



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 17, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 25

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



THE 12 TIPS of TAXES!

**Molly Shattuck & Tom
Hammer**

Rotarians Molly and Tom, CPAs with Hammer & Associates, made an excellent, easy to understand, presentation about tips all taxpayers should know. Great information to have just prior to the end of the tax year. Here they are, ready to help you save money!



December – January Calendar

Dec 17 - Molly Shattuck Tom Hammar
"The Twelve Days of Taxes"
Dec 24 & 31 – NO MEETING
Jan 6 - Mayor Mike Thoms, State of
the City
Jan 14 - TBA
Jan 21 - Dr. Joseph Rives, Senior Vice
President for Strategic
Planning and Initiatives,
Western IL University
Jan 28 - Dr. Luis Moreno, CEO,
Arrowhead Ranch

- Tip #1** - Know Your Tax Bracket - always good to know the rate that applies to your next \$1 of income.
- Tip #2** - Deduction vs. Credit - credit is better than a deduction because it is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in taxes. There are refundable and non-refundable credits. Conversely, a deduction only reduces taxable income.
- Tip #3** - Itemized vs. Standard deduction - Far less people are itemizing due to the tax changes. Only \$10,000 max deductions can be made on real estate & state/local taxes. Medical deductions are capped - you must get at least 10% of adjusted gross income in medical costs to get the benefit. If you live in Iowa, it's (usually) better to itemize for state and keep the standard for federal (but always check with your tax preparer).
- Tip #4** - Popular Deductions & Credits - Deductions: HSA, IRA/Retirement, Standard/Itemized, Alimony, Student Loan Interest, Qualified Business Income Deduction (QBI); Credits: Earned Income Credit, American Opportunity Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Child Care Credit, Lifetime Learning Credit, Foreign Tax Credit, Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, and Residential Energy Credit. DO YOUR HOMEWORK! Some of these deductions and credits sunset. When in doubt, check with your tax preparer about your eligibility.
- Tip #5** - Tax Records - Keep for 7 years, even though sometimes 3 or 5 is okay. 7 years will ensure that it's all okay.
- Tip #6** - HSA, FSA - Both offer a tax benefit for out-of-pocket medical expenses. Health Savings Accounts are available for high deductible health plan (not all qualify), but the money saved rolls over each year. Flex Saving Account must be used each year, or you will lose whatever you don't use.
- Tip #7** - 529 Plans - Education savings plans do exist and can sometimes be a great option for parents/grandparents for education savings. It's neither a deduction nor a credit. So long as you use it for education it cannot be taxed. This also benefits your state returns, too.
- Tip #8** - Roth vs. Traditional IRA - Roth is after tax investments and will never be taxed again. One-third of all US households have an IRA account, totally in 2011, \$5.2 TRILLION dollars invested in Roth/Traditional IRAs.
- Tip #9** - Charitable Giving Options - Traditional giving has gone down due to new tax laws. There are other ways to give - noncash (appreciated stock, vehicles, boats, jewelry); required minimum distributions, and donor advised funds. All are great options for those wanting to give.
- Tip #10** - Identity Theft & Your Taxes - The most theft comes from tax or wage-related instances where someone takes your Social Security Number and files taxes before you do. Protect your SSN and Identity.
- Tip #11** - Qualified Business Income (QBI) - There is a 20% deduction available if you have a profitable S Corporation. Tom said that this sort of deduction requires a highly qualified tax professional to help you through the process.
- Tip #12** - Estate Taxes - You can give up to \$15,000 with no accountability needed for IRS. Otherwise, during estate planning, a professional can help you figure out how to pay a lower tax obligation, dependent upon the beneficiary's income.

We greatly appreciate Tom and Molly sharing their expertise and providing helpful information that may save each of us thousands of dollars.



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Officers

Mark Mayeski, President
Angela Campbell, 1st VP
Justin Peterson, 2nd VP
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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

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

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome three guests to today's meeting. Virginia Johnson, wife of Don Peterson was Don's guest and Tyla Sherwin Cole representing Quad City Dress for Success, was a guest of the Club. We had one visiting Rotarian, Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Rotary Club. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

□ **FOUNDATION DONATIONS** – Foundation Chairman Bud Phillis reported that our Club has reached our monetary fundraising goal for the year, but we only have 40% of members that have donated to the Rotary Foundation. We would like to see that percentage improve. A donation in any amount, just \$10, will add your name to the donors list and help our club improve our percentage of members donating! See Bud to make your donation. Remember, SIZE, doesn't matter.

□ **SERVICE** – Rotary members 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! The Pantry will be closed the week of Christmas and New Year's. Next time to help after this Thursday will be January 9th.

□ **ROTARY IS THANKFUL** for our lunches served each week by Bridges Catering. In gratitude to our faithful server, Michelle, our Club present an \$800 "gratuity" to Michelle just in time for the holiday season. Michelle expressed her thanks and wished all Rotarians a Merry Christmas and Happy, healthy New Year. The "tip" funds are donated via the table bowls each week.

□ **SEND ITEMS** for publication in our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net
We are happy to promote anything relating to Rock Island Rotary. Photos are welcome.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing. The winner was none other than Frank Lambert, who as is his custom donated the entire "pot" to the Rotary Foundation. Proceeds from our raffle each week go to the Rotary Foundation. **We greatly appreciate and thank all who participated!**



A huge "Thank You" to Angela Campbell and Cindi Gramenz who, in my absence, took notes and photos at today's meeting and got them to me so that this issue of our newsletter could be prepared and sent to you. Thank you ladies, -- two dedicated, hard-working Rotarians!

