



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



November 21, 2017: Volume XXV, Issue 21
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Dr. Randy Willers' Message of Thanksgiving



Dr. Randy Willers serves as pastor of the Salem Lutheran Church in Moline. He earned a Bachelor's of Science in Physics and Mathematics from Iowa State University and his Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois. After 25 years in his engineering career he felt a call to the ministry and enrolled in the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, earning his Masters of Divinity in Theology in 2003. In 2008 he resumed his study and earned a Doctor of Ministry, with emphasis in Preaching, from the Lutheran School of Theology in 2011. He served the Grace Lutheran Church in Woodstock for three years prior to accepting the position as Pastor of Salem Lutheran in Moline in 2006. Now in his 12th year at Salem, he is credited with growing the congregation at a time when generally church membership is declining; guiding the congregation through financial difficulties; and at the same time made substantial capital improvements to the church facilities. He accepted our invitation to present a special Thanksgiving message today for Rock Island Rotary.

Pastor Willers began his comments describing a video he recently viewed showing a man waking in his bed and finding his head covered in gift wrap, removing the wrapping he noted with joy "I am alive", his wife, also covered in wrapping, emerged from her covering and the man noted, "I am loved". As he moved through his home he found the light switch wrapped and exclaimed upon uncovering it, "We have power". He noted with joy as he removed wrapping from his bathroom faucet, "We have clean, safe water". The same experience carried forth as he discovered food in his kitchen, coffee in his cup, a briefcase for his work, plus keys and a car. Each time he exclaimed with joy and described what he had. The point of the video was that everything we have is a gift and we should all take time to give thanks to God and appreciate what we have. Dr. Willers then turned his attention specifically to Thanksgiving and recalled that in rural America, Thanksgiving was a harvest festival. A time when all of the year's hard work brought forth hopefully a bountiful harvest and a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment. He also confessed that not every year is a good year, but point out that bad years make us more appreciative of the good years. His point was that it is important that we be grateful for all the gifts around us, noting that we live in the greatest nation in the world and enjoy one of the highest standards of living man has ever experienced. He wished for each of us to have a joyful time with family and friends and a bountiful Thanksgiving feast, also confessing that at times it has been a feast that went beyond painful in food intake! The heart of his message however was simple ... Never forget to give thanks! As Rotarians we are keenly aware of the disease, poverty, strife, and lack of clean water and sanitation throughout many parts of the world. We are indeed thankful for all that we enjoy; and second, for our ability to make a difference, by lending a hand to those who are less fortunate. Rotary gives us the vehicle to do just that! Thank you Pastor Willers for your inspirational message.

Nov. – Dec. Calendar

- Nov 28 - RIHS Orchestra
- Nov 30 - Birthday Books at Earl Hanson Elementary
- Dec 3 - Rotary Ramble 5K
- Dec 5 - Rocky Chamber Singers
- Dec 6 - Rotary Holiday Party
Circa 21 – ELF The Musical at Circa 21
- Dec 9 - Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- Dec 12 - Dr. Nestor A. Ramirez, President Illinois State Medical Society



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

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 visiting Rotarians Mark Zimmerman, from the Davenport Club, Dr. Bruce Peterson from the River Cities Club, and Rebecca Arnold from eClub One; Alleman Jr. Rotarians, Alyssa Carpita and Spencer Smith. Rock Island High School Jr. Rotarians, Mykeisha Wells and Morgan Janes. Cathy Metz, spouse of Al Metz and Dick Fislar spouse of Mary Fislar were also our guests. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary. Prospective members are our favorites! Have you invited anyone lately?

□ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** – Our first “Rotary Ramble” 5K race on Sunday, December 3rd is fast approaching. We need runners, walkers, and helpers to pull off a successful race and fundraiser. Sign up or contact chairman, Mike Locander, to volunteer. The entry forms for participating in the race/walk or as a “phantom runner” are in this issue!

□ **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. Don't throw them away, bring them to Rotary. The food pantry goes through 160 bags each night!

□ **TICKETS FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY** at Circa 21 will be distributed at next Tuesday's meeting and on Tuesday December 5th. If you won't be attending either meeting, contact Bob Swanson to make arrangement to receive your tickets. You can email Bob at bodebswanson@att.net or call him at 738-3476.

