

# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 11, 2020: Volume XXVII, Issue 31

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



*Rock Island Rotarian, Rebecca Arnold, poses with children in Dhaka, Bangladesh, who are recipients of healthy food through THRIVE.*

## Our “Guest” Speaker THRIVES on Helping Others

Rock Island Rotarian, Rebecca Arnold, gave an inspiring presentation about the non-profit, Thrive, which aims to deliver healthy food to hungry school children in Bangladesh and the Philippines “one banana at a time.”

Founded by three moms in 2012, Thrive began as a simple act of kindness. As spouses of people who worked at the Embassy or at the schools in Bangladesh, the moms went on a school visit one day and thought,

“Should we bring something for the children?” On their way they stopped by a roadside stand and bought bananas to hand out to the children. Thrive was officially born!

In just 8 years from its inception, Thrive is now a non-profit that delivers 12,000 meals every school day to 13 schools. Thrive started as a volunteer organization, but once pictures and stories hit social media, donations started rolling in, building it into what it is today. There is paid staff and a Board of Directors with representation from 5 different countries. Rebecca has been both a Thrive volunteer and President of the Board.

Why Bangladesh? Rebecca gave a great overview of the country, explaining that more than a third of the children under 5 are both underweight and/or have stunted growth issues, due to malnourishment. One misconception is that the children are going hungry, but that’s not the case; rather, the children are being fed, just not a variety of healthy foods. This is where Thrive steps in to help. Students are given eggs (protein), fruit (like bananas), and many vegetables to balance their nutritional needs.

Just a little info about Bangladesh - it is 90% Muslim and contains about half the population of the entire United States crunched into a landmass about the size of Iowa. Since most of the country is at or below sea level, the land mass is shrinking. Additionally, sea salt is infiltrating the water supplies, which is causing additional health problems. There are three rivers from India that empty into the Bay of Bengal. With those rivers flowing through Bangladesh, river erosion is also taking some of the land. They are filling in the swamps with junk and building slums on top of that, just to gain more space.

It’s hard to believe after hearing all of this that their economy is doing well. More than 80% of exports are from garment sales—a \$5 billion industry. Rebecca lived in Bangladesh from 2012-2016, and during that time, security changed dramatically. Although the government is a democracy, and citizens value education, philanthropy, and the arts, that doesn’t stop fundamentalist-type groups from causing security risks.

Rotarians asked many great questions today, such as, “Where is the food sourced from?” Most food comes from Bangladesh. The food is distributed by a company called Direct Fresh. “Where does funding for Thrive come from?” It comes from all over the world via donations and corporate giving. “What is Rotary’s effect on the country?” Rebecca commented that Rotary seemed much more formal, and that they do what they can to influence things locally.

Thrive has a great website, and there are also numerous videos available to learn more about the organization. Visit: [www.thrive-global.org](http://www.thrive-global.org), or [www.facebook.com/thrivefeededucategrow](https://www.facebook.com/thrivefeededucategrow). Thank you, Rebecca, for an excellent presentation!

# Rotary

Club of Rock Island



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 President  
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  
February Linda Golden  
Mar. – 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 guests at today's meeting: Ashlyn Ryan and Emma Muhleman, Alleman High School; Emil Rosin, Rotary in-bound exchange student; Mark Carlson, Moline Club and self-described "wanderer;" and Davenport Rotarian, Mark Zimmerman.

**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! We have a sign-up sheet at the Sergeant at Arms table and will be glad to add your name!

**ROTARIANS ARE REMINDED** to pick up your Wine Raffle Tickets and promo posters from Anne McGlynn or Ruth Lee. Tickets are in packs of five and it is hoped that every member will be responsible for selling 5 packs. Cost is \$5 per ticket or \$20 for pack of five. Wine prizes of \$750, \$500, and \$250 will be awarded. Ruth gave an update and said, "It's time to kick it into gear!"

**GREETERS NEEDED** for upcoming months. Contact the Sergeant-at-Arms to sign-up for a turn to welcome everyone to Rotary.

**IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE IN THE ROTARY SPOTLIGHT!** Love collecting memorabilia? Cooking with the grandkids? Making crafts? Your Rotarian friends want to hear about it! It doesn't matter if you've already been in the spotlight—surely you have more to share! Sign up for the Rotary member spotlight by contacting Angela at: [campbell.angela@rigov.org](mailto:campbell.angela@rigov.org).

### Winter Calendar

Feb 18 - Jodie Barton,  
New Kingdom Trail Riders  
Feb 25 - Sara Cross  
First Tee of the Quad Cities

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT

Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing. **Emil "Lucky" Rosin** didn't win the money today, but Jeff "The Blessed" Dismar won (for the second week in a row) and gave Emil the \$28 for spending cash. That's **FOUR WEEKS IN A ROW** Emil has received the money. Congratulations, Jeff, on another win, and thank you for your generosity. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thank you to all who participated!**

*(According to the Internet, this is a Finnish good luck symbol. Maybe Emil (or Kevin) could verify?)*



Hannunvaakuna  
Finnish Good Luck Symbol

# 2020 - 2021

## Officers and Board Members Approved!

President Mark Mayeski read the proposed slate of officers aloud at today's meeting. Ruth Lee made the motion, seconded by Stan Coin. The Rotary Club of Rock Island voted unanimously to approve the following slate of officers and board members for 2020-2021.

