



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



April 14, 2020: Volume XXVII, Issue 40

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

AT LAST – A ROTARY MEETING!

April – May Calendar

- April 14 - Club Meeting Via Zoom teleconference
- April 21 - Club Meeting Via Zoom teleconference
- April 28 - Club Meeting Via Zoom teleconference
- 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
- May 26 - TBA

Prior to today, the last time Rock Island Rotarians gathered for a meeting was over a month ago on March 10th. Just a few days later schools, restaurants bars and “non-essential” businesses were closed, and gatherings of more than 10 people were banned. Shortly aft that restrictions were tighten ordering virtually all to shelter at home and avoid any contact within six feet of others. But technology to the rescue, as the shutdown extended on, people clamored for a solution. As our own Dr. Tricia Barron stated, we must practice “physical distancing” not “social distancing”. Humans crave social interaction and community leaders, such as Rotarians need and thrive on interacting with others. Technology allowed us to maintain physical distancing and at the same time let us enjoy social interaction by meeting via a Zoom teleconference. Members were able to join the meeting from their homes, offices, cars, and anywhere they had access to a computer or telephone. Just the announcement that we were going to do it led to an unprecedented number of “thank you” message from our members to our Board. Several of our Board had previous experience using Zoom through their employment or other organizations. One of our members purchased the software, instructions were sent to all members and two pre-meeting “dry runs” were held to make sure members understood how to join the video meeting. Today it all came together as President Mark Mayeski called the meeting to order at 12 noon with 39 members in attendance. Bob Swanson led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Kathy Trone with an invocation. President Mark welcomed all to our first ZOOM meeting and then recognized members with April Birthdays (see the list of celebrants, page 5) and past-president Sue Cassatt led the group in singing “Happy Birthday”. In lieu of fines, Angela Campbell stood in for VP Justin Peterson, and asked for “Happy – Sad” Dollars. We will keep a “tab” and members can “pay up” when we meet in person. Those offering happy items (there were no sad) were Sue Rector, John Wetzel, Molly Shattuck, Ruth Lee, Jeff Dismar, Mike Thoms, Pete Wessels, and Cindi Gramenz. .President Mark called on Angela Campbell to provide an update on our District Grant project. Angela stated the project is to fund the purchase of chairs for the local Christian Care facility. Rock Island Rotary will contribute \$1,500 which will be matched by a grant from District 6420. Cindi Gramenz, Development Director of Christian Care expressed her appreciation to our club for the gift. President Mark then called on Ruth Lee for an update on our Wine Raffle. Ruth noted that the coronavirus “stay at home” order has prohibited her from calling on Rotary Clubs throughout the district and has made the sale and distribution of tickets difficult. She urged each of us to mail money for tickets to her at 4604 – 29th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201. She also stressed that those members who have tickets out or who have sold tickets need to get the money to her along with the filled in ticket stubs to ensure they get into the drawing which is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. All members are asked to buy and sell tickets. Kathy Lelonek then spoke about a Board approved \$1,000 donation to the Rock Island-Milan School District. As you will read further in today’s newsletter, the school district is taking great steps to minimize the impact of the current closure of schools. One of the ways they are providing services to kids is through on-line learning. To ensure all have access to the program, the District has loaned 1,000 school owned Chromebooks to families that do not have a home computer. The district also learned that many of the homes do not have access to the internet. To provide internet access the home must either subscribe to a provider service or have a “hot spot” modem. The district has loaned 100 modems which exhausted its supply. Our donation will be used to purchase additional modems which will be loaned to families without internet service. It was great to see so many Rotarians today. Next Zoom meeting, next Tuesday, 12 noon!



Club of Rock Island

P.O. Box 4514

Rock Island, IL 61204

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 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: Tom Hammar

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

Club Notes & Announcements!

