



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



February 20, 2018; Volume XXV, Issue 34
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

The Penguin Project

Jeffrey L. Coussens is Professor of Theatre Arts, and Chairman of the Theatre Arts Department. Mr. Cousins earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Augustana and his Master of Fine Arts from Indiana University. Prior to joining the Augustana faculty Coussens taught at the School of Drama, Oklahoma University. During his 25-year academic career he has directed over 50 stage productions and acted in more than thirty roles. He has also worked as a professional actor and director at a variety of venues including the Oklahoma Shakespeare Festival, Brown County Playhouse, Black Hills Playhouse, Street Players Theatre, and Dollar Stock Summer Theatre. Coussens has also done work in voice-overs, commercials, film and web-video. His special area of interest is stage combat. He is a member of the Society of American Fight Directors and he has choreographed fight scenes for many Shakespeare productions including Othello, As You Like It, Hamlet, and Macbeth. He is also a member of the Illinois Theatre Association, Theatre Communications Group, and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Today Mr. Coussens told us about the Penguin Project. Once a year, a magical and touching celebration of the human spirit unfolds at numerous theaters across the country. A group of children in a program called The Penguin Project take to the stage to perform a modified version of a well-known Broadway musical. These productions are unique, however, because all the roles are filled by young artists with developmental disabilities including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities visual impairment, hearing impairment, and other neurological disorders. They are joined on stage by a dedicated group of "peer mentors" – children the same age without disabilities who have volunteered to work side-by-side with them through four months of rehearsals and through the final performance. By providing access to community theater, The Penguin Project demonstrates that the special challenges of a disability should not handicap a child's ability to participate in life's experiences. Established in 2004, The Penguin Project has evolved into a National program, with replication sites throughout the United States. The program provides a supportive environment for children with disabilities to explore their creative talents. It has also demonstrated that participation in the performing arts has therapeutic value by enhancing social interaction, communication skills, self-confidence and self-esteem. The impact of the program has reached beyond the stage to create a social network for children who previously had very few friends and limited social opportunities. The Penguin Project of the Quad Cities is back for a second season with the show "Beauty and the Beast Jr.," a collaboration between Augustana College and the Center for Living Arts in Rock Island. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23-24 and March 2-3, and at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 25 and March 4. Augustana will produce "Beauty and the Beast Jr." and stage it at the Brunner Theatre Center. The cast and mentors will rehearse at the Center for Living Arts. Tickets for the performance are \$12. Tickets are going fast, so if you want to see the show, better call today!



Feb - Mar Calendar

- 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 Baxter, Quad City Symphony Orchestra
- Mar 27 - Ballet Quad Cities
- Apr 3 - Tom Hammar & Molly Shattuck – TAXES!
- Apr 10 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 17 - Rotary Awards Banquet
- Apr 24 - Jenni Swanson – Wellness in the work place
- May 1 - RIHS Entrepreneur Class
- May 8 - Jana Haskins – RiseUP
- May 15 - Pat Rungrueng
- May 22 - Kai Swanson – Forest Preserve
- May 29 - Hanson Inspire Choir



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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

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 Jim Nordquist
 Molly Shattuck
 Al Metz
 Tammy Weikert
 Sarah Gorham
 Justin Peterson
 Sara Cross
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 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 was in attendance, as was visiting Rotarian, Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport 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.
- **YOU’RE INVITED** – The Heart of Hope Ministries, operators of the Food Pantry we support, has formed a “Focus Group” seeking feedback on their operations. Since Rock Island Rotary has been an integral part of their Food Pantry program they have extended an invitation for our members to be a part of the Focus Group. Their meeting is TONIGHT at 5:30pm at the Hauberg Civic Center in Rock Island. Please stop in and make sure that Rotary is represented at this important meeting.
- **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, a Larry Tadlock bowl, and cash. The first ticket drawn was held by Frank Lambert, who took the bowl. Dr. Jim Nordquist was the next winner, taking the cash and giving it to Pat, our exchange daughter. Dennis Pauley had the final ticket and took home the wine. All raffle proceeds go to support the International Rotary Foundation, carrying on humanitarian work throughout the world. Thanks to all who participated!

