



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 25, 2020: Volume XXVII, Issue 33

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



FIRST TEE OF THE QUAD CITIES SARA CROSS



Guest speaker at today's Rock Island Rotary meeting was our own Sara Cross. Sara, a native of Moline joined Rock Island Rotary in 2017, but a change in careers caused her to leave our club for a time. She rejoined in 2019 after being named Executive Director of First Tee of the Quad Cities. The First Tee is an international youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. Through after school and in school programs, First Tee helps shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by reinforcing values like integrity, respect and perseverance through the game of golf. And it's making a difference. First Tee has established Nine Core Values that represent some of the many inherently positive values connected with the game of golf. By participating in First Tee, kids are introduced to these core values which are incorporated throughout the program. Parents are encouraged to reinforce these behaviors by talking about them, what they mean and what these behaviors can look like at home. The values are: 1 Honesty, 2 Integrity, 3 Sportsmanship, 4 Respect, 5 Confidence, 6 Responsibility, 7 Perseverance, 8 Courtesy, and 9 Judgment. First Tee kids and teens are learning to play golf along with life lessons and leadership skills. And it's making a difference. Cross says the programs are positively impacting youth, their families and their communities. First Tee offers group lessons to youth up to age 18 regardless of background or previous experience. Coaches are trained to make kids feel comfortable and assure they have a positive, non-intimidating experience. All they ask is that young people come with an open mind and positive attitude. Sara stressed that First Tees is not primarily a golf skills development program. They use golf as a way to achieve their primary goal of character building. Their programs are housed at Red Hawk Golf Course in Davenport, Highland Springs Golf Course in Rock Island, and at the Two Rivers YMCA in Moline. Last year 827 children participated in their programs. Cross was very proud of follow up surveys of First Tee participants where 87% reported improvement in their self-confidence; 81% believed the program resulted in personal transformation. 87% felt their inter-personal relationships improved, and 85% believed the program helped make them a better student in school. The standard First Tee program is a 6-week course with instruction approximately 1½ hours one day a week. Half the instruction time is spent in the classroom working on character skills and the other half on the golf course where situations are created where participants use the character skills they have studied. A grant from our club earlier this year allowed seven children from the Marlin Luther King Center to participate in the 6-week program free of charge. The normal fee is \$75 for the session. First Tee also sponsors a number of one-day events where participants learn and compete. Once such event is the Youth Day at the John Deere Classic sponsored by First Tee. Last year 1,000 kids participated. Another 1-day activity is an indoor simulated golf tournament. First Tee accepts kids from age 7 to 18 and has an 8 students to 2 coaches ratio. There are 1,200 First Tee chapters all over the country. Thank you Sara for an interesting program!

March – May Calendar

- Mar 3 - Census 2020 – Dave Geenen and Laura Fontaine
- Mar 10 - Super Tuesday & The Iowa Caucuses – Ed Tibbets QC Times
- Mar 17 - My Night at the Oscars Dr. William Campbell, St. Ambrose University.
- Mar 23 - Earl Hanson School – Principal Sarah Leonard
- Mar 31 - Earth Day – 50th Anniversary Lori McCollum
- April 7 - Bert Blood Scholarship
- April 14 - Rotary Awards Banquet
- April 21 - Davenport Junior Theatre – Daniel Sheridan
- April 28 - Earl Hanson Inspire Choir
- May 5 - Early Act Club – Jordan School
- May 12 - Legalized Marijuana – Allison Wright, Papas & O'Connor
- May 19 - Liz Tallman – Q.C. Chamber of Commerce



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Officers

Mark Mayeski, President
Angela Campbell, 1st VP
Justin Peterson, 2nd VP
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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. – 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. Alleman Jr. Rotarians, Ashlyn Ryan and Emma Muhleman were in attendance. Luke and Meghan Cooley were present along with their Chess playing son, Charles. Avian Thomas another Earl Hanson Chess player joined us along with his Earl Hanson School teacher, Kim Dillender. Mark Zimmerman was our lone visiting Rotarian. He is a member of the Davenport Rotary Club. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

☐ **ROTARY AWARDS COMMITTEE** met today to plan our April 14th Awards Banquet. Club members will be asked to nominate potential recipients for our Excellence, Community Service, Luckenbill-Wray, and A.T. Peara Awards. Be thinking about who you might nominate.

☐ **SERVICE** – Rotary members are needed to help with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. We help every Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm. It's easy duty and is truly *Service Above Self* at its most basic definition. 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.

☐ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to present the invocation at our upcoming meetings in March and April. Please let President Mark Mayeski know if you will help.

