



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 3, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 26



MELISSA HAGERTY HOME FROM YEAR IN SPAIN

Our 2015-16 Outbound Exchange Student, Melissa Hagerty returned from her year in Spain and is now a freshman at Augustana College. A bubbly personality and an infectious smile made Melissa a great representative of our club and community. She was warmly greeted by our club as she returned to report on her year as a Rotary Exchange student.

Melissa recounted her year abroad with a month by month slide presentation. She was placed in Santander, a beautiful ocean side city on the northern coast of Spain. Santander is located in Rotary District 2202 and is surrounded by the Cantabria Mountains. Melissa noted that raising cattle is a very prominent industry in the area. School in Spain started late in September so upon arrival Melissa was able to enjoy several weeks of "summer vacation". She learned to surf and was immersed in the culture, attending the cities' Summer Festival. She attended a multi-cultural festival and sampled new food delicacies, zebra and crocodile. She also noted that the dining schedule in Spain is quite different from the U.S. They typically have a very small breakfast usually just something sweet (never eggs for breakfast!). Lunch is their large, main meal and is served between 2 and 3pm in the afternoon. Dinner is typically a lighter meal and is served anywhere from 9 to 11pm.

School was also a different experience for Melissa. Students from elementary to high school were all housed in the same building. Mandatory education goes only through the 10th grade when those that don't plan to attend college leave and go into the workforce. Those that stay for the final two years can be selected from various specialty areas. One choice which fit Melissa to a tee was "performing arts". Melissa had been active in marching and concert band and the drama club at Rock Island High School, so this option fit both her interests and skills. Students take eight classes, with typically six meeting per day. The school day began at 8:30am and ran to 2:30pm. There was no lunch and just two 20-minute breaks during the day. Melissa said even though she had completed three years of Spanish at Rocky, language was very difficult. She noted that classroom Spanish in America consists mostly of work on grammar and vocabulary with very little actual talking or hearing Spanish. She was surprised at how quickly her classmates seemed to speak and said she spent many early days just smiling and nodding (and wondering what they were saying). By the end of her year she was communicating just fine and had become well bonded with her friends and host families. During her year she resided with three host families and said all were kind and welcoming, however her first residency ended abruptly when the family's son who himself was an exchange student in California ran into difficulties and came home. During her year, Melissa enjoyed horseback riding, walks on the beach, mountain hiking, and lots of travel and sightseeing. She made many new friends and even got to meet and sing for Rotary's International President. Her year concluded with a "Euro Tour" taking her to Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, and Italy including a gondola ride in Venice. Melissa is now attending Augustana College and is majoring in Spanish. She very emotionally thanked our club for giving her, "The Best Year of My Life".

November - December Calendar

- Jan 5 - This Thursday - "Wine Down" at the Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge. 6:00pm. Jazz Combo at 7!
- Jan 9 - **Joint Meeting with Kiwanis Mayor's State of the City**
- Jan 17 - Katie Benson and the RIHS Orchestra
- Jan 24 - TBA
- Jan 28 - Rotary Mobile Food Panty Project
- Jan 31 - TBA
- Feb 7 - Sandy Koester Band and Rotary Blood Drive



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
Tricia Barron
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 Wetzell
Mar – Apr: Julie Gelaude
May – June: Bob Swanson

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **Welcome Guests!** At today's meeting Rock Island Rotary welcomed Virginia Johnson, wife of Rotarian, Don Peterson. Exchange daughter Agata Burzinska; Karen and Paul Hagerty parents of our speaker; Colin Dismar and Martha Dismar, son and spouse of Rotarian, Jeff Dismar. Also visiting were Myah Ackerland our newly selected outbound Exchange student; Nancy Renkes of the Riverbend Food Bank; and visiting Rotarian Doug Peterson of the Iowa Quad Cities Club. Rock Island Rotary always welcomes guests, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!

□ **WINE DOWN AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!** Our fellowship of "Wining Rotarians" invites all Rotarians to "Wine Down" at the Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge on Thursday, January 5, 2017. The fun begins at 6pm with the Phat Kat Jazz Ensemble playing at 7pm. No cover, just come enjoy the fun, music, and your favorite wine or other adult beverage.

□ **SAVE THE DATE** – Saturday January 28th is the date of our next service project. On that date, we are sponsoring a Mobile Food Pantry at the 2nd Baptist Church in Rock Island. Rotarians are needed from 9:45 until about 12:30pm. If you can't give the entire time, come for what you can! Our job will be to help patrons get food parcels to their cars. Rotary is the sponsor of the event, so the ball is in our court. As many as 40 volunteers will be needed. Make it a family affair and bring your spouse, family members, and friends. The only requirement is the strength to carry groceries or pull a wagon loaded with groceries from the Church to cars. See the flier included in this newsletter.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNER!