BIRTHDAY BOOKS!

This Thursday at Earl Hanson School. Help is needed!
 Come at 2:15 and be done by 3pm.
 Sign and give away books, enjoy cookies, and have fun!



OUTBOUND STUDENT SELECTED

Amanda Murry, a sophomore at Alleman has been selected as our next outbound Rotary exchange student. Amanda will be going to Poland for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Between now and then she will participate in numerous orientation activities.



CLUB VISIONING SESSION SET



President Bruce Peterson has set Saturday, April 21st as the date for our Club's visioning session with leadership from Rotary District 6420. It has been more than half a decade since we last sat down and took a good look at where we are and where we want to be 5 and 10 years from now. A cross-section of members of the Club will be asked to participate. If you are asked, please agree and be a part of this extremely important club activity. Our current Water Project was a result of our last visioning session where club members set a goal to establish our own international water project. In a changing world, assessment of our practices, procedures, methods, and goals is critical if we are to maintain a vibrant and healthy club. The session will be held at the new Rock Island Police Department's Community room. The tentative schedule is to start at 8am and conclude at noon.

CLUB MAKES MAJOR DONATION TO GIRLS' SOFTBALL AND WILL RECEIVE LONG TERM RECOGNITION

Our Board of Directors approved a \$12,000 grant to the Rock Island Girls Softball League to be used for adding lights to the eastern field at the Hauburg Civic Center softball complex. The western field received lights several years ago largely due to a grant from Major League Baseball. The eastern field was added in two years and is essentially complete, but without lights. The total cost of the lights will be more than \$45,000. The Softball League has been raising money for several years hoping for lights but ended up about \$15,000 short. Our grant just about puts them over the top, with some smaller anticipated grants coming from other sources. In return for our contribution, the League and the Rock Island Park Board have agreed that the east field will hence forth and on into perpetuity, be called "**Rock Island Rotary Field**". A sign to that effect will be incorporated with the field's scoreboard and the game schedules distributed to all participants and parents will refer to the field as "Rotary Field". The funds used for this grant were the accumulated interest over the past two years from our Rock Island Club Foundation, which specifies that funds will be used solely for the improvement and benefit of Rock Island. It is great to know that decades from now kids will be playing on "**Rotary Field**", and that we helped build it!

SUE & FRANK MAKE PLEA FOR SUPPORT

As we all know, our dueling piano fundraiser, "A Little Off Key" is coming up a week from Thursday. To make the event affordable for everyone, our committee moved the event from the RME to the Establishment Theater and lowered the ticket price to \$35 per person. The show, which is packed with comedy and music is a professional show, which if in Chicago or another large city, would cost anywhere from \$65 to \$95 to see. AND, keep in mind, this is a fundraiser, so if you want to think of it as donating twenty bucks to rotary and going to a great show for \$15, suit yourself.

The bottom line, as Budget Priorities Chairman, Frank Lambert, explained, our fundraisers are the way we provide a budget for our Budget Priorities Committee. Our dues don't do anything for the community. The cost of lunches, Rotary International dues, District dues, and our Rotarian Magazine cost eats up what we pay in dues. Donations to the Rotary International Foundation and to our Club Foundation go to wonderful humanitarian projects, but none of that goes to fund our Budget Priorities.

The way we fund local activities and organizations is through Budget Priorities. Chairman Frank disclosed that the committee's current budget is \$7,500 for the year. Yet the committee receives approximately \$10,000 in requests every quarter. They make hard choices and fund as much as they can with the limited funds available. Serving the community is what Rotary is all about!

Budget Priorities and our Fundraising committee needs and deserves our support! Get your tickets. If you can't go, give them to family or friends who can go. But GET YOUR TICKETS!

