



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

July 26, 2016: Volume XXIV, Issue 4



RIVER BANDITS BASEBALL



Today Rock Island Rotary welcomed Jacqueline Holm, Assistant General Manager of the Quad City River Bandits. Miss Holm is also a proud Rotarian, belonging to the Davenport Club. A native Texan, Jacqueline came to the River Bandits after 4 seasons with the Sugar Land “Skeeters” in the Atlantic League serving as their Director of Corporate Partnerships and the team’s on-field host. Miss Holm is excited to be with the Quad City organization and proudly recounted the awards and recognitions earned in 2015. The Quad Cities

was named the *Best Minor League Sports Market* in the nation by the Sports Business Journal. Davenport was named the *3rd Best Minor League Town in American* of both Single-A and Double-A cities, by SmartAsset. Ballpark Digest named Modern Woodmen Park the *Best Single-A Ballpark in America*. LivAbility Magazine included Modern Woodman Park in their alphabetical list of the *10 Best Minor League Ballparks for 2015*. The Bandits even won awards for the *Single-A Baseball’s Best Cap* and *Best Promotion Jersey*. Finally, the Quad City Times named the River Bandits as the *Best Family Entertainment in the Quad Cities*, and Modern Woodmen Park as the *Best Place for a Kid’s Birthday Party*. When asked about attendance, Ms. Holm pointed out that attendance has been on the rise steadily over the past nine years with 251,559 attending games last year and average per game attendance up again this year (now over 4,000 per game). Beyond awards, Jacqueline was excited to speak about the Bandit’s Charitable Giving. Last year the Club made more than \$300,000 in charitable contributions to our community. Genesis Health Services Foundation receives half of all amusement ride revenue, which in 2015 reached \$50,000 and gained national recognition from Ballpark Digest. The Bandits also fund 3 full tuition college scholarship for Quad City area students. An organization is named the evening of every Bandits game as the Organization of the Night. In 2015, 55 organizations raised more than \$25,000 at Bandit games. During the season more than 80 baseball games are played at Modern Woodmen Park. In addition to baseball, the Park also has banquet and meeting rooms which host proms, weddings, school events, holiday parties, and corporate meetings. In 2015 more than 150 non-baseball events were hosted. Jacqueline concluded with a sneak peek at some of the new “thrill” rides in the planning for addition in 2017. After watching the video, Sam Wray asked, “Do we pay or do you pay us to ride on those rides!” All in all, it was an interesting and informative program adding to the excitement as we approach our own Rotary Night at the Ball Park coming up on August 19th. Thanks Jacqueline for reminding us what a fine asset the Bandits are for our community. [See related photos on page 3]

July - August Calendar

- July 26 - Jacqueline Holm – Quad City River Bandits
- Aug 2 - Keri Bass, Augustana College
- Aug 9 - Mark McQuate - 1 Marine 1 Life Foundation
- Aug 16 - Kenny Massey, CEO of Modern Woodmen
- Aug 23 - Rene Gellerman, Quad Cities Chamber
- Aug 30 - TBA



P.O. Box 4514
 Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

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

Board Members

Dave Geenen
 Jim Nordquist
 Molly Shattuck
 Al Metz
 Angela Campbell
 James Benson
 Billy Puckett

Co-Sergeant At Arms
 Bob Swanson & Vic Boblett

Program Chairs 2016-17

July – Aug: Kyle Vietti
 Sept – Oct: Dave Geenen
 Nov – Dec: Gary Rowe
 Jan – Feb: John Wetzel
 Mar – Apr: Julie Gelaude
 May – June: Bob Swanson

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

This week's raffle featured cash, fine wine from the Lo Milani's cellar, and a Dr. Larry Tadlock, hand turned solid walnut bowl with Rotary inset. Larry was also the first lucky winner and amazingly he didn't take the bowl! Larry took the wine, Lo Milani took home the bowl, and Mike Locander walked away with the cash!

Thanks to all who participated!

Club Notes & Announcements!

- **Welcome Guests!** The Club was visited today by former member, Rebecca Arnold who will be leaving this Friday to return for a month in Bangladesh, closing down her charitable operations there and looking to move to a new "safer" location. Also visiting were Bobby Harris of the Argus/Dispatch, a guest of Anne McGlynn; and Keaton Christiansen, a guest of Molly Shattuck and Tom Hammar. The Club also welcomed Rotarian visitor, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. Guests are always welcome, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!
- **Volunteers Needed for JDC!** The Moline Rotary Club has the 18th hole during the John Deere Classic. It takes about 10 to 12 persons at all times to make this happen and the Moline Rotary is extending an invitation to Rock Island Rotary to help cover the slots. The classic is the weekend of August 11, but will run from Wednesday thru Sunday. Your entrance fee is free, but you will have to buy a Tee Shirt that costs about \$25. You get free snacks while on duty and a free lunch at noon time. If you are interested, please contact Sam Wray at 799-5160 or Kent Crippen at 787-3514.
- **Collecting For School Supplies!** Rock Island Rotary continued our collection of funds to ensure students at our adopted school, Earl Hanson Elementary, have what they need for a successful year. Our Literacy Committee will do the shopping; we just need to fill their purse! Last week over \$75 was collected and it appeared today we were well on the way to matching that! Thank you!! Rotarians Care!
- **Have Items for our Newsletter?** For August publication send items to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

LITERACY COMMITTEE MAKES ROTARY DONATION

Literacy Committee Chairman, Anne McGlynn presented a \$1000 check from Rock Island Rotary to Bobbi Harris of the Argus/Dispatch to help fund the Newspapers in Education program. The program provides daily newspapers to students in selected schools in the Rock Island-Milan School System. Ms.



Harris, a retired current affairs teacher, pointed out that often text books are years behind the times. Newspapers provide teachers and students with the very latest information on government, politics, and current affairs both local and worldwide. Reading is also encouraged since the newspaper includes sections of interest to teenagers such as sports, entertainment, fashion, trends, celebrity news. This year marks the first time Rotary has made a substantial contribution to the program. Ms. Harris expressed her appreciation on behalf of the students and teachers who will receive the free daily newspapers.

IMPORTANT YOUTH EXCHANGE REPORT!

Youth Exchange Chairman, Jeff Dismer, reported that our incoming exchange daughter, Agata Burzynska will arrive from Poland at the Quad Cities International Airport next Monday, August 1st at 6:05pm. We will not have another meeting prior to her arrival. A strong showing of Rock Island Rotarians is encouraged to welcome her to her new home for the coming year. She will be attending Rock Island High School and initially living with Sue and Bob Cassatt and. Mark your calendar and join Jeff and other Rock Island Rotarians as we greet our daughter! Jeff also reported that last year's outbound student, Melissa Haggarty, has returned safely from Spain and will be visiting the club in the near future.

BIRDIES REPORT!



Chairman, Kevin Koski, reported our collection of Birdies for Charity pledges for 2016 is now closed. With great joy he reported that our goal of 40 member pledges had been exceeded with 43 received. Even more impressive was the campaign's rocking our goal of 90 cents in total pledges per Birdie and raising a whopping \$1.34 in pledges. Rotary is likely to receive well over \$2,500 in returned funds from the John Deere Charitable Foundation! Thanks to those that made it possible. And thanks, KEVIN!!

