



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

September 9, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 10

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

### Dr. Reginald Lawrence II Superintendent of Rock Island-Milan School

#### September Calendar

- 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
- Oct. 6 - TBA
- Oct. 13: Miles Brainard- Rock Island Downtown Historic Dist.
- Oct. 20 - TBA
- Oct. 27 - Richard K. Whitaker, Jr CEO Vera French Community Mental Health Center

In a joint meeting of Rock Island Rotary and Rock Island Kiwanis, Dr. Reginald Lawrence, Superintendent of Rock Island-Milan Schools presented his second annual "State of the Schools" address. Dr. Lawrence received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He received his Administrative Leadership Certification in Educational Administration and Supervision from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2016 he earned his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership and Administration from National Louis University-Milwaukee. Dr. Lawrence served our country in the United States Army National Guard from 1985 to 2007 retiring after over 21 years with the rank of Sergeant. Prior to coming to Rock Island, Dr. Lawrence served as Regional Superintendent with the Milwaukee (WI) Public Schools. He also served as a teacher, an assistant principal and principal in Milwaukee Public Schools. He also served as an instructor for the Professional Urban Teaching Linking Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Lawrence was named Rock Island-Milan Superintendent in 2019. He and wife Pandora reside in Rock Island. Dr. Lawrence began his comments with the new mantra of Rock Island-Milan Schools: "One Team - One Goal". Noting the incredible challenges facing schools in this pandemic year, he said all have to come together as a team and work for the common goal of preparing students for their future. Lawrence said that the district serves 6,300 students who have established a 91% attendance record. The student to teacher ratio is 21-1 with a district-wide average class size of 23. Dr. Lawrence was pleased to report that the district's state assessment shows improvement in both math and English. "We are not satisfied", he said, "But the trend is in the right direction and that is good". Last spring Rock Island High School graduated 360 students who combined to earn \$3.5 million in scholarships and grants for post high school education, while also racking up over 2,000 hours of volunteer service. The Superintendent presented a laundry list of accolades and successes including a District robotics cooperative program with the Martin Luther King Center that culminated with students earning a trip to Iowa State University for championship competition. Students from the Center for Math & Science earned "Best Project" in Robotics and 8<sup>th</sup> overall in regional competition. Edison Jr. High students were Champions in the Math Counts regional competition and students from Washington Jr. High finished 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lawrence also praised the Earl Hanson Inspire Choir that tours the area entertaining seniors at various retirement and care facilities. The German program at Rock Island High School was named "School of Distinction" and the high school also produced a number of "All State" musicians, 15 Illinois State Scholars (indicating they are among the top 10% of students in Illinois). Thirty-two students were named Charles O. Austin Scholars in recognition of maintaining a 3.5 or higher grade average through six semesters of high school. In sports Lawrence named girls bowling, boys soccer, wrestling, and girls golf for bringing home conference and/or regional championships. The district also had staff members winning awards including Jennifer Page-Pearson a Rocky counselor, receiving the "I Have a Dream Award for community service. Washington Jr. High Principal, Kristin Allen was named Principal of the Year and Carmen Woods from Rock Island High School was Assistant Principal of the Year for the Black Hawk Region of the Illinois Principals Association. Lawrence also stated that major renovation projects were completed at several schools and at the high school fieldhouse and stadium.

Continued "Schools" - Page 3



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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** – We had two visiting Rotarians at today's meeting. Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Iowa club and Duncan Cameron, from the Naples, Florida club. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the Number One Club!
- ☐ **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE**– Our club has 6 “corporate members” that in total brought 23 members into Rock Island Rotary. One person from each entity is designated as the “primary member” and up to 4 others from the entity can be named as associate members. All are entitled to attend meetings, serve on committees, and fully participate in our club. A corporate membership is ideal for those that are unable to commit to attending weekly. The hope is that one member of the entity will be in attendance each week, although more than one are welcome. An corporate membership brochure and application is available from Bob Swanson. .
- ☐ **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 handed out to the guest. 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 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](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net).

