



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



October 1, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 14

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Ami Porter, Executive Director QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

### October – November Calendar

- 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
- Nov 5 - Dr. Norm Moline, Professor Emeritus Augustana College
- Nov 12 - TBA
- Nov 19 - TBA

Ami has served as executive director of the Quad City Botanical Center since 2007. She started at the Botanical Center in 1998 as rental facility manager. She is a Moline native and graduate of Illinois State University with a degree in English Literature. Ami has a love of gardening and a passion for promoting interaction with the natural world, so she greatly enjoys serving the Quad Cities by bringing people and plants together in fun and meaningful ways. Ami is a graduate of Illinois State University with a bachelor's degree in English Literature. She is responsible for the creative governance and implementation of directing, operating and expanding the services of the Quad City Botanical Center. Her work primarily focuses on finance, development, governance, educational program oversight, facilities, guest services, community relations, and recently Children's Garden expansion and plan design development. She is responsible for the evaluation of the previous fiscal year performance, the creation of a goal-oriented budget, quarterly reviews of financial progress, creating and making budget revisions, and oversight of daily accounting procedures. She is also responsible for researching and writing grants; creating and selling corporate sponsorship packages; building a case, writing and marketing annual fund drives; conducting capital campaign drives, and meeting with prospective corporations and private funders to request support; soliciting in-kind contributions; oversight of fund allocation, meeting obligations, and reporting. She worked her way up through the organization having previously served as Operations Manager and Rental Facility Manager. Amy began her comments by thanking Rock Island Rotary for our \$100,000+ donation for the Center's Children's Garden. She also reported that the Botanical Center has received a \$500,000+ grant from the state to continue expansion of the Children's garden with the Headwaters and Sauk Village phases. In total the project will be a \$10 million investment. Ami also told of the establishment of "Pat's Garden" in memory of Patricia Grevas. It includes a fanciful fairy filled woodland theme. Ami said the mission of the Botanical Center is to bring people together with the gardens. Toward that end she reported that during the past year 40,620 guests visited the Botanical Center. In addition, over 12,000 children were served through Botanical Center education programs. The Center also hosted 13 college interns who worked anywhere from 20 to 40 hours per week at the Center. Fundraising is a big part of Ami's job and last year over \$500,000 was raised for needed updates and repairs to the Botanical Center's gardens and facilities. They also developed a new visitor guide and launched a new website ([www.qcgardens.com](http://www.qcgardens.com)). She concluded her presentation by mentioning a few of the special upcoming QCBC programs and events including Scarecrow Building, Painting Pumpkins, holding a kids and pets costume Halloween party, and their "Not So Scary Halloween Walk the Fridays prior to Halloween. Their biggest event is the "Winter Night - Winter Lights" during the holiday season with over 100,000 lights on display. The QCBC has become one of the top attractions in the Quad Cities. Thanks Ami for all your hard work and for an outstanding presentation! We're pleased to consider the Center our Club home!

**Rotary**   
Club of Rock Island  
I.O. BOX 4314  
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 Olinger  
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

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, Caitlin Deblaey and Joe Weaver. Dr. Abigail Ledford was a guest of Jim Nordquist. Dr. Ledford recently joined Jim's Optometric practice. Dawn VamdeMoortel, wife of Steve Morenz joined us, and we also had two visiting Rotarians today, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport club. 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?

□ **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 an upcoming Rotary meeting and we will get it to them.

□ **ROTARY MEETINGS CANCELLED** – Our Board of Directors have decided to cancel our last two meetings in December. One would have been on Christmas Eve and the other on New Year's Eve. Therefore, our final meeting of 2019 will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Our first meeting in 2020 will be January 7<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendars!

□ □ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER** – Send to Bob Swanson [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto: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. Jeff Dismer held the first lucky ticket and took the cash and donated it to our exchange son, Emil. John Wetzel held the final winner and won the wine. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

**Pumpkin Palooza** is Tomorrow - October 2. Take a drive out to the Country Corner Farm Market and Pumpkin Patch on Rt. 150 just North of Alpha and see all the fun.. You can help or just enjoy watching the kids. There is a petting zoo, corn maze, pumpkin canon, cow train, a great country market, and much more. Plan to arrive around 9am. About 80 Earl Hanson 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will be participating. See you at the Patch!



## 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! Our goal is 60 books sold!

## OUR MOST RECENT PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



Foundation Chairman Bud Phillis was pleased to introduce Angela Campbell as our most recent Paul Harris Fellow honoree. Angela joined Rock Island Rotary 2013 and is currently servicing as our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. She is slated to become Club President in July of 2020. Angela has been a great Rotarian, volunteering for numerous committees and lending her talents to a variety of projects. She is currently our Membership Committee chair and also serves on our Public Image Committee. Angela is also our "backup" editor for the club newsletter. In accepting her certificate and Paul Harris pin, Angela noted that small contributions over a long period of time really add up. Now that she has earned her award, Angela joked that she may need to start honoring her dogs with future awards. Congratulations Angela and thank you for your support for Rotary and the Rotary Foundation.