☐ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary will welcome guests when we are again able to meet. Guest are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

☐ **SERVICE** – Rotary members are needed to help with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. We help every Thursday. The Pantry serves those in walkers and scooters starting at 4:30 pm. The distribution to the general public will begin at 5:30 pm as normal but will only last until 6:30 pm. The do not need our help to serve the early group, therefore, the volunteer time need is only one hour. During the current health crisis, the needs of the less fortunate still exists and may even become greater. People still are hungry and still need the food they receive from Heart of Hope Food Pantry. The plan at this time is for the operation of the Food Pantry to continue and our help and support is still needed. But the distribution system of food has changed. Instead of a shopping format where the guest walks through the building selecting the food they want, the food now is pre-packed into bags and just handed out to the guests. Contact with the public is reduced considerably. Food will be delivered to the elderly and disabled so that that population does not have to leave their homes. Used but sound plastic bags are needed now even more than in the past. Drop off bags 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 to help pack bags. It's easy duty! Food will be packaged and handed out. Clients will not come into the food pantry until further notice.

☐ **ROTARIANS ARE REMINDED** to get 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. Call or email Anne or Ruth and they will get tickets to you.

☐ **BORED STAYING AT HOME?** Grab your Club Directory and call 3 Rotarians a day. Just chat, find out how they are doing and let them know how you're doing. Maintaining a semblance of social contact is good for you and may just "make the day" for the Rotarian you call.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET AND ACTED

On Monday, April 6th our Board of Directors met for the first time since January. The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference. A number of important actions were taken. First among them was making the decision to hold a Zoom Club meeting, which occurred today. Second was a discussion of what we should do regarding the 6 club meetings that were canceled by the Governors social distancing order. Treasurer Carrie Crossen noted that our cost savings is limited to the catering costs of meals. We still are required to pay dues to the District and Rotary International for every member on our roll. There is also a charge for each member's Rotarian Magazine subscription. Carrie noted that the exact catering cost is dependent on how many Rotarians attend and eat lunch. She was able to estimate a weekly savings of \$400 to a maximum of \$600 per week. She estimated that for the 6 meetings cancelled (2 in March and 4 in April) the club saved about \$2,800. The Board discussed refunding dues, giving a credit toward future dues, or using the funds to help combat the virus that caused meeting to be cancelled. Ultimately a decision was reached that allowed our Club to impact the coronavirus battle and at the same time gave each individual member value for their contribution. The Board also agreed to add additional Club funds above and beyond the catering savings. The decision was made to donate to the Rotary Foundation's COVID-19 Disaster Relief Fund in the amount of \$50 in the name of each and every Rock Island Rotarian. In total the donation will amount to \$3,700. Each member will receive Paul Harris credit and an acknowledgement from Rotary International for a \$50 contribution. Had we instead refunded or credited the meal cost, each member would have received just a little over \$6 per cancelled meeting.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY WORD MATCH

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OUR NEWEST MEMBERS?

These Rock Island Rotarians Joined our Club Within the Past Two Years

Rebecca Arnold
Steve Bahls
Amber Brummit
Kim Calhoun
Sara Cross
Laura Fontaine

Brett Hitchcock
Doug Hultquist
Carlos Jimenez
Alex Kelly
Kristia LeShoure
Miranda Marshall

Stephanie Masson
Liz Nino
Sue Rector
Andrea Ryckeghem
Holly Sparkman
Eric Spriet

Arron Sutherland
Kai Swanson
Avalon Thomas-Roebal
Mike Thoms
Randy Tweet
Eric Westphall
Jeff Whitaker

Can you match their Name with the Description Clue?

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. | Runs the school, but the kids are home | _____ |
| 2. | QCBT Commercial banking expert | _____ |
| 3. | Had to close temporarily close the Theater | _____ |
| 4. | Keeps our city finances records up to snuff | _____ |
| 5. | CEO of Rock Island insurance company | _____ |
| 6. | Works to keep at risk kids on the straight and narrow | _____ |
| 7. | Newest member from Quad City Bank | _____ |
| 8. | Personnel is her expertise at QCBT | _____ |
| 9. | Transferred membership from the Rotary eClub | _____ |
| 10. | Supervises a great city facility | _____ |
| 11. | Rotarian who says everyone counts | _____ |
| 12. | Higher education development expert | _____ |
| 13. | Rejoined when his organization became a corporate member | _____ |
| 14. | Ran a super business before running a super city | _____ |
| 15. | Head man at Quad City Bank prior to retirement | _____ |
| 16. | She was the first Quad City Bank club member | _____ |
| 17. | Gave up public works to take on management | _____ |
| 18. | Makes sure the plants are looking good | _____ |
| 19. | Brought a musical theater influence to the club | _____ |
| 20. | A greatly missed spokesperson who rejoined | _____ |
| 21. | A "Special" fellow at Augustana | _____ |
| 22. | Once a Scout, now a golfer | _____ |
| 23. | Travels the world recruiting new Quad City residents | _____ |
| 24. | Power is his forte | _____ |
| 25. | Marketing to food & beverage owners is her bailiwick | _____ |

