



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 15, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 37



Fellow Rock Island Rotarian, Bob Swanson, enrolled his 9-year old daughter in Rock Island Girls Softball (RIGS) in 1995. The following year he volunteered to help as a coach in the league, a position he has held for the past 20 years. At today's meeting Bob spoke about the league, the service it provides for our community, the evolution of the program, the development of facilities that has occurred during the past two decades and the vision the league has for the future.

RIGS was formed in 1971 to provide a summer-time softball program for girls. During the past 44 years, over 10,500 Rock Island area girls, aged 9-18 have participated. The League has two divisions, one for girls 9-13, and a senior division for those 14-18. Fees are kept as low as possible to ensure that all can participate. Currently the registration fee is \$25 which is waived in cases of hardship. For their fee each girl receives a uniform shirt, shorts, socks, and medical insurance coverage. Balls, bats, and in some cases even gloves are provided for the girls. Each team has from two to four coaches, and plays games two to three times each week during May, June, and July. A league tournament in each age division is held at the end of the season. In 1990 a scholarship program was started to provide cash assistance for girls who further their education after high school or enter the military. To qualify for the award a girl must play in the league for five years, including their eighteen year old year. To date over \$120,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

Through the years, numerous ball fields at Rock Island parks and school yards have been used for league games. Fields at Lincoln Park, Sunset Park, Francis Willard School, Reservoir Park, and Douglas Park have all served as RIGS fields. A lighted field on 31st Avenue served as the main RIGS field for many years until ground subsidence caused the city to condemn the area in 2005. For several years league games were played wherever a field could be found. A breakthrough occurred in 2006 when the city agreed to allow RIGS to build a field on vacant land just South of the Hauberg Civic Center Mansion. The catch however was that RIGS needed raise over \$200,000 to bring in fill and build the facility. The league went to work with fundraisers, grant writing, and volunteer labor, and in 2009 the new field complete with lights, underground sprinklers, dugouts, and fencing was dedicated. A score board was provided by Rock Island Rotary and Rock Island Kiwanis. In 2013 a concessions/storage/restroom building was completed and put into service. In 2015 an adjacent second field was added to the complex and put into use, still lacking lights and scoreboard. Future plans include adding lights, scoreboard, and sprinkler system to the second field and development of park type facilities at the site including swings, teetertotters, little tots park toys, plus picnic tables, and a picnic shelter.

In addition to just having fun, league goals of sportsmanship, responsibility, dedications, hard work, playing by rules, and commitment are taught to all participants. All games are open to the public, free of charge, Monday through Friday in May, June, and the first three weeks of July. (More images page 4)

March – May Calendar

- Mar. 22 - Dave Ross – R.I. County Administrator
- Mar. 29 - PJ Foley – Aircraft Carrier Experience
- Apr. 5 - Bert Blood Scholarship
- April 12 - Chinese Culture / Shen Yun – Dr. Feng
- April 19 - Awards Luncheon
- April 26 - Earl Hanson Inspire Choir
- May 3 - Rock Island Public Library – Angela Campbell
- May 10 - Privies to Plumbing: A Short History of the Bathroom – Ann Koski
- May 17 - Rotary Foundation – Bud Phillis
- May 24 - Financial Scams – Andrew Guzzo
- May 31 - Kiwanis Joint Meeting



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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



Girl Scouts®

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ Welcome Guests!

Alleman Student Guests Kate Florence and Andy Maloney. Prospective member, Kathy Lelonek, guest of Angela Campbell, Shelly Wells Cain and Kasi DeFrieze from the Girl Scouts, and frequent guest Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club.

□ Rotary Awards Banquet

Our 2016 Awards will be presented at the club's April 19th meeting. Keynote speaker will be Judge Sara Darrow, district judge on the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. Top students from Augustana College, Rock Island and Alleman High Schools will be honored along with community members honored in the categories of "Excellence" and "Community Service", and a club member will be recognized as our A. T. Peara Award winner for outstanding service to Rotary. This is the final week for club members to nominate candidates for the awards. See the attached nomination form.

