



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 22, 2019; Volume XXVI, Issue 28

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Western Big 6 Turns 50

Fifty years ago, our local high schools. Rock Island, Alleman, Moline, and United Township, joined with Quincy and Galesburg High Schools to form the Western Big 6 Conference. A voluntary

alliance of schools that has stood the test of time and is today, Illinois' longest standing conference with all original founding schools still loyal members. In fact, it beats all others by many years. During January and February, the six schools will each be hosting "Anniversary Celebrations" at boys' basketball games. Our program today was presented by Rotarian, Bob Swanson who serves as executive Secretary of the Conference. He pointed out that of the 760 high schools in Illinois, all but a very few are members of conferences. According to Swanson, schools, typically of similar size and geographic location, form conferences to ensure appropriate competition for their school's athletic teams. Conferences also serve as an overseeing agency to ensure sportsmanship, adherence to rules, and to provide recognition and honors to student-athletes. What is so unique about the Western Big 6 is its longevity with all founding members still loyal and strong supporters of the group. Founded in January of 1969, the six member schools, all considered large schools at the time, were surrounded by dozens of rural and smaller town schools who were not eager to play big schools. The lack of large schools on the western side of the state lead to one characteristic where the Big 6 differs from most conferences. Its members are not all geographically near one another. Swanson explained that for a conference to be recognized by the Illinois High School Association for football playoff purposes, it must have a minimum of six member schools. That requirement forced the four Quad City Schools to seek out at least two more "big" schools. Galesburg had already been competing with the Quad City Schools and also had a rivalry established with Quincy Senior High School. Those schools were also large schools surrounded by numerous small schools. Both were happy for an opportunity to help form a conference of six Western Illinois large schools. Galesburg was located nearly fifty miles south of the Quad Cities and Quincy was an additional hundred miles to the southwest. Not only is the Western Big 6 the oldest of all Illinois conferences, it is geographically the largest spanning 150 miles between member schools. It also is unique in having a large disparity between the schools' student populations with Alleman having 430 students, Galesburg with 1297, and Moline over 2,000. Rock Island, Quincy, and United Township fall between Galesburg and Moline. Yet regardless of the travel and irrespective of size the six schools have stuck together, even when individual members were invited to join other conferences. Why? According to Swanson it is a mix of having like-minded philosophies regarding the role of athletics, the importance of academics, and a commitment to fair play and sportsmanship. And, of course, there is always that thirst for great competition. In fact, the high quality of competition has made the Western Big 6 not only the oldest conferences in the state, but the premier conference in terms of prestige of membership. So how has our little six team conference faired in fifty years of existence? How about a total of 32 Team State Championships and 88 Individual State Championships won by the Western Big 6! Next year Geneseo and Sterling join the Conference; the first change in membership in 50 years!

-- For a bit of Western Big 6 trivia, turn to page 6 --

January - February Calendar

- 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"
- Jan 31 - Birthday Books at Earl Hanson Elementary School
- Feb 5 - Kevin Koski - "Portent of the Panther"
- Feb 12 - Club Assembly - Sue Cassatt
- Feb 19 - "Breaking Traffic" - Our District Project Report
- Feb 26 - Daniel Joiner - Community Health Assessment Report



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

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: John Wetzel
Apr – May: Gary Rowe
June – July: TBA

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome several guests attending today's meeting. Courtney Lyon of Ballet Quad Cities was a guest of the Community Grants Committee. Alleman Jr. Rotarians Jonathan Fernandez and Anthony Dockery-Jackson were present. Our former Exchange son, Felipe Ortega from Chile visited and was a guest of the Club. We had two visiting Rotarians today, Mark Zimmerman of the Davenport Club, and Rebecca Arnold of E Club One visited today. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary!

□ **JANUARY 30TH DEADLINE** for Application to join the Rotary Friendship Exchange for 2 weeks in the bayou, New Orleans, and Southern Louisiana. See Details, page 4.

