



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



June 13, 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 49  
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

## RI PARKS & REC.



John Gripp and Todd Winter were the featured speakers at today's Rock Island Rotary luncheon. John Gripp is the Director of Rock Island Parks and Recreation. He grew up in Rock Island and attended Rock Island High School. He went on to attend



### April – June Calendar

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  
July 18 - TBA  
July 25 - Lee Vasquez, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Western Illinois University earning a degree in Management. He then attended the Indiana University Executive Development Management School. John's career with the City of Rock Island spans 20 years. He began as a Lifeguard and then moved his way up to Aquatic Director, Assistant RIFAC Manager, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation, Superintendent of Recreation, and in 2016 was named Executive Director of Rock Island Parks and Recreation. Todd Winter is the Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation. 18 years ago Todd began as a summer employee at Highland Springs Golf course cleaning and re-fueling golf carts, stocking the concession stand, and picking up in and around the clubhouse area. He then attended the University of Illinois earning his Bachelors of Science in Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Management. He spent 3 years as Athletics Coordinator for the Urbana Park District. In 2007 he returned to Rock Island as Sports & Recreation Manager for the Parks Department. He earned his Masters of Business Administration from Western Illinois University. In 2013 he was named Golf Services Manager overseeing all operations of Rock Island's two municipal golf courses. In 2016 Todd was named Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Rock Island. John and Todd presented an informative slide show outlining the many things taking place under their leadership. Director Gripp noted that in the last 12 months the Department has reduced salaries and benefits by \$300,000 by consolidating jobs and not replacing some retirees. He also said the department has contracted out much of the mowing which saved money and freed up skilled maintenance employees to do more actual repair and maintenance on park facilities. John pointed out that Saukie and Highland Springs Golf Courses, RIFAC, and White Water Junction are all self-supporting entities and operate without tax revenue support. Some changes made since John and Todd took the reins of the Park Department have been an emphasis on transparency, an "open door" policy, better communication, and more detailed analysis of programs. They have also encouraged and expanded partnerships with "friends" groups including Friends of Hauberg and Friends of Douglas Park. Both groups are working with the Parks Department to improve and enhance their facilities. Gripp noted that inter-departmental cooperation has greatly improved with Public Works working with the Parks Department to help with improvements. Then the speakers listed off multiple improvements either completed or underway, including 6 Pickleball Courts at Mel McKay Park; new dugouts, scoreboard, bleachers, and grass infield at Douglas Park; moving the shelter and adding playground equipment at Hodge Park; and replacing the refurbished canon at Lincoln Park. Gripp also announced partnerships formed with the King Center and Boys and Girls Clubs to bus youngsters to Highland Springs for golf instruction with all equipment provided by the Park Department. Mr. Winter reported that a thorough analytical review has been done on every program offered, including a budget review of costs, participation, overhead, and revenue generated. He said they reviewed the past 5 years and have tracked local trends to ensure Rock Island Parks & Recreation is offering activities desired by the community. It was a great program and left us feeling that our Parks are in very capable hands!



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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 the following representatives of the Boys Scouts at today's meeting: Ian Snider, Cam Franck, Ian Empen, Logan Braun, Daryl Empen, Cam Fiack and troop leaders John DeWitt and Nils Empen. We were also pleased to welcome visiting Rotarians, Duncan Cameron, from Naples, Florida 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 6<sup>th</sup>. We have reserved seating and tickets are going fast! There will be 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!

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net).

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a bottle of wine from the Milani Cellar and cash. LUCKY Fred Luckenbill won both prizes!! He donated the cash to the Rotary Foundation, but took the wine home.

Thanks to all who participated!



## IT'S BIRDIES TIME!

Still time to get your Birdies Pledge turned in. 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 (last year a 10% match). We still have a way to go to meet our goals. Pledge forms are at the Sergeant's table. A 1-cent pledge will help and your cost will be only about \$20.

## ROTARY SUPPORTS SCOUTING



Rotary Budget Priorities chairman, Frank Lambert presents a \$500 Rotary donation to the Illowa Boy Scouts of America. Pictured are Frank with Scouts Ian Snider, Cam Franck, Ian Empen, Logan Braun, Daryl Empen, Cam Fiack and Rotarian, Sara Cross, Boy Scouts District Executive.

## FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Club of Madras Coromandel has been rebuilding toilets in government schools now for three years. The projects have been to replace dilapidated facilities or create new ones where none existed. The project supports mainly girls after sixth grade who drop out of school, because they don't want to relieve themselves in the open. Also included are sanitary napkin dispensers and incinerators. Interact clubs are being started in all these schools to make sure the administration maintains the newly created facilities.

Last year partnering with ten Rotary clubs in their district, fourteen schools in Chennai, South India, were given new or rebuilt schools, a project that cost in US dollars \$170,000. In addition, this year, partnering with ten more Rotary clubs from their district, schools are getting new or rebuilt toilets for \$120,000 and partnering with eight other Rotary clubs for the purchase of new or refurbished toilets in thirty-two schools.

Partnerships, a dedication to improve the lives of young people and contributions to The Rotary Foundation allow this to happen. Financial support is a necessity; your generosity is a must – the world is smaller – and its people are our neighbors - please give to The Rotary Foundation if you haven't already.

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

### 45 - ROTARY PEACE PROGRAMS

A special program of The Rotary Foundation was originally labeled the "Rotary Peace Forum". The concept of a center or educational program to promote greater understanding and peace in the world was originally discussed in 1982 by the New Horizons Committee and the World Understanding and Peace Committee. In 1984, it was further explored by a New Programs Committee of The Rotary Foundation.

The essence of the Rotary Peace Program is to utilize the non-governmental but worldwide resources of Rotary to develop [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.] educational programs around the issues that cause conflict among nations in the world as well as those influences and activities which promote peace, development and goodwill. The program includes seminars, publications or conferences as a means to initiate a global dialogue to find new approaches to peace and world understanding.

Specific Rotary Peace Programs are selected annually by the trustees of The Rotary Foundation. Many peace programs are held in conjunction with presidential conferences.

## 2017-18 Officer Installation

Officers and Board Members for the coming Rotary year will be installed on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Edwards, Assistant District Governor will preside. All incoming officers and board members should plan to attend.



## REPORT TO THE CLUB REGARDING OUR INTERNATIONAL WATER PROJECT

Several members have asked "How's the Water Project Campaign going?" In a nutshell, it is going very well! To date, Bud Phillis and Bob Swanson have made presentations to the following Rotary Clubs: East Moline Rotary, Rock Island Rotary, Moline Rotary, Geneseo Rotary, Quad Cities Club, Twin Rivers RAH Club, Milan Rotary, District 6420 Conference, and the Iowa Quad Cities Rotary Club. In addition, next Monday presentations will be made to the Erie Rotary and the Galva Rotary Clubs. In July, Bob and Bud will travel to Dixon for a presentation to the Dixon Rotary Club.

So far, the results have been very good with virtually every Club or at minimum individual members from the club donating toward the purchase of at least one LifeStraw Water Filter. Our club treasurer reports the following donations had been received as of last month:

### Purchased One or More Filter Units

Sam Wray	(68)	Rock Island Club
Bob Orsi	(1)	Geneseo Club
Kevin Koski	(1)	Rock Island Club
John Wetzel	(1)	Rock Island Club
Ernie Beane	(1)	Rock Island Club
Vicki Miller	(1)	Moline Club
Phil Koenig	(1)	Moline Club
Moline Rotary	(1)	Moline Club
Geneseo Rotary	(1)	Geneseo Club
William Bordwell	(1)	Geneseo Club
Debra Rehn	(1)	Geneseo Club
Tricia Barron	(2)	Rock Island Club
Rock Island Rotary	(3)	Rock Island Club
Milan Rotary	(1)	Milan Club
Bob Swanson	(1)	Rock Island Club

### Donated Toward the Purchase of a Filter Unit

Chuck Austin	Rock Island Club
Carl Freeman	East Moline Club
Jennifer Garrety	Rock Island Club
Kent Crippen	Moline Club
Sam Till	Moline Club
Sarah Balkovek	RAH Club
Rock Island Club Foundation	Rock Island Club



Donations continue to flow in. 89 LifeStraw Filters have been purchased to date and have been or are being distributed in Kenya and Uganda. These pictures were taken when filters from our project were delivered to a school in rural Kenya.