BEWARE OF CHRONAVIRUS SCAMS!!

In addition to the scam warning provided in our meeting by Kathy Lelonek, Angela Campbell recommends that we all take time to watch this video: <https://www.fdlp.gov/coronavirus-frauds-and-scams-what-you-need-to-know>. Just hold down your "CTRL" key and click on the above link. You'll be amazed at how ruthless and creative some can be attempting to take advantage of the rest of us during this scary pandemic time. It may save you or your loved ones money and heartache.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Using what The Rotary Foundation has taught us:

In the midst of all the devastation from COVID-19, Rotarians around the world find their weekly meetings cancelled and other club activities grinding to a disturbing halt. Life as some of them knew it, seemed to be changing right before their eyes. Yet, with all the distractions caused by Coronavirus, Rotarians are determined to remain focused on one of their goals, which is, to provide service to others, especially those in need. **The Lake Area Rotary Club Association (LARCA) in Clearlake, California**, which had been a major fundraiser for the county's fire recovery, changed its mission to helping in emergency relief relating to the pandemic. Consequently, LARCA is donating **\$40,000** to the four senior centers in Lake County, to help with the loss of income from their thrift stores which have been closed as a result of COVID-19. The grant will also help the centers cope with the increase in demand for home-delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels program. Since its inception in 2015, LARCA has raised more than **\$3,000,000** for fire relief efforts.

The Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates did not allow lock downs and a ban on in-person meetings to stop them from hosting a successful fundraiser for their 50th Anniversary. Instead of cancelling or postponing the scheduled fundraiser, the club streamed a Facebook live event from a makeshift broadcast studio at the Marriott Hotel, where more than 100 silent auction items were arrayed for bids. In the end, over **\$120,000** was realized at the virtual event. Commenting on the surprised turnout for the event, **Club President, Pat Groenewold** stated that "Rotarians have demonstrated what we can do when a real need arises." The Rotary Club of Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates has contributed more than **\$5,000,000** to programs in the community and around the world.

The Rotary Club of Asheville, NC is responding to the on-going COVID-19 devastation by donating all the fees for their weekly meals to a local food pantry. Manna Food Bank in Asheville will be receiving **\$5,400** from the club to assist with their efforts to combat food insecurity during this outbreak. Janet Whitworth, club president, praised her club's decision to use the money that way, adding that, "it is a great representation of the Rotary Four-Way Test."

As Water and Sanitation Month gives way to Maternal and Child Health Month, let us remain focused in our efforts to make the world a healthier, disease-free and much better place.

Your continued support of the Rotary Foundation makes a world of difference!

You Can Upgrade Your Computer for Zoom

If your computer does not have a built-in camera and mic and you would prefer to participate in Zoom meetings without using a telephone, be aware that you can easily add a Webcam to your computer. You will then be able to hear, see, speak, and be heard and seen by just sitting in front of your computer. There is a free version of Zoom that will let you have one on one meetings with family and friends all over the country as often as you want for no charge. Both you and they can see and hear each other. Webcams with mics cost as little as \$20-\$40 at Target, Walmart, Office Depot, Amazon, etc. Hook up is one USB cable (comes with camera). You just plug it in to any USB port on your computer and you're up and running. It's a great way to stay connected far beyond meetings! You can visit with grandkids, children, and siblings just like making a phone call, but with the added luxury of seeing "live" who you are speaking with. And there are no long-distance phoning tolls! If interested, but not sure, feel free to speak with Bob Swanson or any other Rotarian that uses a webcam.