□ Roses for Your Sweetie

Through an arrangement with the Noon Kiwanis Club, Rotarians can order beautiful roses at just \$16 per dozen and you can do it in the Botanical Center Lobby as you come to next week's meeting. Kiwanis will share a portion of the profits with our club so you can thrill your special person AND help our club. Roses will be available for pick up on April 27 which also happens to be Administrative Assistants (formerly "Secretary's") Day. Super gift at a very reasonable price!

□ 4-H Pork Chops and Hot Dogs

The Rock Island County 4-H and Extension programs will host a Pork Chop Dinner & Pie Auction fundraiser on Thursday, April 7th at the Milan American Legion from 4 to 7pm. The Pork Chop dinner is \$8 and a hot dog meal is also available for \$5. Dinners include sandwich, chips, baked beans, applesauce, dessert & drink. Money raised will help fund Rock Island Rotary's Bert Blood Scholarships. Stop in and help the cause!

□ Have Items for our Newsletter?

For March publication send to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net. For April publication send items to Holly Sparkman at hksparkman@gmail.com.



Rotary Supports Girl Scouts

Budget Priorities Chairman, Frank Lambert presents a Rock Island Rotary check in the amount of \$700 to Shelly Wells Cain and Kasi DeFrieze representing the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Our donation will be used for the Girls Scout Outreach Initiative, a program to bring underserved girls who would not otherwise be able to participate into Girl Scouts. They engage in the program at their schools or at other organizations such as the YMCA, free of charge. The program focuses not only on traditional Girls Scout activities but also on topics such as prevention, self-esteem, sisterhood, respect, healthy choices, and social skills.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB

2016 Awards Committee



Rock Island Rotary's annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 19th**. The Awards Committee seeks nominations for the following awards:

1. **Excellence:** Recognizes distinction or superiority in a field of endeavor. This can be for a single accomplishment or for achieving high standards of achievement or performance over as sustained period of time.
2. **Community Service:** Recognizes individuals or organizations who have worked effectively for the betterment of our community.
3. **A.T. Peara Award for Service Above Self:** Recognizes the Rock Island Rotary member who has exhibited the dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were personified by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named after.

The first two awards are open to any individual or organization that has demonstrated excellence or worked for the betterment of the Rock Island community. The excellence award applies to all lines of work and to all ages.

The A.T. Peara Award is limited to current members of Rock Island Rotary.

To ensure that our committee has adequate time to evaluate, consider, make the selections, and have awards prepared, the deadline for nominations is March 22nd. Please consider making one or more nominations using the lower portion of this form. Additional copies are available if you need them. We greatly appreciate your participation and assistance.

Submit Nomination to: Billy Puckett or by e-mail to billy@callmebilly.com

NOMINEE NAME: _____ **Your Name:** _____

Nominated for (be sure to indicate):

___ Excellence ___ Community Service ___ A.T. Peara Award

Reasons in support of your nomination:

Images of Rock Island's Girls Softball League complex.



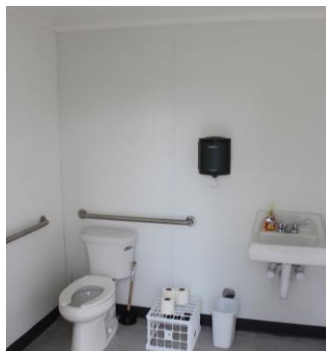
Summer of 2015, new upper and lower fields and concessions building in full use!



Finished new field on left, under-construction "Lower field" on the right. The Hauberg Mansion is just North.



Scoreboard at new field donated by Rock Island Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.



New building houses concessions, restrooms, and off season equipment storage.



A Major League Baseball grant paid for lights



It's All About the Girls!



New Field is fenced with sprinkler system