



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



December 19, 2017; Volume XXV, Issue 25
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

AVOID THAT SCAM!

Today Chris Coleman, President of the Better Business Bureau serving Iowa and Illinois, and Sandra Bowden of the Bettendorf BBB Office visited Rock Island Rotary. Mr. Coleman spoke about the Better Business Bureau and also provided tips to help avoid holiday season scams. He noted that the Better Business Bureau was formed in the early 1900s subsequent to the enactment of the first U.S. law regulating fair trade and food and drug advertising. Coca Cola was one of the first



BBB President, Chris Coleman

companies to face charges for violating fair advertising regulations. The BBB was created to promote self regulation and transparency in business marketing. The Better Business Bureau serving Greater Iowa, Quad Cities and the Siouland Region has been serving our local communities since 1940. Their main office is located in Des Moines; however, they have satellite offices in Bettendorf and Cedar Rapids. Their goal is to help consumers find and recommend businesses, brands and charities you can trust. They are passionate about fulfilling their goal because they believe that trust amongst consumers and businesses is vital to a healthy and productive community. And they love our communities because they know that living in the Midwest is more than just a location, it's a way of life. For over 100 years, BBB has helped people make smarter decisions and is evolving to meet fast changing marketplace needs. BBB sets standards for ethical business behavior and monitors compliance. Almost 400,000 Accredited Businesses meet and commit to our high standards. BBB helps consumers identify trustworthy businesses, and those that aren't, through more than 4 million BBB Business Reviews. BBB sets standards for and evaluates thousands of advertisements each year to ensure that people can trust what advertisers say. BBB sets standards for and evaluates the practices of thousands of charities so that donors know where their money is going. BBB coaches businesses on ethical behavior and how to build stronger, more trusting relationships with their customers. BBB offers its national and local consumer services online and in person. The BBB helps millions of people each year. With regard to scams, Mr. Coleman said that scams can be divided into two categories: 1) Advanced Fee Scams; and 2) Rogue Local Scam Artists. Advanced Fee scams typically offer something of value but ask that the consumer send money to obtain the "prize". Examples of such scams are vacation rentals, asking for a deposit or "small" fee for the vacation; IRS scams claiming taxes are owed and must be paid immediately or an arrest warrant will be issued; Cruise trips asking for taxes and port fees in exchange for the luxury cruise; and a loved one in jail or injured and money is immediately needed to prevent further harm. These are cruel scams, and nothing is received by the consumer once they send their money. Examples of Local Scam Artists are sales of advertising on sports or school calendars or posters where once the money is paid the calendar/poster is never produced; coupon book ad sales where once the merchant pays for the ad, the coupon book is never produced; and, contractors who take money up front and then don't perform the work. Rotarians were left with several helpful handouts identifying more scams and giving tips to protect one's identity. Thank you, BBB for your hard work and an interesting and valuable program.

Dec. - Jan. Calendar

- Dec 19 - "Better Business Bureau of the Quad Cities: Seasonal scams to be aware of."
- Dec 26 - Club Assembly - Led by President Bruce
- Jan 2 - Pam Hauman - Christian Care
- Jan 8 - **MONDAY, JOINT MEETING WITH KIWANIS**, Mayor Mike Thoms, Annual "State of the City" address
- Jan 9 - No Meeting
- Jan 16 - TBA
- Jan 23 - President, Steve Bahls - Augustana Today
- Jan 30 - TBA



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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 visiting Rotarians Duncan Cameron of the Naples, FL Club, Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club, and Dr. Bruce Peterson from the River Cities Club. Former member Paul Erickson now a resident of Arizona visited us, as did Cindi Gramenz, a guest of the Budget Priorities Committee. Our only student guest today was our exchange daughter, Pat Rungrueng. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary. Prospective members are our favorites!

☐ **DID ANYONE FIND BUD PHILLIS' COAT?** It is still missing after it was mistakenly taken by another Rotarian several weeks ago. It is a London Fog style coat and has the name "BUD PHILLIS" inside the right lapel. Please check what you took home!

☐ **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! **THERE WILL BE NO FOOD PANTRY December 28th or January 4th.**

☐ **ANGEL TREE GIFTS WERE** delivered after our meeting today. All Rotarians that participated can take comfort in knowing that you made the holidays a bit happier for a small child needing help! Thanks for your generosity! A big thanks to Molly Shattuck and Anne McGlynn for spearheading the project.

