



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 8, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 36



## A Bit Off Key

### Fun Pianos – A Big Hit!

The first time joint venture dueling pianos fundraiser sponsored by the Rock Island and Twin Rivers After Hours Rotary Clubs brought laughs, great food, and money to both club's charity coffers. The evening began with a fantastic buffet featuring multiple choices of tasty treats plus a ten foot table of incredible desserts. Then the fun moved into the main Redstone Showroom where the dueling piano pros from "Fun Pianos" entertained for a full two hours. The large crowd made up of Rotarians from at least five area clubs as well as representatives of District 6340 and many non-Rotarian fun lovers was entertained, involved, embarrassed, and laughed continuously as they clapped, danced, party lined, and on occasion enjoyed seeing fellow audience members gently "coerced" into taking center stage. The joint Rotary committee that organized the event did a super job, as did Rocky Island President-elect, Steve Morenz, who headed up a 50/50 drawing that raised over \$900! Even better, the winner donated her half of the proceeds back to Rotary. The event was billed as our "FIRST" dueling pianos fundraiser and both clubs look forward to a bigger event next year!

#### March – May Calendar

- Mar. 8 - Thom Cornelis – Television Sports
- Mar. 15 - Rock Island Girls Softball – Bob Swanson
- 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



The "Fun Pianos" pros keep the evening hopping, as a full house crowd enjoys the fun!!



Sgt. At Arms Vic Boblett "Gets Down"



Al and Cathy Metz show their moves!





P.O. Box 4514  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)

## 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

### New Member Proposed

Kathy Lelonek has been proposed for membership by Angela Campbell. Comments, if any, to Steve Morenz or John Phillips.

### AUSTIN TURNS BLUE

Congratulations to Chuck Austin who turned in his Red badge for a Blue one!

## Club Notes & Announcements!

### ☐ Welcome Guests!

Alleman Student Guests Kate Florence and Andy Maloney. Diane Phillis, guest of husband Bud Phillis. Prospective member, Kathy Lelonek, guest of Angela Campbell and Ann Ring guest of Anne McGlynn.

### ☐ Greeters Needed

Club members are asked to sign up to serve as greeters at upcoming meetings. All that is necessary is the ability to come a few minutes early with a warm heart and friendly hand. Stop by the Sergeant At Arms table and sign up with Sam Wray.

### ☐ Rotary Awards Banquet

Our 2016 Awards will be presented at the club's April 19<sup>th</sup> 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. There is still time 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!

### ☐ Urban Gardens

We need at least two Rotarians to work with the Rock Island Urban Gardens group to support getting the growing beds we built last year in shape at the Coventry Senior Housing Complex and the ARC locations. Ideally, this would be some people who know a bit about gardening and like to work in the soil. It is expected that this will be coordinated by the Urban Gardeners group and someone at each site. Anyone interested should contact President John Phillips.

### ☐ Have Items for our Newsletter?

For March publication send to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). For April publication send items to Holly Sparkman at [hksparkman@gmail.com](mailto:hksparkman@gmail.com).

## RAFFLE SUPPORTS FOUNDATION

The foundation raffle featured Lo Milani wine and cash. The cash was won by Fred Luckenbill and donated to the Rotary Foundation. Jim Moran almost missed the call but was back in the room just in time to win the wine.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!!**

## T.C. Still On Top!

Rotarians had the pleasure of hearing an outstanding program at today's meeting provided by veteran television sports personality, Thom Cornelis. Cornelis retired in September of 2014 after 44 years in Quad City television, First at ABC affiliate WQAD and for the bulk of his career at NBC affiliate KWQC. Cornelis served as Sports Director for the two stations and was known for his witty presentation of evening and late night sportscasts. Thom was an early promoter of making the Quad Cities a permanent and major stop on the PGA tour and remained a key figure year after year as the tournament grew into the present John Deere Classic. Thom was also instrumental in helping the Bix grow from fewer than 100 runners to an international event attracting thousands of competitors, including world-class athletes from all over the globe.

Thom reminisced naming some of the outstanding local athletes he covered along with many outstanding and colorful coaches that have led Quad City area teams. Talking about the television industry he recalled that during his career he worked through 10 station ownership changes and 12 changes of General Managers. He also recalled originally taking sports highlights on film, then changing over to video tape, and ultimately moving to tiny digital recording devices.



Thom Cornelis retired after 44 years in Quad City Television. Thom and wife Marcia have four grown children and seven grandchildren. He remains active with the "Bix" and the WIU Alumni Association.

## 2 major university scholarships offered for International Studies

Applicants must be college freshmen who plan to study abroad their junior year or upperclassmen/ college graduates who want to complete a graduate year abroad. The deadline for applications is May 13, 2016. Follow this link for application information: [Candidates are being sought for two Rotary college scholarships.](#)

**District Grant Scholarships** are for undergraduates/graduates who seek to spend the 2017-2018 academic year abroad. This scholarship provides funding for round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room and board, some educational supplies and brush-up language training, if necessary, to a maximum of \$25,000. The applicant should plan to study in a vocational area that is consistent with the mission of the Rotary Foundation, "Doing Good in the World." Part of the experience will include performing service work with their host Rotary Club.

**Global Grant Scholarships** are available to students who will pursue a graduate degree abroad during the academic year 2017-2018. It is a \$30,000 award for one academic year. Applicants must very closely align their curriculum and future career plans with one or more focus areas of Rotary service: Peace and Conflict Resolution; Disease Prevention and Treatment; Water and Sanitation; Maternal and Child Health; Basic Education and Literacy; and Economic and Community Development.

The awardees will also be responsible for performing a service project abroad consistent with their area of study.

Both scholarships, which are designed to further international understanding and good will, provide for study abroad in more than 200 countries where Rotary Clubs are located.

During their studies abroad Rotary scholarship recipients will be "Ambassadors of Goodwill." Through appearances before Rotary Clubs and Districts, schools, civic organizations, and other forums, the students will represent Rotary International, the United States, and their community as they work to further international understanding.

For more information, contact George Bass, Rotary District 6420 Scholarships Chair, [george.bass@countryfinancial.com](mailto:george.bass@countryfinancial.com) or 815.397.5656. *[Reprinted from District 6420 Newsletter]*



## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB 2016 Awards Committee

Rock Island Rotary's annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. 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 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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](mailto:billy@callmebilly.com)

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**NOMINEE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated for (be sure to indicate):

\_\_\_ Excellence      \_\_\_ Community Service      \_\_\_ A.T. Peara Award

Reasons in support of your nomination:

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