



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



August 8, 2017: Volume XXV, Issue 5
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Champions – LEAD!

Today's guest speakers were Corneilus Aldridge, Rashawn Overton, and Romar Cantu, all students from Rocky and developers of the LEAD Entrepreneur concept. The three talented young men were winners of the Rock Island High School Entrepreneurship Class Final Pitch, winning both "Best Pitch" and "Best Business Structure". In July the team was invited to Loyola University, Chicago, to compete and participate in The 2017 INCubatoredu National Summit which features experts on numerous entrepreneurship related topics, including marketing, legal, and investor challenges.



The forum also fosters peer-to-peer learning from master class teachers for all attendees. An annual highlight of the national summit is a Shark Tank-like competition between five student teams pitching to win funding for the launch of a new business. The five teams were selected from more than 50 high schools nationally – and include schools from Illinois and Texas. Our own LEAD team was selected as one of the five finalists in the national competition. The LEAD team tied for the National Championship and brought home a \$7,500 cash prize! Rock Island Rotary was one of the original donors, pitching in \$10,000 to get the Entrepreneurship program started at Rock Island High School, so it was with great satisfaction and pleasure that we joined in celebrating the great success of the LEAD originators. LEAD stands for *Leading Every Day and Driving Success*. The concept involves creating opportunities to help African American youth develop leadership skills and ultimately to become successful members of society. Much research went into developing the program including extensive surveys given to 5th and 6th grade students at the Rock Island Academy, an elementary school with a high African American and low-income population. The team found that among the major concerns of the young children were crime, poverty, education, getting out of their immediate neighborhood, and having a chance at a college education. LEAD plans to form a Leadership Academy at the school which will target 15-20 youngsters initially for leadership training. They plan to train by providing actual leadership opportunities for the kids. LEAD mentors will spend time with the kids supervising various programs and activities. As the target students move to Jr. high, LEAD mentors will continue "drop in" activities to reinforce their leadership training. The hope is that as the target youngsters move to high school they will become LEAD mentors and return to elementary schools to train a new group of children. Programs LEAD has in mind for developing leadership skills and community involvement include a food packaging event. Funding needs for the LEAD program including the costs of computers and materials is estimated initially at \$7,000. Fundraising activities, including a black-tie banquet are also in the planning stages. The founding team's goals are for the program to grow and expand to encompass more target children, more schools, and more communities. The three founders are currently seniors at Rock Island High School and plan to continue working on LEAD while continuing their own education and growth in the areas of business, finance, and entrepreneurship. We're proud of these young men and equally proud that Rock Island Rotary was instruments in creating the Entrepreneurship program.

Aug. – Sept. Calendar

- Aug 15 - Todd DePoorter – Alleman Football
- Aug 21 - Regular Board Meeting
- Aug 22 - Board meeting with District Governor. 11am.
- Aug 22 - Dist. Gov. Steven Kuhn
- Aug 29 - Debbie Anselem – QC Times Publisher
- Sept 5 - Dr. Mike Oberhaus – "State of the Schools" Joint Meeting w/Kiwanis
- Sept 12 - Jeff Hancks – The WPA
- Sept 19 - Betty Clementz – District 6420 Friendship Exchange
- Sept 26 - Ruth Lee – Trip to Africa, Water Project Report



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Officers

Bruce Peterson, President
Sue Cassatt, 1st VP
Mark Mayeski, 2nd VP
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Steve Morenz, Past President

Board Members

Dave Geenen
Jim Nordquist
Molly Shattuck
Al Metz
Tammy Weikert
Sarah Gorham
Justin Peterson
Sara Cross
Co-Sergeant at Arms
Bob Swanson & Vic Boblett

Program Chairs 2017-18

Aug – Sept: Fred Luckenbill
Oct – Nov: Tom Hammar
Dec – Jan: John Wetzel
Feb – Mar: Gary Rowe
Apr – May: Dave Geenen
June - July: Justin Peterson/
Bill Groh

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome Corneilus Aldridge, Rashawn Overton, and Romar Cantu, all students from Rocky and developers of the LEAD Entrepreneur concept. Other guests included Trish Matson, the Entrepreneur Class teacher; Julie Forsythe from the Quad City Chamber of Commerce; and Alison Locander, daughter and guest of Mike Locander. Duncan Cameron from the Naples Florida Rotary Club was our lone visiting Rotarian this week. Rock Island Rotary thanks guests for joining us and hope you enjoyed your visit!

