



Rock Island Rotary

Weekly Review



September 17, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 12

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Dr. Christopher Peters – Better Angels



Dr. Christopher Peters is a surgeon in Coralville, the owner of Corridor Vein Center, and a member of the Iowa City Rotary. He's also a former political candidate and now serves as the state coordinator for Better Angels. Better Angels is a national group which formed after the 2016 election with a mission to reduce political polarization by engaging Americans at the grassroots level. As one of Rotary's primary goals is to promote peace, Chris believes the missions of Better Angels are perfectly aligned to help heal our badly divided nation. "I believe that my fellow Rotarians are particularly well suited to promote that vision, given our commitment to "The Four-Way Test". Peter's talk was titled, "Restoring Civility in Civic Discourse: Embracing our Better Angels". Better Angels is a nationwide organization that brings members of conflicting ideologies—let's call them conservatives and liberals to keep it simple—into genuine, civil conversation. People attending these meetings learn an organized, honoring way to truly listen to each other, and the goal is to make more civil the American discussion of politics and policy. Currently there have been Better Angels workshops and debates in 34 states, Better Angels is a growing organization; as of January of 2018, there were about 48,000 members. The organization increased membership by two-thirds in seven months. The organization was spawned by the growing incivility in politics, in particular the Presidential contest between Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton and the aftermath of that election. The phrase "Better Angels" is drawn from Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address (March 4, 1861). Lincoln hoped, vainly as it turns out, to persuade the "slave states" from seceding from the union. He concluded that speech with this plea: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the *better angels of our nature*." Mr. Peters stated that periodically our nation has gone through periods of great division but has always come through it, with the exception of the Civil War, peacefully. Interestingly he felt that a significant contributor to our polarization is the decline in civic organization involvement. Traditionally people in clubs, organizations, churches, etc., met and became friends with many people including those with differing views on various subjects and issues. Now people tend to get to work, then go home and tune into television networks that tell them what they want to hear. He noted that people used to watch the news to be "informed", now they watch to be "affirmed". There is little association with people with differing views. Peters said that the purpose of Better Angels is to bring people together and encourage respectful discourse. He said they are not trying to change anyone's views, rather they urge that we listen to others respectfully and understand that good people can differ on issues. He said that Better Angels hosts seminars that promote courteous and respectful and discourse. Among the activities they host are Skills Workshops with an emphasis on learning to communicate. They urge people to listen attentively rather than listening for a chance to rebut what is being said. They also urge speakers to avoid putting people on the defensive by choosing words and phrases that express views without setting up an heated response. Another type of activity Better Angels host is calls a "Red – Blue Workshop. In that format they have 5-7 Blues (Democrats) and 5-7 Reds (Republicans). They then conduct structured discussions where one group talks and the other listens. They first talk about what they feel their side brings to our country. Then they talk about what reservations they have about their plan. After listening, they switch roles and those who were talking become the listeners and the second group then has the same discussion. The third type of workshop they host is a "Fish Bowl" workshop. Here non-political, often silly topics are pulled from a fishbowl and the participants divide into sides and debate the "issue". Sounds like fun! In conclusion, Mr. Peters encouraged forming our own Better Angels group and offered any help needed. Thanks for a neat program!

September-October Calendar

- Sept 24 - Nisha Ladlee - Family Resources
 - Wine Raffle Committee
 - 11:15am meeting.
- Oct 1 - Ami Porther, Executive Director Quad City Botanical Center
- Oct 8 - Leslie Van Dyke, Director of Operations for the new Sports Complex in Bettendorf
- Oct 15 - Rick Harnish, Executive Director, Midwest High Speed Rail Association the rail project from Moline to Chicago.
- Oct 22 - John Thompson, President of DeLeon-Thompson, Inc. in Moline.
- Oct 29 - Amanda Murray, Rebound Exchange Student

Rotary 
Club of Rock Island
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www.rirotary.com

Officers

Mark Mayeski, President
Angela Campbell, 1st VP
Justin Peterson, 2nd VP
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
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John Oliger
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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

Have a program idea? Contact the chairman listed above for a possible date.

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Guests at today's meeting included Emil Rosin our Rotary Exchange "son" from Finland along with Alleman Jr. Rotarians, Owen Connolly and Sophia Best. We had just one visiting Rotarians today, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club joined us. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary! Have you invited a friend or colleague to experience Rock Island Rotary lately?

