



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



March 20, 2018; Volume XXV, Issue 38
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Q.C. SYMPHONY

Brian Baxter served as Chief Operating Officer of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra for nearly a decade, growing CYSO's student body by 30% from 400 to more than 600 students, leading three international tours, and overseeing program expansion including the addition of multiple new programs and ensembles. On February 10 he resigned from that position to accept the position of Executive Director of the Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra.



Baxter said, "I have learned a tremendous amount in my time at CYSO and had the opportunity to do a lot of exciting and transformative work with these inspiring young musicians. Just like CYSO, QCSO is deeply rooted in the cultural life of its community and I am looking forward to leveraging all of my experiences on behalf of QCSO as its next Executive Director. The Quad City Symphony Orchestra is among the twenty longest established, continuously operating orchestra associations in the United States. The QCSO presents twelve Masterworks Series concerts each year, in addition to pops and chamber performances. The QCSO also serves nearly 279 young musicians and singers in grades one through twelve through the Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles. Baxter, a 31-year-old musician and composer, his wife and 18-month-old daughter are getting settled after moving into a house in the East Village of Davenport. Baxter is particular excited about the Symphony's strong community connection and emphasis on youth and education. He noted that recently through a grant from the Day Foundation, 200 Rock Island students were able to attend the most recent Master Works Concert. On Symphony Day at the Adler Theater 6,000 students attend 3 packed performances. Brian looks to be a great find for the Quad Cities!

Mar - May Calendar

- Mar 27 - Ballet Quad Cities - Paul Plagenz CEO and Courtney Lyon, Artistic Director
- Apr 3 - Tom Hammar & Molly Shattuck – TAXES!
- Apr 10 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 17 - Rotary Awards Banquet
- Apr 24 - Earl Hanson Inspire Choir
- May 1 - RIHS Entrepreneur Class
- May 8 - Jana Haskins – RiseUP
- May 15- Jenni Swanson – Wellness in the work place
- May 22- Kai Swanson – Forest Preserve Pat Rungrueng
- May 29- Rotary Exchange Student, Pat Rungrueng





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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 Louis Portillo and Giselle Ramirez; and our exchange daughter Pat Rungrueng at today's meeting. John McEvoy, Jr. and Carolyn Young representing Rock Island Girls Slow Pitch Softball were guests of our Club; as was Steve Mohr attending with our guest speaker. Our lone visiting Rotarian today was Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary. Prospective members are our favorites!
- **BLOOD DRIVE in memory of Fred Luckenbill** will be held at St. Pious Catholic Church on Monday, April 2nd from 2 to 6pm. Rotarians and all friends of Fred are invited to participate.
- **AWARDS LUNCHEON** is coming up on April 17th. If you want to nominate a potential honoree, you must call or email Carrie Crossen by tomorrow! Check your club directory numbers and email address.
- **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY** – Help is still needed with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. Thursdays 6 to 7:30pm. Contact Al Metz or Steve Morenz to join our team of volunteers! Used but sound plastic bags are needed too.
- **DISTRICT 6420 CONFERENCE this year will be just a one-day event on Saturday**, April 28th at Faranda's Banquet Center in DeKalb. Activities begin at 7:00am and will conclude at 8:30pm. Registration is \$100 of which our club will reimburse one-half. For a full schedule of events and registration information, go to: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50144/Event/district-2018-conference>
- **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 Tammy Weikert, who took the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. The next ticket drawn was held by Jeff Dismer who went home with fine wine for dinner! Just a reminder, all raffle proceeds go to support the International Rotary Foundation, carrying on humanitarian work throughout the world. Thank you for participating!

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNIZED



Tammy Weikert was honored today as our most recent Paul Harris Fellow. Tammy, who joined Rotary in 2015 signed up for the monthly automatic withdrawal plan selecting what amount she wanted donated. Today she commented on how quickly and painlessly it was to achieve Paul Harris status using this method. Tammy has been an extremely active new member serving on numerous committees and taking a leadership role in our Earl Hanson School partnership. In addition to all she does for Rotary, Tammy is kept busy as our Rock Island County Clerk of the Circuit Court. Congratulations to Tammy and to her mentor, Anne McGlynn. In her comments Tammy also mentioned that donating is a learned activity. Once started it gets easy!!



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Sign up for our Rotary Social at the May 12th Quad City Steamwheelers home game at the TaxSlayer Center in Moline. Rotarians are urged to come and bring a friend. A great way to have a fun night out and interest a potential member in Rotary! Let Sue Cassatt know you want to go. The larger our group the better group ticket price we can get, So, be there for the "Kick off", Rotary at the Steamwheelers, May 12th.

ROCK ISLAND CLUB FOUNDATION MAKES MAJOR CONTRIBUTION - GAINS LONG TERM IMPACT FOR COMMUNITY YOUTH AND FOR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY!