APRIL ROTARY BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations to these Rotarians Who Can't Have Real Parties!!! (Physical Distancing)

Tom Showalter April 1
Mark Zimmerman April 17
Rick Devinney April 18
Alex Kelly April 21
Kristia LeShoure April 23
Rick Emery April 26
Stephanie Masson April 29



Rotary Supports Children's Advocacy Center

Frank Lambert reported that the Community Grants Committee has approved a \$1,000 donation to the Children's Advocacy Center. Since we are unable to meet to present the check, it will be mailed to them. The Children's Advocacy Center serves children under the age of 18 who have been the victim of sexual or physical abuse. All children are referred by Law Enforcement or the Department of Children and Family Services to be interviewed at our center about the abuse. The purpose is to coordinate and track the investigations, medical treatment, counseling referrals, prosecution and training in order to protect the best interest of the victims and their families. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again, to doctors, law enforcement, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may have to talk about that traumatic experience in a police station where they think they might be in trouble or may be asked the wrong questions by a well-meaning teacher or other adult that could hurt the case against the abuser. When police or Department of Children and Family Services believe a child is being abused, the child is brought to the CAC—a safe, child-focused environment—by a caregiver or other “safe” adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story once to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not retraumatize the child. Then, a team that includes medical professionals, law enforcement, mental health, prosecution, child protective services, victim advocacy, and other professionals make decisions together about how to help the child based on the interview. CACs offer therapy and medical exams, plus courtroom preparation, victim advocacy, case management, and other services. This is called the multidisciplinary team (MDT) response and is a core part of the work of CACs. Rock Island Rotary is proud to support this valued service.

RUTH LEE STEPS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT



Ruth Lee is our highlighted Rock Island Rotarian this week. We are all aware that Ruth served as our Club president in 2005-06 and was Governor of District 6420 in 2013-14. She has also been recognized as a Major Donor by Rotary International. More recently, until the covid-19 pandemic, she was often seen traveling the District in her wine bottle costume promoting our Wine Raffle fundraiser. Ruth didn't mention any of this in her comments. Instead she told us about growing up in rural Minnesota as part of the “baby boomer” generation. She noted in her young years witnessing the Vietnam War, the “cold war” with Russia including school disaster drills in anticipation of falling atomic bombs. She noted that it was an incredible time in history with the construction of the Berlin Wall, the peace movement, women's rights movement, hippies, and the assassinations of Malcom X, John Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, and Martin Luther King. She also saw the birth and phenomenal growth of Rock n' Roll. With her husband in the Navy in the Vietnam era she witnessed the treatment of soldiers when they returned home. After completing his service husband Dan finished his Doctorate Degree and accepted a position at Augustana College, which brought the couple to Rock Island 46 years ago. Ruth noted that Rotary was a huge part in expanding her view from rural Minnesota English major to the World. Thanks for sharing!

EXCHANGE SON SAFELY HOME

We are happy to report that our Exchange son, Emil Rosin is safely home in Finland. Emil's parents made the decision to cut his stay with us short fearing that the pandemic might result in him being unable to obtain a flight home at a later date. There was also a strong desire to have him home and with his family as the world works through the coronavirus crisis. Our Student Exchange chairman share the following email received from Emil's mother:

From: Susanna Rosin <susanna.rosin@aalto.fi>
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 9:33 AM
To: Jeff Dismer <jdismet@studio483.com>

Dear all,

Emi has arrived safely in Finland and is now in Helsinki. He will stay there in mandatory quarantine for 14 days in the apartment I usually use a few days a week when I work in the Helsinki region. The apartment is now empty since I have been working remotely from our home in Pargas for a few weeks already.

The photo was taken by Emil's older brother Erik who studies in Helsinki and happens to live in the same area. Erik will be the support person for Emil during the following two weeks since Beppe and I will not be able to travel to the Helsinki area at least before April 19th. This is because the Finnish government closed the county of Uusimaa around the Helsinki area and only goods transports and necessary work-related traffic is allowed. Luckily the area where Emil stays is on an island and there are plenty of running paths where Emil can continue with his training and do at least some of the training together with Erik.

