



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

July 5, 2016: Volume XXIV, Issue 1



PRESIDENT MORENZ Takes the Reins!



Rock Island Rotarians welcomed our new president, Steve Morenz as our main speaker at today's meeting. Steve began by thanking past president, John Phillips for his leadership during 2015-16. He also made it a point to introduce and thank his lovely wife, Dawn VandeMoortel, for her support and assistance. President Steve then laid out his goals for 2016-17. First and foremost is membership. He stressed that membership is the job of every Rotarian. Last year 16 new members joined our club, but 10 members discontinued their membership making the net gain 6. For the coming year Steve set the goal at a net gain of 7 members. Which would put our membership over 100 for the first time in many years. Steve related that he joined Rotary, "because I was asked". It also helped

June - July Calendar

- July 5 - New President, Steve Morenz
- July 12 - Kirk Marske – Career Cruising Quad Cities
- July 19 - Club Assembly and Foundation Tuesday
- July 26 - Jacqueline Holm – Quad City River Bandits

that at the first meeting he visited he won the raffle cash! President Morenz urged all members to join the effort to grow membership by being sure to ask friends and colleagues to check us out and visit a meeting. He also stressed that we want not only new members, but *involved active* members. He took the opportunity to publically thank new member, Kyle Vietti, for the club's redesigned webpage. Check out www.rirotary.com and see the great work Kyle did for our club! President Steve then talked about social events and fundraisers. He noted the past success of the Trivia Night, Dueling Pianos, Dining Books, and Birdies for Charity fundraisers. He announced that in addition to continuing these, the club has agreed to take over the Reindeer Ramble, a 5K run held in December. Mike Locander will chair the event which will add another great fundraiser to our activities. Steve pointed out that most of our fundraisers are fun social events as well. He set a goal to solicit corporate sponsorships for our fundraisers so that expenses can be covered by sponsor fees and ticket sales and fundraiser participation proceeds can be used for Rotary's charitable work. Celebrating our successes was another desire of the new president and he proudly mentioned that our club had won virtually every award imaginable at the last District Conference. Increasing our support of the Rotary International Foundation was another goal for 2016-17. In the past our club has been a great supporter of the Foundation, with our members contributing an average of \$8,000 per year. Unfortunately all of this support has come from about half of our club members. Steve urged all to make the commitment to get involved with as little a contribution as \$26.50 which was the amount of the first contribution made when the foundation was created nearly 100 years ago. Steve also hopes our club will plan a 100th Anniversary celebration for the Foundation during the coming year. The goal is to have every Rotarian participate at some level. Steve also wants our club to continue our collaboration with other Rotary Clubs and announced that a joint effort service project is already in the works wherein members of our club will join other Rotarians at the St. Ambrose Ragelski Center to pack 32,000 meals for the Kids Against Hunger program. He also said our club will continue our close collaboration with the RAH Club, which we helped found nearly three years ago. In conclusions President Morenz pointed out that Rotary is a "Movement" working daily to make the world a better place. He pointed out that Rotary must evolve and change with the times if we hope to grow and thrive. Finally Steve said we need to continue to have fun and said that the FUN Committee is working on an agenda of activities for the coming year which he would be presenting to the Board of Directors and was looking for Club "buy in" to the activities. Overall 2016-17 looks to be a great and exciting year for our Club under the capable leadership of Steve Morenz.



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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

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **Welcome Guests!** The new “First Lady” of our club, Dawn VandeMoortel, wife of president Steve Morenz, attended to be a part of the Steve’s first meeting as chief executive. The Club also welcomed Rotarian visitors, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club and Mark Zimmerman, from the Davenport, Iowa Club. Thanks for coming Mark! We always enjoy welcoming you!!

□ **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.

□ **Night At the Ballpark Tickets!** We have sold all of our tickets. In all 100 were sold which netted \$500 for our Club coffers. We look forward to a beautiful evening, a great game, and spectacular fireworks!

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** For July publication send items to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net. August items should be sent to Holly Sparkman at hksparkman@gmail.com.



James Benson Turns Blue

Fellow member Rev. James Benson traded in his new member “Red Badge” for our standard “Blue Badge” at today’s meeting having completed all of the new member orientation responsibilities. Way to go James!



BANGLADESH TERRORISM HITS CLOSE TO HOME!

Rebecca Arnold, our former member, is a Health Educator in Bangladesh where she resides with her son, Darius. Although she was home at the time of the recent hostage crisis in Bangladesh she shares the following insight: "We are safe in the US, but quite shaken up. That restaurant is not far from our apartment, and I usually go there about once a week. The 3 college students that were among the slain hostages had all graduated from Darius' school in 2015. I fly back to Bangladesh on July 18th -- as long as the situation is tenable." Rebecca continues her association with Rotary as a member of Eclub One in Colorado. Keep Rebecca and Darius in your prayers.

