



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 16, 2016 : Volume XXIII, Issue 33



On 23 February, Rotary clubs worldwide will mark the 111th anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting held by Paul Harris!

Club Notes & Announcements!

- **Welcome Guests!** RIHS Junior Rotarians Deniza Ndikumana and John Ponsetto ; Alleman High School Junior Rotarians Sarah Manage and Gabby Kerker; Bill Bulat a guest of Chuck Austin, Rob Winters a Davenport Rotarian, and Mark Zimmerman a Davenport Rotarian.
- **The Raffle!** Tammy Weikert won the wine, Larry Tadlock won the cash and donated it to the foundation, and Ruth Lee won the Peruvian Alpaca hat.
- **The Dueling Pianos Event Needs Your Help!** Apparently ticket sales are slower than hoped, and Steve reminded members that this event is our **only** major fundraiser for the year. He urged every member to purchase at least two tickets in support of the event. See the last page for more information on the event – it is going to be a great evening!
- **District Grant Opportunity!** Rock Island Rotary has successfully obtained a Rotary District Grant for each of the past two years to support some of our community projects. In 2014 we helped construct urban gardens at the Coventry Senior Residential Center and at ARC homes. In 2015 we distributed more than 200 books to Rock Island youth as part of a summer enrichment program. In 2016 we have another opportunity to obtain up to \$1,500 from Rotary that can match a contribution from our club in the same amount. **If you have ideas on a project** that would be a good initiative for our club, please contact President John Phillips, 1st Vice President Steve Morenz or Secretary Anne McGlynn make a decision on a project no later than March.

February / March Calendar

Feb 2 - Scott Mullen, Exec.
Dir. IWireless Center

Feb 2 - Rotary Blood Drive

Feb 9 - Matt Splittgerber –
Iowa Interstate Railroad

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

Mar. 3 – Dueling Pianos
event, RME



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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

Feb – March: Bob Swanson
April – May: Kevin Koski
June – July: Diane Koster

**Please bring in items to donate to the
Midwest PETS 2016 Project! Steve Morenz
and Bruce Peterson will be attending the
event in March!**



Midwest PETS 2016 Project

**Midwest PETS is partnering with
AMVETS of ILLINOIS and
VETERANS OUTREACH OF WISCONSIN
to serve those who have served us!**

Together, let's gather and donate items requested by U.S. Veterans and their families who are in need of assistance, throughout our seven participating Rotary Districts.

AMVETS:

- New or Gently-used Adult & Children's Clothing
- Backpacks and Purses
- Old Cell Phones
- Laptops



VETERANS OUTREACH:

Food Basics

- Canned Tuna
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Jello
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce
- Cereal

Toiletries

- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Feminine Products



Anything and everything your club can gather and bring to PETS on March 4 will be greatly appreciated! Cash contributions to either or both of these great organizations are also welcome!



**Together We Can
BE THE CHANGE
For Our Veterans In Need!**

Rotarians Tour the New Rock Island Police Station

Rock Island Police Chief Jeff VenHuizen visited the Rock Island Rotary Club to talk about the new police facility and then give a tour of the building.

The new facility is located at 1212 5th Avenue in Rock Island and was completed late 2015. In 2010, Mayor Pauley announced his intentions to build a new police station and five years later the project became reality.

The old police station located on 16th street in City Hall was built in 1940 and housed 22 department staff. It served a purpose back in the day, however as time went on it became apparent that it wasn't conducive for a 21st Century police force. The old building was not handicapped accessible; it was highly inefficient with a very tiny lobby area; booking was done on the second floor so persons in custody had to be taken up and down stairs for processing. There was a general lack of space with department units being spread all over the building and evidence stored in multiple locations. The holding cells did not meet current requirements and could not be used. The new facility provides ample space for the department to efficiently do their job within a secure and safe environment. Evidence is now all stored in one very secure location. The holding areas, interview rooms, and communications center all meet the latest requirements and should serve Rock Island for many years into the future.

Of note: Rock Island has the only crime lab with a resident forensic crime technician in the Illinois Quad Cities. Rock Island is also the only "accredited" police department in the Illinois Quad Cities as designated by the Illinois Association of Police Chiefs.

Our police department is in good hands with Chief VenHuizen at the helm. Jeff has received numerous Department awards and commendations for his outstanding service in arresting drug, burglary, armed robbery, and murder suspects. He received a Meritorious Service Commendation for his time as the Narcotics/Vice Unit's commander when they made over 200 arrests with large quantities of drugs seized and over \$250,000 worth of cash and other property recovered.

VenHuizen was also the 1998 Knights of Columbus Officer of the Year where he was selected for his numerous self-initiated drug arrests. He received a Life Saving Award on September 29th, 1994, for going into a burning building to save a mother and two children. In addition, to the aforementioned awards, Jeff has received thirteen letters of recognition, two letters of commendation, and a Chiefs Commendation.

He is married and has two daughters, aged 18 and 13. In his off time, Jeff enjoys coaching both his daughter's softball teams and fishing.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at new RIPD station. Photo courtesy of Dispatch/Argus



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!