□ **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.

□ **BIG BROTHERS – BIG SISTERS PUTT AROUND** this year is January 30th and February 1st. In the past we've had a Rotary Team participate. Sue Cassatt is raring to go if at least 3 others volunteer to join the team. It's a fun charitable event. Let Sue know if you will join the team!

□ **ROTARY NIGHT AT THE Q.C. STORM** is February 15th. Let's make it a family outing and a Rotary social event. Let Sue Cassatt know if you want tickets. It will be a fun evening and lends our support to a brand-new Quad City entity. STORM HOCKEY IS WILD, WOOLY, AND GREAT FUN!

□ **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 MINUTE

Twelve generous supporters of Rotary's polio eradication efforts will have the opportunity to play golf with legend Jack Nicklaus, a Rotary ambassador for polio eradication.

Nicklaus plans to thank the next twelve (12) individuals who make a new donation of \$250,000 or more to the PolioPlus Fund by inviting them to play golf with him at the Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida, USA, on 12 March 2019. There, donors will be divided into three groups of four, and each group will play eighteen (18) holes of golf – six with Nicklaus. Donors who prefer not to golf may allow one friend or family member to golf in their place.

Space is limited to the first twelve (12) donors. To qualify, donors need to complete a gift intent form and make the full donation by 22 January 2019. Contact Harvey Newcomb III, Director of Principal Gifts at The Rotary Foundation, for more information. Please see the gift intent form for details.

What a super way to support the Rotary Foundation!! Enjoy and keep your head down!

Involve Yourself in Rotary at the District Level

District 6420 is currently seeking new members for District Committees that will serve in the upcoming Rotary year. Whether your interest is the Rotary Foundation, Literacy, Fund development/scholarship, RILA, Youth Exchange, or numerous other areas, the District would welcome your help.

If you're interested, contact Ruth Lee, our Past District Governor, at rotarianruth@gmail.com

FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured cash, 2 bottles of wine from Lo Milani, a Stainless QC Storm Mug donated by Mid-American Energy and Eric Westphall, and several sets of Q.C. Auto Show tickets donated by Mark Zimmerman. Sam Wray held the first winner and took the mug. Dr. Pat Cunningham had the next lucky ticket and took wine. Sam Wray had another winner and also took wine. Jiff Dismer won the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Sam Wray (his 3rd win!) along with Bill Stengel, John Wetzel, and Bill Daly took home Auto Show tickets. Thanks to all who participated.



2019

Putt-A-Round

PRESENTED BY:



Jan. 30 — Feb. 1, RiverCenter



RESERVE
YOUR SHIFT!
REGISTER
TODAY!



CLICK HERE to register at www.puttaround.org

**HOW MANY ROTARY TEAMS CAN WE FIELD?
CONTACT PRESIDENT SUE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY!**

Only \$25 per person! \$100 per team of 4!

- Choose from 7 different shifts.
- Enjoy free appetizers at each shift!
- Cash bar open at all shifts.
- Play "Pressure Putt" to win a \$100 Visa gift card sponsored by Northwest Bank & Trust
- Enter the Wells Fargo 50/50 cash drawing each day.
- Buy a \$20 raffle pack and win valuable prizes!
- Network and have fun at the EPIC Stone Putt Clubhouse!



THERE IS NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT IN THE QCA!

**24 uniquely designed, custom-built mini-golf holes—all
built by local businesses and organizations!**



FEBRUARY 15TH IS ROTARY NIGHT AT THE STORM

If you have not seen the STORM in action, you going to love the high-flying speed and excitement of professional hockey! If you've seen them, then you'll want to go back. February 15th has been designated "ROTARY NIGHT" at the Storm. Rotarians, their families, and friends will be admitted for just \$15 per seat with a portion donated back to Rotary. President Sue has a block of tickets; just send her an email at scassatt69@ymail.com and tell her how many tickets you want. Pay next Tuesday at Rotary.