□ **NEXT BIRTHDAY BOOKS** at Earl Hanson Elementary is Thursday, November 30th. Arrive at 2:15 and you'll be done and on your way by 3pm. Help has been short the last few times. Please help if you can!

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email to bobdebswanson@att.net. If you attend a Rotary event and take pictures, please also email or text them to Bob. The newsletter is much better with lots of photos!



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured cash, a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani Collection, and a beautiful wooden bowl direct from the lathe of Dr. Larry Tadlock. The first lucky ticket was held by Jim Moran, who without hesitation snatch the bowl. Next, after a bit of number confusion, bit was determined than none other than PDG Ruth Lee had been selected. She opted for the cash and donated the entire pot (\$50) to our exchange daughter for her birthday coming up this Saturday. The third and final ticket drawn put the fine wine in the hands of Jeff Dismar, who pronounced that his Thanksgiving feast was now complete! Keep in mind, the proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary Foundation to help carry on good work worldwide. Thanks to all who participated!

MEET OUR MOST RECENT PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

Foundation Chairman, Bud Phillis had the honor of introducing Rotarian Al Metz as our most recent Paul Harris Fellow. The recognition signifies that donations totaling \$1,000 in Al's name have been given to the International Rotary Foundation. Al, with wife Cathy at his side, received his Paul Harris Pin and certificate signed by Rotary International President, Ian H.S. Riseley, of the Rotary Club of Sandringham, Victoria, Australia Rotary Club. Al is a senior agent at Schroder Insurance Company in Rock Island, and is one of our extremely active and dedicated members. He serves as Chairman of our Heart of Hope Food Panty project and is also a member of our current Board of Directors. Thanks Al, for all you do and congratulations!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

The sky above the playground at Lao Mei Elementary School in New Taipei City, Taiwan is dotted with kites of different colors, shapes, and sizes. To the passerby the scene looks like just a fun day at school, but teachers know this is much more than play. It's science, or to be exact, physics.

"The basic ability to fly a kite teaches lessons of aerodynamics and physics," says, Tsai, Shin Yi – a Lao Mei science teacher. Making and flying kites help students see how science affects their daily lives and motivates them to learn more. Even after several failed attempts to get their kites airborne, they learned from their mistakes.

This program is part of the Rotary Science Education Program, which is a flagship project of the Rotary Club of Taipei Pei-An. Through a global grant it aims to improve science education for students attending public schools in rural areas of Taiwan. These schools particularly elementary and secondary schools receive fewer materials and resources and even less institutional support than others. It attempts to give the students a proper foundation in science by educating their teachers in strong classroom management skills and in depth understanding of the subject, which in turn helps the students develop an interest and an aptitude for science.

Lao Mei School uses kites to help students learn about a variety of subjects including math, engineering, and basic science. Because of the program's success, the school added a new component that helps students understand basic science theories. It involves working with simple machines, levers, wheels, axles, gears, and pulleys – along with energy. To ensure the program's sustainability, teachers also receive training.

Since the Rotary Science Education Program launched 3 years ago, teachers in the 20 rural schools have reported a new enthusiasm for learning and increased participation by students with learning difficulties. In addition, it has helped teachers increase their knowledge of science and improve their teaching techniques.

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation enabled this to happen. Thank you.

GOT YOUR DINING BOOK??

The 2017-18 book costs \$35 and contains over 350 coupons redeemable at 150 LOCAL restaurants. Books will be available at next Tuesday's meeting. Make your check out to "Rock Island Rotary".

- Dining Tour books make great gifts!
- Introduces you to new restaurants!
- Save money with every coupon!
- -Not expensive to buy!
- Coupons are good until Oct. 31, 2018



For every book purchased Rock Island Rotary receives \$10! Every member should have at least one! Get yours at next Tuesday's meeting!!



