

# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

August 13, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 7

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Miss Blackhawk Valley Visits Rotary!



Gabi Lenger, Moline, was named Miss Blackhawk Valley 2019, and continues spreading joy to others through her platform, "Volunteering for Her Success."

Amazingly, Gabi never competed in a pageant before the Miss Blackhawk Valley pageant this past November. She was encouraged by a friend to give it a try, and as she said during her presentation, "I almost passed out when I won!"

Competing in the interview, evening-wear, talent, and social impact categories of the pageant in some ways were second-nature to this very poised young woman who has a knack for musical theater. She recently completed the Walt Disney World College Program, where she got to

participate as a "Cast Member" at Disney. It was here that she participated in a strong volunteer program in Orlando for the Make-a-Wish Walk of Wishes program and said of the experience that "I can create my own magic and it happens through volunteerism."

As a side note, Rotarians asked if she had a fun story to share from her time as a Disney Cast Member. She shared a story about a time that someone lost their prosthetic leg during the Haunted Mansion ride. "No one came back to claim it, so they put it in the lost and found bucket with all the umbrellas." LOL!

When she returned to the QC area, she created, organized, and managed a program called "Gabi's Gifts," a clothing drive with an incredible outcome. Within just 2 weeks she had collected more than 1000 items of clothing. Partnering with Churches United and Winnie's Place, clothing was distributed to women, many of whom used the clothing to dress up for job interviews. Gabi reported that some of the women were able to secure jobs, due to the professional clothing. Her next large-scale project will be a feminine hygiene drive for those who cannot afford the often expensive products. Look for a lot more from Gabi in the near future.

Miss Blackhawk Valley is an official local preliminary program of the Miss America organization and provides scholarships for the young women of seven counties in western Illinois. Gabi used her scholarship money for her studies at Black Hawk College, where she recently earned her Associate's Degree. She is heading to Augustana College this fall to finish her undergraduate studies in Multimedia Journalism and Mass Communication. As Rotarian Kai Swanson pointed out during the Q & A, "There's going to be a Rotaract Club at Augustana, and they're going to need a PR person." Good luck in school, Gabi. We think you'd be a perfect fit for Rotary!

### August – September Calendar

Aug 20 - Katie Thompson  
Aug 27 - Peter & Mel Wessels  
Sept 3 - State of the Schools –  
Dr. Reginald Lawrence II  
Sept 10 - Andy McCray -  
Chief Meteorologist, WHBF  
Sept 17 - Dr Christopher Peters  
Sept 24 - Nisha Ladlee -  
Family Resources



P.O. Box 4514  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)

## Officers

Mark Mayeski, President  
Angela Campbell, 1st VP  
Justin Peterson, 2nd VP  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Sue Cassatt, Past Pres.  
Co-Sergeants at Arms  
Cindi Gramenz  
Bob Swanson

## Board Members

Rick Emery  
Kathy Lelonek  
John Oliger  
Bill Stengel  
Howard Beck  
Kim Calhoun  
Cindi Gramenz  
Eric Westphall

## Program Chairs 2019-20

Aug. – Sep. Kathy Trone  
Oct. – Nov Cindi Gramenz  
Dec. – Jan John Wetzel  
Feb. – Mar: Volunteer Needed  
Apr. – May: Gary Rowe  
June – July: Volunteer Needed

## Club Notes & Announcements!

**WELCOME GUESTS!** Guests at today's meeting included: Virginia Houlton, guest of Fred Houlton; Abe Hammar, guest of Tom Hammar; Andrea Rangel, current outbound exchange student, and her mother, Claudia; Emil Rosin, current inbound student visiting from Finland; Lisa Wehr, accompanying Miss Blackhawk Valley; Jenni Swanson from the Moline Club; Duncan Cameron from the Naples (Florida) Club; and Mark Zimmerman, from the Davenport Club.

**SERVICE** – Help is 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 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 or just show up any Thursday at 5:15. It's easy duty!

**LABOR DAY PARADE** – Mark your calendar. Rotary will have two cars, a float, plus bikers and walkers. Got ideas for our Float? Talk with Sue Cassatt who is chairing our Parade entry. Join in the fun, be a part of Rotary's parade entry! The date is Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Parade kicks off at 9:30am. Line up location will be provided in future newsletters.

**BUD DONATES \$1 PER YEAR**—Bud Phillis donated \$84 to the Foundation in honor of his 84th birthday. Thank you for your contribution, Bud!

**ROTARY RAMBLE** - Sponsorships are now available for \$100. More information coming soon!

**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!



## MORE PERFECT ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

Anne McGlynn and Ruth Lee were awarded their 15 years of perfect attendance pins.

