



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

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River Action – Raise the Grade



Our guest speaker today was River Action Executive Director, Kathy Wine. Last October a partnership of river stakeholders hosted the ninth annual Upper Mississippi River Conference, entitled “Raise the Grade,” in Moline. The conference brought together over 200 participants from 95 organizations to develop solutions to overcome the many challenges identified in the 2015 America’s Watershed Initiative (AWI) Report Card for the Mississippi River watershed. The AWI Report Card gave the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) basin a C grade. This was the highest grade among the Mississippi River sub-basins, but River Action says a C is unacceptable. Over the two days of the UMRC, participants identified actions that could be completed within 1-5 years to raise the grade, as well as an energy area. Priority objectives for the UMR Basin emerging from the conference are:

1. Restoring and building resilience in riverine ecosystems
2. Nutrient reduction and assessment
3. Improved ability to measure and track watershed conditions
4. Comprehensive planning for watershed and flood management
5. Improved resilience in transportation system infrastructure
6. Improved opportunities for recreation
7. Improved awareness of hydropower opportunities

The action agenda calls for fully funding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) program to improve the ecosystem health of the region. The plan recommends implementation of the USACE Navigation and Environmental Sustainability Program (NESP), which is designed to improve both transportation and environmental conditions in the basin. The agenda calls for the creation of an integrated flood and flow model of the basin that can help guide its flood risk management. To achieve nutrient reduction, the report recommends support for the five states located in the Upper Mississippi basin as they implement strategies to reduce the nutrients that end up in streams and rivers as well as funding to standardize nutrient and water quality monitoring. To address agricultural nutrient pollution in the river and help meet the goals established by the EPA’s Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, the plan calls for funding of state and federal conservation programs, including National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and private and NGO initiatives that accelerate the implementation of strategies to reduce nutrient pollution. To raise public awareness for hydropower opportunities and to promote public education of clean energy, River Action plans to organize a workshop to bring together stakeholders (including energy utilities, clean energy groups, and dam owners and developers) to evaluate hydropower potential. The plan recommends increasing the awareness of outdoor recreation and the public use of waterways through the creation of a website that inventories and promotes recreational organizations, opportunities and events. Efforts to better measure and track conditions tied to the Report Card goals include evaluation of current water quality conditions, design of a new systemic monitoring structure and increased support for existing programs that monitor water quality. The plan calls for existing monitoring programs to participate in data compilation efforts, which will provide baseline data across the region. To enhance infrastructure that supports river transportation and improves environmental conditions, the report recommends funding be secured for critical infrastructure projects in the basin so that they may be completed as soon as possible. This plan represents the significant achievement of bringing together many different river stakeholders, from barge companies to environmental groups, to share the mission of raising the grade. River Action will be hosting a Hydro Power Workshop in conjunction with Western Illinois University on July 19th.

November - December Calendar

- Feb 7 - Just 4 Fun String Band and Rotary Blood Drive
- Feb 14 - Agata Burzinska - Poland
- Feb 21 - TBA
- Feb 28 - TBA
- Mar 7 - Dan Coyne Logan, Earl Hanson Principal
- Mar 14 - Glenda Nicke - Adult Ed, ESL and GED
- Mar 21 - Pam Hawman—Christian Care
- Mar 28 - Anita Zemba-Schadt - Dementia
- Apr 4 - Bert Blood Scholarship
- Apr 11 - Chris Britton - Poetry
- Apr 18 - Rotary Awards Program
- Apr 25 - Wes Llewellyn – Restaurant and Hospitality



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Sue Cassatt, 2nd VP
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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!** At today's meeting Rock Island Rotary welcomed Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School, Ryan Hodge and Mallory Hillman; and from Rock Island High School, Asrielle Allen and Griffin Evans. David Malnar, a former member, was a guest of Jeff Dismer; as was Patrick Mahar. Visiting Rotarian guest was Mark Zimmerman, a member of the Davenport Rotary Club. Our exchange daughter, Agata Burzinska was also in attendance. Rotary always welcomes guests, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!
- **BIZ TOWN** – The final training for Biz Town volunteers will be at 5pm on February 9th in the Biz Town Center in Davenport. The Biz Town Rotary event will be on March 3rd. To help you must attend training.
- **NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED** – **Charles Butler**, Chief of Security at Rock Island High School and a pastor at Olivet Baptist Church was proposed by Bob Swanson; **Sara Cross**, Boys Scouts Saukenuk District Executive was proposed by Fred Luckenbill. Direct comments to Steve Morenz or Bruce Peterson.
- **NEXT FELLOWSHIP OF WINING ROTARIANS** social event will be in early April. More details will follow in the future. Thanks to all who attended on January 5th.
- **Jordan EarlyAct** new book drive for University of Iowa Children's Hospital is underway. A donation bowl will be available next week.
- **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