## GREAT NEWS! DINING BOOKS ARE HERE!

Our Dining Book chair, Bud Phillis, has received a supply of the new 2020-21 Quad City Dining Book! Dining out after months of being sheltering at home will be a real treat and something positive to look forward to and they are good through October 31<sup>st</sup> of 2021. Over 350 Coupons including a **2 for 1 Circa 21 Coupon good for our Rotary Holiday Party!** Dining Tour books make great gifts! Introduces you to new restaurants! The price remains at \$35 for the value packed book. Rock Island Rotary receives a minimum of \$10 for each book sold. You can place an order by emailing Dr. Bud Phillis at [rphillis35@gmail.com](mailto:rphillis35@gmail.com). Make checks payable to Rock Island Rotary and write “Dining Book” on the memo line.



## ALAS, THE TAB TAKES A HIT!

Today's meeting was a joint meeting with Rock Island Noon Kiwanis, with 64 in attendance. It was Kiwanis' turn to act as host, so there were no Rotary fines levied and no Rotary “happy – sad” dollars offered. I'm sure we will make up for it next week, so bring your generous spirit with you! There was a bright spot. One Kiwanis member gave a happy dollar in honor of the Cubs being in 1<sup>st</sup> place. Great to know there are intelligent, high quality folks in Kiwanis too!

**Schools** - New secure entrances were constructed at Earl Hanson, Horace Mann, and Edison Jr. High. Gym bleachers were replaced at Rock Island High School, and at Washington and Edison Jr. High Schools. Rocky Stadium received a new turf surface, a new track surface, and new restrooms on both sides of the field. Recapping the past half year, Dr. Lawrence stated that school dismissed for their spring break in March not anticipating that a pandemic would prevent their return. That is exactly what happened. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2019-2020 was spent hurriedly handing out almost 3,000 chromebooks (laptop style computers), creating over 100 hot spots to ensure all students could access the internet. The district hosted 3,807 "Google Hangouts" and prepared and distributed 118,000 meals. Teachers and administrators underwent intense "crash" training on virtual education. Curricula was created and executed. Curricula was created and executed. A series of surveys were sent to parents to get input and seek opinions regarding a return to in-person or blended teaching. Behind the scenes administrators and building staffs had to prepare buildings for the eventual return of students. Signage, cleaning procedures, and classroom layouts had to be created. Policies for student movement, lunches, physical education classes, and group classes (band, orchestra, chorus for example) had to be established. Twelve hundred student outreach programs were created. The work continued into the summer along with serving 38,000 additional meals. With all of the pandemic issues, some "normal" business also had to be completed, including developing a new District Strategic Plan to replace the previous plan that expires in 2020. The new plan sets three priorities with goals for each. **PRIORITY - Engage all stakeholders through building respectful relationships.** The goals are • Consistent and ongoing communication • Positive climate of mutual trust and Respect • Cultural Competence. **PRIORITY - Improve academic outcomes and close achievement gaps through ensuring equity and opportunity for all students.** The goals are • Access to interventions, support, and enrichment • Equitable opportunities for academic growth to meet and exceed grade level expectations • Improve the graduation rate. **PRIORITY - Enhance and improve operations.** The goals are • Recruit, retain, and develop a diverse staff • Every building has a safe, modern, welcoming physical environment • Ensure financial integrity. Under the new strategic plan, the District's Mission is to prepare all children for individual success by providing a safe and inclusive quality education within a multicultural community. The district's Vision is to be a premier learning organization that enables students to achieve their maximum potential by equipping them with the necessary skills to be college, career, and life ready in a rapidly changing global society. The Strategic Plan also identifies the District's Core Values as: • An equitable, safe, inclusive, and welcoming climate. • Being a community and regional asset. • Promoting positive and consistent family and community collaboration. • Embracing and celebrating diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. • Student learning and achievement – academic growth and attainment; social and emotional growth; cultural inclusivity. • Empowering staff to teach, lead, and serve by example. In his "spare time" Dr. Lawrence has been visiting schools and classes assessing the current virtual education. He noted that the new, necessary approach to education is challenging for both students and teachers. He said if there is a positive to all of this, it is the knowledge and familiarity the staff is gaining in technology and its use in education. He thinks some portions of virtual teaching are here to stay, even after we return to in-person classrooms. When asked how he believes virtual education is working, Dr. Lawrence stated that mid-term grades will be going out next week. Students may not be in the buildings, but they are expected to put in the work and will be graded accordingly. In answer to another question, the Superintendent stated that the plan currently is to begin blended learning offering both virtual and in-person teaching starting with the second quarter, which begins in late October. He also said that their survey of parents indicated that 63% want their children to return to in-person classes. 37% prefer to remain strictly virtual. Dr. Lawrence stated that some group classes are using new technology that allows students (using orchestra as an example) to play their instrument at home and combine their playing with other students also playing at home so they can hear themselves performing in a group. A final question asked how virtual education is working for special needs children. Dr. Lawrence stated that these children have a great need for Social interaction and the presence of a teacher in front of them. He also said that most of the special education classes are small with fewer pupils per student therefore they can employ social distancing and provide the educational techniques needed. Dr. Lawrence ended his presentation by showing a video of the virtual graduation prepared for the class of 2020. It was great to see so many youthful, smiling faces in their bright red caps and gowns with gold trim and tassels. In particular hearing the students talk about the event was reassuring that our youth are well prepared for taking their place in society. Their comments were thoughtful and showed a great understanding of the adversity the school and students faced. Each expressed great appreciation for their event for the opportunity to have one last time to see their teachers and classmates. It did create a sense of pride to see 350 young adults each standing by a sign bearing their name carefully placed 6 feet apart from their classmates, in their graduation garb on the lawn of Rock Island High School.

