



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



May 16, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 45

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Free The Teachers!



That's the title of the recently released book authored by today's guest speaker, Dr. David Markward. Dr. Markward wrote from experience, having served 12 years: in the Moline-Coal Valley School District; 14 years in Geneseo schools, 7 years in Rock Island-Milan schools, six as school superintendent, and 5

years as school superintendent in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa school district. Retiring after a 38-year career, the native of Dubuque, Iowa, is active with the School Administrators of Iowa, works with education students at Augustana College, and edits the American Society of Quality newsletter. "Free the Teachers: A Guide to Joyful Teaching and Learning," is now available on Amazon. The 172-page book was a two-year project for Markward, who estimates he has spent time in 1,600 classrooms and had hundreds of conversations with teachers and administrators. Dr. Markward has decided there are "narrowing real educational opportunities for kids" because of too much pressure put on requirements of testing and evaluation. Markward also talked about the things that influence our education, including parents, teachers, reading (and what we read), observations, unwarranted attacks on education, and of course the students themselves. He posed a very intriguing question for all teachers to ask themselves: "If my students didn't have to come to my class --- would they?" Markward also posed four necessary tenets not only for education, but also for business. 1) Clarity – particularly regarding expectations, "Am I being clear?" 2) Student Choice – are students periodically offered a choice of what to do. Markward noted that people love to have choices and said that by allowing students or employees an occasional opportunity to choose what to do, monotony can be decreased and fun added to the daily routine. 3) Appropriate level of challenge. Dr. Dave noted that the level of challenge has to be just beyond current ability to ensure progress however levels of challenge that are too low lead to boredom and challenges too high bring on frustration. 4) Value beyond classroom – providing an answer to students or employees as to why are we doing this is also critical. Those putting in the work need to see that what they do has value and importance. Markward concluded his remarks with a revealing study of the No Child Left Behind federal effort to improve education. In the most comprehensive recent study he could locate the numbers showed that since the advent of NCLB, student progress has actually decreased! He noted that federal monies are welcomed and helpful to schools, but the regulation, red tape, and over emphasis on testing and assessment has negative impact on students and teacher's ability to spend time teaching. Thank you Dave for an interesting and thought provoking program! Several of our members took advantage of obtaining autographed copies of Markward's new book.

April – June Calendar

- May 23 - Kathy Weiman, Alternatives for Older Adults
- May 30 - Mike Thoms – Vision for Rock Island
- June 6 - Dr. Joseph Rives, Western Illinois Univ. Quad Cities
- June 13 - John Gripp and Todd Winter. Rock Island Parks & Recreation
- June 20 - Lee Jackson - Niabi Zoo
- June 27 - Steve Morenz – A look at the past year



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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 Wetzel
Mar – Apr: Julie Gelaude
May – June: Bob Swanson

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome Alleman Catholic High School Jr. Rotarians, Nate Eder and Conner Boyd and Rock Island High School Jr. Rotarians, Aaron Crose, Jerry Hacker, Alek Jacobs, and Annika Hong. Also visiting from Rocky were Entrepreneur & Enterprise teacher Patricia Matson and E&E students, Jackson Tweet, Donovan Ferrel, Tate Sunlin, Pendo Belise, Shaheena Chaudhry, Michael Dillard, and Rashawn Overton. We were also pleased to welcome visiting Rotarians, Duncan Cameron, from Naples, Florida, and Jennifer Moore from Moline. Our exchange daughter, Agata Burzinska from Poland rounded out or visitor list. Rock Island Rotary thanks guests for joining us and hope you enjoyed your visit!

□ **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! Used but sound plastic bags are needed too. Rather than throwing away your used bags, bring them to Rotary or if you have volunteered to work at the Food Pantry, take bags with you!

□ **ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK** – Is set for Thursday, July 6th. Mark your calendar now to save the date. We'll have reserved seating, a pre-game social, and our President will throw out the first ball! The Bandits have promised plenty of promotion for Rotary, plus a beautiful evening of baseball, hotdogs, and your favorite outdoor beverages! Tickets will be available as we get closer to the date. But for now --- mark your calendar!