ANGEL TREE 2017

Today was the start of this year's Angel Tree for children identified by their Earl Hanson teachers as in need of a special "Santa" to ensure they have presents under their tree and are able to truly have a Merry Christmas! Forty children were identified, and Rotarians can select a little boy or girl and be their "Angel". The gender, age, sizes, and a few items from their Santa "wish list" are provided by our project chairman, Molly Shattuck. Recommended expenditure is \$35-\$40. If you don't feel like shopping, you can donate the money and Molly and her helper "Elves" will shop for you! Many children were taken today, but more remain in need of an Angel. For those that didn't get to select a child today, the Angel Tree will be available again next Tuesday and each week thereafter until all children are covered.



Run or Walk and help us Celebrate

The first Annual Rotary Ramble 5K



Dress warm and be Festive !!



- **Rotary Ramble 5 K Run or Walk – Raising Funds for Rock Island Rotary Community Projects**
- **Sunday December 3rd 2017 at 9:00am**

Start and Finish Location – IBEW Hall at 1700 52 Ave. Moline, IL (South of Southpark Mall)

*** Fast, Flat and Scenic Course**

- **5K Runners – Overall Male and Female Winner Awards**

1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards for these age groups:

0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59,
60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, and 80+

- **Walker Category – Overall Male and Female Winner Awards**

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards for these age groups:

0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

- **Food/Drinks and Drawing – Post race at the Awards Ceremony at the IBEW approximately 10:00 am.**

- **Fees / Registration**

5K Runners and Walkers - \$30.00 by 11/25/17 or

\$35.00 on Race Day Morning

Phantom Runner – Shirt Only with no race registration -- \$20.00

(Must provide address and contact info.)

- **Additional Donations accepted for Rock Island Rotary projects.**
- **Packet Pick Up and/or Race Day Registration: 7:15am-8:30am on Race Day**
- **Grand Prize Drawing for a \$200 Visa Gift Card – Pre-Registered Runners Only that have Registered by 11/25/17.
Must be present to win – No exceptions!**
- **Food and Drink – Post Race at the Awards Ceremony – Sandwiches and Desserts and refreshments.**
- **Sponsors – Rock Island Rotary, IBEW, and many more**

Online registration at: https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=128242

- **Official Entry Form – Please Print !!!**

First name _____ Mid _____ Last name _____ Age on race day _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Male _____ Female _____ Run _____ Walk _____ Phantom Runner Shirt only _____

Circle Shirt Size S M L XL XXL (add \$2.00 for XXL) Phone # _____ - _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____

- **Waiver must be signed and acknowledged:**

In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do Hereby release and discharge the IBEW, Rock Island Rotary, the city of Moline, any sponsors, supporters or volunteers, for all claims, of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner arising or growing out of my participation in the ROTARY RAMBLE 5K run or Walk. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, and I am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

Signature _____ Date _____ (Participant or Parent / Guardian if under 18 yrs. of age.)

Make Checks Payable to Rock Island Rotary / Rotary Ramble and mail entry with payment to:

Rock Island Rotary / Ramble PO Box 4514 Rock Island, IL 61204-4514

No Refunds – Race will be held Regardless and weather conditions may vary.



Be a Phantom Runner support the Rotary Ramble 5K 2017

\$20 gets you an official race day t-shirt with our new groovy logo.

(White polyester tech short sleeved shirt)

Keep it for yourself or purchase t-shirts for gifts to friends and family.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Quantity _____ Total # of shirts _____ x \$20 = _____ amt. due

Small _____
Medium _____
Large _____
X-Large _____
XX - Large _____ add \$2.00 for XXL

Payment to Rock Island Rotary
Checks or Cash



INVITATION TO ATTEND OUR SPECIAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION!

**HEART OF HOPE OUTREACH
MINISTRIES**
CORDIALLY INVITES
YOU!

We would be honored to have YOU as our Special Guest!

Learn about the Services we provide

Enjoy Delicious Refreshments

Meet our Advisory Board, our Staff, and the Youth who
visit our Outreach Center

Date & Time:

**Saturday
December 2nd
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**Updates on our
Outreach Programs**

**Delicious
Refreshments**

**Free Gifts for our
Guests**

**Youth Sharing
Christmas Songs
and Readings**

Where:

**Heart of Hope Outreach
Ministries
1740 9th Avenue
Rock Island, IL
(309) 428-4752**