Thomas M. Anderson, President
Illinois State Medical Society

Rock Island Rotary had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Anderson for our annual update on the status of medical care in Illinois and around the nation. This year, with the prospect of the repeal and replacement of “Obama Care”, members were highly interested in Dr. Anderson’s thoughts and the position of the Illinois State Medical Society. Dr. Anderson’s began his comments noting the similarity of purpose for the medical profession and Rotary. He noted that medical students are taught “Do No Harm” as a basic tenant. He noted that few doctors enter practice because they want to do no harm. He said the motivation is much more related to Rotary’s motto, “Service above Self. The bulk of Dr. Anderson’s remarks were aimed at two significant issues: 1) The Opioid Epidemic and Health Insurance. Regarding opioids, he noted that 4 of 5 heroin addicts started with addiction to opioid prescription drugs. He stated that 90% of the world’s consumption of Vicodin and 80% of the world consumption of OxyContin occurs in the United States. Last year 270 million prescriptions for narcotic drugs were written in the United States. To combat this epidemic the Illinois Medical Society has instituted an education program for doctors emphasizing the wise handling of prescriptions. According to Dr. Anderson, narcotic prescriptions should not be used for chronic pain requiring long term use of the drug. Such drugs may be appropriate for short term pain such as post-operative or post fracture short term pain control. He noted that legislation has already been passed that will require all doctors in Illinois to register every prescription written for a narcotic drug. The data will be used to establish a data base so that a doctor will immediately know if a patient seeking narcotics has obtain them from other doctors and will advise when the previous prescriptions were received. A final issue regarding narcotic drugs is the proper disposal of unused drugs. Dr. Anderson noted that over 2,000 tons of prescription drugs are disposed of annually. Throwing them in the toilet risks getting the drug into the water system. Putting them in the trash, particularly if still in the bottle risks them being taken out and sold to drug addicts. Illinois is establishing safe drug disposal sites which will help with this problem.

Regarding Health Insurance, the Medical Society has proposed legislation that would reform Illinois health insurance policies by requiring: 1) Insurance companies must provide a specific level of coverage ensuring access within their system to local doctors and reasonably local specialists; 2) Insurance companies must keep their information current, particularly information regarding which doctors and institutions are in their system’s network; 3) In cases of extended care such as pregnancy, long term illness, etc., patients will be allowed to keep their doctor and/hospital even if that doctor or hospital has been dropped from the network. The patient would also be charged only the “in network” rate for the doctor’s or hospital’s services. Dr. Anderson said that the insurance industry is not happy with these reforms and asked for public support to urge local state representatives and senators to vote in favor of the Medical Society’s reforms. Rotarians were also allowed to ask many interesting questions of Dr. Anderson who was straight forward and knowledgeable in his answers. Thanks for another outstanding Rotary program!
At least seven million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation.

To help reduce this rate, Rotarians provide immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children.

According to the World Bank, 310 women die in Uganda for every 100,000 live births, compared with just 21 in the United States and 12 in the United Kingdom. Infants fare even worse. In Uganda, 45 out of 1000 infants never reach the age of one, compared with six in the US and just four in the UK.

Kenya and Tanzania's infant and maternal mortality rates are also disturbing. Add in the HIV/AIDS crisis, poverty and in adequate – or nonexistent – clinics and it's clear that programs like these are needed more than ever in East Africa.

To address this challenge, The Rotary Foundation and Aga Khan University are working together to provide nursing professionals the skills and education they need to improve the lives of mothers and their children in East Africa. Twenty-four students were given Rotary scholarships to advance their nursing education in Uganda. They graduated with either a Registered Nurse or Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Thanks to The Rotary Foundation these students now carry out programs to teach health care to men and women in their communities, and are taking part in outreach programs to reduce the deaths of infants. Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation allowed this to happen.
50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary
Taken from an article by Steve Garret, District Governor 1994-1995

19 - A BRIEF ROTARY HISTORY

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents, and the organization adopted the name Rotary International a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its principal motto: Service Above Self. Rotary also later embraced a code of ethics, called The 4-Way Test, that has been translated into hundreds of languages.

We'll follow up with more of the 50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary in future issues.

WATER FILTER PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

Started by Sam and Hilde Wray, Rock Island Rotary is making great progress toward our goal of establishing a club sponsored international water project. A donation by the Wrays purchased the first 34 water filters already delivered and in use in rural Nairobi, Kenya. Sam and Hilde made an additional donation to create a special Rock Island Rotary Water Filter Fund that is now able to accept tax deductible donations from all Rotarians and Rotary Clubs. Funds in this account will be used to purchase additional LifeStraw Community Water Filtration units for distribution to rural schools in Africa. Members of our club's International Projects Committee have authored a tri-fold color brochure promoting our project and have prepared a power point presentation for use as members of our committee visit other Rotary Clubs and invite them to join with us in this worthy effort. Currently our team is scheduled to speak at the East Moline and Moline Clubs and have been asked to schedule visits with the Milan and Geneseo Clubs.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNERS!

Today's Foundation Raffle featured a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani Cellar and cold, hard, cash. Larry Tadlock was the first winner pulled. There was no bowl in the drawing this week, so Larry took the cash! He immediately donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Mike Oberhaus was the lucky winner of the wine. That should be a nice addition to the Christmas feast this year!

Thanks again to all who participated!

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Rotary will meet on Monday, January 9th in a joint meeting with Kiwanis to hear mayor Dennis Pauley’s final State of the City Address. There will be no Rotary meeting on Tuesday, January 10th. 2nd Vice-President, Sue Cassatt has promised fines for any Rotarian that shows up on Tuesday! Mark your calendar and don't miss the mayor's speech on Monday, January 9th.
ROTARIANS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH CIRCA 21 PARTY!

Rock Island Rotary held our annual Holiday Party on December 7th at Circa21 Dinner Theater in Rock Island. A group of 65 Rotarians and guests enjoyed a Salon Party with complimentary veggies, dips, chocolate covered strawberries, cheeses, meatballs in barbecue sauce and egg rolls prior to moving to the theater for a full buffet banquet. The evening overflowed with Christmas spirit and holiday tunes both traditional and contemporary first presented by the “Bootleggers”, Circa’s talented wait staff, and then in the main show featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus and a cast of singers and dancers that performed everything from tap to jazz to ballroom and ballet, and sang every style of holiday music. Highlights of the show were the performance of “Mary Did You Know” and a collage of songs describing various scenes of the nativity.

PRESIDENTIAL THEME

2016-17: ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY

RI President John F. Germ chose *Rotary Serving Humanity* as his theme for 2016-17. Noting Rotary’s unique ability to bring together committed professionals to achieve remarkable goals, Germ believes that “now is the time to capitalize on our success: as we complete the eradication of polio, and catapult Rotary forward to be an even greater force for good in the world.”

We now approach the halfway mark in President Germ’s term in office. Have you invited a friend, work associate, or neighbor to become a part of the exciting future that Rotary faces? After polio, what will be our next challenge? Do we rest on our laurels and pat ourselves on the back, or do we look for a new horizon? We can accomplish so much together. World peace, health and sanitation, a cure for cancer, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, are all out there waiting for a champion. Let Rotary be that Champion!

Greeters Needed - If you are able to arrive a bit early for a meeting and would be willing to greet fellow Rotarians as they arrive, please see Sam Wray and sign up to be a greeter!