



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 21, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 33



THE MIRACLE FIELD



Davenport is seeking to raise \$1 million to install an all-inclusive baseball diamond at Prairie Heights Park. Parks and Recreation director Scott Hoch, guest speaker at today's Rock Island Rotary meeting said he met recently with the Miracle League to assist Davenport in designing a field with a rubberized

surface and no elevation changes for the park at 5600 Eastern Ave. Miracle League is a national organization that provides opportunities for children with disabilities to play baseball and promotes construction of special facilities, dubbed "Miracle Fields," to meet their needs. Currently special needs children in the Quad Cities play in the Davenport Challenger League or the Moline Challenger League, both are baseball leagues for children with special needs. The Davenport Challenger League currently plays on the baseball field at Junge Park, 301 W. 35th Street. The Moline Challenger League plays their games at Riverside Park in Moline. Mr. Hoch noted that the Parks Department runs approximately 50 parks, 33 playgrounds, 29 ball field, 25 miles of trails, 3 disc golf courses, 22 shelters for rental, and 5 garden wedding sites. Additional new projects include play pods based on themes of children's stories to be located at Fejervary Learning Center. The first one will be based on "The Itsy Bitsy Spider". There will be water spouts and flowers that highlight the children's rhyme. In addition to the Miracle Field, the Department also is working on a project called Gabe's' Dream Team" an "all-inclusive" playground for Vander Veer Botanical Park, with features and access for all children ages 0-5. Too often, according to Hoch, children with physical disabilities sit on the sideline, watching their siblings and friends play because they cannot navigate the field. Currently less than 1% of Quad City playgrounds are designated for inclusive play and do not offer the opportunity for those with disabilities to compete or even engage in organized sports like baseball or soccer. For children with non-physical disabilities, the challenges can prove equally insurmountable. Imagine trying to play on a busy playground or playing baseball, with kids running everywhere and lots of noises if you have a sensory impairment. The Gabe's Dream playground will have ramping to accommodate children in wheel chairs, brail for the blind, music and misting for sensory stimulation. The goal is to allow all children regardless of ability or disability to be kids and play.

February – April Calendar

- Feb 28 - Joe Taylor – Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 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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Steve Morenz, President
Bruce Peterson, 1st VP
Sue Cassatt, 2nd VP
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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

Mark Your Calendar

Rotary Night At The
Ball Park – Thursday,
July 6th

Club Notes & Announcements!

- **WELCOME GUESTS!** At today's meeting Rock Island Rotary welcomed Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School, Abby Just and Maris Boelens; and from Rock Island High School, Austin Trask, Brady Smith, and Alexandra Axup. Ametra Carrol-Castaneda, a newly proposed member, attended as a guest of the club. David Malnar, a former member visited as a guest of Tom Hammar. Barengayabo Nduwimana a student from Black Hawk College was a guest of Linda Golden. Last, but certainly not least, our exchange daughter, Agata Burzinska, attended today. Rotary always welcomes guests, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!
- **NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED OUR 2017 AWARDS.** See the attached nomination form.
- **NEW SERVICE OPPORTUNITY** – The Heart of Hop Food Pantry needs help. They serve Thursdays 6 to 7:30pm. We would like to form a team to provide help, you need not work every week. Contact Al Metz or Steve Morenz for details.
- **BUDGET PRIORITIES COMMITTEE** will meet on Tuesday Feb 28, 2017 at 11:15 am. All members of the committee please plan to attend.
- **BIRTHDAY BOOKS THIS THURSDAY.** Rotarians are needed to sign and distribute books this Thursday. Arrive at 2:30 have a cookie and juice, meet some incredible kids, and be done by 3pm.
- **JORDAN EARLYACT CLUB** new book drive continues for the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. So far, we have collected \$157. With one week to go, let's see if we can reach \$200! Today we added \$33. The donation box will be available for the final time at next week's meeting.
- **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today our raffle featured cash and wine from the Lo Milani cellar. Tammy Weikert won the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Christy Filby held the second lucky ticket and took home the wine!

Thanks to all who participated!

Register for our District Conference

Fri, Apr 28, 2017, 4:00 PM – Sun, Apr 30, 2017 at Noon

Starved Rock State Park

FUN is guaranteed for all who can attend! Rock Island Rotary will be presenting our water project at the Friday evening dinner. The support of fellow Rock Island Rotarians will be greatly appreciated.

Highlights:

Friday: Golf, Dixieland Jazz & Foundation Dinner!

Saturday: Literacy Breakfast, Youth Program, Presidents' Dinner & Zydeco entertainment!

Sunday: Future Vision, Resolutions & Young Professionals Summit!

For a lot more info including the registration link, CLICK **HERE!** www.rotary6420.org !

