



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



June 20 2017: Volume XXIV, Issue 50
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

NIABI ZOO!

Guest speaker at today's meeting was Niabi Zoo Director, Lee Jackson. Mr. Jackson began his tenure at Niabi Zoo in June of 2016. Prior to coming to Rock Island he served as curator for the Amazonia and American Trail exhibits at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. A St. Louis native, he also spent 11 years as director of living collections at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque. He and wife Patricia, have two grown daughters. Director Jackson said that he took the Niabi



position with great excitement, seeing the Zoo as a diamond in the ruff with great potential. His first year was primarily one of putting together a new team to staff the zoo and starting to rebuild the facility's aging infrastructure. He noted that among the factors that cost the Zoo its American Zoological Association accreditation were problems with electrical and plumbing facilities at the Zoo. He said that this work isn't very "sexy" and doesn't get noticed by the public, but it is costly to improve and maintain. However even though these tasks occupied much time, the Zoo also was able to increase its species from approximately 250 to nearly 1,000 during the year. Among the great achievements was obtaining Bactrian, or two-humped camels, which inhabit Central Asia. The camels now roam the former elephant house area. Mr. Jackson spoke with passion regarding the critical function zoos perform with the every growing world population and industrialization taking over wildlife habitat causing a loss of species at an alarming rate. He sees zoos as a way to ensure that species are not totally lost and that through controlled procreation can be re-established in safe natural areas. Specifically Niabi Zoo is involved with initiatives to catalog, preserve, and protect various strains of bats, snow leopards, african lions, and fresh water fish. Director Jackson also urged the formation of a new Niabi Zoo Citizens Advisory Board and invited any interested Rotarians to contact him regarding serving on the board. In response to many questions from the audience, he said that the Zoo hours are 10am to 5pm with the last entry permitted at 4:30pm. Volunteers are welcomed and needed year around to work in hospitality, grounds maintenance, and generally help with the facilities. Currently the Zoo has about 40 volunteers, but has a need for three times that number. Jackson also said that the Zoo continues to have an "Adopt an Animal" program where citizens can agree to help provide for an animal on a yearly basis. The Director says that the Zoo has an annual budget of approximately \$3 million, with gate receipts accounting for about 60% of the total. When asked for his "wish list" for the future Jackson noted that the current Zoo facility occupies 40 acres of the total 200 acre property. He hopes to fully develop the current acreage and to gradually expand into the remaining portion of the property. In the future he hopes to add rhinoceros to the zoo's species list and said the Rhino exhibit should occur in the near future. He also is working hard to regain AZA accreditation for the zoo, which he described as the "gold standard" for zoos. He began his comments today asking how many in the audience had visited Niabi Zoo this year. Although some hands went up, Director Jackson said he hopes many, many more will take advantage to visit Niabi soon. The facility is a Quad Cities' treasure, and is definitely in a growth and improvement mode. Thank you, Lee Jackson, for an informative and interesting program!

June - July Calendar

- June 27 - Steve Morenz – A look at the past year
INSTALLATION of 2017-18 Officers and directors.
- July 4 - NO MEETING
- July 11 - President Bruce Peterson
Looking Forward
- July 18 - TBA
- July 25 - Lee Vasquez, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce



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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 guests at today's meeting: Wendy Bezotte a guest of the Budget Priorities Committee; and Russ Hodge, visiting from Dublin, Ohio and a guest of Kathy Lelonek. Mr. Hodge was here to assist the Rock Island Public Library Foundation. 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. Don't throw them away, bring them to Rotary!

□ **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. 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. **NEXT WEEK IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE TICKETS!!** Get yours next Tuesday!

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

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a bottle of wine from the Milani Cellar and cash. Foundation Chairman, Bud Phillis won the cash, and not surprisingly donated his winnings to the Rotary Foundation. Bill Stengel was the lucky winner of the wine.

Thanks to all who participated!

2017-18 Officer Installation

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

IMPORTANT BIRDIES ANNOUNCEMENT!