□ **WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE** – Will meet at 11:15 next Tuesday, September 24th. Members please join Ruth and Anne for this important meeting to discuss using social media to promote our event.

□ **SERVICE** – Rotary member are needed to help 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!

□ **SPECIFIC ITEMS NEEDED FOR HEART OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY**
We have received a specific plea for help with the following items that are in very short supply: toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, diapers, baby power and lotion, and wipes. They also need of shoes for young people, if anyone has access. Items can be dropped off at the Hear of Hope or bring them to un upcoming Rotary meeting and we will get it to them.

□ **SAVE THE DATE** – Wednesday, December 4th is the date of our annual Christmas Party at Circa 21. Full details will be coming shortly, but for now, be sure to SAVE THE DATE! To prepare, be sure to purchase one of our Dining Books. The Circa coupon in the book will save you more than the \$35 book cost when you sign up for our Holiday Party.

□ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER** – Send to Bob Swanson bobdebswanson@att.net.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT

Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar. Jr. Rotarian Sophia Best held the first lucky ticket and took the cash (good choice since she's underage and riding with Father Mirabelli). Steve Morenz held the final winner and took home the wine. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

Pumpkin Palooza is fast approaching on Wednesday, October 2. If you haven't yet volunteered to help, please contact Sue Rector at 563-343-7985 or suerektor@augustana.edu. You can ride the bus with the kids or meet the group at the pumpkin patch. Also, sponsors are needed to help purchase T-shirts for the kids. Sponsorship is \$100 and your name/logo will be on the shirt.



DINING BOOKS ARE BACK!

Chairman Bud Phillis has the new 2019 – 2020 Quad City Dining Books. The cost is \$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. Bud has books at every meeting!





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 8th, 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

HELP MAKE TRIVIA NIGHT 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.

Please let chair Kathy Trone know if you have something to donate. We will be more than happy to stop by and collect the item. Contact Kathy via email Kathy@wesselspc.com.

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR TRIVIA NIGHT

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 REINDEER RAMBLE

SUNDAY

December 8, 2019

9:00AM

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201
COURSE - Flat & Fast, scenic, accurate, wheeled distance.

SHIRTS - Size guaranteed to pre-registered runners and walkers

RUNNER'S AWARDS -- Overall male and female 3 awards per ages 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+
WALKER'S AWARDS -- Overall male and female, 3 awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+ ALL THIS PLUS GREAT FOOD & DRINK!

REGISTER ONLINE - GETMEREREGISTERED.COM/ROTARYREINDEERRAMBLE

REGISTRATION FEES -- Pre registered, postmarked not later than 11-25-19 \$25.00.
Rotary members \$23.00 After Nov 25, \$30.00 for all!

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:30AM to 8:45AM RACE DAY

GRAND PRIZE! TRAVEL GIFT CERTIFICATE \$250.00 for pre-registered runners only! MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! NO EXCEPTIONS!

If you have questions call Dick or Mary Fislar at 309-788-0500 or e-mail cruisemaster18@yahoo.com

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OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (MAY BE DUPLICATED) PLEASE PRINT!!!

First name _____ Mid _____ Last Name _____

Age race day _____ Date of birth ____/____/____ Male _____ Female _____ Run _____ Walk _____

Circle shirt size S M L XL XXL (ADD \$2.00 for XXL) Phone ____/____/____

No shirt option _____ deduct \$5.00 if you choose no shirt!

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WAIVER (MUST BE SIGNED) 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 REINDEER RAMBLE 5K Run or Walk. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Participant, or Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCK ISLAND ROTARY Mail entry and payment to ROTARY, P.O. Box 4271. Rock Island, IL 61201. NO REFUNDS RACE WILL BE HELD REGARDLESS!

We're happy to announce CHIP TIMING FOR THE RACE!

WE NEED TO SELL WINE RAFFLE TICKETS!



Tickets for our Wine Raffle Fundraiser are available from Ruth Lee and Anne McGlynn. 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. 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 non-Rotarian friends and associates. We need the entire Club to pitch in on this. Whether or not wine is your thing, you undoubtedly have friends and colleagues that enjoy wine and would gladly "donate" \$5 or \$20 for a chance to win a big return with proceeds going to a great cause!