Rotary and Kiwanis thank Superintendent Lawrence for his detailed and informative presentation. He and his staff of educators are truly "first responders" in this battle with the Covid-19 virus. Bottom line, even in this very tough Covid-19 year the Rock Island-Milan School District under the leadership of Reginald Lawrence is committed to ensuring success for our children. Thank you for your leadership and dedication!

## MADE YOUR RESERVATION YET?



Every year the holiday season seems to come around long before we expect it! Don't miss out on the Rotary Holiday Party on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Circa 21. An audience of just 50 will be allowed in the theater to ensure proper social distancing is followed. The meal will be served at your table rather than the traditional buffet. It will be a fun filled evening and a great break from the hustle and bustle of shopping and snow shoveling! Treat your special date to an evening of professional theater filled with holiday fun and music. Reserve now!



## Rock Island Rotary



## PUMPKIN PALOOZA 2020

Having some fun with the First and Second grade classes at Earl Hanson School

### UPDATE

Although we will be unable to take the kiddos to a pumpkin patch this year, we still plan to celebrate fall with them.

We will target  
Wednesday, September 30, 2020

**Thanks** to 7 RI Rotarians who have generously sponsored t-shirts for this year.  
Howard Beck, Rick Devinney, Jeff Dismer, Tom Hammar/Molly Shattuck, Ruth Lee,  
Mark Mayeski, Tammy Weikert

And to Tricia Barron who again is working with the printers.

**Thank you!**

What else are we working toward for that day???

- President Angela Campbell is looking into giving each kiddo a fall/pumpkin related **book**.
- \* Howard and Anne have the great idea of getting a small **pumpkin** for each kiddo – maybe going that day to scatter them throughout a grassy area and letting the kids pick a pumpkin. *Know any contacts for small pumpkins?*
- (Does anyone have a connection to getting 80-100 small pumpkins at a great price??)
- And, we are working on pulling together some fall/pumpkin puzzles and games that we can copy and print a booklet for each of the kiddos.
- **Other thoughts???**

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

**Thank you.**

The Pumpkin Palooza Team



## **FOUNDATION MINUTE**

Welcome to Rotary International's Basic Education & Literacy Month!