□ **NEW ROSTER BOOKS AVAILABLE** – Our 2017-18 Club Roster Book is now available. Members can pick up a copy at the Sergeant At Arms table. One free to each member.

□ **MEETING WITH DISTRICT GOVERNOR** – All Board members will meet with our District Governor at 11am, just prior to our regular meeting on August 22nd. Mark your calendar!

□ **ON GOING SERVICE OPPORTUNITY** – In Rotary, some members are able to give money, others can give time. Service Above Self can manifest itself in many ways. 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. The food pantry goes through 160 bags each night!

□ **PUMPKIN PALOOZA** – Save October 4th for our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch with the 1st and 2nd graders from Earl Hanson School. Sponsors are needed. \$100 to be a sponsor. Contact Angela Campbell. To volunteer to help with the kids at the Pumpkin patch, contact Tricia Barron.

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



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured fine wine from the Lo Milani Collection and CASH! Fred Luckenbill was the first lucky winner. He took the cash, which was \$33 and round it up to a nice even number and donated it all to the Rotary Foundation. Frank Lambert held the second lucky ticket earning him the wine.

Thanks to all who participated!



NEW YORK TIMES REPORT: FINDLAND HAS A SPORTS SCREW LOOSE!

Those of us that know Kevin Koski are not at all surprised by this revelation! More the 2,000 Finns recently ventured to the remote backwaters of central Finland for the 20th annual Swamp Soccer World Championships. Finns also compete in the Wife Carrying World Championships; the Mobile Phone Throwing

World Championship; the World Berry Picking Championship; and, the Air Guitar World Championships. Think this is just silly conduct on the part of a few fun-loving Fins? Think again! Over 200 teams showed up for the Swamp Soccer Championships played on 20 fields laid out over 50 acres of swamp. In 1995 a Finn named Heri Pellonpaa killed a world-record 21 bugs in five minutes at the Mosquito Killing World Championships, also held in Finland. Most recently thousands of Finns have taken up competitive hobbyhorsing wherein competitors trot and hurdle obstacles while riding the wooden toys. Why does all this happen in Finland? Straddling the Arctic Circle, Finland endures long, punishingly dark winters. Summer therefore marks a period of national catharsis. Hanna Vehmas, a sports sociologist at the University of Jyväskylä says, "I think we go a little crazy in the summer. Mix that with alcohol, and maybe we want to compete a little bit!" And think, Kevin even paid a fine to bring all this to us!!

Foundation Minute

The historic pledges of over \$1 billion of new funds, announced at the Rotary Convention in Atlanta, Georgia last June, will go towards drastically shrinking the \$1.5 billion gap in the funding that the partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative say is needed to reduce polio cases to zero worldwide. Just eight cases in 2017 have been reported this past month, the lowest number in history.

Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, said ending polio would be one of the world's greatest achievements. "Polio is the thing I spend the most time on. Every day I look at my email to see if we have a new case," Gates said. "I'm very inspired to be part of this. I'm also very humbled."

Gates promised to extend his 2-to-1 match to cover up to \$50 million in donations to Rotary for each of the next three years. The match and donations to Rotary would add up to \$150 million per year over the next three years, which will add up to \$450 million to the fight. The new funding will go towards polio eradication efforts such as disease surveillance, responses to any outbreaks, and the vaccination of more than 400 million children annually.

Rotary International President John F. Germ announced that Rotary would increase its commitment and raise \$50 million per year over the next three years. Rotary has raised more than \$1.7 billion to fight the disease since 1985.

Among the other countries that financially support the eradication effort are Pakistan (\$154.7million), Nigeria (\$134.6million) Canada (\$75 million), Japan, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Germany, Italy, Korea, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Monaco, Turkey, Spain, Monaco and even the Bloomberg Foundation.

Your continued support of the Polioplus effort is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

NEW PHOTOS FROM KENYA

We just received these photos showing our most recent shipment of water filters in place in rural Nairobi. In the near future, we'll be moving into schools in Homabay and on Mfangano Island.



MORE PHOTOS FROM KENYA

Great to see our project reaching and impacting the lives of those in need thousands of miles from our shores. Next month Ruth, Marcy, and Mary will visit Kenya and bring us a first-hand report!



There is still much to do! Literally millions of kids desperately need access to safe water. Have you joined the campaign? Donate to our Water Project NOW!!