Augustana College Rotaract



Members of the Augustana College Rotaract Club joined Rock Island Rotary working at our Mobile Food Bank service project on January 28th. Rock Island Rotary helped found and provides financial assistance to the Rotaract Club who often join us when manpower is needed for projects.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today our raffle featured cash, Lo Milani's finest wine, and tickets to the Quad City Autor Show courtesy of Mark Zimmerman. Howard Beck was our first winner and he took the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Tammy Weikert won the Auto Show Tickets and Steve Morenz won the wine! Thanks to all who participated!

HELP IS STILL NEEDED

The Entrepreneur Class at Rocky has two teams with great products but neither has a Mentor or a Coach. **HELP IS NEEDED** quickly. Both positions are essentially to provide advice, act as a sounding board, and generally help the kids develop their product, prepare a plan to finance its production, and a marketing plan to make it fly! The coach is more "hands on", Mentor is like a senior advisor. See Monta Ponsetto or Mike Oberhaus if you are willing to help! Don't worry if you have something to offer – of course you do!

Rock Island Rotary Serves Our Community



See Full Page Photo Layout – Page 4

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

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

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Rotary Youth Exchange is one of Rotary's most popular programs to promote international understanding and develop lifelong friendships. It began in 1927 with the Rotary Club of Nice, France. In 1939 an extensive Youth Exchange was created between California and Latin America. Since then the program has expanded around the world. In recent years, more than 7,000 young people have participated annually in Rotary-sponsored exchange programs.

The values of Youth Exchange are experienced not only by the high school-age students involved but also by the host families, sponsoring clubs, receiving high schools and the entire community. Youth Exchange participants usually provide their fellow students in their host schools with excellent opportunities to learn about customs, languages, traditions and family life in another country. Youth Exchange offers young people interesting opportunities and rich experiences to see another part of the world. Students usually spend a full academic year abroad, although some clubs and districts sponsor short term exchanges of several weeks or months.

Approximately 36 percent of Rotary Youth Exchange students are hosted or sent by the clubs in the United States and Canada. European countries account for about 40 percent, and 12 percent come from Australia and New Zealand. Asian clubs sponsor 5 percent, and 7 percent come from Latin American countries. Over 70 percent of all Rotary districts participate in Youth Exchange activities.

Youth Exchange is a highly-recommended program for all Rotary clubs as a practical activity for the enhancement of international understanding and goodwill.

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

Foundation Minute

On January 17th Rotary announced \$35 million in grants to support the global effort to end polio, bringing Rotary's contribution to \$140 million since January 2016. Nearly half of the funds Rotary announced today (\$16.15 million) will support the emergency response campaigns in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin (Chad, northern Cameroon, southern Niger and Central African Republic). Four cases of polio were detected in Nigeria in 2016, which had previously not seen a case since July 2014.

With these cases, funding is needed to support rapid response plans in Nigeria and surrounding countries to stop the outbreak. While significant strides have been made against the paralyzing disease, with just 35 cases reported in 2016, polio remains a threat in hard-to-reach and underserved areas, and conflict zones. To sustain this progress, and protect all children from polio, experts say \$1.5 billion is needed.

In addition to supporting the response in the Lake Chad Basin region, funding has been allocated to support polio eradication efforts in Afghanistan (\$7.15 million), Pakistan (\$4.2 million), Somalia (\$4.64 million), and South Sudan (\$2.19 million). A final grant in the amount of \$666,845 will support technical assistance in UNICEF's West and Central Africa Regional Office.

Rotary has contributed more than \$1.6 billion, including matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and countless volunteer hours since launching its polio immunization program, PolioPlus, in 1985. In 1988, Rotary became a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and was later joined by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since the initiative launched, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year to 35 confirmed in 2016, and no cases in 2017.

Your support of the Rotary Foundation makes all of this possible.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF
ROCK ISLAND ROTARY FUNDS AND MANS MOBILE FOODBANK



232 FAMILIES SERVED – 12,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED!



A LITTLE OFF KEY

a dueling pianos event

hosted by Rock Island Rotary & Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours

Thursday
**March
9th**

**River
Music
Experience**
129 N. Main St., Davenport

7:30pm
doors open @ 6
\$45 – standing only
\$60 – guaranteed seating
both include 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@FirstStateIL.com

Money raised from the event will go to support local youth programs and other Rotary projects!