Rock Island Rotary will reimburse up to \$100 of your registration cost!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. As the charitable arm of Rotary, we tap into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money, and expertise into our priorities, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach challenges such as poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact.

The Rotary Foundation has earned a grade of A+ from the American Institute of Philanthropy & previously earned a top rating of four stars from Charity Navigator. It has earned full accreditation from the Wise Giving Alliance of the Better Business Bureau. Independent charity-rating services set 25% of expenditures as the threshold measure of high efficiency. More than 90% of The Rotary Foundation's expenditures go to programs. Only 2.3 percent of its expenditures go to administrative expenses, and 7.3 percent to fundraising.

Most recently, The Rotary Foundation, has been named the 2016 Outstanding Foundation by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). That's Number 1 in the WORLD!

"While almost everyone is familiar with Rotary, not everyone may realize just how much an impact Rotary and the Rotary Foundation have had on countless people and communities across the globe," said AFP President and CEO Jason Lee in a press release.

The foundation has seen assets grow from an initial \$26.50 donation nearly a century ago to \$1 billion today, with more than \$3 billion spent on various initiatives. The Rotary Foundation has made the global eradication of polio its top priority over the decades. Beginning with the launch of the PolioPlus program in 1985, the foundation has contributed more than \$1.6 billion to fighting the crippling disease and has advocated governments and other foundations to contribute an additional \$9 billion to the cause.

Strong financial oversight, a stellar charity rating, and a unique funding model mean that we make the very most of your contribution. Give and become a part of Rotary's life-changing work!

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

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

29 - FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM

It has been estimated that a billion people -- one-fourth of the world's population -- are unable to read. Illiteracy of adults and children is global concern in both highly industrialized nations and in developing countries. The number of adult illiterates in the world is increasing by 25 million each year! In the United States, one quarter of the entire population is considered functionally illiterate.

The tragedy of illiteracy is that those who cannot read lose person independence and become victims of unscrupulous manipulation, poverty and the loss of human feelings which give meaning to life. Illiteracy is demeaning. It is a major obstacle for economic, political, social and person development. Illiteracy is a barrier to international understanding, cooperation and peace in the world.

Literacy education was considered a program priority by Rotary' original Health, Hunger and Humanity Committee in 1978. An early 3-H grant led to the preparation of an excellent source book on the issues of literacy in the world. The Rotary-sponsored publication, *The Right to Read*, was edited by Rotarian Eve Malmquist, a past district governor from Linkoping, Sweden, and a recognized authority on reading and educational research. The book was the forerunner of a major Rotary program emphasis on literacy promotion.

In 1985 the RI Planning and Research Committee proposed, and the RI board approved, that the Rotary clubs of the world conduct a ten-year emphasis on literacy education. Many Rotary clubs are thoughtfully surveying the needs of their community for literacy training. Some clubs provide basic books for teaching reading. Others establish and support reading and language clinics, provide volunteer tutorial assistance and purchase reading materials. Rotarians can play a vitally important part in their community and in developing countries by promoting projects to open opportunities which come from the ability to read.

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



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Today President Steve had the privilege of inducting our newest Rock Island Rotarian. She is Ametra Carroll Castaneda. She is a Community Organizer for the Community Caring Conference. Ametra was sponsored by Rotarian Dave Geenen, who will also serve as her mentor.

Pictured is President Steve administering the oath of membership with Ametra and sponsor Dave looking on.

Welcome Ametra! We're happy to you joined us!

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!

Rotary



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB
2017 Awards Committee



Rock Island Rotary's annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 18th**. The Awards Committee seeks nominations for the following awards:

1. **Excellence:** Recognizes distinction or superiority in a field of endeavor. This can be for a single accomplishment or for achieving high standards of achievement or performance over as sustained period of time.
2. **Community Service:** Recognizes individuals or organizations who have worked effectively for the betterment of our community.
3. **A.T. Peara Award for Service Above Self:** Recognizes the Rock Island Rotary member who has exhibited the dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were personified by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named after.

The first two awards are open to any individual or organization that has demonstrated excellence or worked for the betterment of the Rock Island community. The excellence award applies to all lines of work and to all ages.

The A.T. Peara Award is limited to current members of Rock Island Rotary.

To ensure that our committee has adequate time to evaluate, consider, make the selections, and have awards prepared, the deadline for nominations is March 21st. Please consider making one or more nominations using the lower portion of this form. Additional copies are available if you need them. We greatly appreciate your participation and assistance.

Submit Nomination to: Carrie Crossen or by e-mail to ccrossen@choosethechief.com

NOMINEE NAME: _____ **Your Name:** _____

Nominated for (be sure to indicate):

_____ Excellence _____ Community Service _____ A.T. Peara Award

Reasons in support of your nomination:
