



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

June 23, 2020: Volume XXVII, Issue 50

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



July Calendar

- July 7 - President Angela Campbell takes the reins of Rock Island Rotary and lays out her hopes and expectations for the coming year.
- July 14 - Steve Bahls Augustana College President
- July 21 - Jerry Huiskamp Former President of Blackhawk Bank
- July 28 - Chris Marme Augustana Economics Dept.



Some of the many faces of our President including wife Kim and daughters, Maya & Madelyn

THANK YOU, PRESIDENT MARK MAYESKI

Today was the final meeting presided over by President Mark Mayeski. Mark wraps up a year of challenge, innovation, and great accomplishments. He opened each meeting with a joke and was devoted to ensuring that Rotary was relevant, forward thinking, and fun. When the Covid-19 pandemic shut down in person meetings, Mark shifted gears and presided over our first ever virtual meetings via ZOOM. Today in his farewell address, Mark took us "Down memory lane" with a great slide show presentation of highlights from the past year. He began with a "thank you" to the club for honoring him as our president. He stated it was a fantastic experience. He then noted that his first meeting was July 9th, 2019 and said he was a bit nervous in taking on the responsibility of leading our Club. Early on in his presidency we were able to make the second installment of our pledge for purchasing a new van for Spring Forward Learning Center. Mark commented on the great work the center does for kids in our community and with a photo of the van, pointed out that our club receives daily "PR" as the van moves through town displaying our Rotary logo. His next photo was of Rotary Night at the Ball Park where he had the fun of throwing out the first pitch for the Quad City River Bandits. Moving forward in his year Mark had photos of the 2019 Labor Day Parade, including one of his ride through the parade in Bud Phillis' "Prowler" sports car. President Mayeski noted our "adoption" arrangement with Earl Hanson Elementary School and thanked Tom Hammar and Molly Shattuck for helping to ensure our involvement with the school is meaningful. He pointed to a resurging Rotaract Club at Augustana and thanked Sue Rector, Kai Swanson, and John Oliger for their efforts to sponsor the club and recruit members. Mark included some great photos of our successful "Pumpkin Palooza" in which we treated all the 1st and 2nd grade Earl Hanson students to a special tee shirt and a fieldtrip to the pumpkin patch near Alpha, Illinois. He then noted that for the first time, the City of Rock Island issued a proclamation declaring World Polio Day in Rock Island with 1st Vice President, Angela Campbell attending the council meeting to receive the proclamation. He also pointed out that our club was recognized for the 2nd highest giving in our entire district to the Rotary International Foundation. We also received a Rotary District matching grant that allowed us to purchase an Early Literacy Station for the Rock Island public library. Mark recognized those who served as program chairman during his year and lauded the high-quality programs that were presented.



[see Mayeski, Page 3]



Club of Rock Island

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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 Olinger

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 was pleased to have five guests at today's meeting. Duncan Cameron, a visiting Rotarian joined us from Naples, FL. Also joining was Mark Zimmerman, from the Davenport Club. Special guests were Kim Mayeski and daughters, Maya & Madelyn. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the Number One Club!
- ☐ **BORED STAYING AT HOME!** Grab your Club Directory and call a Rotarian. Just chat, find out how they are doing and compare notes on how they pass the time while Sheltering at Home. Maintaining a semblance of social contact is good for you and you'll be surprised how good you feel just chatting with a fellow club member. You might just "make the day" for the Rotarian you call.
- ☐ **SERVICE** – Rotary members are needed to help with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. We help every Thursday. The Pantry serves those using walkers and scooters starting at 4:30pm. The distribution to the general public will begin at 5:30pm and will last until 6:30pm. They do not need our help to serve the early group, therefore, the volunteer time needed is only one hour. During the current health crisis, the needs of the less fortunate still exist 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-packaged into bags and just hand 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 at 309-721-7632 or just show up any Thursday at 5:15 to help pack bags. Clients will not come into the food pantry until further notice.
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

New Member Applicants

Rock Island Rotary was pleased to receive two new membership applications in the past week.

Carrie Smith works in the Illinois Casualty Company Human Resources Department and is on their Corporate Citizenship Committee. She has applied for membership to be added to the ICC Corporate Membership. This would bring the ICC total members to 4. Carrie's sponsor is Howard Beck

David Hodge, Director of Centers for Youth Hope has also applied for membership. Dave is based out of the Rock Island Youth Hope facility at 2707 11th Street. Dave's sponsor is Bruce Peterson.

Please direct comments or questions to Mark Mayeski or Angela Campbell.

GOOD NEWS – BAD NEWS

We were pleased to learn that long time member Chris Britton will become the new creative writing teacher at Rock Island High School starting this fall. Chris joined our club in 2007 and has provided us with many interesting programs featuring Youth Hope student poets. He will do a great job at Rocky.

The bad news – classroom teachers are not free to leave school for lunch meetings with students scheduled throughout the day. That has resulted in Chris submitting his Rotary resignation. He will be missed.

Mayeski – continued:

President Mayeski then thanked Kevin Koski for his work on the Birdies for Charity Fundraiser which set a record in 2019 with \$5,959.00 raised and contributed to our Rock Island Club Foundation. Even though it was a difficult year with the last four months saddled by the covid-19 pandemic restrictions, Mark noted that we still were able to induct new members into our Club and recognized Dr. Reginald Lawrence, Superintendent of the Rock Island-Milan schools as one of our new members. On the social side of things, he included photos from our Holiday Party at Circa 21 and urged members, particularly our newer members, to make it a point to attend this coming year. Moving on down memory lane, Mark had photos of our members ringing the bell for the Salvation Army during the holiday season. That project is one that Mark personally headed up, saying it is one of our most popular and fun service projects. Moving on he displayed photos taken at our Trivia Night and noted that we had a record setting crowd and raised funds far beyond our budget for the event (by more than \$3,000!) allowing us to provide substantial support for Earl Hanson School and for several other worthy community organizations. He was pleased that we continued the “Rotary Spotlight” program in which our members are highlighted and stated his hope that this tradition is continued. Mark then paid tribute to Hilde Wray who at the end of 2019 presented a \$20,000 donation in the name of Sam Wray, for our Kenya Water Project. Sam was the primary proponent of doing a water project and led the way in donations prior to his unfortunate passing. From that Mark moved to photos of our Rotary Reindeer Ramble 5K race. He thanked the committee that worked on the project and in particular, Dick and Mary Fislar who provided the race expertise that made this another fundraiser that exceeded its anticipated budgeted income. Mark added that Dick and Mary have agreed to assist again next year as our race advisors. Moving on, Mark thanked Frank Lambert and the Community Grants committee and reminded us that only through support of our fundraisers are we able to continue our club’s generous support of community needs. During Mark’s presidency Community Grants provided \$1,000 to Girls Scouts, \$700 to Dress for Success, \$700 to One Eighty, \$400 to Rock Island Library, \$500 to First Tee of the Quad Cities, and \$1,000 to the Children’s Advocacy Center. After the pandemic caused us to suspend luncheon meetings, the saved funds were used to support pandemic relief efforts including \$1,000 to the Children’s Advocacy Center, \$500 for Heart of Hope, and \$1,000 to Friendship Manor. President Mark also noted a \$3,000 donation via a District 6420 matching grant to Christian Care for new chairs for their meal facility. Individual Rotarians were thanked for their strong support of the Rotary International Foundation and Larry Tadlock was praised for achieving his Paul Harris +7 status. Tom Hammar was thanked for coaching the Earl Hanson Chess Club for the past 11 years and seeing that the kids are recognized for their achievements and treated to lunch with our club. In March the pandemic struck and Rotary meetings were cancelled. Shortly thereafter we began ZOOM meetings and were pleased to have between 30 to 44 members join the virtual meetings each Tuesday. We all learned much about sheltering at home and technology. Rotarians showed their resilience with Dr. Tricia Barron sewing masks for anyone who asked. The Bert Blood Scholarship Committee held virtual interviews and selected our 2020 scholarship winner with \$4,700 distributed among the five winners. Co-chairs Ruth Lee and Anne McGlynn and their outstanding committee carried forward with our Wine Raffle fundraiser. How do you sell tickets when you can’t be with people? Simple, you put on a wine bottle costume, get on the internet, and contact everyone you can think of. Ruth did that; and, in the end we again achieved a more than budgeted income allowing us to make a \$2,500 gift to the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. Mark wrapped up his presentation acknowledging our 2020 A. T. Peara Award winners, Carrie Crossen and Mark Mayeski, and our Luckenbill-Wray Award winner, Bob Swanson. President Mark thanked his officers and Board for their work and support and acknowledging incoming president, Angela Campbell, saying after working with her for the past two year, he is confident she will be an outstanding president. Mark then was treated to a “virtual standing ovation” and received thanks from the club. It was an incredible and difficult year. President Mark Mayeski navigated the storm and brought us safely home. Next week we begin a new journey with President Angela Campbell.

