



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

July 14, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 2

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



AUGUSTANA PRESIDENT ROTARIAN STEVEN C. BAHLS

Today our program was presented by fellow member, Augustana College President, Steve Bahls. A testament to the character of Dr. Bahls is that we tend to think of him as just a great guy and fellow Rotarians. In fact, he

is much, much more. He is the eighth president of Augustana College. He joined the college in 2003 and was installed as president in October of that year. He is just the eighth president of Augustana College; amazing considering the college was founded in 1860 by the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod. During his tenure as President, major campus improvements have included the building of Duane R. Swanson Commons; the Dorothy Parkander Residence Center, the Murry and Cindy Gerber Center for Student Life, John and Mary Thorson-Lucken Field, the Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex, and the Kim and Donna Brunner Theatre Center. In addition, substantial renovations have been completed to Old Main, Emmy Evald Hall, and the Thomas Tredway Library. New programs have been added in Africana studies, creative writing, engineering physics, ethics, graphic design, international business, journalism, music composition, neuroscience, and data analytics; faculty leaders have launched the Augustana Center for Polar Studies, the Upper Mississippi Studies Center, and the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning. Bahls has authored multiple widely published books and scholarly articles and has served on the boards of national higher education organizations including the Council of Independent Colleges and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he currently chairs the board of the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America and the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. He also served on the NCAA Division III Presidents' Advisory Council and was an invited member of President Barack Obama's White House Summit on Higher Education. Prior to joining Augustana College, he was dean at Capital University Law School, Prior to joining Capital's law program, he served as associate dean and professor at the University of Montana School of Law. From 1979 through 1985, he practiced corporate law with the Milwaukee firm of Frisch, Dudek and Slattery. He is a CPA and a lawyer. He is active as a leader in our community. Since coming to the Quad Cities, he has been chair of the executive board of the Illowa Council of Boy Scouts of America, the board of the Putnam Museum of Natural Science, and completed two terms as president of the board of the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce, in which role he helped lead efforts to create the unified (Illinois and Iowa) Quad City Chamber. He is chair of the Genesis Health System board and has served on the boards of directors of the United Way of the Quad Cities, the Quad City Symphony Orchestra Association, and the Quad Cities Cultural Trust. He is a tri-chair of Q2030, the regional plan for building the economic and cultural vitality of the Quad Cities as a cool, creative, connected, and prosperous community. Today he spoke with us about the challenges facing Augustana from both the pandemic and birth dearth that occurred after the 2008-2009 Great Recession..

[See Bahls page

July Calendar

- July 21 - Gerry Huiskamp Former President of Blackhawk Bank
- July 28 - Chris Marme Augustana Economics Dept.
- Aug 4: - Maria Ontiveros, Mercado on Fifth
- Aug 11 - TBD
- Aug 18 - Laura Mahn, NEST (Nourish Everyone Sustainably Together)
- Aug 25 - Chase Norris, Clock Inc.
- Sept. 1 - Melissa Sharer, St Ambrose University Master of Public Health program on social determinants of health
- Sept. 8 - State of the Schools, Dr. Reginald Lawrence - joint meeting hosted by RI Kiwanis
- Sept 15- Dr LaDrina Wilson, Black Hawk College
- Sept 22- Jerry Jones, Martin Luther King Jr Community Center
- Sept 29- Mariah Benson, CAUSE & Tobacco-Free QC



Club of Rock Island

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www.rirotary.com

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Program Chairs

2019-20

Aug – Sept Rebecca Arnold

Oct – Nov John Daly

Dec – Jan John Wetzel

Feb – Mar Gary Rowe

Apr – May Bill Stengel

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 two visiting Rotarians at today's meeting. Duncan Cameron, from the Naples, Florida club, and Kathy Schmidt from the Morrison, IL Club joined us. Kathy is our District 6420 newsletter editor. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the Number One Club!
- ☐ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORY BOOKS** have been printed and will be distributed to members when we are able to meet in person once again.
- ☐ **JULY 20th BOARD MEETING** will be held via ZOOM. All club members will be sent an invitation and are invited to join the meeting.
- ☐ **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.

ROTARY'S DONATION TO CHRISTIAN CARE DELIVERED!

Our most recent District Grant project is now completed. Our project was to fund the purchase of chairs for the local Christian Care facility's dining room. Their old chairs were a hodgepodge of old worn and broken chairs and there were not enough for the 30 residents being sheltered. Rock Island Rotary agreed to contribute \$1,500 and obtained a District 6420 matching grant from District 6420. This past week the new chairs arrived! Cindi Gramenz, Development Director of Christian Care expressed her appreciation to our club for the gift and sent us these photos.



