



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



December 18, 2018: Volume XXVI, Issue 25
MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

MOLLY & TOM TALK TAXES!

Two stars from Hammar Accounting (better known as our own CPA Club members, father-daughter team, Tom Hammar and Molly Shattuck) were guest speakers today to bring us the 2nd edition of their talks on the new federal income tax law. The program was a very timely presentation with the current tax year ending in just two weeks. They analyzed the federal income tax law in terms of the Rotary 4-Way Test.



- Is It The Truth?

- Molly stated that income tax brings in about 3 Trillion dollars per year. That is the truth. She also stated that income taxes amount to about half of the the total Federal revenue. That is also the truth. The Federal budget for this year is \$4 trillion. That too is the truth. Currently the federal debt stands at \$21.6 trillion. Also, unfortunately, the truth. Tom then analyzed several fairly common statements about taxes:
 - 1) "50% of the people in the country don't pay any taxes". FALSE. They don't pay income tax but do pay sales tax, gasoline tax, and many other more regressive taxes.
 - 2) "Tax cuts always pay for themselves". FALSE. Tax cuts do generate economic activity but the result typically amounts to about one-third of the revenue lost by the tax cut.

- Is It Fair To All Concerned?

- Tom and Molly agreed that no one, regardless of their income and/or tax bracket thinks the income tax system is fair. Those paying think they pay too much, those on the receiving end think the rich get all the breaks. So this one is debatable.

- Will It Build Good Will and Better Friendships?

- Tom acknowledged that he could not come up with a way to say taxes build good will and friendships.

- Is It Beneficial to All Concerned?

- Here again the issue is debatable. Tom noted that maintaining some sort of security net is supported by most Americans, although the level and extent of what should be secured is debated. Tom then stated that in his view the Free Enterprise System, Capitalism, and individual opportunity to succeed or fail, although not perfect, are the best of systems of social finance yet discovered. He also feels strongly that the ability to have free and open discourse in a civil setting is one of the most important aspects of our society. Being able to debate issues in a civil manner, knowing that people may hold differing and opposing views is critical.

As far as solutions to these debatable finance questions, Tom said we would have to wait for the third edition of the Hammers, possibly coming at a future Rock Island Rotary meeting. Thanks Molly and Tom for a fun and informative program.

December - January Calendar

- Dec 18 - Tom & Molly, "The 4-Way Test and the 2018 Tax Act!"
- Dec 25 - No meeting - Merry Christmas!
- Jan 1 - No meeting - Happy New Year!
- Jan 7 - MONDAY - Joint with Kiwanis Mayor Thoms' "State of the City"
- Jan 15 - Mark Poulos - "River Rescuing Today"
- Jan 22 - Lauren Hall, 2018 recipient of the Rock Island Rotary Augustana College Scholarship.
- Jan 29 - Angela Campbell "Rock Island Library's New Strategic Plan"
- Feb 5 - TBA
- Feb 12 - Club Assembly



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Officers

Sue Cassatt, President
Mark Mayeski, 1st VP
Angela Campbell, 2nd VP
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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 guests attending today's meeting. Our only visiting Rotarian this week was Mark Zimmerman of the Davenport Club, who donned his Santa Claus hat for the meeting. Avalon Thomas from East Moline was a guest of Howard Beck. Kate Thies was a guest of mom, Karla Thies. Kate is home for the holidays from Iowa State University. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary!

□ **ROTARY NIGHT AT AUGUSTANA** - January 12th, See Page for details.

□ **ANGEL TREE** – Thanks to all who took names from our Angel Tree and purchased gifts for the less fortunate children at Earl Hanson School. Molly Shattuck will be delivering the gifts to the school tomorrow.

□ **SERVICE**– 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. They also are collecting men's and women's winter clothing for their free clothing exchange. Drop off anytime the Heart of Hope Center is open. Call Al Metz to volunteer to help at 309-236-2013.

□ **SAM & HILDE WRAY** once again showed their generosity and deep dedication to our Water Filter Project by making another substantial donation to the fund. With their check and other contributions that had been accumulated, 45 more filters were ordered today. That puts our Rotary Project at 205 filters purchased serving 14,350 children in Kenya!

□ **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!

WATER PROJECT GETS TV BOOST!

Bud Phillis and Bob Swanson were invited to represent our club on a new local television show called "Living Local". They were asked to describe, demonstrate, and promote our Rotary Water Filter Project. With the filter along, Bob gave the details of our Club's project and Bud demonstrated how the filter works. After pouring in dirty water along with a jar of urine, samples of the filtered water were offered up and accepted by the show's hostess, Brittany Price, and behind the scenes by the entire TV crew including cameramen, floor director, and other staff members. Viewers were invited to contact us and join the project. If you were unable to watch the show and would like to see the portion about our project click, <https://www.ourquadcities.com/living-local/the-difference-a-filter-can-make/1658649797>. It is a bit slow loading but replays the entire Rock Island Rotary segment.



NEW MEMBERS PROPOSED

Quad City Bank & Trust Company has made application to join Rock Island Rotary as a corporate member. Their primary member will be Amber Brummit. Financial Advisor. Alternate members will be Elizabeth Grabin, 1st Vice-President/Controller; Eric Spriet, Commercial Banking Officer; Miranda Marshall, Human Resources Officer; and Doug Hultquist, CEO of QCR Holdings. Please direct comments to President Sue Cassatt or 1st Vice-President, Mark Mayeski.

