



BE THE INSPIRATION

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

August 14, 2018: Volume XXVI, Issue 7

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



August - October Calendar

- Aug 21 - Club Assembly
- Aug 28 - Ruth Lee – Rotary Foundation
- Sept 4 - Amy Trimble, Watermark Corners
- Sept 11- State of the Schools, Dr. Mike Oberhaus, (with Kiwanis)
- Sept 18- Ken Massey, CEO and Pres., Modern Woodmen
- Sept 25- Tony McCombie, State of the State
- Oct 2 - Gwen Tomberg, President QC Storm Hockey Team
- Oct 9 - Paul Rumler, Quad City Chamber
- Oct 30 - Caitlin Russell, Russell Construction

Guest speaker at today's Rock Island Rotary meeting was Erik Elsea, shown above with Rock Island Rotarian, Tom Showalter. Erik grew up in Waterloo, Illinois and says that ever since he was a kid sandbagging against the Great Flood of 1993 near the city of St. Louis, he had dreamed of canoeing all 2552 miles of the Mississippi River from the Headwaters in northern Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico in Louisiana. Starting on July 7, 2018, Eric will spend 90 days on the river, stopping to visit places he always wanted to see, and giving presentations about ShelterBox to groups along the way to commemorate the 25th anniversary of that Great Flood and remember the people who lost everything that summer. Flooding remains the biggest natural cause of devastation on our planet. Elsea first learned about the opportunity to volunteer with ShelterBox through his Rotary Club. With 85 million people displaced around the world, emergency shelter is needed now more than ever. Eric said as a realtor, he knows how important a home and a community is, especially when you don't know where you're going to live in the immediate future. Eric's trip isn't just a "bucket list" vacation. He has a goal of raising \$255,200 for shelter families who have been left homeless after a natural or man-made disaster. "That's just \$100 for every mile of the Mississippi", Eric said. "My volunteer crew and I will be reaching out to Rotary Clubs, ShelterBox Ambassadors, Community leaders and sponsors". Every \$100 donated adopts a river mile on the Expedition and supplies a family with a ShelterKit to repair their home after a disaster. For 10 river miles, you can buy a ShelterBox and supply a family with a complete emergency household including tent, blankets, solar lights, cookware and more. So far Erik has collected \$33,000 with pledges for \$7,000 more. Global support from the Rotary International is the cornerstone upon which ShelterBox is built. Rotary has been instrumental in the growth of Shelterbox and ShelterBox is Rotary International's only Project Partner in disaster relief.

Outside of his canoe, Elsea is past president of the Cape Coral Florida Rotary Club and is Broker Associate & Manager at Jones & Co. Realty in the Fort Myers, Florida Area. Erik got into the Real Estate industry in 2004



working in new construction working for a builder in SW Florida. He has been involved in new construction, development, property management, rehab, for both residential and commercial property. In 2009 he started in general real estate and has since earned his Florida Broker License.. His Rotary membership led him to learn about ShelterBox and he now serves as an Ambassador for that organization. His 2,552 mile canoe trip on the Mississippi has the purpose of raising money and expanding awareness of ShelterBox. Erik noted that ShelterBox has responded to over 300 disasters in 100 different countries. They have been nominated for the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. [See photos, page 4]



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Officers

Sue Cassatt, President
 Mark Mayeski, 1st VP
 Angela Campbell, 2nd VP
 Anne McGlynn, Secretary
 Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
 Bruce Peterson, Past Pres.
 Co-Sergeant at Arms
 Bob Swanson & Vic Boblett

Board Members

Rick Emery
 Sarah Gorham
 Kathy Lelonek
 John Oliger
 Justin Peterson
 Molly Shattuck
 Bill Stengel
 Tammy Weikert

Program Chairs 2018-19

Aug – Sept: Stan Coin
 Oct – Nov: Mike Locander
 Dec – Jan: John Wetzel
 Feb – Mar: TBA
 Apr – May: Gary Rowe
 June – July: TBA

Club Notes & Announcements!

WELCOME GUESTS! Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome Alex Kelly, a prospective member from the Corn Crib, a guest of Mike Locander. Also visiting were Amanda Murray our outgoing exchange student along with her parents, Nora and Pete Murray. We had two visiting Rotarians today, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. Rock Island Rotary enjoys welcoming guests to our meetings. Have you invited a prospective member to be your guest? Membership recruitment is a responsibility of all Rotarians!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – Help is still needed with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. We help every Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30pm. It's easy duty and is truly Service Above Self at its most basic definition. Volunteers have been scarce lately, so please contact Al Metz to join our team of volunteers! Used but sound plastic bags are needed too. Call Al Metz to help at 309-236-2013.

NEW GUEST/MEMBERSHIP BROCHURES, printed courtesy of John Oliger and Modern Woodmen, were distributed last week. If you didn't take one or two, you are forgetting your member recruiting duties! Get a few from the Sergeant at Arms and use them! They are excellent to hand to anyone you think might be a potential new member. Every member should have several! Bring a guest next week!

2018-19 ROSTER DISTRIBUTION – The new 2018-19 Roster Books were again available today. If you didn't get yours, you can pick one up at the Sergeant at Arms table at next Tuesday's meeting.

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!



Youth Exchange Chair Jeff Dismer & Amanda

AMANDA LEAVES TOMORROW!

