



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

July 28, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 4

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



LATE SPEAKER CANCELLATION LEADS TO INTERESTING ZOOM CLUB ASSEMBLY

Our guest speaker for the day, Dr. Chris Marme, head of the Augustana College Economics Department was forced to cancel his presentation as a result of family illness. We look forward to rescheduling Professor Marme in the future and send our best wishes and prayers to his ailing mother. After valiant efforts to locate a replacement program, it was decided to use the time to hold our first "virtual" Club Assembly. Clubs are urged to periodically hold assembly sessions where goals, issues, and plans for the club can be discussed and shared with the entire membership. Today 40 members and several guests joined our meeting. President Campbell opened the session by leading a discussion regarding our annual fundraisers. These events are critical to Rock Island Rotary being able to continue our community impact with grants and donations to various non-profit organizations and community projects.

-Trivia Night- Our largest fundraiser, Rotary Trivia Night was scheduled for early November at the Milan Community Center. This event typically provides several thousand in profit shared by the club and Earl Hanson Elementary School. Chair, Kathy Trone, advised us that our host site for the event, the Milan Community Center will not be open for groups over 50 people until at least mid-2021. Therefore we do not have a site. Secondly,, Mr. Trivia, who has provided the questions and entertainment for the evening may or may not be operating by the time large group gatherings are again allowed. Therefore our Trivia Night has been postponed pending further resolution of the Covid-19 Pandemic situation. Kathy and her committee will keep working and are hoping to be able to host the event some time, hopefully in the spring of 2021

- Rotary Ramble – Our annual 5K race is on the calendar for December 6th. Chair, Kathy Lelonek reported that because of the Pandemic, plans have been on hold. Most other road races in our area have been cancelled or switched to virtual races. Some virtual races have had good success, others have not. Much will depend on the advice received from race advisors, Dick and Mary Fislar who have organized and operated numerous races over the past many years. Kathy will consult with them and bring a recommendation to the Board. She noted that often the greatest fun is at the post-race award presentation and refreshments, which might be prohibited under the current Pandemic rules.

- Birdies for Charity – This fundraiser was completed earlier this month. Chairman Kevin Koski was happy with the pledged contributions, but will not know until October what the project generated in total. Invoices must be sent and payment received back before the John Deere Charitable Foundation can determine its matching share.

- Dining Books – This fundraiser chaired by Bud Phillis, is possibly not going to happen this year. Information was reported that the Book will not be produced this year since many of the participating establishments are either closed or struggling with limited seating rules and regulations. We will be checking further, but may likely lose this income opportunity for 2020.

- Wine Raffle – This fundraiser was also completed this spring with outstanding success through the efforts of chair, Ruth Lee and her committee. Most of the fundraising was done via internet and ZOOM contact, and a few live appearances of Ruth in her "wine bottle" costume. The committee will be meeting in September to begin organizing plans for next spring. President Campbell asked all for suggestions and ideas for replacing our lost fundraisers!

July Calendar

- Aug 4: - Maria Ontiveros, Mercado on Fifth
- Aug 11 - Reverend Dwight Ford.
- 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



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Officers

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

Board Members

Howard Beck
Kim Calhoun
Molly Shattuck
Eric Westphall
John Daly
Chris Lemon
Sue Rector
Gary Rowe
Bob Swanson Co-Sgt.-at-Arms
Cindi Gramenz Co-Sgt.-at-Arms

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 three guests at today's meeting. Two were visiting Rotarians including Mark Zimmerman, from the Davenport Club, and Jenni Swanson from the Moline Club. Also joining us today was Quinn Koski, Kevin Koski's cute "almost 4-year old granddaughter. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the Number One Club!
- ☐ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORY BOOKS** were delivered over the past few days to all members at their home or place of business. Thanks to John Wetzel, Cindi Gramenz, and Bob Swanson for making the deliveries. Please note the last page give you a spot to add new members who joined after the book was printed. Two new members were named in last week's newsletter.
- ☐ **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.

OUR HONORARY MEMBERS

Many may not be aware that our Club has several classifications of membership. Most of us are "active" members, some are "corporate associate" members, and a very, very, select few are "honorary" members. Section 3 of our By-laws provides that, "Persons who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals and those persons considered friends of Rotary for their support of Rotary's cause may be elected to honorary membership in this club." Honorary members may attend all meetings, but their attendance is not required nor reported to Rotary International. They are not charged dues and enjoy lunch on a "pay as you attend" basis. Honorary members receive a special "Honorary Rotarian" member pin. Our club has been very selective in bestowing this honor, reserving it for only long time members that have been integral to the success and well-being of our club and to those whose friendship with the club and support of Club ideals has been exemplary. Currently we have just 3 members who have received this prestigious designation. Former President, Julian C. (Jay) Stanley; former President, Don Peterson, PhD.; and as of the last meeting of our Board, Fred Houlton, former club president and District 6420 Governor. We welcome Fred into the prestigious company of Jay and Don.



