



BE THE INSPIRATION

# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

September 18, 2018: Volume XXVI, Issue 12

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## KEN MASSEY

### MODERN WOODMAN

W. Kenny Massey is the president and CEO of Modern Woodmen of America and also serves on its Board of Directors. Massey is also chairman of the Board of Directors of Modern Woodmen Bank. He was appointed to Modern Woodmen Bank's Board of Directors in 2005. Mr. Massey began his career with Modern Woodmen of America in 1982.



Massey has served the society as a financial representative, managing partner, regional director and director of agencies before being appointed to the role as president and CEO in 2005. Massey has been a member of the Modern Woodmen of America Board of Directors since 2002. He graduated in 1982 from Mississippi State University with a business degree, majoring in insurance. He has achieved numerous professional designations and achievements throughout his career including his LLIF from Babson College in Boston, Mass., and NASD Securities 6 & 26 licenses. He served as a member of LL Global's

International Board of Directors and the LIMRA Executive Development Committee. He also served as past president and board member for the Fraternal Field Managers' Association. He earned the National Security and Strategy Certificate of Leadership Development from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Kenny is currently serving on the Board of Directors for CASI (Center for Active Seniors), the Regional Opportunities Committee, and is past President of the Quad Cities Contributor's Council. He is a member of the QC Air Service Committee and serves on the Deacon's Board at his church. Mr. Massey presented an interesting slide show that visually told the story of Modern Woodmen. He noted that Modern Woodmen got it's name when its founder, Joseph Cullen Root, was inspired during a Sunday sermon, Root heard the pastor tell a parable about pioneer woodmen clearing away forests to build homes, communities and security for their families. He adopted the term "woodmen" for his organization. To complete the name, he added "modern" to reflect the need to stay current and change with the times, and "of America" to symbolize patriotism. The organization was officially formed on January 5, 1883, in Lyons, Iowa. Root had operated a number of businesses, including a mercantile establishment, a grain elevator and two flour mills, sold insurance and real estate, taught bookkeeping classes, managed a lecture bureau, and practiced law. He was a member of several fraternal societies throughout the years. He wanted to create an organization that would protect families following the death of a breadwinner. The original home office was in Fulton, Illinois, but moved to Rock Island in 1898. Massey mentioned that the people of Fulton did everything possible to prevent the move, including tearing up train tracks so the cars loaded with Modern Woodmen files and records could not leave. Ultimately the Illinois National Guard was needed to make the move. Modern Woodmen has been active in the Quad Cities for 118 years. Anyone who purchases a Modern Woodmen product becomes a member of their "fraternal organization", which now numbers 750,000 members. The company has \$16 billion in assets. Their profits are reinvested and returned to their membership. Community service is also a major part of Modern Woodmen's philosophy.

### August - October Calendar

- Sept 25 - Tony McCombie, State of the State
- Oct 2 - Membership Committee  
11:30
- Oct 2 - Gwen Tombergs Quad City Storm Hockey
- Oct 9 - Paul Rumler CEO & President of the Quad City Chamber
- Oct 16 - Donna Honold - Emotional Intelligence
- Oct 23 - Alternate Fuels Forum - Progressive Action for the Common Good
- Oct 30 - Caitlin Russell - Russell Construction
- Nov 6 - James Jones - Economic Growth Corporation - Home buying Resources
- Nov 13 - TBA
- Nov 20 - Mike Locander - "Go with the Flow"
- Nov 27 - Rock Island High School Orchestra - Katie Benson



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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 Olinger  
 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 a number of guests to today’s meeting. Alex Kelly from the Corn Crib began the meeting as a guest of Mike Locander and left the meeting as our newest Rotary member. Our exchange daughter, Rocio Robolledo Hernandez (Sheëo), was present along with Alleman student Rotarians, Alexandra Cajigal, and Sydney Heller. Jim Jannes was a guest of Stan Coin. We had two visiting Rotarians today, Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club and Duncan Cameron from the Naples, FL club. Rock Island Rotary enjoys welcoming guests to our meetings. Have you invited a prospective member to be your guest?

**PLEASE SIGN-UP NOW FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY** – To ensure we block the right number of seats, please sign-up now for our December 5<sup>th</sup> Circa 21 holiday party to see “Annie”. No money is needed to sign up. Just let Bob Swanson know that you are going to go and how many seats you need. See Bob at the Sergeant’s Table to sign up. No money needed until November.

**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.

**ESTABLISHMENT THEATER** – October 24 Fundraiser for Polio Plus. Save the date and watch for details!

**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!

### 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 fundraise for Rock Island Rotary at the same time!

### 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 Jeff Dismar, who opted for the cash and then donated it to exchange daughter, Sheëo. The second lucky ticket was held by Duncan Cameron who took home a delicious bottle of Lo Milani’s best Cabernet Sauvignon. Keep in mind, all raffle proceeds go to support the International Rotary Foundation.

Thank you to all who participated!