Amanda Murray, an Alleman Junior, leaves tomorrow on her adventure as our 2018-19 outgoing exchange student. Amanda will be flying to Kraków, Poland where for the next year she will live and Number Five in Kraków. Amanda teared up a bit as she thanked our Club and her parents for making this experience possible. She also spoke highly of her experiences at RYLA, our District's youth leadership training camp and at the Central States Rotary Youth Exchange. The Exchange is a multi-district program for Inbounds and Outbounds that includes eighteen Districts in the Great Lakes area that include the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, North Dakota, part of Minnesota and the southern part of Ontario, Canada. We wish Amanda a safe trip and the best of luck for a fabulous year as our ambassador to the people of Krakow. Thank you mom and dad, Nora and Pete, for lending her to us!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured fine wine from the Lo Milani Collection and a 50/50 cash drawing. The first lucky ticket was held by Doctor Larry Tadlock, who added another bottle of Milani with to his collection. The second lucky ticket was held by Howard Beck who took the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Keep in mind, all raffle proceeds go to support the International Rotary Foundation which helps ensure that Rotary can continue humanitarian work throughout the world. Thank you to all who participated!

QUAD CITY DINING BOOKS ARE BACK!



Bud Phillis has the new Quad City Dining Books available for purchase from Rotary. Cost is \$35 per book. With over 150 restaurants represented you're sure to find your favorites along with new places to try. If you only use **the** Circa 21 coupon the savings more than pays for the book! For every book sold our Club receives \$10. Look at all the establishments you can visit and save at least half off! They also make excellent gifts for friends and family member. Everyone enjoys eating out so why not save half price each time you go and help fundraise for Rock Island Rotary at the same time!

Foundation Minute

About three years ago, on the nightly news in Berlin, Rotarian Pia Skarabis-Querfeld saw refugees arriving in Berlin after fleeing war, persecution, and poverty in their home countries. Wanting to help, she gathered a bag of clothes to donate and headed to a nearby gym filled with refugees.

When she arrived at the gymnasium to drop off her donation, Skarabis-Querfeld found sick children, most of them untreated because hospitals in the area were overrun. Helpers were not allowed to give out pain relievers or even cough syrup due to legal constraints. All they could do was send people to the emergency room if they looked extremely ill.

Seeing this and knowing about the treacherous journeys the refugees had just made across land and sea, Skarabis-Querfeld, who is a medical doctor and Rotarian, returned that same afternoon with medical supplies and her husband, Uwe Querfeld, who is a professor of pediatrics and also a Rotarian. The couple spent most of that holiday season treating patients in the gymnasium. "The suffering of the people, their bitter fate, ... wouldn't let go of me," says Skarabis-Querfeld. "You just don't forget."

What began as a single act of charity eventually evolved into an all-encompassing volunteer project: Over the next three years, Skarabis-Querfeld would build a nonprofit organization called Medizin Hilft (Medicine Helps) and run a network that, at peak times, would include more than 100 volunteers helping thousands of refugees at community centers, tent camps, and other shelters across the city. Today, her nonprofit continues to treat patients who have nowhere else to turn.

The Rotary Club of Berlin-Nord was quick to support Skarabis-Querfeld's nonprofit. National media took notice of her efforts, and other Rotary clubs, including Rotary Club of Berlin-Tiergarten, joined the effort. A Rotary global grant of \$160,000 made it possible for Medizin Hilft to run an open med clinic as well as information campaigns.

People of Action continue to make a difference in the world and your support of The Rotary Foundation enables this to happen. Thank you.

WINE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE



PDG Ruth Lee gave an enthusiastic talk today in support of our first ever Wine Raffle Fundraiser. She urged all members to help promote and sell tickets, noting that it is an extremely easy sale. We just started the raffle and 150 tickets are sold already. Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20. First prize is \$750 worth of wine of the winners choosing. 2nd place is \$500 and 3rd place \$250. The wine is being provided by the Grape Life Wine Store & Lounge. Cash prizes are available if the winner lives too far away to come select their wines. The winners will be drawn at our fall Rotary Trivia Night on November 9th. To continue making grants to worthy community organizations and projects, we need to fundraise.

Ruth explained how if just fifty of our members (about half the club) sell \$100 worth of tickets we will bring in \$5,000. If fifty members sell \$200 in tickets we earn \$10,000! We need every member to take tickets and sell to friends, family, and associates!!

PUMPKIN PALOOZA IS FAST APPROACHING!

It's that time of year again when Rock Island Rotary prepares to treat all the Kindergarten and first graders from Earl Hanson Elementary School to a day at the Pumpkin Patch. All the kids get a tee shirt, lunch, petting zoo tour, hayrack ride, adventures through the corn maze, panning for "gems", and a ride on the wild cow train! The date is October 3rd and Rotarian volunteers are needed to help with the kids and to join in the fun. But our chances to get involved go beyond spending time with the kids. Event sponsors are also needed. For a donation of \$100 your business or family name will be printed on the tee shirts that the kids will wear throughout the year. It's some of the best priced advertising and good will you can buy! Contact Mike Locander or Trisha Barron to be a sponsor or to volunteer to help on Palooza day.



IN THE "SPOTLIGHT"



Today's member in the spotlight was our very own President, Sue Cassatt. Sue has been in the banking industry for 25 years with the last 15 as a mortgage loan officer. Sue is a Mortgage Loan Professional at Wintrust Mortgage with an office in Davenport and an office in Silvis. Sue also handles mortgages for TBK Bank, Sue works for borrowers in the purchase or refinance of 1 to 4 family homes. Sue says if you're thinking of refinancing, now is the time, rates are great!

Want a turn in the spotlight? Contact Mark Mayeski and schedule a date.

ERIK'S SHELTERBOX EXPEDITION

