



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

August 4, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 5

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Maria Ontiveros President of Mercado on Fifth, Moline

The idea for Mercado on Fifth came about during community meetings back in the early 2000's. The purpose of these

meetings was to construct a Floreciente Neighborhood Plan, as well as a Moline Comprehensive Plan, both of which called for the creation of new businesses and recreational activities that would bring neighbors together. Bob Ontiveros, who grew up in Floreciente and had already made significant improvements to the neighborhood through philanthropic commercial development, participated in these meetings and was passionate about the vision. Bob's granddaughter Maria Ontiveros, upon returning to the Quad Cities after living abroad, was also inspired by the idea, and together they were able to bring Mercado to fruition. The two founded Mercado on Fifth in the summer of 2016. After witnessing the rapid growth and tremendous community support of Mercado, the leadership team, which included city planners, LULAC members and community partners, recognized the event had evolved into a cultural hub for the region. The need for expansion was evident, given the large increase in weekly attendance. This prompted Mercado to hire its first director, Melissa Freidhof-Rodgers, who will lead the organization into the next chapter. The fifth year of the seasonal market was scheduled to start in late May. The COVID-19 outbreak has put the fifth year of Mercado on Fifth's seasonal market on hold. "It is a bummer, but we're planning on using this season's plans at some point," Maria Ontiveros says. "We're just postponing it all until we can open back up." In the meantime, the non-profit organization is focusing on expansion and supporting its local vendors. Mercado on Fifth is hosting curbside pick-up events called "curbside cash mobs" at local restaurants, like D'Lua Pancake and Burrito House in Moline on April 29, 2020. "We are sending floods of customers their way on a particular day to show them some love," Ontiveros says. D'Lua Pancake and Burrito House owner Judith Mariscal says they had a busier Wednesday morning than normal with the non-profit's support. Events like this are helping bridge the gap for Mercado on Fifth vendors, as both dine-in service and this season's outdoor market is put on hold. "We just wanna make sure that all of our vendors are staying afloat during this difficult time," Ontiveros says. "We want to see them all come back when Mercado opens up again." With this season's start date on hold, the non-profit organization is focusing on expanding the market -- indoors. "This is a big deal for mercado because we ran out of room," Ontiveros says. "We were hosting about 1,000 people here every Friday night, and this space allows us to grow. It'll improve the gathering space once we were allowed to gather again. The new building and plaza, on the corner of 12th Street and 5th Avenue, will allow an extra 1,000 people to visit Mercado on Fifth. The first year Mercado had 2,000 patrons. At the end of the last season, Mercado wrapped up with over 20,000 visitors! Maria attributed the success of Mercado to her grandfather, Bob Ontiveros, who also founded Circle O, which has grown to be one of the largest hispanic owned businesses in the nation. She said that Mercado follows the same 4 montras her grandfather established for Circle O. 1) Why not us? 2) What do you sell? - What do you need? 3) Everyone wins when someone gets an opportunity 4) Do me a favor; sell something today! Each montra exudes optimism, determination, and initiative. Carrying forward those ideals, Mercado has provided a incubator for minority business, a platform for latin entertainers, cultural cuisine for the community, a family friendly tourist destination, and educational enrichment activities for children.

July Calendar

- 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

[See Mercado - page 4]



Club of Rock Island

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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

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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 two visiting Rotarians join us today. Duncan Cameron, from the Naples, Florida club, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club both attended. Additional guests joined the meeting in progress and unfortunately “escaped” before we learned their names. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the Number One Club!
- ☐ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORY BOOKS** were delivered last week 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 gives 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.

AUGUST A HUGE MONTH FOR ROTARY BIRTHDAYS!

November must be the month of romance, judging by the large number of Rotary babies making their debut in August! Happy Birthday to these celebrating members!

Monta Ponsetto

August 4

Tricia Barron

August 15

Dan McNeil

August 9

Amber Brummit

August 17

Pat Cunningham

August 9

John Daly

August 19

Jennifer Hirsch

August 10

Duncan Cameron

August 19

Marcy Bell

August 11

Jim Nordquist

August 21

Mary Fislar

August 11

Carrie Crossen

August 25

Reginald Lawrence

August 12

Julie Gelaude

August 29

Bud Phillis

August 12

Bruce Peterson

August 30



Birthdays



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

Stan Coin volunteered a happy dollar in celebration of the 17th Anniversary of building his current home. Monta Ponsetto offered \$62 in celebration of her birthday (is that \$2 a year?). She also three in \$3 in honor of the 3 broken ribs husband Mike received in a recent auto accident. John Phillips gave a happy dollar for the great Rotary International ad that played during a recent White Sox game. John Wetzel offered a \$1 in support of Sox fan Phillips and called on fellow Cub fans to join the donation. That plea was answered by Bob Swanson, Anne McGlynn, Bud Phillis, Stan Coin, and Gary Rowe. (there may have been others we missed). Howard Beck had a happy dollar in celebration of Illinois Casualty Company's recent expansion into Arizona. ICCo is now serving clients in 12 states. Rebecca Arnold contributed a \$1 for getting to take a long-awaited vacation. She ZOOMED in her introduction of today's speaker. Gary Row paid a \$1 fine for early leaving, and 2nd VP Cindy Gramenz and Tammy Weikert each paid a \$1 for joining late. Thanks to all who kept the "TAB" growing!