When our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation was established, its rules and regulations require principal funds to be invested and untouched and interest earned from the principal is to be used exclusively for local projects benefiting the Rock Island Community. Over the years the invested principal has grown as Rotarians add to the fund. Interest earned has grown to over \$6,000 per year. Not having used the interest earned last year, the funds available this year exceeded \$12,000. That allowed our Foundation Committee and Rotary Board of Directors to fund a major, high impact community project, one that will benefit the community and Rotary for years.

Our club has supported the Rock Island Girls Slow Pitch Softball League in their efforts to build a centrally located complex of softball fields, twice joining with Rock Island Kiwanis to purchase scoreboards for two new fields built adjacent to Rock Island's Hauberg Civic Center. The League with assistance from the Rock Island Park Board built the two fields from scratch with donated funds and grants from individuals and organizations, including Major League Baseball. One field is entirely completed with fencing, dugouts, scoreboard, bleachers, lights and underground irrigation. The second field has fencing, dugouts, scoreboard and bleachers but lacks lighting and irrigation. Adding lighting is a high priority. Unlighted fields can accommodate just one game each evening. With two divisions of teams, one for 9 through 13-year-old girls and one for 14 to 18-year girls, six or seven games are needed each evening throughout the summer. This requires games to be held at various sites scattered across the city, and often resulted in 3 games being scheduled on the same night at the one lighted field. The third game frequently is not completed until well after 10pm. Safety of young girls has been a constant concern and worry. Younger girls bicycle to games, many of the girls walk. Sending them home well after dark often occurs and is recognized as not good. A second lighted field will allow all league games to be played at the Hauberg complex and the Reservoir Park fields located just a half block from the Hauberg fields. The restroom and concessions building at the Hauberg Complex can serve both facilities. No more than 2 games per night will be needed on the lighted fields. The league has been fundraising for several years trying to fund the \$50,000+ lighting project for the second field. With over \$30,000 in hand, Girls Softball needed one more big push to get to a point where construction of lights for the second field could get underway while the league continues raising the final funds needed.



Bill Stengel presents Rotary's check to Carolyn Young and John McEvoy

Enter Rock Island Rotary, with a \$12,000.00 donation to the project. This will impact and benefit over 200 young girls every year for decades to come. In return, the League and the Rock Island Park Board agreed to honor our club by naming the field, "ROCK ISLAND ROTARY FIELD". A new sign is being prepared and will become a permanent part of the field's scoreboard. Schedules distributed to players and their families will delineate games played on "Rotary Field". Rock Island Rotary will be recognized now and for decades to come as players and fans attend events at the field. Today, representatives of the Girls Softball League attended our meeting to receive their donation and to express their heartfelt appreciation to our club.

Foundation Minute

Nearly 800 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day. Rotary members are passionate about providing sustainable solutions to poverty. Along with the Foundation they provide training and access to well-paying jobs and financial management institutions.

Rotarians make amazing things happen:

The Rotary Club of Guatemala de la Ermita helped 400 local women complete financial literacy courses, so they could pool their money and fund their own micro-lending program.

In Esmeraldas, Ecuador, Rotary members helped grant more than 250 microloans and train more than 270 community members in sewing, baking, plumbing, microcredit, business management, and leadership.

And in West Cameroon, soil erosion and loss of soil fertility have significantly reduced farmers' harvests. Rotary members gave farmers the skills they needed to improve soil fertility, control soil erosion, and market their produce. The results: increased crop yields and profits.

Your support of The Rotary Foundation enables this to happen. Thank you.

ROTARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

President Bruce Peterson reported that at our March Board of Directors meeting held yesterday several important reports were heard and actions were taken.

The Fundraising Committee reported that our Dueling Piano fundraiser "A Little Off Key" was a great success with 125 persons attending. The project netted a profit of \$3,200 which will be shared with the co-sponsoring RAH Club.

Bruce also reported that Sue Cassatt is in the process of planning a fun "Wine Raffle" with details coming soon!

Bruce also reported that we're having communication issues with our carnival company and are still hopeful to host the first "ROTARYFEST" in late May.

Finally, Bruce noted that the Board approved a \$2000 donation in support of an International project developed by the Ottawa Rotary Club. See details below.



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY JOINS OTTAWA PROJECT



Not exactly the kind of ambulance we're used to seeing. Imagine laying in this for 45 miles on a bumpy dirt road!

In response to a call for help, Rock Island Rotary voted to donate \$2,000 to the Ottawa Noon Rotary Club's Amagara Ga'Boona Medical Center project. The eight-room block build with a surgical suite, a pharmacy, patient wards, laboratory, medical examination room, and an office will serve more than 25,000 people. Currently the nearest medical facility is 45 miles away over a bumpy dirt road. The "ambulance" is a three-wheel all terrain vehicle with no medical equipment nor medical personnel. Through various grants the Ottawa Club hopes to completely outfit the facility with modern medical equipment. They have partnered with the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach Program in Springfield to obtain \$150,000 to \$250,000 of major medical equipment. They are now working on a Rotary Foundation International Grant which requires some matching funds. Ottawa Rotary has a goal of raising \$18,000-\$20,000 from Clubs in District 6420 which will allow them to submit the grant application. Our gift of \$2,000 gets them well on their way!