Today's Foundation Raffle featured the old favorite, cash. Fred Luckenbill was the lucky winner and he promptly donated all his winnings to the Rotary Foundation.

Thanks again to all who participated!

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

Taken from an article by Steve Garret, District Governor 1994-1995

22 - HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

"Honorary" is one of the two types of membership a person may have in a Rotary club. This type of membership is the highest distinction a Rotary club can confer and is exercised only in exceptional cases to recognize an individual for unusual service and contributions to Rotary and society. Honorary members cannot propose new members to the club, do not hold office and are exempt from attendance requirements and club dues.

Many distinguished heads of state, explorers, authors, musicians, astronauts and other public personalities have been honorary members of Rotary clubs, including King Gustaf of Sweden, King George VI of England, King Badouin of Belgium, King Hassan III of Morocco, Sir Winston Churchill, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, Charles Lindbergh, composer Jean Sibelius, explorer Sir Edmund Hillary, Thor Heyerdahl, Thomas Edison, Walt Disney, Bob Hope, Dr. Albert Sabin, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and many of the presidents of the United States. Truly, those selected for honorary membership are those who have done much to further the ideals of Rotary.

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

Foundation Minute

Happy New Year to Everyone! For 100 years, the Rotary Foundation has been supporting Rotarians' work to create sustainable solutions to our world's most pressing needs. But there is still much more to do, and we need your help!

Rotary gives in countless ways, focusing our service efforts in six areas: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies. We're also working hard to end polio once and for all.

Giving a gift to The Rotary Foundation you become part of the positive change that Rotarians are making in your community and the world. Every gift makes a difference. A gift of \$10 provides bed nets that prevent malaria in Uganda; \$15 can protect children in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan against polio; \$50 provides personal water filters which prevent waterborne diseases in Guatemala; \$85 can be used to teach business to low-income entrepreneurs in the United States and \$500 helps communities create a safe and positive atmosphere void of bullying where children can thrive.

Your contribution large and small makes this happen! Thank you for your support.
(Give the gift of Rotary/My Rotary)



**Rock Island Rotarians Celebrating
January Birthdays -**

Bill Green	Fred Houlton
Tom Torrey	Eric Moore
Bob Swanson	Ted Kutsunis
Jim Moran	

Sarah Turns Blue!

Congratulations to Sarah Gorham who has completed all of our club's "new member" obligations and was presented with her Blue Badge at today's meeting. Sarah has been an active new member and will begin serving on our Board of Directors July 1st.



ROTARY FEEDS THE NEEDY

President Morenz presented a \$2,500 donation (\$1,250 from our club and \$1,250 from District 6420) to Nancy Renkes from the Riverbend Food Bank. The donation will fund the truckload of food to be given away on January 28th at our Rock Island Rotary Mobile Food Pantry. Ms. Renkes thanked our club and said that this donation will feed over 200 families in Rock Island for a week.



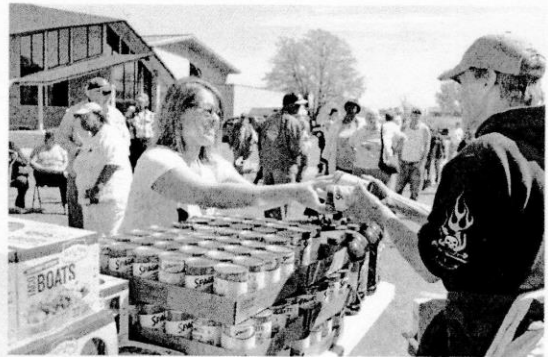
**RIVER BEND
FOODBANK**

Together we can solve hunger™

is partnering with



and Second Baptist Church
to deliver food assistance at no charge to your community!



RIVER BEND MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Saturday Jan 28

Second Baptist Church

919 6th Ave, Rock Island, IL

- Registration is from 10:15am-11am
- Food Distribution begins at 11:00am
- Please do not arrive before 10:15am
- Distribution will be indoors, unless of beautiful weather
- Laundry Baskets are great for the Mobile Food Pantry
- *Be prepared to wait as the process can take up to 2 hours*

Thank you to all the volunteers who make this event possible!



UnityPoint Health
Trinity

Food provided by River Bend Foodbank



**RIVER BEND
FOODBANK**
Together we can solve hunger™

A Member of
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

**THIS IS OUR SERVICE PROJECT. 40 VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!
SIGN UP AT THE SERGEANT'S TABLE. FAMILY MEMBERS CAN HELP
TIME FRAME IS 10AM TO 1:30PM – WORK ALL OR WORK PART!!**