□ **NEW CLUB ROSTER BOOK** – Members should have received an email asking you to review and update your listing. Please promptly reply. New photos for those wanting them will be taken at our next few meetings.

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

IT'S BIRDIES TIME!



Our Birdies for Charity drive is underway. All pledges will go to our Club's local Foundation. Making your donation to the foundation through Birdies for Charity means the foundation will receive your donation PLUS matching funds from the Deere Foundation (last year a 10% contribution). So far, Kevin reports just 14 of our 94 members have pledged! Pledge forms are available at the Sergeant's table. Our goal is 45 pledges!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani Cellar and cash. Jim Moran won the wine and the cash was taken home by one of our visiting Entrepreneur students. We didn't catch her name but know that starting a business takes cash – so we're glad to help!

Thanks to all who participated!

CHOOSE YOUR COMMITTEE!

As we near the start of another Rotary year, it's time for each of us to select which Rotary Club committees we would like to serve. Incoming President Bruce will do his best to honor your wishes, but keep in mind that all committees are important and all need willing volunteers. As in the past, if you opt not to turn in a preference sheet, you will be assigned to one (or more) committees. Please also consider volunteering to chair a committee in your interest area. We need leadership and new blood and new ideas are always beneficial to the club. You will find a copy of the preference sign-up sheet on the last page of today's newsletter. Feel free to use it or make a copy and give your complete sheet to Bruce at next week's meeting. Don't be shy – Step Right Up!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The daughter of a Macedonian foreign service officer, Anja Nikolova grew up in London, New York, and Venice. Her globe-trotting childhood gave her a gift for languages – she is fluent in five – but also a passion for international environmental issues. With the aid of global grants funded by Rotary districts in Texas, Oklahoma and Connecticut, Nikolova is presently working toward her master's degree in environmental management at Yale University.

She is interested in tying together the environment and economics on a large scale in order to understand the feasibility of certain environmental projects. She states, "In the end, if whatever you pursue doesn't make business sense, it's probably not going to work. That has to be acknowledged and seen as an opportunity rather than a threat."

When in Ghana, she worked on a community agricultural and forestry project where villagers were empowered to farm the products that were in a National Park and sell them. They did not have the technical support to sell the projects at a scale that was profitable, so Nikolova connected this project with Rotarians and together they managed to raise more than \$100,000 to move forward.

Your dollars to The Rotary Foundation to support scholars such as Nikolova enables this to happen.

Thank you.



WATER PROJECT STICKERS AVAILABLE

Newly designed full color stickers were created to be placed on the water filters we are providing for village children in rural Kenya. The sticker, features the Rotary logo, an American Flag and the inscription, "Rotary Clubs of Western Illinois & Eastern Iowa". Stickers are available from the Sergeant at Arms for \$1. They make great bumper or window stickers. Proceeds to the Water Project. We'll have a fresh supply of stickers at next week's meeting!

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

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

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One of the most popular and rewarding programs of The Rotary Foundation is the Group Study Exchange. Since the first exchange between districts in California and Japan in 1965, the program has provided educational experiences for about 25,000 business and professional men and women who have served on about 5,500 teams. The GSE program pairs Rotary districts to send and receive study teams. Since 1965, more than \$42 million has been allocated by The Rotary Foundation for Group Study Exchange grants.

One of the attractive features of GSE is the opportunity for the visiting team members to meet, talk and live with Rotarians and their families in a warm spirit of friendship and hospitality. Although the original Group Study Exchanges were male only, in recent years, teams include both men and women. In addition to learning about another country as the team visits farms, schools, industrial plants, professional offices and governmental establishments the GSE teams serve as ambassadors of goodwill. They interpret their home nation to host Rotarians and others in the communities in which they visit. Many of the personal contacts blossom into lasting friendships.