[Bahls – continued] President Bahls Stated that prior to last March everything was rolling along smoothly at Augustana. A good strategic plan was in place, the year was going well, and the future looked bright. Then Covid-19 brought everything crashing down. Classes were suspended and students were sent home. He noted that the greatest strength of Augustana is being together – together in class, on athletic teams, in dorms, in clubs and campus organizations, He said Augustana is a tight knit community and that their greatest strength was taken from them. The big challenge was to develop a plan for how Augustana would look this fall. Steve said that the guiding principles for Augie are: 1) Safety – of students, employees, and visitors. He said the greatest concern is for employees, particularly those who are 65 years or older. He stressed that in decisions regarding safety, Augie is relying on public health officials not media or politicians for their information and guidance. 2) Live classes are better than on-line classes. This takes into consideration the interaction and entire college experience that is lost through ZOOM or other online options. He said Augustana plans to reopen on August 31st with a blend of in-person and high-quality alternatives available for students and faculty. He anticipates 80% of classes will be live and 20% will be online. Strict health regulations will be in place and will be enforced. Students and staff will have temperature checks and will be required to complete a daily 5 question questionnaire. Wearing face masks or shields will be required as will social distancing. Cleaning and sanitization will meet or exceed pandemic recommendations. The President also said it is not likely they will test all students when they return but do plan to have bi-weekly random tests in addition to the required temperature checks and surveys. Faculty members who are high risk will work from home and teach online classes. Augustana will also be opening a new health clinic on campus in conjunction with Genesis Medical Center. He said he knows there will be disagreement and said it is a philosophical debate between those that believe we should isolate from covid and insulate everyone from the virus and those who believe we should live responsibility with it, using recommended precautions. Augie will attempt to satisfy both views by offering two tracts, live and on-line learning. Dr. Bahls affirmed that Augie has confidence in and will rely on public health officials. He said this is not an “on” or “off” situation, it is one that requires modification and flexibility since much is still unknown.. Bahls then briefly turned to a second issue, the birth rate dearth that occurred during the 2008-09 recession. He said this has caused a demographic flip that will hit colleges and universities in 2025. At that time there will be a 15% drop in the number of 18-year olds in Illinois meaning fewer college aged students. Bahls expects 25% of small college will cease existence because of these two issues. Those that will last are the ones (like Augie) that have high endowments and have been financially solid going into these tough times. Augie had to refund \$4 million this past year and anticipates losing \$15 million in the coming year along with an enrollment loss of 200-300 students. Fortunately, they have the resources to take the hit and rebound. To compete for the smaller student pool, Augie is adding several new degree offerings including Engineering, Kinesiology, Cyber Engineering and possibly Criminal Justice. Thank you Steve for an outstanding and thought-provoking presentation.

BOB & BUD TAKE OUR WATER PROJECT ON THE AIR!

Yesterday Rotarians Bob Swanson and Bud Phillis were in the WHBF-TV Studios taping a segment on the program, “Living Local”. The show features important and interesting things going on in the Quad Cities. This was the second time the show featured our Rock Island Rotary water project. About a year ago Bob & Bud were on the show demonstrating our water filter and talking about how our club initiated the project which to date has raised the funds to purchase 244 filter units, had them shipped to Kenya, and presently are providing safe clean water to over 17,000 children in rural villages that previously had no access to clean water. Brittany Price, co-host of the show stated that the segment was one of the more popular and interesting programs and asked Bob & Bud for an encore performance. This time portions of the video program about the project shown to our club were provided to Channel 4 and were used in the new taping. Brittany also requested that the filter be brought in again and that Bud do his demonstration of purifying “highly polluted and dirty water” into safe drinking water. Once again, the show co-host, Zane Satre, and several members of the TV crew and Brittany sampled the filtered product and testified that the water was clean, pure, and tasty. An appeal was made for donations to help continue the project. The segment aired yesterday at 2pm. WHBF posted it on Facebook and YouTube. If you would like to see it, the links are:
 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9A9Yp8bhuFY>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/1920844574876840/videos/622273515353094/>



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 \$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

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Foundation Minute welcomes the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, Rotarian K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran. The Sri Lankan native is a seasoned business executive. He has served as his country's Polio-Plus chair and is a third generation Rotarian who has served Rotary International in various leadership positions including International President 2015-2016. Ravindran has overseen several TRF Global Grants in forms of development projects aimed at improving lives of the many less fortunate in his country.

Through TRF's Global Grants, in excess of \$15million USD, over the past few years, a Sri Lankan hospital has been furnished with a human heart valve bank, established 25 schools destroyed by tsunamis that serve more than 15,000 children. Currently TRF is working with the Sri Lankan government in the eradication of cervical cancer.

In a Sri Lankan press release, it was reported that in this COVID-19 era, TRF is working on equipping hospitals with modern MRI equipment. This completely automated equipment will increase the MRI's ability to do substantially more tests per day, give very accurate results and also protect the lab staff from any source of contamination. The total value of equipment, PPEs and other material for the MRI project exceeds Rs.120 million. (1,597,922.40 US\$)

In neighboring Bangladesh, Rotary International District 3281, with the help from TRF, has started a program to deliver more than 150,000 meals to low-income people affected by the COVID-19 lockdown. Additionally, a TRF sponsored program will provide financial and food assistance to more than 3,000 families for a month's expenses. Inaugurating the program on Saturday, July 11, 2020, District Governor M. Khairul Alam assures that as long as there are virus outbreaks in his district, Rotary would continue to work for the people of Bangladesh.

"There are people on this planet whose lives are better now because you traversed this earth. And it doesn't matter if they know that or not. It doesn't matter if they even know your name or not. What really matters is that your work touched lives; that it left people healthier, happier, better than they were before."

GRAMENZ WINS & DONATES

Birdies Chairman Kevin Koski announced that Cindi Gramenz was the winner of the \$50 prize for the most accurate birdies number guess. She graciously accepted and then donated her winnings to our local Club Foundation. Amber Brummit had the next closest guess, no prize, but our "pat on the back"! Thanks to all who participated and made this another successful Birdies Fundraiser! Thanks Kevin for all the work!