



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



April 11, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 40
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

YOUTH HOPE!



Chris Britton Performs "Beauty"

Fellow Rotarian, Chris Britton, Director of Youth Hope – Rock Island was our guest speaker today. Britton was joined by Youth Hope student, Amari Walker who is currently attending Black Hawk College. Youth Hope – Rock Island began in 1994 and Chris Britton was a local teen student, admittedly in and out of trouble

and gangs prior to finding himself through Youth Hope. He credits the organization with straightening out his life and leading him into obtaining a college degree. He returned as a teen counselor and ultimately work up to his current position as Director. The organization expanded and in 1997 opened Youth Hope – Moline, and in 2000 opened the Youth Hope Camp in New Windsor. In 2010 Youth Hope started a Creative Arts program which included a unit in Poetry. They found that students connected with the Poetry program and it has since expanded greatly. Chris told of research that has identified Post Traumatic Growth Syndrome, particularly among youth in low income areas. Simply defined, PTGS refers to youth struggling to recover after experiencing a traumatic incident. The research found that to effectively "bounce back" youngsters need faith, a family based environment, and a "spark" (skill or talent). Britton noted that Youth Hope offers all three through it's programing and creative arts program. Highlighting the program was an emotional and moving poem performed by Amari. His original poem was his conception of what advice he might receive from his father (who he has never met and who believes is in prison). Amari preformed the poem dressed in a orange prisoner coverall and handcuffed. In short, the father's advice was regret for failing to be a "father" to his son and a plea that his son not follow the path the father had taken. The poem also provided assurance to Amari that his father loved him. Britton followed up Amari's performance with his own original poem entitled "Beauty", written about his 6 year old daughter. The message here was recognizing the world and life as seen by a child and noting that adults need to admire and recognize the beauty of each day and the things we encounter. The program concluded with Amari Walker's love poem which describes his vision of his future wife. The poem filled with both love and humor accounts his meeting the woman of his dreams while standing in line to order food at the mall's food court. Thanks to Chris and Amari for a great program. Cudos to **Youth Hope!!**

March – May Calendar

- Apr 18 - Rotary Awards Program
- Apr 25 - Wes Llewellyn – Restaurant and Hospitality
- May 2 - Earl Hanson Inspire Choir
- May 9 - Dr. Chester Lien, CEO Arrowhead Ranch
- May 16- Dr. David Markward "Free the Teachers"
- May 23- Kathy Weiman, Alternatives for Older Adults
- May 30- TBA



Amari Walker performs in jail garb and handcuffs



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Bruce Peterson, 1st VP
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!

- ☐ **NEXT WEEK'S MEETING BEGINS AT 11:30, PROGRAM AT NOON**
- ☐ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome Leslie Mitchell who claimed to have been kidnapped by former Rotary President, Mike Locander! In actuality Leslie was Mike's guest and is the creator of our new Rotary Ramble logo. Rock Island Rotary always welcomes guests, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!
- ☐ **THANKS** to Mike Locander for filling in as Newsletter Editor for the past two weeks. Mike did a super job and gave Bob a much-enjoyed vacation!
- ☐ **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY** – Our Club is partnering with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed Thursdays 6 to 7:30pm just once a month. If evening is a problem a Thursday morning opportunity is also available! Contact Al Metz or Steve Morenz to join our team of volunteers!
- ☐ **FELLOWSHIP OF WINING ROTARIANS** will gather on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge, Davenport. The fun begins at 6pm with live music at 7pm. No cover, just come enjoy the fun, music, and your favorite wine or other adult beverage.
- ☐ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL ROTARIANS!



Rock Island Rotary celebrates the birthdays of members born in April. Those being honored are: Tom Showalter, Billy Puckett, Carrie O'Neill, Rick Devinney, Rick Emery, and Dennis Pauley. A chorus of "Happy Birthday" serenaded the honorees!

Mark Your Calendar
Rotary Night at The
Ball Park –
Thursday, July 6th

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today our raffle featured cash and bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar. PDG Ruth Lee won the cash and donated it to our club's foundation. Dr. Larry Tadlock continued his winning ways taking home the wine.
Thanks to all who participated!

STILL TIME --- 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. If you can't go for all, go for part!

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 cost!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Foundation ranked third in CNBC's annual list of "Top 10 Charities Changing the World." The 2016 list included some of the largest and highest-rated charities that help women, children, the poor and the environment throughout the world, according to Charity Navigator. The organizations also maintain high standards of financial health, accountability, and transparency of reporting.