Birdies Chairman, Kevin Koski was on hand to give us the "good" and "bad" news regarding our Birdies. On the good side, Kevin reported that we have already surpassed the club goal for the amount of funds we hoped to raise. The bad news is that out of our nearly 100 members, only 28 have made pledges. Our successful dollar total is due to a few members who made substantial contributions. Finally, Kevin noted that there are just two weeks left in our campaign (but as Ron Popeil says) **but wait --** Kevin forgot that we are not meeting on July 4th, meaning that **NEXT WEEK** is the final opportunity for you to submit your Birdies pledge!!

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). Just a 1-cent per birdie pledge will help greatly and your cost will be only about \$20 and they will send a reminder for payment. You don't need any money or check book to make your pledge! Get the form from the Sergeant's table next Tuesday!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

For the second week in a row there have been no reported cases of polio anywhere in the world, according to figures released by the World Health Organization.!

The positive news gives strength to the hard work our Rotarians have carried out to make this a reality in polio stricken countries. Areas that have reported that there are no new cases of polio include Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Syria and Iraq.

But the battle is not over. According to official guidelines, an outbreak is considered to be stopped only following a period of 12 months without the detection of any new polioviruses detected from any source. This is assuming that disease surveillance meets certification standards. Once experts are confident that there are no immunity or surveillance gaps that could allow the virus to hide, the World Health Organization removes the country from its list of re-infected or endemic countries.

Only when no case of polio has been detected anywhere in the world for more than three years will the Global Certification Commission for the Eradication of Poliomyelitis meet to make a decision on whether the virus is truly gone from the world.

The battle is not over and your generosity and commitment to end polio is needed more than ever. Immunization must still continue, testing of water systems are imperative and necessary. And so is your continued support. 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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Undoubtedly the most important step to promote voluntary giving to The Rotary Foundation occurred in 1957, when the idea of Paul Harris Fellow recognition was first proposed. Although the concept of making \$1,000 gifts to the Foundation was slow in developing, by the early 1970s it began to gain popularity. The distinctive Paul Harris Fellow medallion, lapel pin and attractive certificate have become highly respected symbols of a substantial financial commitment to The Rotary Foundation by Rotarians and friends around the world.

The companion to the Paul Harris Fellow is the Paul Harris Sustaining Member, which is the recognition presented to an individual who has given, or in whose honor a gift is made, a contribution of \$100, with the stated intention of making additional contributions until \$1,000 is reached. At that time, the Paul Harris Sustaining Member becomes a Paul Harris Fellow.

By 1994, more than 450,000 Paul Harris Fellows and 160,000 Sustaining Members have been added to the rolls of The Rotary Foundation.

A special recognition pin is given to Paul Harris Fellows who make additional gifts of \$1,000 to the Foundation. The distinctive gold pin includes a blue stone to represent each \$1,000 contribution up to a total of \$5,000 in additional gifts.

Paul Harris recognition provides a very important incentive for the continuing support needed to underwrite the many programs of The Rotary Foundation which build goodwill and understanding in the world.

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

Rock Island Rotary Supports the Royal Family Kids Camp



At today's meeting, Club Treasurer, Carrie Crossen, presented a \$750 donation from Rock Island Rotary to the Royal Family Kids Camp. Accepting for the organization was Wendy Bezotte. Ms. Bezotte briefly told the club that the Royal Family Kids Camp provides a one week summer camp experience for at risk youngsters. She told of a recent camp participant that had been expelled from school for fighting and was referred to the camp. At camp, her behavior was excellent, and she experienced numerous "firsts", including catching her first fish, having her first surprise birthday party, and receiving her first "new" pair of shoes. The young

girl had bounced from foster home to foster home, and also for the first time, experience being with people that really cared about her. Ms. Bezotte thanked the Club for our generosity and said that the camp experience is very often a life-changing experience for the children who attend.

EXCHANGE DAUGHTER AGATA AND HER PARENTS VISIT "THE BIG APPLE"

Last week Agata brought her parents, visiting from Poland, to our meeting. This week she along with mom and dad visited New York City. As of now the parents are headed back home while Agata joined other Rotary Exchange students for a visit to our nation's west coast. Agata was kind enough to share her family photos in New York City with us.