QUAD CITY DINING BOOKS

Bud Phillis has just a few dining books to sell. If you need one for a holiday gift, contact Bud and he will arrange to get it to you. The cost is \$35 and \$12 will be donated back to our Club! They make great gifts, particularly for those that are hard to buy for. Everyone enjoys eating out! One size fits all!

Dr. PAT IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Dr. Pat Cunningham, a lifelong Rock Island resident, continues to learn. Football was his priority in High School, but after a gruesome shoulder separation injury, he decided to excel at math, insomuch that he received a PERFECT MATH SCORE on his college entrance exams. Because of that, he applied to attend the aeronautical engineering program at Notre Dame and was accepted. The summer before graduation he took a construction job reassembling London Bridge in Lake Havasu, Arizona. From that experience he studied hard, as he learned he never wanted to dig another ditch. After college graduation he asked his dad if he could work for him. He said sure, once you become a doctor. So, he went to Northwestern University to become a doctor. Before beginning his medical career, his brother developed kidney failure, so they went to the Mayo Clinic where Pat donated a kidney to his brother. Upon returning to the area, he went to work with his father. The first patient he saw in the hospital exclaimed, "I want the real Dr. Cunningham," expecting to see Pat's father rather than him. Pat shared three stories about his medical career - the happy story was about a lady in a car accident with severe head trauma. Since they didn't have CAT scans then, they relied upon low-level brainwave tests. For many weeks there was no improvement, but the tests began to improve. Soon she could breathe on her own, eat, drink and was eventually transferred to rehab. Seven years later she came to see him to tell him things turned out okay, that she was married with children. The sad case was a pre-op counsel for a lung biopsy. It was his first experience with what we would now call AIDS. At that time, medical professionals had no idea how it was transferred from person to person. Dr Cunningham said it was a very difficult discussion to have with this patient because he couldn't explain how he got it but had to tell him he was going to die within 2-3 weeks. Finally, he shared a story of a happy/funny case. A girl came in for a routine checkup. He had to put on his doctor face to say, "Everyone after 50 needs a baseline colonoscopy." She asked when he had his? They laughed, and he said let's go get it together. During that routine screening, she found she had cancer (which was removed). He's happy to report that she ended up living a long and healthy life, thanks to his willingness to also get checked with her. In summary, doctors are humans trying to figure out the great unknown. Medicine has come a long way, but there is still more to learn. Thanks Dr. Pat!



ROTARIANS FUND DRESS FOR SUCCESS



Community Grants Chairman, Frank Lambert, presented a \$700 check on behalf of Rock Island Rotary to Tyla Sherwin Cole, Executive Director of Dress for Success. Although the flood caused a great catastrophe downtown in their shop, they still dressed women for success throughout. Dress for Success helps 1500 women per year, with 12% of their clientele from Rock Island. Tyla thanked the club for their donation and was excited at how much it will help women in our area succeed. The mission of Dress for Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

In the annals of Rotary International, December is "Disease Prevention and Treatment Month." To this end, The Rotary Foundation is funding open heart surgeries for children age 15 and younger in India. These surgeries will be in collaboration with Gift of Life India and two Rotary districts: D-3170 - (central west) India and D-7255 - (Long Island) New York. This Global Grant costing \$55,000 (US), in collaboration with Gift of Life India, will provide free surgeries to no less than 16 beneficiaries.

The founder and chairperson of Gift of Life India and the global coordinator of this project is Ravishankar Bhooplapur. Bhooplapur, a past Rotary District Governor and US based entrepreneur, is known for his humanitarian service, especially in his native country of India. Bhooplapur said all the surgical operations will be "free of charge to children of the poor and needy" and performed in India at The KLES Dr Prabhakar Kore Hospital. Gift of Life India has operated on and improved the lives of over 6,000 children suffering from various heart diseases and defects.

Last year Bhooplapur was engaged in another Global Grant project that raised \$100,000. That sum was then matched by The Rotary Foundation, through a Rotary Global Grant, in the amount of \$94,750. This grant is to build low-cost housing units in the flood ravaged state of Kerala, India.

ROTARY RINGS THE BELLS!

It has become a holiday tradition for Rock Island Rotary to help those in our community that are less fortunate by taking over the Salvation Army bells and kettles at Rock Island HyVee. 2019 was no exception as a team of dedicated and caring Rotarians staffed both doors at the local grocery all day on Saturday, December 14th. Thanks to chairman Mark Mayeski for again organizing our effort, and "Thank you" to all who gave their time and stood in the chilly air to help make this holiday season a bit more joyous for many!



Rotarian Bell Ringers from top left: Sue Cassatt & Sue Rector; Marcy Bell & Rebecca Arnold; Reginald Lawrence & Avalon Thomas-Roebal; Angela Campbell & pal; Row 2: John Phillips, Gary Rowe, & Cindi Gramenz; Eric Westphall; Jenni Swanson & Kathy Lelonek; Row 3: Lo Milani & Jim Stanbary; Bud & Diane Phillis. Thanks to all who displayed the Rotary way of "Service Above Self"! It is greatly appreciated by our community and by your fellow Rotarian members.

*We need more helpers for the Little Free Libraries. Contact Kathy Lelonek if you would like to volunteer. Can you help? Easy but important duty!

*There are no meetings the week of Christmas and New Year's. The next meeting will be January 6th or 7th, We will let you know via email. If on the 6th it will be a joint meeting with Kiwanis for the "State of the City" by Mayor Mike Thoms.