Don't miss the fun and fellowship of a Rotary night out!! Great for the family!

ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE – FEBRUARY 5th

Project Chairman, Chris Lemon announced that Tuesday, February 5th will be the date of our annual Rock Island Rotary Blood Drive. A sign-up sheet was circulated at today's meeting and will be available again at next week's meeting. Chris stressed that the Blood Bank staff is very accommodating and urged people to select whatever time fit their schedule on the 5th, even if others have signed up for that time. "The staff will make it work", Lemon said. Time slots are available before, during and after our meeting on the 5th.



ROTARIANS GET A LOOK AT THE NEW WESTERN BIG 6 LOGO



Rock Island Rotarians got a look at what will be the official logo of the Western Big 6 Conference as of July 1, 2019 when Geneseo High School and Sterling High School become members of the Conference. The two new schools requested that the name remain The Western Big 6 and said they wanted not only to join the conference, but to share in the prestige of membership that comes with being part of the Western Big 6. The new logo incorporates an "8" representing the eight-member schools and also shows the name of each school in their school colors. Stars on the Illinois map show the respective location of each school. With the addition of the new schools, the conference will now span 201 miles from Sterling to Quincy.

WESTERN BIG 6 TRIVIA

Most State Championships

39	Rock Island
24	Moline
19	Alleman
18	Quincy
14	Galesburg
9	United Township

Most Conference Championships

321	Moline
189	Rock Island
157	Quincy
116	United Township
101	Galesburg
56	Alleman

Most Unique Sport offered by a Western Big 6 Member School:

Quincy has a nationally ranked Boys & Girls Rifle Team and a Rifle Range in their school

Which School Has the Longest Streak of Consecutive Conference Championships:

- A. Boys Basketball
Rock Island – 9 1983 – 1991
- B. Girls Basketball
Rock Island – 7 2012 – 2018
- C. Football
Rock Island – 7 1997 – 2003 (Coached by Vic Boblett)
Alleman – 4 2003 – 2006
- D. Girls Cross Country
Moline – 7 2008 – 2014
- E. Boys Cross Country
Moline – 9 1969 - 1977
- F. Boys Soccer
Quincy – 11 1985 – 1995
- G. Girls Swimming
Galesburg – 8 2007 – 2014
- H. Girls Bowling
United Township – 5 2014- 2018
- I. Wrestling
Moline -13 1989 - 2001
- J. Girls Tennis
Moline – 13 2002 – 2014
- K. Boys Tennis
Moline - 12 1986 - 1997
 9 1999 - 2007
 7 2009 - 2015

34 Championships in 49 Seasons - Greatest Dominance of any school in any sport

ROTARY SUPPORTS BALLET QUAD CITIES

Community Grants Chairman, Frank Lambert presented a \$700 donation to Courtney Lyon from Ballet Quad Cities. The money will be used to bring the Dance Me a Story program to 500 Rock Island Elementary school children. Dance Me a Story is a fun interactive dance program encouraging reading through the vehicle of ballet. Dance Me a Story gives the participant a physical and imaginative way of interpreting a piece of literature by taking specific passages from a book and translating the words into creative movement.



The Community Grants Committee Budget is provided through our various Club fundraisers. Donations such as this are only possible through the hard work and generosity of Rock Island Rotarians!