Beppe and I want to thank you all once more and wish you a very, very nice Easter! We hope we will be able to meet you some time in the (near) future!

Kind regards,

Susanna

We also received the photos below, the first showing Emil back in Finland. The others show Emil with his local host parents, Pete & Nora, as they took him to the airport. Emil was a fine young man and a great representative of Finland and Rotary. He will be greatly missed by his host families, his friends at Alleman, and by all Rotarians who had the opportunity to become acquainted with him.



ROCK ISLAND ROTARIAN, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT REGINALD LAWRENCE, LEADS DISTRICT THROUGH UNCHARTED WATERS



As we all struggle through the hardships and inconveniences of the Covid-19 pandemic and try to plan our days to both stay safe and provide for the needs of our families and home, think about the responsibility facing fellow member Reginald Lawrence who is charged with the safety and education of almost 6,000 children in the Rock Island-Milan School District. Don't forget schools are not what they were when many of us attended. "Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic" are now just part of the school equation with state and federal laws adding responsibility for providing nutritional breakfasts and lunches for all. Though the buildings are closed, the responsibility to continue teaching and feeding the children continues. Initially Dr. Lawrence and his staff developed "Learning Packets" that parents were asked to pick up at various school locations. The

packets contained instructions and learning materials for parents to use with their children. This was implemented early on when the governor closed the schools while behind the scenes local educators worked at an amazing pace to develop a more student and parent friendly learning option. After less than two weeks to prepare and develop materials, the School District introduced "E-Learning" E-Learning provides detailed lessons and instruction via the internet. Lessons are posted in 10-day blocks for every grade level in our schools. Assignments are provided through "Choice Boards" with activities for each day posted by teachers. The first 10-day block was posted on the E-Learning district website on March 31st. Daily activities are to be completed by students to meet the E-Learning Day requirements. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure students complete the activities. Supplemental materials are provided in free Kits which are distributed at school meal site locations. These material kits have scratch paper and writing utensils included. The kits provide students with materials needed to complete the activities for the next 10 days of learning. Communication with Teachers is also available Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Staff members work throughout the day to respond to student and parent questions about assignments. Emails sent to teachers and administrators during 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. receive a response. A District Staff Directory is also posted online so students and parents can search by teacher name. Here is what a Choice Boards look like:



Grade school board shown. Jr. High & High School Boards also provided.

Rock Island-Milan School District 41

E-Learning Plan Days 1-10

Click on the grade and day you wish to access for the E-Learning Day plan.

Early Childhood & Elementary: Grades Pre K - 6

****Accommodations, modifications, adaptations, and English Learner (EL) supports are noted where available.**

PreK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Kindergarten <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Grade 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Grade 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Grade 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10
Grade 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Grade 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Grade 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Special Education PARENTS/GUARDIAN: Click HERE for additional ideas on ways to help your child, if they receive special education services.	English Learners PARENTS/GUARDIAN: Click HERE for additional ideas on ways to help your child, if they receive English Learner services.
Gifted Grade 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Gifted Grade 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Gifted Grade 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Gifted Grade 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10 	Functional Special Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Days 1 & 2 Days 3 & 4 Days 5 & 6 Days 7 & 8 Days 9 & 10

How did students and parents find out about E-Learning? Another task handled by Lawrence and his staff. Every student/parent's home was called and given details about the system. They were told that they could access the district website on any laptop, tablet, desktop, or smartphone.