Foundation Minute

According to Bill Gates, "We are achingly close to getting rid of polio – more than 99% of the way there. Finishing the job is a big challenge, but it is very doable if we keep up the effort." Your generous contribution will enable us to immunize 400 million children against polio every year. It will improve the ability of surveillance and monitoring systems to diagnose new cases and detect the wild poliovirus. It will help hire more than 150,000 health workers to go door to door to find every child that needs to be vaccinated and will also be used to track the virus in water, and sewage and provide National Immunization Day materials.

Polio is Rotary's #1 priority! If polio is not eradicated, hundreds of thousands of children could be paralyzed. Global health costs will rise dramatically, and many children's quality of life will be drastically diminished.

Your donation will save lives and give a child a chance at a prosperous future. Pledge today!

Thank you for your continued support! We are almost there and once there we shall celebrate!



A LITTLE OFF KEY

a dueling pianos event

featuring  Fun Pianos

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 <small>FREE beer on a 1st come 1st serve basis until the keg runs out</small>
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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!

Rotary 

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!

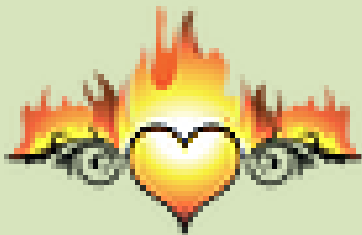
CLUB BY-LAWS

Earlier this month our Club approved a new Constitution, the content of which was virtually entirely prescribed by Rotary International. Our attention now turns to Club By-Laws where we do have the power to make some decisions and choices for the operation of our Club. Two areas of the new By-Laws were discussed, and recommendations of the By-Laws Committee were approved at Monday's meeting of our Board of Directors. The Directors will continue their review of By-Law recommendations and ultimately will bring an entire set of By-Laws before the Club for adoption. The two recommended areas that were approved by the Board were sections involving Corporate Memberships and a No-Meal Membership option. We are presenting those two provisions to you for your review and consideration. You will be asked to vote at a future meeting.

Section 2 – Corporate member-May be a business or non-profit entity, one individual will be appointed the formal member by the corporate member and would have full rights of active membership. This person will be included in the club's official membership count. This person will be eligible to be an officer or director and will have voting rights. Up to three alternates must be identified and approved by the board of directors. Board of directors must be notified in writing if corporate member desires to change alternates. The name and contact information for new alternates must be provided within 30 days of change. Cost of dues is equal to the individual membership. Dues includes the cost of one meal. If more than one corporate representative attends a regular meeting, those individuals will pay for their meal at the sergeant-at-arms table upon entry. Members and alternates will be expected to be active and participate in events, service projects, and fundraising. Corporate members will decide between them who will attend regular meetings. Alternate members may request to convert to an individual active member outside of the corporate membership at any time. Alternates may contribute to the Foundation and accumulate Foundation Recognition points.

Article 6 Dues

Annual club dues are \$600. They are paid as follows: Quarterly. Annual club dues include RI per capita dues, a subscription to The Rotarian or a Rotary regional magazine, district per capita dues, club fees, and any other Rotary or district per capita assessment. Members in good standing may request waiver of meal portion of regular dues.



Heart of Hope Ministries

Trivia Night Fundraiser

Friday, March 23 at 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM CDT

Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Rock Island, IL

226 17th St, Rock Island, Illinois 61201

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

Heart of Hope Ministries is proud to sponsor our 5th Annual Trivia Night FUNDRAISER. Please join us for a GOOD CAUSE and a FUN NIGHT. Along with the Trivia, we will have a Silent Auction and many items for Raffle Door Prizes. ARE YOU THE BEST AT TRIVIA? CASH PRIZES TO WINNING TABLE.

\$10 per person, \$80 for a team of 8

You can bring your own snacks. No outside beverages are allowed. The Hotel will be providing a Cash Bar for your beverage purchases. Register at: www.heartofhopeqc.org/whats-next. You are also welcomed to stop by or mail your registration fee to our office at 1740 9th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. For additional information, give us a call at 309-428-4752.