## TOM SHOWALTER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Tom Showalter joined Rock Island Rotary in 1997. He has for many years served as a Sergeant at Arms aide.. Tom has also served on numerous club committees and is a willing helper whenever called upon. Tom and wife Ann have both received Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Prior to retirement Tom served as the Director of Manufacturing at the Rock Island Arsenal. He is a graduate of Alleman High School and St. Ambrose University. He has been a loyal support of both institutions for decades. He served on the first Heritage Ball Committee which continues to be Alleman's major fundraiser. He is a passionate tennis player, still playing weekly. He has also served as a tennis coach for Alleman and for Seton Catholic School. His other interests are gardening and travel. Tom is a dedicated Rotarian and a great asset both to our Club and our community.



## Rotary Ramble Corporate Sponsorships

We are now accepting Corporate Sponsorships for our 5K Rotary Ramble on Dec. 8, 2019.

Here is what you will receive for the \$100 Sponsorship...

- \* Corporate Sponsorship Recognition at the Race
- Complimentary Rotary-Designed Long-Sleeve T-Shirt
- Your Company's name on the back of the shirt

Please call Bruce Peterson or Kathy Lelonek to sign-up NOW!!

Rotary Ramble Committee

## OCTOBER ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to these members who celebrate birthdays in October!

Steve Morenz	October	8
Beth Grabin	October	9
Mike Thoms	October	26
Sam Doak	October	27





## FOUNDATION MINUTE

Speaking on the transformational power of The Rotary Foundation 30 years ago, then Rotary International President, Paulo Costa identified the Foundation as "...the most generous expression of Rotarian generosity – a generosity that not only benefits but also brings help and cooperation to solve the problems that affect mankind." This week's minute report is a reaffirmation of that statement.

Paramount among the problems confronting many of the underdeveloped communities of the world is the lack of clean water. The provision of this amenity is part of The Rotary Foundation's goal of achieving overall health among the most underprivileged citizens of the world. El Salvador suffers chronic water shortage due, in part, to degraded land and water resources. Not only that, more than 50% of the country's water does not meet international standards for drinking. Consequently, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA, partnered with a Rotary club in San Salvador by contributing \$40,000 toward a \$255,000 clean water project.

Clean water was the casualty when incessant rain caused a dam to overflow in Lohian, India, flooding at least 20 villages and destroying the existing water filters of government schools in the affected areas. With no help coming from the government, the Rotary Club of Goraya in the state of Punjab, came to the rescue. On Sunday, September 29, the club donated water filters worth 1.50 Lakh Rupees (\$2,127.36) to government schools affected by the flood. Lupinder Kumar, a club member, explained that the objective of his Rotary club "is to encourage and foster the idea of community service" and that this kind gesture would put an end to "the fear of contamination...and ensure clean drinking water for the students."

The Rotary Club of Morgantown, NC., definitely solved one big problem when on Wednesday, September 25, it donated an educational endowment of \$250,000 to North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. This took place at the Morgantown Community House during its weekly meeting. Membership Chair, Allen Van Noppen described the donation as "...perhaps the largest gift made by a Burke County civic club to anyone."

As we look forward to October, this is hoping that Rotarians worldwide remember one of The Rotary Foundation's area of focus, Community Development, in their club's weekly meetings.

Yours in Rotary,  
Olabisi Gwamna, Ph.D.  
Mount Pleasant Evening Rotary  
Editor

# ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Ticket includes: Pre-Show Salon Party with  
Complimentary Hoers Devours and Cash Bar (5:00-6pm)  
Buffet Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)  
Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)  
Elf The Musical (7:30pm)**



### Special Group Rate

**TWO WITH DINING BOOK COUPON \$62.71\***  
**\*Tip included (not including deserts & bar)**

### **WITH NO DINING BOOK COUPON:**

**ONE ADMISSION \$ 51.25**

**TWO ADMISSIONS \$102.50**

**Circa Subscriber?**

**Pay Just \$3.50 per person for gratuity**

## TRIVIA NIGHT RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Trivia Night Committee members are offering raffle tickets now with two fantastic prizes which the lucky winner can select from. One is a \$1,000 Travel Voucher from Picture Perfect Travel, use it toward any getaway you plan. Cruise, flight, you name it, it can be yours! Or, opt to take the Deluxe Booze Basket stocked full of high-quality liquors of all types and varieties. Estimated value, \$300 and rising as additional selections are added!

Tickets are \$5 for one or Five for \$20! The winner will be drawn at our Rotary Trivia Night, Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Milan Community Center. Need not be present to win.

## ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE

SUNDAY

December 8, 2019

9:00AM

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 - [GETMEREGISTERED.COM/ROTARYREINDEERRAMBLE](http://GETMEREGISTERED.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](mailto:cruisemaster18@yahoo.com)

-----CUT HERE-----

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!**



# 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)

## 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](mailto: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