travel throughout the nation and the world. By a show of hands, many of our members have “made up” by attending a Rotary meeting in a foreign country. Much more is gained than maintaining a perfect attendance by having fellowship with Rotarians throughout the world!



### HAVE YOU SEEN DUELING PIANOS?

If not, you're in for a treat. Our major fundraiser for the year will be an evening of dining and “Dueling Pianos” at the River Music Experience in Davenport. Set for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, doors will open at 6pm with the show beginning at 7:30. Tickets will be available in the near future and all of us are strongly urged to attend and to bring every friend and relative we can muster!! Joining with the RAH Club, this project is a major undertaking and features two of the top entertainers in the region. You'll laugh, you'll sing along, and you will thoroughly enjoy a unique, fun filled evening. Mark the date on your calendar now!

## Club Notes & Announcements!

### □ Welcome Guests!

New Rock Island Student Guest, Betty Hall was introduced by Assistant Rocky Principal, Karla Thies, herself a guest and prospective member. Courtney Booth was a guest of Steve Morenz, and soon to become a club member. Our exchange daughter, Camila Velasco from Peru was greeted and we also welcomed visiting Rotarian Mark Zimmerman, (Davenport, IA Club)

□ **Rotary Awards Committee Meeting** The awards luncheon committee will meet on Tuesday January 12, at 11:20 before our regular Rotary meeting. Members please bring any updated information you have. Members let Jim Moran know if can attend.

□ **Meet and Greet at Earl Hanson** Tricia Barron invited all club member to attend a Meet and Greet at Earl Hanson Elementary School on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:15pm. The hope is that many Rotarians will attend so that we can meet and chat with the teachers and staff of our partner school. Let's have a good showing of Rock Island Rotarians!

□ **Rotary Blood Drive** Chairman Chris Lemon has scheduled this year's Rotary Blood Drive for Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30am until 1pm. Be sure to sign up for a time slot, before, after, or during our meeting that day. 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.

□ **New Month, New Editor** With the changing of the month comes a changing of your Newsletter Editor. During the month of January items for publication should be directed to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net).



### **Tammy “sweeps” the raffle!**

New member Tammy Weikert's ticket was the first one drawn at today's Foundation Raffle. With her ticket pulled by a “neutral” student guest, Tammy opted for the Lo Milani wine. Tammy was then offered the opportunity to draw a ticket for the cash prize winner. What do you know --- she drew another one of her own tickets making her the first lucky person ever to “sweep” the raffle! In the spirit of Rotary, Tammy donated her cash winnings to the Rotary Foundation. For that we say “Thanks Tammy and enjoy the wine!” Might be a good day to visit the boat!



### **Dining Books!**

Fred Luckenbill still has a small supply of 2015-2016 Quad City Dining Tour Books! The books sell for \$35 and Rotary retains \$10. Inside each book you'll find over 300 coupons good at more than 135 Quad City area restaurants. From casual fast food to the finest banquet dining, you'll find your favorite places and be introduced to exciting new venues! This is one of our club's long-time fundraisers. It's a way to support Rotary and earn back way more than your donation by using the coupons! See Fred to get a book! **Coupons good until October 31, 2016.**

The Jordan EarlyAct Club Coin Drive next week hopes to fund the purchase of the LifeStraw Community unit to be donated to school children in Nicaragua who have no source of safe, sanitary water. Bring your change (or bills) next week as Rock Island Rotary attempts to help the EarlyAct kids reach their goal of raising \$500.00 for the project. Let's fill our donation box for the kids both here and in Nicaragua!



**LifeStraw® Community** is a high capacity water purifier that will serve 60 to 70 students for 3 years.

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function in rural and perimeter-urban areas where the availability of water is not safe for direct consumption. Each unit filters up to 100,000 liters and stores up to 25 liters of filtered water, which may be dispensed using the four (4) built in taps. Water is simply poured into the top chamber, where it is filtered through a high throughput filtration system, and then stored in the safe storage chamber for easy dispensing.