Foundation Minute

- **The latest figures reflecting the status of polio in the world are disappointing.** Globally there has been 28 cases of WPV (wild polio virus) and 98 cases of cVDPV (circulating vaccine derived polio virus) reported as of December 4th. This time last year there were 16 cases of WPV and 80 cases of cVDPV.
- To address this, the 19th IHR (International Health Regulations) Emergency Committee including members, advisers, and invited member states convened to discuss the status of the international spread of poliovirus. The Committee unanimously agreed that the risk of polio spread continues to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and proposed an extension of Temporary Recommendations for an additional three months. The Committee expressed concern that complacency to achieving a polio-free world could now become the biggest risk to the effort and urged that all countries and partners regard polio eradication as an emergency. "We have the tools, we need to focus on what works, we need to get to every child," commented Prof. Helen Rees, Chairperson of the Committee. "The reality is that there is no reason why we should not be able to finish this job, but we have to keep at it." Prof. Rees and the Committee urged countries, donors and partners to continue their support, until a polio-free world is achieved, cautioning that failure to eradicate polio would lead to global resurgence of the disease, with potentially as many as 200,000 new cases occurring annually within ten years. "We have achieved eradication of a disease once before, with smallpox," Rees concluded. "The world is a much better place without smallpox. It's now more urgent than ever that we redouble our efforts and finish this job once and for all as well."

Despite an increase in cases, Rotary International continues to make progress in countries where polio is a threat to children. - It is using innovative techniques to reach more children than ever before in some of the hardest-to-reach areas of the world, and its surveillance systems are continually becoming more sophisticated. - As the organization that first had the vision of a world without polio, it can take pride in its work and commitment thus far. It will continue to persevere until the day it fulfills its promise of a polio-free world."

Thank you for your continued and dedicated support.

FINAL REMINDER

With Christmas and New Years both falling on Tuesday this year, Rock Island Rotary meetings for those days have been cancelled. That mean that we will meet just twice more in December, next week on the 11th and the following week on the 18th. We will then not meet again until our first meeting in January. That meeting will be on MONDAY, January 7th. It will be a joint meeting with Rock Island Kiwanis to hear Mayor Mike Thoms' "State of the City" address.

Be sure to mark your calendar. I'm sure Angela Campbell will have some nice fines lined up for anyone who shows up a day late on the 8th!

GALENA TO HOST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Our District Conference is approaching faster than we think. It will be held **May 17 and 18** in Galena at the De Soto House. The committee is working hard to plan a fun and fulfilling event. Rooms are now open at the De Soto House. Be sure to tell them you are part of the Rotary conference to receive a reduced rate!. Call 815-777-0090 for reservations. Once the principal river port of the Upper Mississippi Valley, Galena reached its economic peak during the 1850's. With the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad, a group of local investors formed the "Galena Hotel Company" and built a grand hotel to reflect the growing prosperity of this "Metropolis of the Northwest". Named for the discoverer of the Mississippi River, the DeSoto House opened on April 9, 1855 and was billed as the "Largest Hotel in the West." Perhaps its most notable visitor was President Abraham Lincoln, who spoke from its Main Street balcony on July 23, 1856, in support of John Fremont's bid for presidency. Just two years later, on July 25, 1858 Senator Stephen A. Douglas spoke from the same balcony. On September 13, 1860, a crowd of over 15,000 rallied in front of the DeSoto in response to a "Grand Republican Mass Meeting" in support of Lincoln's presidential bid. Ulysses S. Grant's return to his hometown of Galena following the Civil War, brought 25,000 citizens to the streets to welcome him home. Bands, parades, and cannon salutes preceded a reception ball for 2,000 persons which was held at the DeSoto House. Grant later used rooms 209 and 211 of the hotel as his presidential campaign headquarters. Geneva is a popular tourist destination with its scenic location along the Fox River and numerous shops and restaurants. Join the fun, make your reservation today!

Rotary Night



Saturday, January 12

7:00 pm

Augustana Vikings vs Carthage Redmen

All Quad City area Rotary members and their families are honored guests of Augustana Basketball in recognition of their community service.
Just mention you're with Rotary and you're in!

*Moline Rotary Club will host a reception in
the 2nd floor classroom at halftime
(look for our banner!)*

Rotary
Moline, Illinois



TRICIA TALKS FOUNDATION

Club member Dr. Tricia Barron spoke today regarding her personal experience with the Rotary Foundation. Several years ago, Tricia spent time in Nigeria on a volunteer exchange and worked in a Nigerian Hospital in her specialty, obstetrics. She said as she approached the hospital she saw a large water tower, emblazoned on it was the Rotary Logo. She said the ambulance, and many other items of equipment in the hospital had identification noting they were donated by rotary. Tricia wanted us to understand how much the Rotary Foundation does, and how much the people in 3rd world countries rely on Rotary and the generosity of Rotarians. She urged us all to make a commitment to support the foundation. Stressing that it is critical to decide to do it, write it down, tell someone about it and get it done! President Sue added that the automatic payroll deduction program offered by our Club is an easy and painless way to set aside a small gift each pay period. Over time it mounts up and every penny counts toward your Paul Harris status. See Bud Phillis for details on getting started.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Happy
Hanukkah