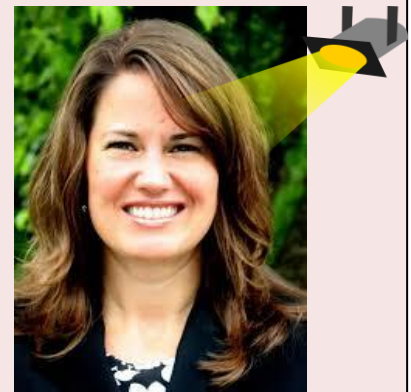
WELCOME BACK EXCHANGE SON, FELIPE ORTEGA



Ten years ago, high school student Felipe Ortega arrived in Rock Island from his home in Chile. He spent a year as our club's Rotary Exchange "son" and had an extremely successful year. Today we were pleased to welcome Felipe back. He is vacationing and visiting in the United States and wanted to include Rock Island Rotary in his "must visit" list. Felipe stepped to the microphone and thanked Rotary and our Club for what he described as the best year of his life! Felipe's younger brother followed two years after Felipe and was also a Rock Island Rotary Club Exchange son. Felipe is staying with his former host families during his visit.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Tammy Weikert stepped into the Club Spotlight today. Tammy is the Rock Island Clerk which is an elected position. Tammy and her staff oversee virtually all aspects of the Rock Island County Circuit Court system. She recently moved to offices in the new Court House Annex and stressed that the new complex was designed to be user friendly with many upgrades to assist citizens wanting to file their own legal papers. Tammy indicated she absolutely loves her job and the people she works with. On a personal note, Tammy's husband is Frankie Joe of "Frankie Joe and the Kinfolks", a popular folk/blue grass band. They have five grown kids.





- **Rotary Ramble 5K Run or Walk** – Raising Funds for **Rock Island Rotary** Community Projects
- **Sunday April 28th , 2019 at 8:00 am**

Location – The Establishment and Illinois Casualty Company Rock Island, IL

- **5K Runners** – Overall Male and Female Winner Awards
1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards for these age groups:
0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 +
- **Walker Category** – Overall Male and Female Winner Awards
1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards for these age groups:
0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+
- **Food / Drinks Awards and Drawing** – Post race and at the Awards Ceremony.
- **Fees / Registration** 5K Runners and Walkers - **\$30.00** by 04/14/19 Mail or online registration
\$35.00 after 04/14/19 and on Race Day Morning
***** Entries after 4/14/19 cannot guarantee a race shirt. Quantities will be limited *****
Phantom Runner – \$20.00 Shirt Only with no race registration by 4/14/19 (Must provide address and contact info.)
- **Additional Donations** accepted for Rock Island Rotary projects.
- **Packet Pick Up and /or Race Day Registration:** 7:00am - 7:30am on Race Day
- **Grand Prize Drawing for a \$200 Visa Gift Card** – Pre-Registered Runners Only that have Registered by 04/21/19
Must be present to win – No exceptions!
- **Food and Drink** – Post Race at the Awards Ceremony – Snacks, Fruit, and refreshments.
- **Sponsors** – Rock Island Rotary, The Establishment, Illinois Casualty Co, The River Cities' Reader and many more
Online registration at: Getmeregistered.com – Search for Rotary Ramble 5k – April 28th, 2019
- **Official Entry Form – Please Print !!! OR Register Online:**
https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=MTU0ODAwNDUyNzU1NTRZ3fxHOpi9B8fX

First name _____ Mid _____ Last name _____ Age on race day ____
 Date of Birth ____/____/____ Male _____ Female _____ Run _____ Walk _____ Phantom Runner Shirt only _____
 Circle Shirt Size **S M L XL XXL (add \$2.00 for XXL)** Phone # ----- _____
 Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 e-mail address _____

- **Waiver must be signed and acknowledged:**
In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do
 Hereby release and discharge Rock Island Rotary, the city of Rock Island, any sponsors, supporters or volunteers,
 for all claims, of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner arising or growing out of my
 participation in the **ROTARY RAMBLE 5K run or Walk**. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks
 Involved in this event, and I am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.
 Signature _____ Date _____ (Participant or Parent / Guardian if under 18 yrs. of age.)
 Make Checks Payable to **Rock Island Rotary / Rotary Ramble** and mail entry with payment to:

Rock Island Rotary / Ramble 5K PO Box 4514 Rock Island, IL 61204-4514

****** No Refunds – Race will be held Regardless and weather conditions may vary. ******