



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



January 30, 2018; Volume XXV, Issue 31
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

RIVER ACTION

Kathy Wine started River Action in 1985 after the farm and rust belt recession in the 1980s. River Action is a volunteer organization turned non-profit which focuses on the environmental, cultural and economic vitality of the Mississippi River in the region. By the mid 1990s, River Action had outgrown its volunteer status and saw Wine taking over as executive director. Ms. Wine received the 2017 Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award. The Hagie Heritage Award is given annually by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF), a nonprofit that works to protect and restore Iowa's land, water and wildlife. The award recognizes Iowans who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to conservation



and improvement of the natural environment, and who encourage others to do the same. As today's featured speaker, Ms. Wine informed Rock Island Rotary of River Action's current and planned activities. She began by noting some of the accomplishments of River Action which included lighting the Centennial Bridge, Preparing the Quad Cities Water Front Master Plan, establishing the Quad City Water Taxi, creating the Floatzilla project, and establishing the annual Ride the River bike ride. River Action's attention currently emphasizes flood plain management. They have promoted moving people out of the flood plain areas adjacent to the river and returning the area to open spaces when flooding will cause significantly less damage. They have also promoted a "Save the Rain" program aimed at limiting the amount of run-off water that gets to the river. To that end they have sold over 10,000 rain barrels, and have promoted planting of native deep rooted plants that help hold water. Last year at an annual conference of environment organizations River Action learned that by Federal Standards the Upper Mississippi basin received a "C" grade for flood plain management. The Lower Mississippi basin received a "D". Our area is part of the upper basin. The "C" grade led to a River Action project entitled "Raise the Grade" encompassing multiple projects and activities designed to improve flood plain management in our area. Among the various activities are increasing the development of hydro-power plants on the Mississippi. A plan has been developed by the Corp of Engineers to establish the dam at Rock Island Arsenal as a substantial hydro-power source; however, the funds have not been available to implement the project. Another aspect of the Raise the Grade Project is developing greater recreational use of the river. Ms. Wine mentioned that there are no canoe or kayak rentals available in our area. There are also few beaches, none located with the urban Quad Cities. Education regarding the use of fertilizers and herbicides to reduce nitrate run-off is another aspect of the project, as is flood plain awareness. She noted that many people don't realize that they live in a designated flood plain. Thank you for an interesting presentation!

Feb - Mar Calendar

- Feb 6 - Rotary Blood Drive
- Feb 6 - Jim Nowlan Columnist/ Political Consultant
- Feb 13 - Brittany Carter, American Heart Association - CPR
- Feb 19 - Board of Directors Meeting 11:45 at Jeff Dismer's Office
- Feb 20 - TBA
- Feb 27 - Ann Frederick - WIU Quad Cities Small Business Dev. Center
- Mar 6 - Dan Coyne Logan - Earl Hanson Principal.
- Mar 13 - Christopher Peters, M.D Heath Care Reform
- Mar 20 - Brian Baster, Quad City Symphony Orchestra
- Mar 27 - Bert Blood Scholarships





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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 Alleman Jr. Rotarians Hunter Hodge and Claire Schaecher; and, Rocky Jr. Rotarians Ty Lewis and Geneva Fessler. Our exchange daughter Pat Rungrueng was present as was Paul Fessler, father of Geneva and a guest of Julie Gelaude. We had one visiting Rotarian, Mark Carlson of the Moline Rotary Club. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary. Prospective members are our favorites!

☐ **GREETERS NEEDED** - Please see Sam at the Sergeant's table and sign up to be a greeter for a future meeting. It's an easy and fun job and only requires you to arrive a few minutes earlier than usual.

☐ **BLOOD DRIVE** is next Tuesday. Don't forget if you signed up!

☐ **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!

☐ **NEW CLUB CONSTITUTION** for Rock Island Rotary was approved at today's meeting by unanimous voice vote. Now work will begin on a new set of club by-laws. This is where we do have some leeway regarding the rules and procedures of our club. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact first vice-president, Sue Cassatt.

☐ **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!

FINAL REQUEST

DIRECTORY OF ROTARY BUSINESS AND SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

We plan to go to print this weekend!

If you would like to be included in the Club Director of Business and Service Professionals, please provide the following information and return it to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net. We will gather information through the month of January and hope to make the Directory available at our first meeting in February.

Please provide the following Information:

YOUR NAME:

YOUR BUSINESS/SERVICE NAME:

YOUR WORK PHONE NUMBER:

YOUR WORK ADDRESS:

YOUR WORK EMAIL:

YOUR WORK SPECIALTY:

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT YOU DO AND/OR THE SERVICE OR PRODUCTS YOU OFFER: (As Briefly as Possible)

If we were to list your entry under a category listing, what listing(s) would you suggest?

ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE – FEBRUARY 6th



Don't forget, our Rock Island Rotary Annual Club Blood Drive is coming up on Tuesday, February 6th. We have been circulating a sign-up sheet at meetings, and there is still plenty of time to sign up. You can donate either prior to or during our meeting on the 6th. Surrogates are happily accepted. If you have one or more family members willing to donate the gift of life, or even co-workers or friends, you can sign them up too! Our goal is to exceed last year's donation of 18 units. Even if you didn't sign up you can still just show up. They'll work you in! Collecting blood takes priority over procedure!

