



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



April 3, 2018: Volume XXV, Issue 40  
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service



## Apr - May Calendar

- Apr 10 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 17 - Rotary Awards Banquet  
**Meeting Starting 30 minutes earlier than normal!**
- 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
- May 29- Rotary Exchange Student, Pat Rungrueng

## A GUIDE TO THE NEW WORLD OF TAXES

Our guest speakers were two of our own, past president Tom Hammar, and Molly Shattuck. Tom, a CPA is the owner of Hammar & Associates of Rock Island, a privately held company located at 2300 5th Avenue. The firm was established in 1989 and employs a staff of 12. For more than 25 years, Tom has served as a trusted business partner to clients throughout the greater Quad City area providing services including Business Consulting for Small Business Owners and Not-for-Profits, Tax Preparation and Advice, Accounting Support Services, Eldercare, and Payroll, Molly, in addition to being Tom's daughter, is a graduate of Bradley University, did her post graduate work at Rush University, and is currently studying accounting at Western Illinois University, working to complete the CPA certification requirements. She is the firm's Payroll Director. For our program today, Tom and Molly teamed up to educate us on the new Trump tax reform law. But before getting into the new law, the duo put our club to the test with a series of "taxing" questions. Who would have thought that the first US income tax was instituted by Abraham Lincoln! That however was only temporary to finance the Civil War. We learned that the first permanent federal income tax was done under Woodrow Wilson, to fund World War I. We also learned that the income tax moved from a tax on the wealthy to a middle-class tax under Franklin Roosevelt, perhaps to fund World War II? See a trend here? Some other interesting tax tidbits were that roughly 45% of the country pay no income tax and those with incomes in the top 1% pay over 39% of the total income tax collected. Turning their attention to the Trump tax reform bill, known at the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act", Molly noted that both tax rates and tax brackets are lowered by the new law. The standard deduction available to all taxpayers was doubled to \$24,000 which will result in far fewer taxpayers needing to itemize their deductions. Itemizers are expected to drop by more than half. Filing will be simplified for more than 25 million filers. Mortgage interest, state and local taxes, and charitable donations will no longer be deductible. Personal exemptions were also eliminated. The child credit was doubled to \$2,000 and the maximum income level for qualifying for the credit was raised to \$400,000. When all of this is balanced, it appears that about 5% of filers will see a tax increase. 95% will see a reduction or no change in their taxes. The individual mandate forcing all to purchase health insurance was repealed. The "Marriage Penalty" (meaning that two people filing separately pay less tax than if married and filing jointly) was reduced and eliminated for many taxpayers. The Alternative Minimum Tax will now affect far fewer people because it was based on recovering taxes from those that took the benefit of allowable deductions under the old tax code. Since most deductions were eliminated, the AMT impact was also decreased. The estate a gift taxes were also reduced by doubling the exempt amount to \$11.2 million. Unfortunately, time precluded Tom and Molly from opening a discussion as to whether our income tax system is "fair". They promised to do a follow-up session at a later date. One final bit of fact Molly mentioned. The original US income tax code was 15 pages long. The code prior to the Trump reform had ballooned to over 70,000 pages! We're not back to 15 pages, but the stack is now smaller! Thanks Tom & Molly!



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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 to today's meeting Rocky Jr. Rotarians Sydney Branson and Alexis Dillender. Guests of Tom Showalter were Ann Showalter, Shellee Showalter and Evan Branson. Scott Shattuck was a guest of Molly Shattuck and Cecilia O'Brien, George McDoniel, and Chris VanSpeybroeck were guests of Steve Morenz. Cecilia is past president of the Quad Cities Rotary, Chris a member of the East Moline-Silvis Rotary, and George a member of the Quad Cities Rotary. Mark Zimmerman, a frequent guest from the Davenport Club was also in attendance. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary. Prospective members are our favorites!
- **GIRLS SOFTBALL TRIVIA NIGHT** – Recently our club donated \$12,000 to the Rock Island Girls Softball League to fund lights for their field. They are hosting a Trivia Night on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Rock Island Holiday Inn to fund further field improvements. Want to help? Contact Bob Swanson
- **AWARDS LUNCHEON** is coming up on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be served at 11:30 and we will start the program promptly at 12 Noon. Plan to come early. Featured speaker is Steve Bell, Augustana's Head Football Coach.
- **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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, see page 4.
- **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto: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 Howard Beck, who took the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Holding the second ticket and winning the wine was Steve Morenz. Just a reminder, all raffle proceeds go to support the International Rotary Foundation, carrying on humanitarian work throughout the world.

Thank you for participating!

### Foundation Minute

Dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease found in tropical climates, causes high fevers, severe headaches, fatigue, and vomiting. In Surakarta, Indonesia, the Rotary Club of Solo Kartini and its international partner, the Rotary Club of Westport, Connecticut, decided to tackle dengue head-on by interrupting the lifecycle of carrier mosquitos. The insects breed in standing water, including in waste areas and bathtubs.

First, using funds from Rotary global grants, club members lined more than 3,500 dark cement bathtubs, which are common in Indonesian households, with white tiles so mosquito larvae would be easier to see and remove. Then, they began educating the community about properly cleaning the tubs, closing the lids on water contains, and burying waste to limit the places where mosquitos can breed and grow.

