



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



February 6, 2018: Volume XXV, Issue 32
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Jim Nowlan

Jim Nowlan is a senior fellow at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs and an adjunct professor of public policy at Knox College. He was president of the Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois from 1991 to 1994. Professor Nowlan considers himself a jack-of-all-trades in government and politics. Former Illinois Governor James Thompson called on him to take over troubled state agencies on three occasions and to assist his



administration in eight different capacities. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1968, at age 26. Four years later Governor Richard B. Ogilvie asked Professor Nowlan to be his running mate as the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor. They were narrowly defeated. Former U.S. Senator Charles Percy asked Professor Nowlan to manage his successful campaign for reelection to the U.S. Senate in 1978. The following year, U.S. Representative John B. Anderson called on Professor Nowlan to organize his national presidential campaign. Nowlan's planning work for Anderson was described as "brilliant" in the Washington Post book, *Pursuit of the Presidency*. His book *Inside State Government* is considered by many to be required reading for executives in Illinois state government. In a 1989 book, *A New Game Plan for Illinois*, Nowlan presented a specific, platform for Illinois in the 1990s. Professor Nowlan and Samuel K. Gove are co-authors of *Illinois Politics and Government: The Expanding Metropolitan Frontier*. His is a popular syndicated columnist with articles appearing in a multitude of newspapers including locally in the Argus/Dispatch. Nowlan received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mr. Nowlan offered his predictions on the 2017 Illinois governor's race believing that in the Democrat primary, that billionaire J.B. Pritzker will defeat Chris Kennedy and Daniel Biss. On the Republican side Mr. Nowlan predicted Governor Bruce Rauner would easily defeat challenger, Jeanne Ives. Nowlan also picks Rauner to win re-election in a "squeaker" over Pritzker. The bulk of Mr. Nowlan's comments centered on the main issue facing all Illinoisians, the state's disastrous financial condition. Nowlan began with a review of how Illinois has changed in the past fifty years. In 1968 Chicago represented 32% of the state's population. By 2015 the number had dropped over 1/3 to just 20%. The minority population in Illinois was 11.9% in '68 compared to 34% in 2015. Prison inmates numbered 7,900 in '68 and had ballooned to 49,000 by 2015. Just 40 years ago medicare expenditures cost Illinois residents \$339 per capita. In 2014 that number had grown to \$1,293 per person. The cost of pensions had grown from \$94 per person to \$640. Spending on K-12 education has remained essentially unchanged per capita since 1978, while spending on higher education has fallen from \$283 per person to \$189. In terms of the total state budget of over \$73 billion, outlays for pensions went from 3% in 1978 to 11% in 2014. Medicare went from 12% to 23%. State government expenses went from 12% to 18%. Spending for Human Services, Education, and Transportation all decreased as a percentage of the state budget. Nowlan noted that the pension issue is extremely difficult since the employees paid everything they were required to pay, but the state did not pay its share. Ultimately the shortfall caught up with them creating the current "crisis". Nowlan didn't have any easy fixes, but suggested that a "Pay as You Go" approach might be worth discussion. Thanks Jim, for a great program.

Feb - Mar Calendar

- 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. Health Care Reform
- Mar 20 - Brian Baster, Quad City Symphony Orchestra
- Apr 10 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 17 - Rotary Awards Banquet



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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 Annalise Connolly and Sean Coleman; and, Rocky Jr. Rotarians Jameshia Walls and Nicholas Roessler. Our exchange daughter Pat Rungrueng rounded out our guest list for today. 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.

☐ **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!