PLEASE WELCOME CINDI GRAMENZ

Cindi Gramenz was inducted today as our newest member of Rock Island Rotary. Cindi is employed as a Grant Writer/Development Coordinator for Christian Care. Her membership sponsor and mentor is Kathy Lelonek. Ms. Gramenz is a member of the Scott Country Veterans Commission and Bridging the Gap Stand Down Board. She serves on the DeLaCerde House Board of Directors in Rock Island who provides housing for those living with HIV/AIDS. She enjoys golf and bike riding. In her brief comments to the club, Cindi noted that Rotary most closely mirrors the values and goals as she learned and developed during her years in our armed forces.

We are glad to have you as a member and look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks. Let's all be sure to say "Hello" and take time to meet our newest member!



Cindi addresses the club with President Bruce looking on.

Foundation Minute

In the past few months there have been many disasters that have taken people from their homes, displaced families, ended in death and left individuals with no hope for the future. As Rotarians we want to help – BUT before you do so – keep this in mind:

Do your homework before you give!! In the wake of repeated national disasters here are tips for giving wisely!

Donate money to a charity that you respect, rather than shipping goods that may go to waste! (Like Rotary)

Donate to organizations, that are on the scene. Groups operating in the midst of the disaster can direct money and other aid to the people who need it mostly. (Think Rotary!)

Established organizations (Rotary!) are most apt to have staff, experience and infrastructure in affected communities. Look for national organizations such as Rotary and the Salvation Army, or a local community foundation. Do your research at charitynavigator.org or guidestar.org before sending your check!

Maximize the speed of your gift. Texting a donation seems fast, but wireless companies tend to wait until you pay your bill before passing that money along. Online donations with a credit or debit card can be faster.

Thank you for caring and for your generosity.

ROTARYFEST CARNIVAL PROJECT UNDERWAY!



After nearly 2 years of planning, it appears that Rock Island Rotary is on the verge of bringing a major family event to Rock Island. Not since the demise of the old "Summerfest" has there been a carnival in our city. With the Milan Indian Summer Festival going out of existence in 2016 the Rock Island and Milan area was left with no event geared toward youngsters and families. Inspired by other Rotary Clubs in Illinois that have used carnivals as major fundraisers, our Board

began investigating the possibility of bringing a carnival to Rock Island. Recently Bob Swanson drove to Springfield and attended the Illinois County Fair Association Convention which included a large exhibition hall where every carnival operator in the Midwest attends and sets up a booth promoting their companies. Four companies were available on the dates our Board preferred and we reviewed information and reviews of each. We are hoping to "book" the biggest and best of them for Memorial Day weekend of 2018. Mayor Thoms has offered the 11th Street former Watch Tower Plaza site for the carnival. Now the planning and preparation will get fast and furious. Not only will we bring a fun event to our city, but we have the chance of making a lot of money! More details will follow as plans move forward. If you would be willing to serve on our carnival committee, please contact Bob or Sue Cassatt.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT

Today's raffle featured fine wine from the Lo Milani Collection, and cash. The first ticket drawn was held by Pete Wessel, who took the cash and quickly donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Steve Morenz had the second drawn ticket and he took the wine!

All raffle proceeds go to support the Rotary Foundation, carrying on humanitarian work throughout the world. Thank you for your participation!

END POLIO PLEDGE DRIVE

Foundation Chairman, Bud Phillis reports that to date we have 17 received pledges for a total of \$9,025.00. Remember that pledges that are paid in 2018 will be matched 2/1 by the Gates Foundation. We're off to a Great start! Have you made your pledge yet? Will continue to receive pledges until the end of February.



Polio is 99.95% eradicated. The remaining 0.05% will take time and dollars. Rotary has been outstanding in leading the eradication effort. As a Rotarian, I pledge to help Rotary eliminate the last 0.05% of polio cases.

- ☐ \$300 over 3 years ☐ annually (100) ☐ semi-annually (50) ☐ quarterly (25)
☐ \$700 over 3 years ☐ annually (233) ☐ semi-annually (117) ☐ quarterly (58)
☐ \$1000 over 3 years ☐ annually (334) ☐ semi-annually (167) ☐ quarterly (84)
☐ \$_____ as a single pledge ☐ \$_____ for _____ years

Rotarian name _____ Return by _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Amount Pledged: _____

Pledge cards are available from Bud. No money required at time of making pledge.

A LITTLE OFF KEY

a dueling pianos event

featuring



hosted by Rock Island Rotary & Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours

Thursday
**March
1st**

The
Establishment
220 19th St, Rock Island

7:00pm
doors open @ 6:30
\$35 tickets

FREE beer on a 1st come
1st serve basis until the keg runs out

Tickets can be purchased online at **Eventbrite**
keyword "A Little Off Key"

or

contact Sue Lerschen-Cassatt at 309-644-0101,
SCassatt@bankfortress.com

Money raised from the event will go to support
local youth programs and other Rotary projects!



Also available are sponsor VIP tables. Cost is \$400. There will be promotion of the VIP sponsors at the event. They will have front row seats for four and will have 2 free drinks per person and munchies during the event. Don't miss this great event to support our community. We can't do great things without you! Please visit local downtown Rock Island establishments for dinner prior to the event.