Surakarta's public health department plans to expand the white-tile project to other parts of the city and continue to fight dengue fever.

Your contribution to The Rotary Foundation enabled this to happen. Thank you.



## HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR FOOTBALL?

On May 12<sup>th</sup> Rock Island Rotary is planning a social at the Quad City Steamwheelers home game at the TaxSlayer Center in Moline. Rotarians are urged to come and bring a friend/prospective member. Let Sue Cassatt know that 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 12<sup>th</sup>. Email Sue: [slerschen-cassatt@firststateil.com](mailto:slerschen-cassatt@firststateil.com) This is a great way to have a fun night out and interest a potential member in Rotary!

## MAYOR LIKES OUR ADJUSTED CARNIVAL PLANS!



When we notified Mayor Mike Thoms that we had decided to move our "Rotaryfest" date to Labor Day Weekend, his reaction was "GREAT"! Rock Island is the home of The Rock Island Grand Prix, the world's largest and most prestigious karting street race. Our Thursday through Sunday carnival coupled with the daytime eKart races on Saturday and Sunday, and the annual Monday, Rock Island Labor Day Parade will make Rock Island the place to be for Labor Day week 2018!

Several Rotarians have volunteered to help, and we will circulate a signup sheet next week, so all members have an opportunity to join the Rotaryfest project. No money and no physical work is needed, just your creativity and organizational skills!

Let Bob Swanson or Sue Cassatt know that you want to help!

## DISTRICT 6420 DISTRICT CONFERENCE FARANDA'S, DEKALB, ILLINOIS



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|-----------------|---|
| <b>APRIL 27</b> | <b>DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION 1:00 PM</b>  |
|                 | <b>LEADERSHIP DINNER 5:00 PM (OPEN TO ALL)</b>      |
| <b>APRIL 28</b> | <b>7:00 AM DISTRICT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION</b>     |
|                 | <b>7:15-8:15 AM LITERACY BREAKFAST BUFFET</b>       |
|                 | <b>8:15 AM OPENING CEREMONIES</b>                   |
|                 | <b>8:30-NOON PROGRAM</b>                            |
|                 | <b>NOON-1:00 PM LUNCH</b>                           |
|                 | <b>1:00 PM -5:00 PM PROGRAM</b>                     |
|                 | <b>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM SOCIAL</b>                     |
|                 | <b>6:00 PM - 8:30 PM DINNER &amp; PROGRAM</b>       |
|                 | <b>8:30-10.00 PM DGE KATHY KWIAT-HESS RECEPTION</b> |

REGISTRATION & PROGRAM INFORMATION AT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-district-6420-conference-tickets-43800310909>

Registration is \$100. If you go, Rock Island Rotary will reimburse one-half of your registration fee.

## ROTARY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Tom Showalter April 1  
Rick Devinney April 18  
Rick Emery April 26  
Dennis Pauley April 29



### Our Newest Paul Harris Fellow and a Plus One for Tom Showalter

A very proud grandpa, Tom Showalter introduced granddaughter Sydney Branson who Tom honored by making her our most recent Paul Harris Fellow. Sydney is a senior at Rock Island High School and is ranked number one in her class. She is a Charles O. Austin Scholar and was captain and star swimmer on this year's Rocky Girls Swim Team, who won the Western Big 6 Conference. Sydney was named to the 2017 Dispatch/Argus Girls Swimming All-Star First Team; was a Western Big 6 Academic All Conference Athlete; and, received an IHSA Academic Athlete Award. Tom, a Rotarian since 1997 was honored with a Paul Harris Plus One Award, signifying that he has donated over \$2,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Tom received a Paul Harris Pin adorned with a sapphire in recognition of his "Plus One" status. Sydney's parents, Shellee Showalter and Evan Branson, and Tom's wife and proud grandmother, Ann Showalter were in attendance to see the presentation. Congratulations Tom and Sydney!



### ROTARY SUPPORTS QUAD CITIES CHILDRENS THERAPY CENTER



Today Rock Island Rotary made a special contribution of \$2,000 to the Children's Therapy Center. Our Club has been a long-time supporter of the Center, working their telethon phones for many years. After moving to their new location in Rock Island, it was decided that one of the therapy rooms would be called the "Rotary Room" and local Rotary Clubs took on the task of fully equipping the room. The Quad Cities Rotary Club took the lead with a \$2,000 donation and set a goal of raising \$10,000 from local Rotary Clubs. Our donation of \$2,000 put them over the top! A plaque identifying the room at "The Rotary Room" will be on the door and additional recognition for each club that donated to the effort will be at the entrance to the Center. Pictured are Cecilia O'Brien and George McDoniel from the Quad Cities Club and Chris Van Speybroeck from the Therapy Center (also an East Moline-Silvis Rotarian). Presenting the check for our club is Steve Morenz.

### You Just Never Know Where Kevin May Show Up!

Who would know that our finest "Finnish" Rotarian would also be a die-hard Notre Dame Fan. Today he appeared in full dress gear to celebrate the Notre Dame victory in the NCAA Women's Basketball Championship Game. Kevin gave a quick recap of the amazing last second shots made by Notre Dame in both the final four game and the championship game. At least he didn't say it was take a Leprechaun to Lunch Day!