☐ **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 MINUTE

For more than 100 years, The Rotary Foundation has been supporting the work of Rotarians in order to create sustainable solutions for our world's most pressing needs. But there is still much to do, and we need your help!

Rotary gives in countless ways, focusing our service efforts in the six areas of focus: fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education and growing local economies - and of course in the eradication of polio.

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation of \$10 will provide a mosquito net in countries like Uganda where malaria is a major health concern. A gift of \$15 can protect children for life from polio in Afghanistan, Nigeria and/or Pakistan. For \$50 deadly waterborne diseases can be eliminated by purchasing personal water filters in Guatemala, and an \$85 contribution can pay for business classes in the US for low-income entrepreneurs. \$100 and a microloan can purchase a sewing machine to launch a business in a developing country. A \$500 donation helps communities create a safe and positive atmosphere where children can thrive, and \$1000 can help secondary school students learn to resolve conflict.

Your gift to The Rotary Foundation accomplishes many things and truly makes a difference in the world. **Thank you for your generosity and support. Best wishes for a Very Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year!**



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured cash, a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani Collection, and a solid +walnut pedestal bowl handcrafted by Dr. Larry Tadlock. The first ticket drawn belonged to Marcy Bell who, without hesitation grabbed the bowl. Past President, Steve Morenz held the second drawn ticket and he took the cash and donated the entire sum to the Rotary Foundation. The final ticket, winning the Milani wine belonged to Larry Tadlock. All proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary Foundation to help carry on Rotary's good work worldwide. As we near the end of another calendar year, special thanks to Lo Milani who generously donated a bottle of wine for every raffle, and to Dr. Larry Tadlock who every month donated a beautiful hand turned, solid wood bowl for our raffle. On top of their kind support, they also purchase raffle tickets every week!!

ROTARY SUPPORTS CHRISTIAN CARE



Chairman Frank Lambert presents our \$500 donation check.

Frank Lambert, Budget Priorities Chairman presents our \$500 donation to Cindi Gramenz representing Christian Care. Christian Care offers a safe haven where homeless men can get help with food, clothing, shelter and spiritual nourishment. Christian Care is helping to improve the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, men transitioning out of prison and veterans frequently use Christian Care's services. Their community meal site serves over 45,000 meals annually and they provide over 14,000 nights of lodging. Some of their clients work in the Christian Care meal site and our donation will be used to help pay for food handling training at Black Hawk College for clients that have shown an aptitude and interest in a career in the food

ROTARY RINGS THE BELL!!

More Rock Island Rotarians covering the Bells and Kettles for the Salvation Army at the Rock Island HyVee. Again, a big "Thanks" to chairman Mark Mayeski and the Rotary who helped make the holiday season a bit merrier for those less fortunate!



John "Elvis" Phillips Entertains

Rotarians received a surprise treat today when Past President, John Phillips, grabbed his guitar and went to the microphone and entertained the club with Christmas selections, skillfully presented as only John can do. A big hit was his rendition of *Blue Christmas* which he first sang in his own style and then repeated the song using his best "Elvis" voice and style. And, of course, he ended his performance with the patented Elvis, "Thank you, Thank you very much!" We were also advised that John will be the featured entertainer at the January Bucktown Revue. It is a real treat to have such talent among our members, plus a willingness to share their skills and have fun with our entire membership! Thanks John.



ANGEL TREE GIFTS DELIVERED!

Thanks to the hard work of Molly Shattuck and Anne McGlynn, Rotary Angel Tree Gifts were loaded up immediately after today's meeting and delivered to Earl Hanson Elementary School. Rotary volunteers donated Christmas gifts for forty deserving children that had been identified by their teachers. All together Rotarians donated over \$1,500 worth of gifts that will help ensure that these children wake up on Christmas with gifts under their tree.

A sincere "THANK YOU" to all who selected an Angel and made Christmas a merry one for these kids!



WATER PROJECT CONTINUES!

Although we have yet to complete our first full year since kicking off our water project, we have 95 units in place in Kenya and Uganda and will be ordering 13 more units in the next two weeks. The most recent contributions came from members of the Galva and Erie Rotary Clubs. By the end of next month, we will have provided safe, clean water to more than 7,000 children.