Don't Forget BIRDIES!



Chairman, Kevin Koski, reports mixed progress toward our club goals for the 2016 Birdies For Charity drive. Remember, all funds pledged go to our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation used solely for projects that benefit Rock Island.

Club goals were for 40 members to make pledges. To date just 29 have submitted pledges. The cash goal was 90 cents, and that goal has been met and exceeded by the 29 pledges received. Let's get over \$1!! Pledge forms are at the Sergeant at Arms table. Make your pledge today!

Our Newest Paul Harris Fellow

Past President, Frank Lambert, who always says "Take the Money", put all those raffle winnings to good use, honoring his father-in-law, Russell Norton, as our most recent Paul Harris Fellow. Frank noted that just small periodic contributions to the Foundation along with the club providing \$400 in matching funds, can quickly add up. A Paul Harris Fellow = \$1000 in total contributions. Get started – See Bud Phillis!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY RECEIVES DISTRICT GRANT

Rock Island Rotary has been notified that our application for a District Grant to help fund our Mobile Food Pantry project has been approved. Our Club will donate \$1,250 which will be matched by the District Grant. The \$2,500 will make it possible for the River Bend Foodbank to provide a Mobile Food Pantry. The Mobile Food Pantry will travel to the areas where the need is greatest 3 to 4 times a month. Each Mobile Food Pantry distribution provides about 10,000 meals and feeds hundreds of families. All the food is passed out in about two hours in a farmer's market style of distribution.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

This week's raffle featured cash and wine from Lo Milani's famed cellar. Tammy Weikert showed that her winning ways were still in high gear, winning the cash which she donated to our Rock Island Club Foundation. The wine was won by an amazingly spry, Bud Phillis. Just three weeks after knee replacement, Bud walked in with no cane, no crutch, no walker, and no chauffeur. And he needed no help to walk the wine to his car!

Thanks to all who participated!

July Birthday Wishes!

Happy Birthday to these July Rotarian "babies"!

Ernest Beane	July	3
Lo Milani	July	6
Holly Sparkman	July	7
Fred Luckenbill	July	10
Thomas Thomas	July	11
Kevin Koski	July	12
Frank Lambert	July	15
Kyle Vietti	July	17
Karla Thies	July	18
Sam Wray	July	18
Ralph Crowe	July	19

Club tradition is a \$1 fine for each birthday, \$2 if the date falls on a meeting day!!

GIRLS SOFTBALL SCOREBOARD INSTALLED



Rock Island Rotary joined with Rock Island Noon Kiwanis to purchase a scoreboard for the new Rock Island Girls Softball Field adjacent to the Hauberg Civic Center. The two service clubs have now provided two wireless, electronic scoreboards for the Girls Softball Complex. The newest scoreboard was installed last month and has been in use five days each week ever since. Both scoreboards display the Rotary and Kiwanis logos in recognition of the donation.

Ravindran moves audience with personal story



RI President K.R. Ravindran shares a personal story of triumph over polio at the closing session of the 107th Rotary convention. Photo Credit: SJ Cho

RI President K.R. Ravindran closed the convention in Korea on Wednesday, 1 June, with a poignant story about his mother's fight to survive polio at age 30.

When Ravindran was 11 years old in his native Sri Lanka, his mother awoke one day feeling weak and short of breath. Sitting down to rest, she found herself unable to move. The polio virus had quickly invaded her nervous system, resulting in paralysis.

She was placed in an iron lung at the hospital to enable her to breathe, and was told that her chances of walking, or even surviving without a ventilator, were slim. But most Sri Lankan hospitals were not equipped with ventilators in 1963.

Ravindran's grandfather, a Rotary member, hosted a club committee meeting in his living room the evening after his daughter was rushed to the hospital. Rather than simply offer consolation, his fellow members went to work, using their business acumen and professional connections to find a ventilator.

One of the members was a bank manager who called a government minister to facilitate a quick international transfer of funds. Another member, a manager at SwissAir, arranged to have a ventilator flown in. The next day, it arrived at the hospital.

"There was so much red tape at the time in Sri Lanka, but somehow, those Rotarians made it all fall away," Ravindran told the packed audience at the KINTEX Convention Center in Goyang city.

Ravindran's mother spent a year-and-a-half in a hospital bed, but her condition gradually improved. She eventually left the hospital walking -- with a walker, but upright, on her own two feet.

"Fifty-three years ago, my mother's life was perhaps one of the very first to be saved from polio by Rotarians," Ravindran said. "We have saved millions of lives since then.

"Tonight, I stand before you as her son, and your president, to say that soon -- perhaps not in years but in months -- Rotary will give a gift that will endure forever: a world without polio."