## Foundation Minute

While many people would like to think that slavery was a tragedy of the past, the truth is that it still exists today, with up to 46 million people enslaved worldwide. The Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery has a strategy for fighting this horrible problem, working at the local level:

In a village in northeastern India the action group is tackling the problem of debt bondage. With the help of 13 clubs, a district grant from the Rotary Club of Binghamton, New York, and other sources, the action group provided \$36,000 to the Schools4Freedom which works with local partners to battle debt bondage.

Poverty, illiteracy, innumeracy, and natural disasters that destroy crops or homes can leave villagers vulnerable to debt bondage in rural villages. When people don't have enough to eat, or a roof over their head and their family is quite literally alive, they will often turn to whatever means are possible for survival. Families may seek an arrangement with a business owner who asks them to sign a contract that they can't read and therefore can't understand, and they inadvertently trade their freedom for survival.

Within a three-year period, The School4Freedom establishes a school inside the village that educates those enslaved of their basic rights and often gives them a trade. It helps bring the once enslaved village to a position of strength resulting in their freedom.

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

## AMANDA WRITES FROM POLAND



*Our outbound exchange daughter, Amanda Murray, sent the following to Youth Exchange Chair, Jeff Dismer:*

Hello, my time in Poland so far has been nothing but amazing!! It's been filled with trying new foods, meeting new people, and tons of sightseeing. The best foods I have tried are the pierogis at a local shop and my host moms homemade soup called rosół. There are 6 other exchange students in my city, 3 from Mexico, 1 from Argentina, and 1 from Texas, USA and I love all of them to pieces. My host family had been amazing also, my host dad knows practically everything about every piece of history of this city, and my host sister is becoming my best friend. I go to school "number 5" and we started September 4th and everyone in my class is so nice.

I'm already a part of many group chats, and I have been invited to many dinners and parties and sleep overs with them and it's only the first day. They all love speaking English to me, but I also told them that they have to help teach me polish. What's crazy is that while I've been learning polish, my Spanish has gotten a lot better and this is because all the other students in my city speak fluent Spanish and in all of Poland the Latino exchange students make up about 90% of the student population once you take out all of the students from the USA. I met all of them at the language camp in Bydgoszcz, Poland and there we (tried) to learn polish for about 7 days and we all became very, very close and I miss them already. We also took a 2-day trip to Warsaw for the orientation, though the orientation was only about 20 minutes and the rest of the time was spent touring Warsaw. It really is a beautiful city (Kraków is better though). I absolutely love Krakow and there is no other place in Poland I would rather be. At my host home there is a cat and a dog, and they also keep me great company. I have met my second host family and when I am there I will have a mom, dad, and a sister AND ALSO A DOG. I am so happy that at every house I am staying at there are pets to keep me company. If you would like to see any photos or videos of my new life I invite anyone and everyone to look at my Facebook page where I post (almost) all of the cinematography that I have taken the past 2 and a half weeks. That is all for now but if you have absolutely any questions I would love to answer them!!! Love, Amanda Murray

[\[A collection to help Amanda with ski trip expenses will continue next Tuesday\]](#)

## 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! **Event sponsors are also needed. For \$100 your business or family name will be printed on the tee shirts that the kids will wear throughout the year.** Contact Mike Locander or Trisha Barron to be a sponsor or to help on October 3<sup>rd</sup>..



## WINE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE



Tickets for our Wine Raffle Fundraiser are available from President, Sue Cassatt. All members are asked to help promote and sell tickets. First prize is \$750 worth of wine of the winners choosing. 2nd place is \$500 and 3rd place \$250. Wine will be 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 9<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20. We need to sell lots of tickets! All members are encouraged to not only purchase tickets, but to take a packet and sell to your not-Rotarian friends and associated. We need the entire Club to pitch in on this. Sold some? Sell some more!!!



## Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

SAVE the DATE and get your team together for Rock Island Rotary's annual fundraiser! Cash prizes, cash bar, 50/50, silent auction and TONS of FUN with MR. TRIVIA!!!

**This fundraiser supports Earl Hanson Elementary School.**

When: Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Where: Milan Community Center, 2701 1st Street East, Milan

Time: 6:30pm START time, doors open at 5:45pm

Cost: \$100 a table, up to 8 players at a table

RSVP: Kathy Trone 309-794-9400 or [Kathy@wesselspc.com](mailto:Kathy@wesselspc.com)

**The Rock Island Rotary Club is challenging all other Rotary Clubs in the QC Area to participate and TRY to win the "Traveling Trophy" for the SMARTEST ROTARY CLUB!**

The *Wine Raffle* winner will be announced at the event. Don't know what that is? Haven't bought a ticket? Win up to \$750 worth of wine. One ticket \$5, 5 tickets for \$20

Last week our officers joined with School Superintendent Mike Oberhaus and Kiwanis President Jeff Condit for a photo in the “#Rocktownreads” campaign. Dr. Oberhaus invited each of us to take a selfie reading a book and text it to #Rocktownreads. Here’s how their photo turned out.



Thanks to Holly Sparkman for sending us a copy of the picture! Pretty neat!!