AUGUSTANA ROTARACT MEETS!



Starting from scratch takes some work but these new Augie Rotaract members are up to the task! The New Augustana club had its first official meeting. Rock Island Rotary club president Mark Mayeski and Erica Ewert from Augustana spoke to the students. First goal is to get more members. With a list of nearly fifty freshmen who expressed interest in the Club, prospects are good! The group discussed strategies and ways to recruit more students. Food is always good! The club will meet every two weeks. Sue Rector and Kia Swanson are acting as liaisons between our club and Augie Rotaract. We will keep you updated!

Step Right UP and Volunteer!

We are still looking for the following volunteers:

February-March Program Chair

June-July Program Chair

We need volunteers to do the invocation for the following months: October, December, March, April, June, July

Please tell or email President Mark Mayeski if you are interested.

Mark E. Mayeski, CRPC®

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FOUNDATION MINUTE

It's heartwarming to know that The Rotary Foundation has received for the 12th consecutive year from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator, its highest rating. Explaining the rationale for the award, the president and CEO of Navigator, Mr. Michael Thatcher, points out that the Foundation demonstrates "...both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency." Not only that, Thatcher reiterates that a 4-Star evaluation testifies that The Rotary Foundation "...exceeds industry expectations and outperforms most charities..."

Two Rotary clubs recently outperformed their peers when they responded to the news of the ravaging Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). The Rotary Clubs of Monrovia, Liberia and Marlow, UK, jointly dedicated a medical oxygen plant worth \$200,000 to Eternal Love Warming Africa (ELWA) Hospital, on the outskirts of Monrovia in Paynesville. Piped to connect the hospital building, the plant will supply oxygen for surgical wards, emergency room and other treatment centers. The funds were raised through individual and corporate donations, roadside fundraising campaigns in the UK and e-mailing funds through the global Rotary Foundation.

On the same note, the Scottsdale Sunrise Rotary Club has donated medical supplies and equipment worth \$1.5 million to the districts of Nyaruguru and Huye, two of the poorest districts of Rwanda. Teaming with Project C.U.R.E (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment), the clubs delivered three 40-foot containers, each carrying 1000 pieces of equipment including: electrocardiogram machines, incubators, anesthesia supplies, examination tables, wheelchairs and feeding tubes.

In consonance with The Rotary Foundation's goal of alleviating poverty, The Gold Coast Lake Success Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of New Delhi, in partnership with the NIT Foundation, have announced a \$150,000 grant towards the development of a skill and career program for the youth of India. Initiated by Immediate Past District-Governor, Ravishankar Bhooplauri, the vocational project is aimed at training immigrants in skills needed to survive in the metropolitan cities of India.

ROTARY BIRTHDAY TRADITIONS

The most exciting and great thing about Rock Island Rotary is the growing number of new members that have joined our club in just the past five years. You might be surprised to know that 38 of our current members joined in 2015 or more recently. Many have become club leaders, board members, and officers. The only downside to so many new faces is that Club traditions tend to get lost, not because new members reject them, but because the Club fails to pass the traditions on to the new generation of Rotarians. One tradition that is pretty obvious is that once a month we honor all the Rotarians that have birthdays that month. We typically do that at the first meeting of each month. You see it in our newsletter reports and our president names each Rotarian celebrating that month – the we sing. Now the rest of the tradition – 1) All of those celebrating birthdays are asked to sit at the "Birthday table" (at least until it is full), located at the front of the dining room. 2) Each Rotarian celebrating their birthday pays a \$1 fine (\$2 if their birthday falls on a Tuesday meeting day); and 3) Celebrating Rotarians are asked to participate in their birthday month's "Birthday Books" at Earl Hanson School, which is typically held on the last Thursday of each month. Participating means giving about 45 minutes to autograph and hand out books, and share a treat with the kids. So, now the information is out. October birthdays -- have your dollar bill ready and please consider participating in Birthday Books! September birthdays, your Birthday Books day is coming up on the 26th! Please meet Molly Shattuck at Earl Hanson at 2:15pm.



DEC. 4

Rock Island Rotary Holiday Party!

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear! Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf on his quest to find his true identity. Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh realities that his father is on the naughty list and his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. This modern-day holiday classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner elf. Reserve your seats now – Pay Later. See Bob Swanson