



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



October 15, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 16

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Rick Harnish, Exec. Director of the Highspeed Rail Alliance



October – November Calendar

- 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

Guest speaker today was Rick Harnish of Midwest High Speed Rail Alliance. Harnish is a thought leader in the movement for transportation policy reform in the U.S. His ideas are revolutionizing train and transit advocacy and elevating high-speed and intercity passenger rail on the national stage. Harnish was a founding member of the Midwest High Speed Rail Association (MHSRA) in 1993. It is the nation's largest and most seasoned high-speed rail advocacy organization and is now called the Highspeed Rail Alliance. Its vision for a network of fast, frequent trains connecting 200 cities and airports across 9 Midwestern states is the gold standard for imagining how high-speed rail can be implemented in the US. Founded in 1993, the association has educated people, businesses, and lawmakers about the need for fast, frequent, and reliable trains; and they have worked with local governments, federal officials, the railroad industry, and fellow advocacy groups to build the political will and public support for a high-speed rail network that links Midwestern communities. Their goals are to: • Be the recognized leader in passenger rail policy expertise in 10 Midwestern states. • Work closely with local advocates to advance their projects, help them stay connected to each other and provide them with tools to educate state and federal officials; and • Bring about the construction and operation of a game-changing 200+ mph high-speed line. As MHSRA's executive director since 2001, Harnish has achieved notable successes and progress in its three focus areas: advocacy, education, and research. Advocacy: MHSRA led a national coalition in a 2009 campaign for an appropriation for high-speed rail and intercity passenger rail. Congress subsequently appropriated the funds. In 2013, MHSRA played a key role in raising Illinois' Amtrak appropriation from \$28 million to \$34 million—at a time when most other line items were being reduced. In 2015, Harnish worked with both Republicans and Democrats in the Illinois General Assembly to prevent proposed cuts to the state's Amtrak funding. Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner ultimately reversed course and increased funding to \$50 million in 2017. Education: Harnish has given presentations to hundreds of decision makers and thought leaders across the government, business, and transportation sectors. He also speaks regularly to community and business groups across the Midwest, has been an expert witness before Congress and the Illinois General Assembly, and consults with decision makers at all levels of government. In 2010, for example, he presented the findings of a study on the economic impacts of high-speed rail at a meeting of the National Association of Counties. More recently, Harnish and MHSRA created a plan for renovating Chicago's Union Station. Several of its elements were incorporated into the master plan for the building's renovation. Research: In 2009, MHSRA commissioned the first-ever transportation engineering study for a 220-mph corridor in the Midwest. In 2011, Harnish helped persuade Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn to launch a \$1 million, state-sponsored high-speed rail feasibility study. Harnish's work is informed by his strong commitment to researching and learning from global best practices. He has ridden high-speed trains—often in the context of leading small groups—in Belgium, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Turkey. He draws on a global network of colleagues with expertise in trains and transportation policy. He noted that for trains to exceed 125mph they need to be electrified and must operate on track dedicated only to high speed passenger travel with no highway crossings and smooth tracks. Non electrified trains can travel up to 125mph but above 110mph also must have no highway crossings. Up to 90mph crossings with gates and lights will suffice for safety. High speed also requires fencing to ensure pedestrians don't wonder onto the track. He stressed that high speed rail is a way to bring people together and to revitalize our cities. Travel will be safe, quick, and comfortable. No waiting for restroom stops, enjoying a meal, or chatting in a lounge atmosphere. Mr. Harnish was unable to put a timeline on when rail service from the Quad Cities to Chicago will be available; but said there would be at least two seasons of construction work needed before it happens.



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

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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!** We greeted a number of guests at today's meeting including Virginia Houlton, wife of Fred Houlton; Virginia Johnson, wife of Don Peterson; our Exchange son, Emil Rosin from Finland; Caitlin DeBlaey and Joe Weaver our Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School; and four visiting Rotarians, Mark Carlson a member of the Moline Club and a guest of Eric Westphal, Ken Brooks and Mark Zimmerman both members of the Davenport, and Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

□ **TRIVIA NIGHT DONATIONS NEEDED** 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.

□ **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 Steve Morenz 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 Steve Morenz to volunteer to help at 309-721-7632 or just show up any Thursday at 5:15. It's easy duty!

□ **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 17th. Our first meeting in 2020 will be January 7th. Be sure to mark your calendars!

□ **IMPORTANT MEETING** – The Membership Committee will meet at 11am on October 22nd (just prior to next week's Rotary meeting) at the Botanical Center. Committee members and other interested should attend.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar. Frank Lambert had the first lucky ticket and took the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Tammy Weikert held the final winner and won the wine. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

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!!



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!

ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 4th

**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 8th at the Milan Community Center. Need not be present to win. See Sue Rector to get your tickets!

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+ ALLL 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!

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

Foundation Minute

We are into the second week of our **Rotary International Community Development Month** and already several districts around the globe are busy answering the question, "Will it be Beneficial to all Concerned?" **The Rotary Foundation approved nine Global Grants applications by District 6000 and D6000 clubs in 2018-19 totaling over \$902,000.** According to the latest issue of *District 6000 News*, the grants will benefit more than 65,000 people in nine countries, scattered over four continents and support **six humanitarian projects**. The following is a breakdown of some of the grants with matching World Fund contributions by TRF

Water and Sanitation Improvement grant in Guatemala. A Global Grant has been approved for the community of Nuevo Eden, Barillas, Huehuetenango, Guatemala. **The \$110,838 project is matched by TRF World Fund contribution of \$45,863.** This grant was sponsored by Rotary Club of Iowa City, Rotary Club of Davenport and hosted in District 4250 by the Rotary Club of Barillas, Guatemala.

Agricultural Training Program in South Africa. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Waukee in partnership with the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100, South Africa, **District 9400. The \$135,092 is matched with a World Fund contribution of \$54,614.**

Water and Sanitation for Mhezi Village, Same District, Tanzania. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ames in partnership with the Rotary Club of Same, Tanzania, **District 9211. A \$245,126 project with a matching contribution from the World Fund of TRF in the amount of \$99,305.**

The Ponseti Project. The "Ponseti Project" will be training orthopedic surgeons in Columbia in the Ponseti Method for the Treatment of Clubfoot. Sponsored by **District 6000**, the \$105,765 project is matched by TRF with the sum of \$47,593.

Center for Excellence in Municipal Schools in Rajkot, India. Proposed by the Rotary club of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, **in partnership with Rotary club of Rajkot Midtown, India, District 3060. \$87,510 matched with a \$38,970 World Fund contribution by TRF.**

Global Grant Scholarship. Sydney Bergman is a recipient of a Global Grant Scholarship to achieve a graduate degree in International Relations with a concentration on Peace and Conflict; at the London School of Economics. Sponsored by District 6000 in partnership with the Rotary E-Club of London Centenary. **The total cost of \$56,396 is matched by TRF with a World Fund contribution of \$23,799.**

Definitely, the 65,000- plus beneficiaries of these grants would agree with their generous Rotarian donors that it truly has been beneficial to ALL concerned.