The Rotary Foundation was noted for connecting 1.2 million members from more than 200 geographic areas to tackle the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges, including projects that focus on disease prevention, water, sanitation and maternal and child health. The ranking also recognized Rotary's role in the effort to eradicate polio. The Foundation made the list in 2015 as well.

IT'S BIRDIES TIME!



Chairman Kevin Koski kicked off this year's Birdies for Charity drive setting a goal of \$1.45 per birdie in total pledges. Like last year, all pledges will be directed to our Club's local Foundation and by making your donation through Birdies for Charity the foundation will receive additional matching funds from the John Deere Foundation. Last year the match was 10%! So, if you intend to donate to our local foundation this year, do it through Birdies for Charity and take advantage of the addition funds donated by Deere! You'll also be in the running for our club's \$50 prize for closest birdies guess and the grand prize of a new car 2-year lease! Pledge forms available from Kevin and at the Sergeant's table.

Pauley Debuts!

Race Chairman Mike Locander introduced the logo for our newest project, the 5K ROTARY RAMBLE, scheduled for December 3rd. Rotary is taking over



sponsorship of the former, Reindeer Ramble, renamed "The Rotary Ramble" and kicked off the project by revealing the newly created logo featuring Pauley the Yeti. Mike also introduced his guest, graphic artist, Leslie Mitchell, who designed the logo for our club. Mike is going to need help so let him know if you will join the committee!!

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

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

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Interact, the Rotary youth program, was launched by the RI Board of Directors in 1962. The first Interact club was established by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida. Interact clubs provide opportunities for boys and girls of secondary school age to work together in a world fellowship of service and international understanding. The term, Interact, is derived from "inter" for international, and "act" for action. Every Interact club must be sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club and must plan annual projects of service to its school, community and in the world.

Today there are over 7,200 Interact clubs with more than 155,000 members in 88 countries. "Interactors" develop skills in leadership and attain practical experience in conducting service projects, thereby learning the satisfaction that comes from serving others. A major goal of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to create greater understanding and goodwill with youth throughout the world.

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

KEEP THOSE BAGS COMING IN!



President Morenz thanked our club members who donated their used but still good plastic bags for reuse by our service project partner the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. Keep those bags coming since each week our Rotary volunteers will be bagging food and seeing that it is distributed to the needy.

JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED THE ANNOUNCEMENT!

Next week is our annual Awards Banquet which will be a fully packed meeting! We will be presenting awards to the top two students from Alleman, Rock Island High School, and Augustana College. We also will recognize outstanding individuals for Community Service, and for Excellence. The highlight of the day will be presentation of our A. T. Peara Award, recognizing one of our members as the most outstanding Rotarian of the Year. Vic Boblett will be presenting the keynote address to honor those being recognized. Because of the importance of this event, serving of our buffet luncheon will begin at 11:20 and the formal meeting activities we begin promptly at Noon.

Mark your calendar and come early next week!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SCHEDULED: Chairman Kathy Trone has scheduled a New Member Orientation on Tuesday May 2nd at 11:30am, just prior to our regular meeting. If you are a new member of our club and have not yet participated in an Orientation meeting, you should attend. Orientation will greatly help you become acquainted with Rotary and our club and will ensure that your Rotary membership will be a rewarding experience.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



This is the new logo for our 2017 inaugural Rotary Ramble 5K Race. After many years of successfully running the Reindeer Ramble, Dick and Mary Fislar kindly offered to allow Rock Rotary the opportunity to take over the event. The event has been a popular fundraiser for local running clubs and will now serve as a fundraiser for Rotary. Our only obligation is to keep the event fun and well run. Mike Locander, a frequent participant in such races kindly agreed to serve as Rotary Chairman for the event. However, he can't do it alone. Please let Mike know that you will serve on his committee. That doesn't mean you need to run or even to be a runner, help will be needed to take entries, complete paper work, serve as race officials and observers, select prizes, and help with the pre and post race activities. The logo, created by graphic artists, Leslie Mitchell incorporates our name, the Rotary logo, the 5K designation and the Yeti, a being known to be a swift runner through snowy and icy terrain. Our event will take place on December 3rd. Jump in now and help with the planning!!

REPORT FROM KENYA -

Water filter units purchased By members of our club have been delivered and are in use in village schools in Kenya in the Nairobi area. The photos were provided by our contact at Replenish Water, Inc. who delivered and set up the units. At least 17 more units will be delivered and put into service in June. THANKS ROTARIANS!