Truly, the Group Study Exchange program has provided Rotarians with one of its most enjoyable, practical and meaningful ways to promote world understanding.

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

ENTREPRENEUR & ENTERPRISE PROGRAM NEARING COMPLETION OF 2nd YEAR

Three years ago, Rock Island Rotary provided a \$10,000 donation to help bring an ENTREPRENEUR & ENTERPRISE PROGRAM to Rock Island High School. After designing and remodeling an appropriate classroom for the program and finding a qualified instructor for the class, the program got underway last year and quickly became the talk of western Illinois and eastern Iowa schools. With partnerships, coaches, and mentors from Rotary, local businesses, and the area Chamber of Commerce the program has been a great success and the envy of surrounding school district, several of which have sought help and advice from Rock Island to start their own programs.

Today the students in the program from Rock Island High School visited Rotary and made brief presentations describing their enterprise and what their business hopes to do. The creative ideas were as varied as the students themselves, including **"Cooking Cultural"** a business offering classes covering the basics of cooking with particular emphasis on how to create delicious foods from different regions of the world; **MedID**, a new concept where a bracelet containing a downloadable computer chip provides critical health and medical data to first responders and health professionals in the event of an emergency; **Rocks to Diamonds** a business that hopes to reach elementary school students by combining sport specific training with academic tutoring; **Select Senior Services** a service business that will provide companions for elderly citizens by taking over tasks such as shopping, driving to appointments, house cleaning, and generally providing an errand service; **Workers HQ** is a app for businesses to assist with employee management. It will allow employers to stay connected with employees, provide an on the fly contact list, allow for easy shift changes and time requests, and provide a forum for posting events and happenings within the company. **Recycle Food** is a service concept that will collect outdated but still nutritious food from groceries, restaurants, and buffets, and redistribute the items to those in need. **Wallet Finder** will provide a chip to place in your wallet (or on your keys, etc.) that is trackable via satellite GPS. Unlike current systems that are limited less than a mile in search coverage, using GPS tracking lost items can be located anywhere in the world.

These ideas sound interesting? You can hear the "Final Pitch" from each business group on Wednesday, May 24th from 6 to 9pm in the Rock Island High School Auditorium. At that time business investors will also be able to make an offer to become a partner/investor in the business. Pitch Night is open to the public and Rotarians, as the organization that helped give birth to the program as particularly invited.

Here are some views of the student-entrepreneurs explaining their concepts today at Rotary:



Rotary Committee Preferences: 2017 - 2018

Please choose three committees that you would like to participate in during the upcoming 2016 - 2017 Rotary Year. Please check the column labeled "Interested" if that committee is of interest to you, and please check the column labeled "Chair" if you are interested in leading that committee. Please sign the form and return it to Bruce Peterson. Thank you for your service in the Rotary Club of Rock Island.

Your Name _____

	Interested	Chair		Interested	Chair
Program Committee:			Nominating Committee:		
August-September					
October-November			Public Image Committee:		
December-January			Newsletter:		
February-March			Website:		
April-May			Press Releases:		
June-July			Social Media:		
Membership Committee:			Interact/RILA:		
Chair - Sue Lerschen Cassatt					
Recruiting			Rotaract:		
Mentoring					
Orientation			Earlyact:		
Budget Priorities:			Ambassadorial Scholars:		
Chair - Frank Lambert					
Salvation Army Bell Ringing:			Blood Drive:		
Bert Blood Scholarships:			Awards Luncheon:		
Invocations/Music Committee:			"Fun" Committee:		
Fundraising Committee:			Rotary International Foundation:		
			Chair - Bud Phillis		
Youth Exchange:			RI Rotary Club Foundation:		
			Development Committee		
Literacy Committee:			Grant/Project Committee		
			Earl Hanson Partnership		
RIHS Entrepreneurship/ Enterprise Class					
Pumpkin Patch			Rotary Ramble		
Global Project					

Rotary 2017-18
Make A Difference