### Nominations

President:	Angela Campbell
1st VP:	Justin Peterson
2nd VP:	Cindi Gramenz
Imm. Past Pres.:	Mark Mayeski
Secretary:	Anne McGlynn
Treasurer:	Carrie Crossen

### Board - 1 year term:

Howard Beck  
Cindi Gramenz  
Kim Calhoun  
Eric Westphall

### Board - 2 year terms:

John Daly  
Chris Lemon  
Sue Rector  
Gary Rowe

### Sergeant-at-Arms:

Bob Swanson

\*Anyone else want to volunteer to assist Bob?



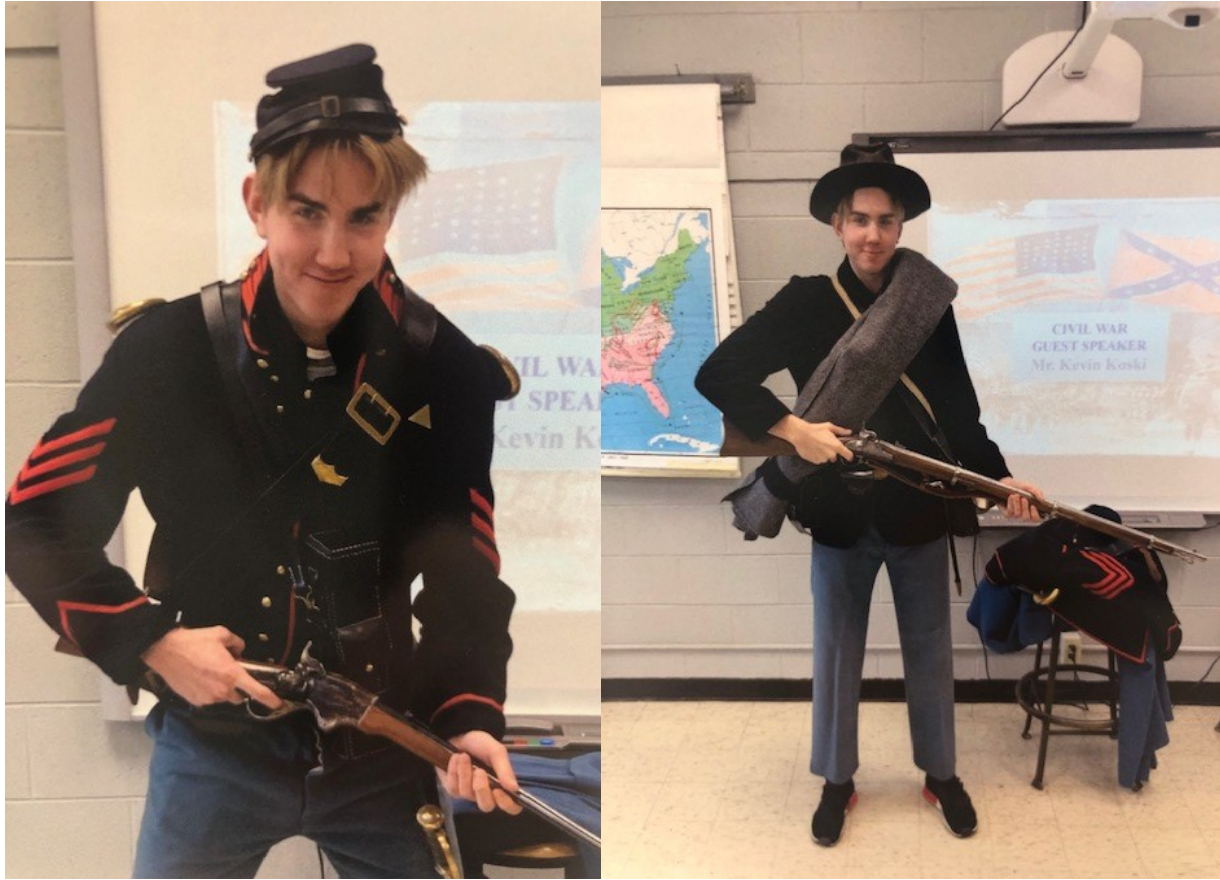
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*We're everybody's friend!*



## Rosin Assists Fellow-Finn Koski with Civil War Presentation (Looking fierce, Emil!)



## Fires in Australia - Rotarians Can Help

The Rotary Australian Districts have developed a fund called the 2019-20 Bushfires Appeal.

People can donate by visiting <https://donations.rawcs.com.au/67-2019-20>



Wildlife rescuer Simon Adamczyk carries a singed koala from the smoldering remnants of gum forests on Kangaroo Island on January 7, 2020. (Photo Credit David Mariuz/EPA-EFE/Shutterstock)