☐ **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 our foundation raffle featured a 50-50 cash drawing. Our lucky winner was Holly Sparkman! The Club's share of proceeds from our raffle each week go to the Rotary Foundation. **We greatly appreciate and thank all who participate!**



CHESS CHAMPION CROWNED

For the past 11 years Rock Island Rotarian Tom Hammar has coached chess to 5th and 6th graders at our adopted school, Earl Hanson Elementary in Rock Island. Each year Tom's program culminates with a tournament in which a Chess Champion is crowned. Today this year's champion, Avian Thomas and the runner-up, Charles Cooley, along with Charles' parents Meghan and Luke Cooley, and Hanson teacher, Kim Dillender were guests of our club. Tom presented chess set gifts to the boys and displayed the Champion plaque that remains on display at the school. In the photo, Coach Tom presents the awards with Ms. Dillender looking on. Tom also made it a point to have the boys admit that they have not yet been able to beat their wily and experienced coach. Rotarians ask, "Is It The Truth?"



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!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

February is the Vocational Service Month when clubs highlight the importance of the business and professional life of each Rotarian.

Among opportunities that Rotarians can engage in is the reconciling of broken families and restoring relationships. In this vein, the Rotary Club of San Diego is presenting more than \$45,000 in grants toward in-service human trafficking prevention training. Representatives from San Diego Unified School District, San Marco Unified and Sweetwater Union High School District will share the grants. "We believe that human trafficking is greatly impacting our local youth, and we want to support the education of teachers to recognize the victims and take action to prevent ongoing abuse," said David Oates, president of San Diego Rotary. "Doing so is also in line with our mission to drive unmatched impact at home and around the world."

Still in the act of doing good for the good of all, the Rotary Club of Kent, Kent, Washington, has partnered with the city's recreation department to fund a new playground accessible to children of all ages and abilities. The new playground is equipped with accessible park furniture, swing sets and layouts structured for wheelchair users. Club president, Roger Sidoti emphasizes Rotary's impact on general wellness of the beneficiaries. According to him, "we wanted this signature public profile project to exemplify Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self' and our Four-Way Test which we all ascribe to." The \$25,000 playground is funded with a \$10,000 pledge by The Rotary Club of Kent, and a Matching Grant of \$2,800 by Rotary District 6630. The Kent Rotary Foundation is covering the remaining \$4,400.

With a Rotary International Matching Grant, the Blind Foundation of India (BFI) has raised over \$5,000,000 (USD) to prevent and cure blindness as well as educate and permanently rehabilitate blind people in India. The Rotary Matching Grant has enabled BFI to complete 14 projects worth over \$500,000 (USD). At a cost of \$20 (USD) per cataract surgery, the funds will be used to examine the eyesight of over one million adults.

If a club is planning to apply for COMMUNITY SERVICE or GLOBAL GRANTS during the 2020-21 Rotary year there MUST be a representative from our club at ONE of the upcoming GRANT MANAGEMENT SEMINARS (GMS)! It is important that the main contacts on a proposed grant are strongly encouraged to attend. Two documents must be signed by the President-elect and the President-nominee to participate in these grants.

To register for a GMS, go to the District 6420 website: <https://www.rotary6420.org>

-- RUTH RALLYS ROCKFORD --



In her Wine Bottle Costume, Ruth Lee visited the Rockford Rotary Club last week and made a pitch for our club's annual Wine Raffle. Even though they are over 100 miles away, Rockford Rotarians responded with \$125 in raffle ticket purchases. That's over 30 tickets! Thanks to Ruth and to our fellow Rotarians in Rockford!!

Each of our Club members are urged to see Ruth or Anne McGlynn for a supply of tickets and to talk with friends, neighbors, work associates and encourage them to purchase. As Ruth proved, selling them is not hard. You just need to ask. \$5 buys one ticket or \$20 buys five. First prize is \$750 dollars' worth of wine to be selected by the winner. Second prize is \$500 of wine, and Third gets \$250. All wine comes from the Grape Life Wine Store & Lounge in Davenport.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR WATER PROJECT!

In 2016 Rock Island Rotary founded the Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa Rotary Water Project. The project got off the ground with an initial \$10,000 donation from Sam and Hilde Wray. Over the past three and one-half years, Bud Phillis and Bob Swanson have traveled to Rotary Clubs throughout northern Illinois and eastern Iowa demonstrating our water filter and soliciting partners in the project. To date, seventeen Rotary and Interact Clubs have joined our project along with scores of individual Rotarians. Over \$85,000 has been donated and 244 filter units have been purchased and shipped to Kenya where they are providing clean, safe drinking water for more than 17,000 children. Partnering with Replenish, Inc. the units are delivered, assembled, and training on sanitation education and use of the filter is provided. Each unit will provide 70 children filtered water for a 3-year period prior to needing a filter replacement. Replenish takes care of providing and installing the replacement filters when needed. A number of members of our club have donated the cost of a filter (\$350). Some make it an annual commitment. Others donate smaller amounts to the Water Project which are pooled with donations from others to purchase a filter. The campaign continues with Bud and Bob scheduled to present the project and demonstrate the filter at this year's RYLA coming up on May 2nd. If you have not participated in the Water Project this year, please make a donation. Checks should be payable to Rock Island Rotary with a memo note, "Water Project". This project directly affects thousands of children and saves lives. Please be an active and ongoing part of it!



A label on each filter lets the users know that their safe, clean water was provided by Rotarians from Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa in the United States.