Basic health improvement goes hand in glove with this month's theme. All our stories this week celebrate the achievements of Rotarians improving lives both globally and in their communities with the financial support of TRF.

Before Valory Myers and three members of the Rotary Club of Fishers (IN) traveled to Sierra Leone and started a freshwater project, the West African country had very few sources of clean water. Since 2008, however, the country has witnessed much progress which came to a head recently with a \$290,600 (USD) grant from TRF. Commenting on the grant which is to fund 25 water wells in different communities across Sierra-Leone, Past President Myers explained that situations in the rural areas propelled his club into action. "We saw we could make an impact there where 60% of people at that time did not have access to clean water. They were getting water from streams, ponds, and other sources that weren't protected or sanitary." With a total of \$1,000,000 having been spent so far on water projects in Sierra-Leone, this Rotary Foundation Global Grant makes the fifth of such by the Rotary Club of Fishers.

In another Global Grant success, area Rotary Clubs jointly worked to obtain a \$96,850 fund for Covid-19 Response for community healthcare providers in Alameda County. The Rotary Club of Livermore and the Rotary E-Club of Lake Atitlan-Panajachel, Guatemala, represented the Area 4 Rotary clubs comprising: Hayward, Castro Valley, Dublin and Pleasanton, among others. The grant will fund essential COVID-19 medical equipment for three local community health centers aside from engaging volunteers to participate in "high-priority" COVID-19 education, outreach and support initiatives. Area 4 Rotary Clubs have supported similar COVID-19 responses in the past.

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Bukoba, Tanzania, the Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise completed a water, sanitation and hygiene Rotary Global Grant for a rural boarding school. The Iluhya Secondary School in Bukoba lacked sufficient water for 600 students, faculty and staff, necessitating a daily 4- kilometer trek to a spring where students had to wake up every day at 5am and carry 5 gallon buckets each day before attending classes. The \$74, 420 supported the construction of four 60,000-liter rainwater harvesting tanks; renovation of six existing tanks and construction of a toilet building with five flush toilets, handwashing sinks and a changing room for the girls. The El Molino High School Interact Club created a "Walk for Water" fundraiser, involving parents, and friends and with matching funds from TRF, contributed \$1,193.50 toward the grant.

**"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one" (Mother Teresa).**



## **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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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!**

# ROCK ISLAND ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY 2020

The Magic of an Old-Fashioned Holiday at CIRCA 21



Rated: PG  
Area Premiere!

Wednesday  
December 9<sup>th</sup>

In this heartwarming new musical, a dad's wish to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas leads him and his family on a magical journey to another time where he learns that while remembering the past is important, the best way to hold on to tradition is to enjoy the Christmas present! This one-of-a-kind show, written for Circa '21 by longtime Bootlegger Brad Hauskins, is a nostalgic celebration of family that will leave you filled with the peace and joy of the holidays.

**\*\*Due to Covid-19 Restrictions the audience is limited to 50 guests. We had 48 of those seats which are sold on a first come basis to Rotary Club members and their guests. We now have just 27 seats available. Email Bob Swanson to make your reservations: [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)**

Tickets include a private pre-show Salon Party.

Pre-Show Salon Party with Complimentary Hoers Devours and Cash Bar (5-6pm)

Buffet Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)

Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)

"Winter Wonderland" (7:30pm)

TWO WITH DINING BOOK COUPON \$67.23\*

ONE ADMISSION (NO COUPON) \$52.75

TWO ADMISSIONS (NO COUPON) \$105.50

\*Tip included (not including deserts & bar)

Circa Subscriber? Pay Just \$3.50 per person for gratuity

## DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & EQUITY

As a global network that strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Rotary welcomes people of all backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and identities. Rotary strives for the fair treatment, opportunity, and advancement of all Rotary participants. Rotary is working to create experiences where all people feel welcomed, respected, and valued. Through Rotary, you'll find unique opportunities to get involved. Everyone is welcome in Rotary.

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