[If you missed the meeting and want to see Mark’s program, it is on our website, www.rirotary.com]

THE TAB GROWS!

Today when President Mark called for "Happy Dollars" we were pleased to hear replies from a number of members. Jeff Dismer announced that his son Marshall and daughter-in-law Allie welcomed their first baby into the world. Congratulations grandpa! Also celebrating were Bud and Diane Phillis on the occasion of their 62nd anniversary and John and Marcia Wetzel for their 51st anniversary. Then Tom Hammar reported that Rotarians had met his challenge with 21 booklists submitted resulting in Tom making good on his promise to donate \$200 to the Rock Island Club Foundation if 20 or more lists were submitted. Thanks to all who spoke up!



The Illinois Quad Cities Rotary Club is partnering with River Bend Food-bank providing support for their School Pantry Program. Their "Gift Card Raffle" has 17 gift cards representing local businesses for a total of \$345.00 in value. For every dollar raised, the Rotary Foundation will match up to \$1500. The raffle drawing will be held on July 15th. To purchase tickets, simply contact the Illinois Quad Cities Rotary Club president, George McDoniel at g.mcdoniel@mchsi.com. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Sometime in March, the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) concluded its final field visit to Nigeria to determine the country's polio-free status. The news buzzing around the Rotary world is that Polio is no longer endemic in Nigeria and that the most populous nation in Africa is certified Polio-Free by the World Health Organization. Nigeria has not had a case of wild poliovirus since July 24, 2014. All laboratory data has confirmed that a full 12 months has passed without any new cases.

Rotary International has contributed, through TRF about \$268 million to fight Polio in Nigeria; so, this is a victory worth celebrating. The chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, Dr. Tunji Funsho, while acknowledging the milestone, cautions Rotarians about celebrating too soon. "It's paramount that we ensure all doors are locked to the re-entry of the wild poliovirus into our country."

As recently as 2012, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide. However, according to WHO, no less than 200,000 volunteers across the country repeatedly immunized more than 45 million children under the age of 5, to ensure that no child would suffer from this paralyzing disease. Commenting on this huge accomplishment, WHO's Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan said, "we must now support the efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, so they soon join the polio-free world."

Since 1988, polio incidence has been reduced by more than 99 percent. Before then, the virus was paralyzing an average of 350,000 children every year in more than 125 countries.

As we begin a new Rotary year, let us continue to support all efforts at eradicating Polio from the face of the planet.

"There's been an amazing organization that's been behind this...It was due to Rotary that the campaign was started." Bill Gates on Eradicating Polio.



Rock Island Rotary
PUMPKIN PALOOZA 2020
Hosting First and Second grade classes from Earl Hanson School

Wednesday, September 30, 2020
Should this event be postponed or changed, we will still plan something fun for the kiddos and teachers and give them a t-shirt.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship \$100

Helps to provide a t-shirt for every participant

Sponsor's name/logo will be printed on the back of the shirts

Thank you for your support for a great day for a great group of kids.

*Please make checks payable to Rock Island Rotary and indicate this is for
Pumpkin Palooza Sponsorship.*

Thank you.

The Pumpkin Palooza Team
Contact Palooza Chair: Sue Rector
suerector@augustana.edu