☐ **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 REPORT

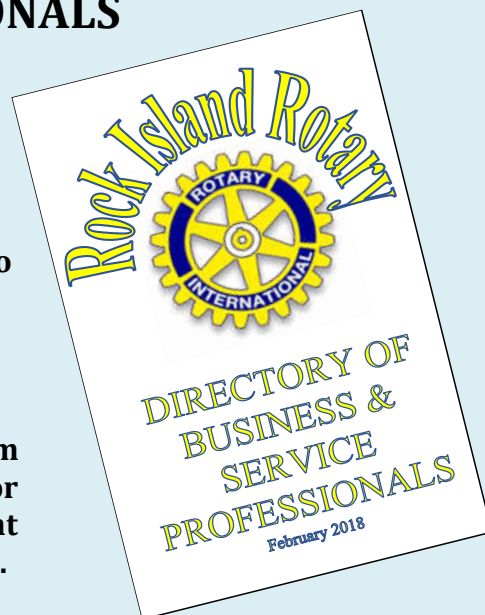


Today's raffle featured fine wine from the Lo Milani Collection, and cash. The first ticket drawn was held by Steve Morenz, who took the cash and then donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Larry Tadlock had the second lucky ticket and he took the wine! All raffle proceeds go to support the International Rotary Foundation, carrying on humanitarian work throughout the world. Thank you for participating!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY DIRECTORY OF BUSINESS & SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Our Club's newest publication is now available to all members. Copies were distributed at today's meeting. If you didn't get one, they will be available at all future meetings. Just stop by the Sergeant of Arms table and ask for the new Directory of Business & Service Professionals. This is a directory of "who does what" and "who to call" when you need help. Be sure not to confuse this new publication with our annual Member Roster Directory.

The new publication contains information received from your fellow members who responded to our requests for information regarding the products and/or services that they provide. Our thanks to all of those who responded.



ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!



Rock Island Rotary held our annual Club Blood Drive today with fellow Rotarians lining up before and during our meeting to donate. Under the leadership of chairman, Chris Lemon, we set a goal to surpass last year's collection of 18 units. We promoted the drive in this newsletter over the past several weeks and with announcements and a sign-up sheet at club meetings the past month. Today Rotarians and some Rotarian spouses came through in a big way, not only matching last year's collection, but passing it with a 25% increase! Our collection today of 23 units sets a lofty goal to exceed again next year! Thank you, Rotarians!



Past Presidents, Anne McGlynn and Jeff Dismer take their turn donating blood at today's meeting.



Rick Devinney is in the "on deck" chair, waiting his turn to make the "Gift of Life".



Foundation Minute

Through the efforts and expertise of The Rotary Foundation our clubs and districts have accomplished a great deal around the world. There is still much to be done and many of our clubs labor with the problem of funding these projects. Some clubs and districts are able to pay entirely for the project through fundraising events, such as charity dinners, walkathons or online auctions. These events will not only help you raise money for your project, but also build awareness for Rotary and The Rotary Foundation.

Some other ideas are: Hold a raffle, Skip a meal at your club meeting and donate the cost; organize a walkathon, bike-a-thon or skate-a-thon. Honor a special person in your life or your community.

And many clubs struggle to find an international partner. To help the Rotary Foundation has created an International Service Chair. Zone 28 & 29's chair is Craig Leiser from District 5960. Don't hesitate to contact him at Craig@RotaryCraig5950.com. He will be happy to help.

And don't forget: When you focus on making a difference in other people's lives, your life is the one that improves the most." (Quote by Roxanne Emmerich). Thank you.

HELP WITH **ROTARYFEST** CARNIVAL PROJECT!

We have orally agreed to host the Wilson Family Show, one of the largest Midwest carnival companies for ROTARYFEST in the spring of 2018, opening on Wednesday, May 24 and running through Sunday, May 27th. Our location, subject to a final walk through by Rotary Club representatives, Mayor Thoms, and Wilson president, Kevin Wilson, is the former Watch Tower Plaza site. The carnival company does all the set-up of their rides, mid-way games, and food trailers. They provide operators for all of their equipment, tickets sellers, and ticket takers. Our obligation is to provide the location with any necessary permits, porta-potties, a dumpster, and access to water (which can be a fire hydrant). We are not expected to be security, but they do ask that we have Club members on site just walking around and observing. If we see anything of concern, we report it and they take care of it. It is likely that the city will require us to have some off-duty police on site for security. We also need to come up with additional activities to help attract people to the event. These can be anything from toddler events on Saturday morning (tricycle races, etc.) to bingo, a car show, display of local art, local not-for profit food tents, etc. Wilson will provide advertising posters to be posted in local businesses, but we will also want to come up with other media ads and promotion. This is where we need you and your ideas! Please let Sue Cassatt or Bob Swanson know if you will serve on the Carnival Committee. We need both "chiefs" and "Indians", so don't be shy!



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. About half are already sold!

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.

This is one of our major Club fundraisers for the year. Your support is appreciated and needed. We've heard your comments and found a great venue and reduced the cost of tickets. It is a great "Date Night" for you and your special person. Please join the fun!