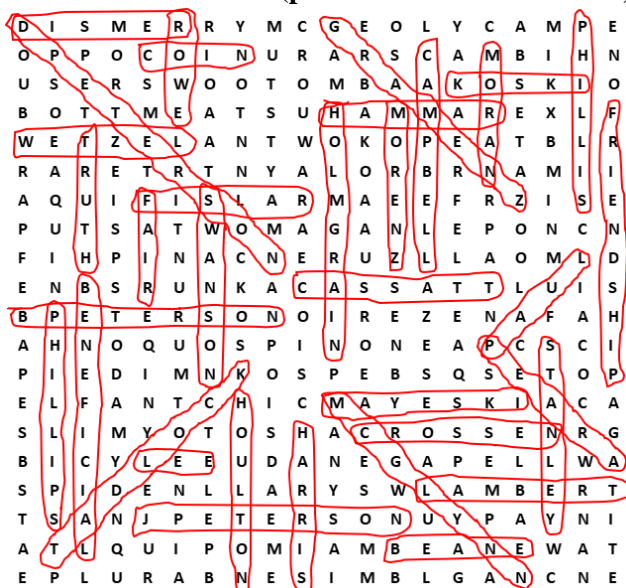
SCHOOLS - If the home did not have Internet, the district helped them connect with Mediacom or AT & T as they are both offering Internet deals to low income households. In a few cases the school district provided households with a wireless router so they can connect to the Internet. For homes without a computer or smartphone, parents were advised to contact the child's teacher. Arrangements were made to provide the home with a district owned "Chromebook" (a type of laptop computer used by students in their classroom).

Another fellow Rock Island Rotarian deeply involved in the school district's work to ensure kids are kept safe while continuing to learn, is District spokesperson, Holly Sparkman. Summing up the District 41's ongoing effort, Holly said, "All said and done we did not really have much of a spring break. Once the Governor announced the school closure it has been pretty much "organized chaos" to organized meal sites, prepare the first wave of e-learning materials, help families get Internet access, deploy Chromebooks to families that really need a device and help them with support services (counselors, social workers, Special Ed, etc.). Next week are launching our second wave of e-learning that includes the use of Google Classrooms. Our teachers and principals have been working hard to make sure families have those Chromebooks in hand when the Google Classroom goes onboard on Tuesday, April 14. Fingers crossed! If I were running a marathon, I would say that we are at Mile 18. Mile 18 is a place where you are well over halfway there, but still have a stretch to go and you need to find the resources (mentally and physically) to make it to the finish line. You need to constantly talk to yourself and tell yourself to keep running, because all you want to do is stop and walk. The weird part in this is that we don't know where the finish line is (April 30? Or end of May?) but we have to keep running nonetheless."



Earlier we mentioned food. Our schools are closed but the school district's food service continues at an amazing pace. In a letter posted by Dr. Lawrence he said, "We are continuing to offer those essential services necessary for our families in RIMSD41. Over the past weeks, we have served more than 18,000 meals at 7 school sites throughout the district. We have been fortunate to have such amazing volunteers who come to both prepare and pass out meals as needed. We will continue to offer meal packs on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at those same school sites until further notice." So as we think about providing for the few in our families during the "shelter at home" time, keep in mind people like fellow Rotarian Reginald Lawrence who has a family of 6,000 kids and well over a thousand staff members counting on him. By the way, the letter we quoted from above, was translated and sent to homes in English, Arabic, Burmese, Chin, French, Karen, Kiyarwanda, Spanish, and Swahili. -- No big deal! Thank goodness for the tireless work of Rotarians Reginald Lawrence and Holly Sparkman. We're proud to have you as Rotarians, friends, and leaders of our community. Service Above Self in Action!

Wordsearch Solution (puzzle in 4/7/20 Newsletter)



A Joke Shared by Rick Devinney

After becoming very frustrated with the attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the young blonde declared, "Well, then, maybe I'll just go out and catch my own alligator and get a pair of alligator shoes for free!" The shopkeeper replied with a sly smile, "Well, little lady, why don't you go give it a try?" The blonde headed off to the swamp, determined to catch an alligator. Later in the day, the shopkeeper was driving home and spotted the young woman standing waist-deep in the murky water, shotgun in hand. He saw a huge 9-foot gator swimming rapidly toward her. With lightning reflexes, the blonde took aim, shot the creature and hauled it up onto the slippery bank. Nearby were 7 more dead gators all lying belly up. The shopkeeper watched in amazement as the blonde struggled with the gator. \Then, rolling her eyes, she screamed in frustration..... "CRAP!! THIS ONE'S BAREFOOT TOO!!!!"