Also celebrating 15 years is Marcy Bell, Mary Fislar, and Jeff Dismar. It was stated 11 years at a previous meeting, but in actuality, it has been 15 years of perfect attendance.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar, and tickets to the River Bandits game. The first lucky ticket was held by guest, Lisa Wehr, who chose the tickets. The second lucky winner was Bill Stengel, who donated the \$21 back to the Foundation. Finally, our lucky guest Lisa Wehr also won the bottle of wine. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

## HELP US FILL THE BASKET!!

Rock Island Rotary is building a huge basket of adult beverages! Bourbon, Gin, Rye, Rum, Wine, Vodka, Brandy, Tequila, Vermouth, Champaign are all needed! Rotarians are asked to donate a bottle (minimum value of \$18) which will go towards building our gift basket to be raffled off at our annual Trivia Night. Raffle tickets will be sold July to November. The winner can pick from one of two prizes. One prize will be our huge basket of wine/spirits. The other will be a \$1000 travel voucher through Picture Perfect Travel. Take a Cruise, an All Inclusive, or anything you choose! Then a second winner will be drawn for the other prize. There will also be a silent auction with baskets and other items to bid on at Trivia Night. Proceeds will go to Earl Hanson Elementary School and our Community Grants program. Please bring donations to next week's meeting.



## Our Water Project Update



Three years ago we began this adventure with enthusiasm and hope that Rotarians from Illinois and Iowa could make a real difference in the struggling lives of children in rural Kenya. Sam and Hilde Wray stepped up with a major contribution and as Jackie Gleason used to say, "Away We Go"! Since that time, scores of Rotarians and nearly 20 Rotary Clubs have joined the campaign! To date the number of children receiving safe, sanitary drinking water in rural Nairobi, Kenya is approaching 15,000 as a direct result of our project.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the project is seeing the results first-hand. This past week we received photos from the Sango, Mwiraria, Nyawacha, and Ligongo schools. Also, they included a link to a short video thanking us for the clean water provided by Rotary.

Be sure to notice the stickers on the filters in both the photos and video. These are filters that YOU have helped provide and these are children who YOU have helped save! The stickers clearly show the filters came from our Western Illinois – Eastern Iowa Rotary project. Here is the video link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AJ3lwMizR4CGfoCFCVWVWCG8VvdGCxLY3/view?usp=sharing>

Once again, thanks all for your generosity and support of the project. We are still campaigning hard and have many more children to reach! The cost of a filter delivered and set up with training, remains at \$350 per unit. Each unit will serve 70 children. Any who care to "re-up" and donate toward or purchase another filter this year, please make your check payable to Rock Island Rotary with a memo of "Water Project, and give it to Bob Swanson, Bud Phillis, or Carrie Crossen.

Thanks for being an amazing partner in this life-saving mission of providing clean water!



# Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT

## Friday, November 8th 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 and RI Rotary Community Grants.**

**Corporate Sponsorships are available!**

When: Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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 10 players

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!**



### Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT

**Proceeds benefit Rock Island Rotary Youth Programs**

#### **Sponsorship Opportunities:**

Gold Sponsor \$500

- Listed on all advertising material
- Complimentary Table for up to 10 players, including mulligans and double score sticker
- Day of event recognition as a Gold Sponsor

Corporate Sponsor \$250

- Complimentary Table for up to 10 players
- Day of event recognition as a Corporate Sponsor

Friend of Rotary \$100

- Day of event recognition as a Friend of Rotary





## Rotary Club of Rock Island

P.O. Box 4514, Rock Island, IL 61204-4514

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Business Owner/Corporate Donor:

The Rock Island Rotary Club is preparing for Rotary Trivia Night, an annual fundraising event, to be held Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Camden Centre in Milan, IL.

Proceeds from this event will help support youth programs in our community. Last year the club was able to support the Rock Island High School Interact Club, sponsor outreach activities for Rock Island elementary students and support various other QC youth programs. These valuable programs keep our youth engaged in positive, healthy activities.

We need your help to make this event a success. PLEASE consider donating an item for the silent auction. Any item is greatly appreciated, and all donations are tax deductible, as we are a not for profit, 501c3 organization. Your donation will be appropriately acknowledged at the event. If you would like to get a Trivia Team together, it is \$100 for up to 10 players and promises to be a fun night with Mr. Trivia at the microphone!

You may send your donation to the address above. I would also be more than happy to stop by and collect the item. Please let me know via email if this is your preference. [Kathy@wesselspc.com](mailto:Kathy@wesselspc.com)

Thank you in advance for everything you do to support events and organizations in the Quad Cities! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Kathy Trone - Rock Island Rotary Fundraising Chair  
(309) 794-9400

### DINING BOOKS ARE BACK!



Chairman Bud Phillis has the new 2019-2020 Dining Books. The cost remains just \$35 per book and the Circa 21 coupon alone is worth more than \$35 if you use it to attend our club's Holiday Christmas Party. \$10 from each purchase is donated back to Rock Island Rotary, so besides being a great money saving coupon collection, it is also a fundraiser for our club. Dining books make great gifts and are always appreciated by anyone who enjoys eating out. Featuring over 150 high quality Quad Cities area restaurants, every coupon offers two for the price of one deals. Let Bud know how many books you want!