[Woodman – continued from page 1]

Starting in 1894 and continuing into the 1930s, there were Modern Woodmen Drill Teams called “Foresters” that performed in parades and programs all across the country. At one time there were over 10,000 units of Foresters, with more than 160,000 men participating. Because each group was differentiated by a different style and color of uniform, their demonstrations were referred to as “Rainbow Parades.” The Rainbow Parades were hosted by cities across the United States. Modern Woodmen also hosts local chapters of members, youth service clubs, and Summit Clubs geared for those 55 years and older that are both social and service organizations. In just the first 6 months of this year \$26.7 million has been raised by Modern Woodmen Clubs and donated to communities. Over 238,000 hours of community service was donated in the same time period. Over the past 4 years Modern Woodmen Youth Clubs have donated 543,000 hours of service and adult clubs have contributed 1,427,000 hours. Mr. Massey also stated that Modern Woodmen provides 12 different free benefits for their members. He also stated that unlike the national insurance companies, Modern Woodmen’s focus is on middle income rural and small community citizens, providing them with a full array of financial services. Modern Woodmen is a tax-exempt fraternal benefit society. The membership organization sells life insurance, annuity and investment products to help fund member benefits and social, educational and volunteer programs that meet community needs. Modern Woodmen's fraternal expenditures for member benefits and community programs totaled \$21.7 million in 2016. These programs included fraternal aid, college scholarships, newborn benefits, orphan benefits, final wishes resources, member discounts and youth educational programs. Mr. Massey concluded his comments reciting the Modern Woodmen Creed: *There is a destiny that makes us brothers; None goes his way alone; All that we send into the lives of others. Comes back into our own.*

Thank you Mr. Massey for an interesting and informative program and thanks to Stan Coin for arranging Mr. Massey’s visit.



## Say Hello to our Newest Member!

Alex Kelly, a designer with the Corn Crib Nursery was inducted today as our newest Rock Island Rotary Club member. Alex is a Quad City native who graduated from Alleman High School and then attended Illinois State University. In addition to his full-time work at the Corn Crib, Alex coaches basketball at his high school alma mater. Besides work, coaching and joining Rotary, Alex also has a wedding on his schedule coming up in just a little over two weeks. Welcome Alex, we love inducting new members, and thanks to Mike Locander who extended the invitation to Alex to visit our club and consider membership. Often all it takes is an invitation! Be sure to say hello and welcome Alex at our next meeting.

## SAVE THE DATE

# ROTARY/KIWANIS HOLIDAY PARTY



# Wednesday, December 5th

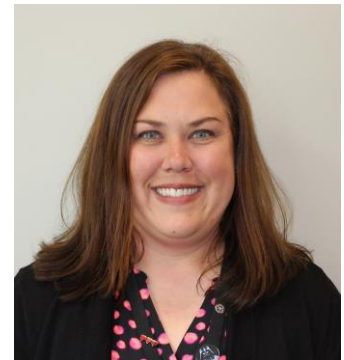
**RESERVE YOUR SEATS WITH BOB SWANSON AT THE SERGEANT'S TABLE**

**Tickets Just \$61.21 For two with Dining Book Coupon**

**Includes Pre-Show Salon Party with Kiwanis No Money due until November!**

## *In the Spotlight!*

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Angela Campbell was our member in the spotlight today. Angela said that she knew at age 14 working at her first job at the Davenport Public Library that she wanted to be a librarian. From then on and through college she worked in various libraries. She earned a Master of Library Science from Dominican University and got her first professional library job back at the Davenport Public Library spending 13 years on their staff. Seeking promotion, she moved to the Glenwood Public Library in Western Iowa and spent two years as Library Director prior to apply for her current position as Director of the Rock Island Library, a position she accepted in 2013. Angela noted that libraries have changed with the times. Online access is growing. No longer are libraries primarily depositories for books. She stated that libraries are now all about people and providing service to the community. Angela noted that the Rock Island library averages about 230,000 visitors each year and has 17,300 cardholders. The three branches of the library are open 150 hours each week. She stated that 85% of the library's funding comes from property taxes with the remainder coming from state funding and donations. The Library is governed by a nine-person Library Board and also has an active Library Foundation that supports the library with funding. The Milan-Blackhawk Library District contracts with the Rock Island Library who provides all the library services for that area in addition to the city of Rock Island. On a personal note, Angela stated that she has 1 husband, five dogs, and a bird. Sounds like a fun house!





**Third Annual *End Polio Now* Walk**

**Centennial Park in Rock Falls**

**Saturday, October 13, 2018**

**Registration from 8:15 – 9:00 a.m. at Larson Shelter.**

**T-shirt will be given for a \$20 donation, while supply lasts.**

**Public is invited to walk.**

**All donations to End Polio Now.**

**An Iron Lung will be on display from 8:00 a.m. –noon.**

***Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Dixon, Sterling Noon, Twin Cities Sunrise, and Rock Falls.***

**How about a few Rock Island Rotarians joining the walk!**