Jay Stanley Don Peterson



Fred Houlton

IF THE PANDEMIC IS CAUSING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP? Rotary Cares!

Your Board of Directors understands and wants to ensure that our members are able to remain Rotarians through this tough period. They authorized offering all members having financial difficulties the option for dues reduction for up to two quarters by contacting the Club Treasurer, Carrie Crossen. The request will remain strictly confidential between the requesting Rotarian and Carrie. We love and trust our members and will be happy to lend a helping hand to ensure your continued membership. You can call Carrie at 309-291-1577.

HAPPY/SAD/FINES DOLLARS

It was a good day for the coffers, with many happy and sad dollars along with some "ratting out" of members who had a noteworthy week in the newspaper.

John Wetzel offered a sad dollar in commemoration of the death of Grace Iogha. Grace was the wife of long-time member and former club president, Don Iogha, who passed away in 2008. Grace was 84 and living in Bettendorf. Her obituary noted that Grace was a Paul Harris recipient through the Rock Island Rotary, so John said it was also partially a happy dollar. Cindi Gramenz, stepped into her role as 2nd Vice President by first telling a joke, and then offering up a \$1 fine for the chorus of crickets that responded! Frequent guest, Mark Zimmerman offered a happy dollar in honor of his daughter giving birth to his brand-new granddaughter! Sue Rector offered a \$5 fine, but the motive was not revealed. Molly Shattuck called attention to Mark Mayeski's background photo of a beautiful Bengal tiger and the "Tiger King", Joe Exotic, and called for a \$1 fine. Molly then offered up her own \$14 contribution, noting that she was perhaps the 1st R.I. Rotarian with a positive Covid-19 diagnosis. She completed her 14-day isolation with no symptoms or complications and is back at work. Dr. Jim Nordquist, then added that he too had a positive Covid test, had one day of fever and no other symptoms. He has completed his isolation, which he said was more difficult than the disease, and is also back at work. He will chip in a happy dollar for his speedy recovery. Kevin Koski rounded out our voluntary contributors, tossing in a happy dollar for being in northern Wisconsin visiting his grandchildren. We had the pleasure of meeting his lovely "almost 4-year-old" granddaughter. Cindi Gramenz took on her new roll as the club "finer" and levied the following:

*All Club members who were not wearing their Rotary Pin for today's meeting were fined \$1 (We are relying on your "is it the Truth", Rotary commitment for this!)

*All Club members were assessed \$1 for home delivery of their new Rotary Directory (Again, you're on your honor to pay this one!)

*Ann McGlynn was fined in celebration of her wedding anniversary during the past week.

*Holly Sparkman was tapped for \$1 for appearing in an article about the School District Resource Officers.

- See also "The Tab", page 5

Club Members Support Our Local Club Foundation

Friends: \$500 to \$4,999

Patrons: \$5,000 to \$24,999

Sponsor: \$25,000 to \$49,999

Stan Harris Award: \$50,000 and above

Records for member contributions have been tracked since 2010. Also Birdies for Charity contributions have been tracked by member as these funds have been deposited into the Rock Island Rotary Foundation Fund since 2016. Below is a listing of the members who would be categorized in each of the levels noted above:

*Contributions through October 30, 2019

Friends:

Ernie Beane
Howard Beck
Stan Coin
Marcia Green
Tom Hammar
Ardo Holmgren
Frank Lambert
Ruth Lee
Fred and Nancy Luckenbill
Mark Mayeski
Ann McGlynn
John Phillips
Bud Phillis
Gary Rowe
John Slover
John Wetzel

Patrons:

None

Sponsor:

Tricia Barron

Stan Harris Award:

None

Thanks to these dedicated and generous Rotarians!

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

Welcome to the last Week in the Rotary International Month of Transition!