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

MERCADO – Continued

Maria also is staying busy during the Covid shutdown finding other important ways to serve the Hispanic community. She learned that the course necessary for obtaining Food Licensure enabling a person to own or manage a food establishment in Illinois was not available locally for Spanish speaking students. The nearest offering was in Chicago. Maria offered to teach the class and convinced Black Hawk College to add it to their course catalog. Students enrolled and the class is underway. Mercado also continues to offer Small Business equipment grants of \$1,000, helping local entities expand, upgrade, or obtain new equipment for their ventures. The time is also being used to plan for a huge “come back” next summer including many features that were postponed this year. Among those activities are a culture-based cooking class, vendor competitions for best Salsa and best Tacos, Salsa Dance lessons, booking numerous Latino bands, and a hope to complete a \$1 million renovation of the new Mercado indoor facility. Major work is needed in plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and parking lot. Mercado has obtained a Foundation commitment for matching funds, so for every dollar raised or donated, the total for Mercado is doubled. Ms. Ontiveros illustrated her presentation with photos and videos showing the growth and success of Mercado on 5th. Thank you for an interesting and highly informative program!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES UPDATED WEBSITE

President Campbell announced that Rotary International has updated its “My Rotary” website, the website for members only. and invited all members to check it out and to update their “My Rotary” profile, or to establish an account (there is absolutely no cost) if they have not yet done so. We checked it out and found the following on the front page of the site:

Welcome to the new My Rotary

It's finally here: the updated and improved My Rotary!

What you will find:

- A more intuitive design and interface
- Accessibility on mobile devices
- A personalized homepage with your club and district information
- Enhanced member profiles and search functions that help you connect with members
- Advanced privacy settings so you have more control over what personal information you share
- Detailed search filters so you can find a club based on language, location, and meeting type

You will find a streamlined, easy-to-use site that not only meets your needs, but enhances your overall membership experience.

This is just the beginning — we will introduce more updates in the coming months as we continue to upgrade the My Rotary experience for all Rotarians and Rotaractors.

Get started today! Update your member profile and choose your advanced privacy settings.

All members are encouraged to establish an account. Once established you can check your donation records whenever you wish. You can see your progress toward Paul Harris Fellow status and beyond. You also will have access to numerous free of charge online courses, discussion groups, and other Rotary benefits. Check it out! www.my.rotary.org



Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, April 16th at 6:30pm

SAVE the DATE and get your team together for Rock Island Rotary's annual fundraiser! Cash prizes, cash bar, 50/50, silent auction and TONS of FUN with MR. TRIVIA!!!

This fundraiser supports Earl Hanson Elementary School and RI Rotary Community Grants. Corporate Sponsorships are available!

When: Friday, April 16th, 2021

Where: Milan Community Center, 2701 1st Street East, Milan

Time: 6:30pm START time, doors open at 5:45pm

Cost: \$100 a table, up to 10 players

RSVP: Kathy Trone 309-794-9400 or Kathy@wesselspc.com

The Rock Island Rotary Club is challenging all other Rotary Clubs in the QC Area to participate and TRY to win the "Traveling Trophy" for the SMARTEST ROTARY CLUB!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to August, the Membership and Extension Month of Rotary International. This is when Rotarians celebrate the essence of the organization: doing good all over the globe with the support of TRF. While TRF supports global projects in the seven areas of focus, most clubs are also taking care of their immediate communities, especially in these days of COVID-19 when food shortage is an ever-present threat.

Many North Texas food banks have had at least 50% increase in demand for food since the pandemic started. In a global partnership, Rotary Clubs around Texoma, Texas, Rotary Districts 5790 and 5870 and were joined by a District 9810, Australia, to support The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank and United Regional, with a Covid-19 pandemic grant from TRF. The \$18,500 grant provided \$7,500 for the food bank and \$11,000 for the purchase of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) by United Regional.

"Food banks obviously are getting money for food," said Past District Governor Larry Petrash, Rotary International district 5790. "There's been approximately a fifty percent increase in demand for food. And then obviously the personal protective equipment in the hospitals is a big area and so this money will go to offset some expenses or extra expenses because of COVID-19."

Reminders:

August 12: International Youth Day

August 19: World Humanitarian Day

We all agree that we need to grow Rotary, but sometimes we can get caught up in the numbers game and lose sight of the bigger picture. After all, an increase in membership is meaningless if next year, those new members leave our clubs. Let's grow Rotary sustainably. Rotary's flexible options for participation will engage members and show the community how we're different from any other club. Let's celebrate that Rotary is now less about rules and more about joining together in a variety of ways besides traditional meetings. (Holger Knaack, President, 2020-21)