



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



May 30, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 47

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

MAYOR THOMS!

Guest speaker at today's Rock Island Rotary luncheon was the Honorable Mike Thoms, newly elected mayor of Rock Island. Mike is a life-long resident of Rock Island and a 1976 graduate of Rock Island High School. He worked his way up in his family's business, starting as a dock worker, then inventory control, buyer, warehouse manager and ultimately as Chief Operations Officer. He retired after 29 years with Thoms-Proestler Company.



Mike then began developing residential and commercial properties, including Fyre Lake golf course, and Minute Suites which provides sleeping rooms in airports. Mike has been active in our community, serving on, and as Chairman of, many civic, service, and educational organizations. Mike is married and he and wife Sara have three grown children and seven grandchildren. Mayor Thoms shared what he called "Our Vision" for Rock Island, noting that his thoughts and plans have been shaped and influenced by the many people he spoke with during his successful campaign. Among the many items he discussed were making the city more walkable and bikeable. He noted that many bike and walking paths have been developed and he encourages the continued development and improvement of areas where citizens can safely walk or ride and enjoy our city. On the business front Thoms stressed that the city needs to help our existing businesses grow. He noted that ordinances that discourage growth and development need to be repealed and pro-business ordinances passed. He said we need to, "Take care of the people we have". He then named four Rock Island business that have committed to expand facilities and increase employees. He also noted that new businesses are needed and mentioned that Duncan Donuts and a new buffet style restaurant will soon be opening on 18th Avenue. Another priority is clearing blight and he noted several deteriorating and/or abandoned industrial facilities that will be torn down in the near future to make room for new development. Thoms is also interested in pursuing collaboration with other cities, school districts, and governmental units in an effort to provide better service at a lower cost. His emphasis is on efficiency. He said he is hoping to draw on his business experience to lend ideas and suggestions for achieving more effective results. Thoms also encourages historic preservation and said that drawing on Rock Island's rich history might be our "nitch" for becoming a more attractive place to live and visit. The Mayor said that private-public partnerships are essential and said he will do as much as he can to encourage their formation. Examples were the renovation of the Hauberg Civic Center through a public-private partnership; and the general upgrading of Douglas Park, the site of one of the first NFL games ever played. He mentioned the potential for developing the Douglas Park Fire Station into an NFL museum. He applauded and wants to continue the neighborhood revitalization that has occurred and has asked city staff to be more involved in those projects. He noted that Southwest Rock Island has beautiful land available for residential development and said the city is actively seeking a developer for the 11th street (Walmart) site. Overall, Mayor Thoms laid out a challenging and broad vision for the city. It appears he has the energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge to lead us forward! Thank you Mike for sharing your time and thoughts with us! Best of luck as our city moves ahead under your leadership!

June - July Calendar

- June 3 - Exchange Daughter Agata's Graduation. I-Wireless Center at Noon. All Invited!
- June 4 - Agata's Graduation Party 3pm, 8107 47th St. Milan
- 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
- July 4 - NO MEETING
- July 11 - President Bruce Peterson Looking Forward



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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 Eric Long, a prospective member and guest of Justin Peterson; and Angie Nelson, a prospective member and guest of Monta Ponsetto. Jeff Rose was a guest of Stan Coin; Dan Jaros was a guest of Rick Emery. We were also pleased to welcome visiting Rotarians, Duncan Cameron, from Naples, Florida; Dougal Nelson from Moline; and Mark Zimmerman from Davenport, Iowa. Rock Island Rotary thanks guests for joining us and hope you enjoyed your visit!
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY #1** – 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!
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY #2** – Rock Island Rotary will be providing manpower for a Mobile Food Pantry at the 2nd Baptist Church in Rock Island. Rotarians are needed from 9:30 until about 1:00pm. 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. As many as 40 volunteers will be needed. Make it a family affair and bring your spouse, family members, and friends.
- **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! Reserved seat tickets are available at the Sergeant's table. Get yours next Tuesday!
- **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 June 13th meeting.



IT'S BIRDIES TIME!

Our Birdies for Charity drive is underway. All pledges will go to our Club's local Foundation. Making your donation through Birdies for Charity means the Foundation will receive your full donation PLUS matching funds from the John Deere Foundation. Pledge forms are at the Sergeant's table.

CHOOSE YOUR COMMITTEE!

It's time for each of us to select which Rotary Club committees we would like to serve on for the coming year. 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 completed sheet to Bruce Peterson at next week's meeting.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a bottle of Lo Milani's best wine from the Milani Cellar and cash. Tricia Barron won the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation; the wine winner was none other than PDG, Fred Luckenbill.

Thanks to all who participated!

CONGRATULATIONS TRICIA!



Rock Island Rotarian Tricia Barron was recognized by District Foundation Chair, Ruth Lee, for achieving "Major Donor" status with Rotary International, signifying Foundation donations in excess of \$10,000. Thank you Tricia!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The end of this centennial Rotary year is near – one more month to go before we enter our next 100 years - one more month when you can continue to make a difference in the world:

The Rotary Foundation is grateful for its donors, whose support makes life-changing projects possible, both locally and globally. Your gift to the Annual Fund brings about those impressive projects and grants, which are presented weekly at your meetings as a Foundation Minute or you read about them in your club or district newsletters.

If you've already made your gift this year, the world and your communities thank you. If not, please consider doing so at rotary.org/give before June 30 to help us reach our \$300 million fundraising goal for our centennial year. No matter how big or how small, your financial support does make a difference. You can do it – it is as easy as “goggling” Rotary's Contribution Form! OOOO it will feel so good to do so.

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

43 - MATCHING GRANTS

Among the programs of The Rotary Foundation are the Matching Grants that assist Rotary clubs and districts in conducting international service projects. Since 1965, more than 3,700 grants have been awarded for projects in about 135 countries with awards of more than \$23 million.

A club or district must contribute an amount at least as large as that requested from The Rotary Foundation with at least half the funds that the Foundation will match coming from a country outside of the country where the project will take place. Grants have been made to improve hospitals, develop school programs, drill water wells, assist the handicapped or persons requiring special medical attention, provide resources for orphanages, create sanitation facilities, distribute food and medical supplies and many other forms of international community service in needy areas of the world. Some grants are for projects in the magnitude of from \$15,000 to \$50,000, but most are in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Matching Grants are not approved to purchase land or build buildings, and they may not be used for programs already underway or completed. Personal participation by Rotarians is required and the benefits should extend beyond the recipients.

The Matching Grants program is a very significant part of The Rotary Foundation and provides an important incentive for clubs to undertake worthwhile international service projects in another part of the world. They certainly foster goodwill and understanding, which is in keeping with the objectives of The Rotary Foundation.

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

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 _____

	<u>Interested</u>	<u>Chair</u>		<u>Interested</u>	<u>Chair</u>
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			Rotary Ramble		
Pumpkin Patch					
Global Project					

Rotary 2017-18
Make A Difference

FINAL CHANCE -- ROSTER BOOK PHOTOS -- Bob Swanson will be taking photos prior to and after our meeting on June 13. That will be the final opportunity to have Bob take your picture. If you have a photo and want to use it, you can email it to Bob. Everything goes to the printer on June 15th, so we must either take your photo or receive your own photo by June 14th.