The news this week, centers on the efforts undertaken so far, by TRF, in combating COVID-19. The excerpts below are from the report by the 2020-21 Trustee Chair of The Rotary Foundation, Mr. K. R. "Ravi" Ravindran, in the current issue of The Rotarian:

"If a honeybee faces a giant hornet alone, the bee has a problem. But if the honeybee faces the hornet with a swarm of other bees, then it is the hornet that has a problem...The COVID-19 pandemic seemed like a situation that might overwhelm The Rotary Foundation. But as things have progressed, we have not allowed it to do so. As of 4 June, we have funded 208 disaster response grants for \$5.2 million and 169 new global grants at \$13.8 million — all in three months. We have leveraged individual Rotarians' generosity with Foundation funds and in many cases other corporate funds to make projects larger and more impactful...We never allowed the pandemic to overpower us. Indeed, history shows that Rotarians are a curious breed. We are visionaries, an idealistic lot that dreams big dreams of a better world. At the same time, we are resilient and able to withstand challenges that others might succumb to...We were not idle during the pandemic lockdowns. We raised funds and did projects just as we would have if there had been no lockdown. We remembered that it's the same business that we always do — reaching out to people in distress — except the methodology by which we did it changed...The Rotary Foundation is more than 100 years old and has already weathered many storms — some of them mild and others devastating to the world. Thanks to the strength, sacrifice, and compassion of Rotarians and the level to which they have extended themselves, I believe the Foundation will continue to face the future with renewed hope and inspiration...Our Foundation will emerge from this pandemic much stronger and more resilient as long as you continue to have trust and faith in it."

There is a world of difference between a problem and a challenge...Our process of preparing and delivering the projects changed...The way we communicated what we did changed. (K.R Ravindran, The Rotarian, August 2020).

THE TAB

Since starting ZOOM meetings in April, we've been keeping track of Happy/Sad Dollars and fines. Proceeds when eventually paid will go to the Rotary Foundation. So that many of us can begin saving our pennies for paying up when we again meet in person, here's where the "Tab" sits as of today, July 28, 2020.

April 14

Sue Rector
John Wetzel
Molly Shattuck
Ruth Lee
Jeff Dismer
Mike Thoms
Pete Wessels
Cindi Gramenz.

April 21

Pete Wessels
Mark Mayeski
Jeff Dismer
Kim Calhoun
Ruth Lee

April 28

Sue Cassatt
Kevin Koski
Gary Rowe

May 5

Ruth Lee
Holly Sparkman
Cindi Gramenz
Sue Cassatt

May 12

John Phillips
Bob Swanson
Molly Shattuck
Tammy Weikert
Sue Rector

May 19

Stan Coin
Kevin Koski
John Wetzel (2)
Monta Ponsetto (3)
Tom Hammar
Tammy Weikert

May 26

Cindy Gramenz

June 2

Gary Rowe
Kevin Koski
Bob Swanson (2)

June 9

Mark Mayeski
Ruth Lee
Kevin Koski
Kai Swanson (2)
Molly Shattuck
Dan McNeil

June 16

Cindi Gramenz
John Wetzel (2)
Rebecca Arnold
John Oliger

June 23

NONE

June 30

Jeff Dismer
Bud Phillis
John Wetzel
Tom Hammar

July 7

Cindi Gramenz
Gary Rowe
Angela Campbell
Mark Mayeski
Bob Swanson

July 14

None

July 21

Anne McGlynn
Tammy Weikert
Dan McNeil
John Wetzel
Ruth Lee
Kevin Koski

July 28

John Wetzel
Cindi Gramenz
Mark Zimmerman
Sue Rector (\$5)
Mark Mayeski
Molly Shattuck \$14
Jim Nordquist
Kevin Koski
All Member (not wearing pin)
All Member (book delivery)
Anne McGlynn
Holly Sparkman

The Grand Total! (To Date)

Rebecca Arnold	1
Kim Calhoun	1
Angela Campbell	1
Sue Cassatt	2
Stan Coin	1
Jeff Dismer	3
Cindi Gramenz	6
Tom Hammar	2
Kevin Koski	6
Ruth Lee	5
Mark Mayeski	4
Anne McGlynn	2
Dan McNeil	2
Jim Nordquist	1
John Oliger	1
John Phillips	1
Bud Phillis	1
Monta Ponsetto	3
Sue Rector	7
Gary Rowe	3
Molly Shattuck	17
Holly Sparkman	2
Bob Swanson	4
Kai Swanson	2
Mike Thoms	1
Tammy Weikert	3
Pete Wessels	8
John Wetzel	6
<u>Mark Zimmerman</u>	<u>1</u>
	\$97

Plus all club member were assessed today \$1 for Directory Delivery and \$1 if not wearing Rotary Pin!