



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

October

October 13, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 14

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Miles Brainard Rock Island Downtown Historic District

Miles Brainard is the Planning and Redevelopment Administrator for the City of Rock Island, a position he

has held since June of 2019. He served as an Urban Planner for Rock Island from 2017 through May of 2019 and from March of 2016

Oct. – Nov. Calendar

- Oct. 19 - Board of Directors Meeting
- Oct. 20 - Steve Schafer, Augustana's new Head Basketball Coach
- Oct. 27 - Richard K. Whitaker, Jr CEO Vera French Community Mental Health Center
- Nov 3 - Rotary & Polio – World Polio Day
- Nov 10 - Robert Erickson, Unity Point
- Nov 17 - Angie Kendall, Hand in Hand
- Nov 24:- Loredana Cooper, Black Hawk College

through May 2017 was a planner with the MIDAS Council of Governments, an intergovernmental agency in Fort Dodge, Iowa. In Rock Island, Brainard has been working with Erica Ruggiero from MIA Architects who spent last year researching and drafting a proposal to add Downtown Rock Island to the National Register of Historic Places. Brainard says the whole city stands to benefit. "The benefits of a National Register Historic District are mainly two things. The first is prestige. A community can look at this and say, "We have a collection of historically important buildings, they're an integral part of our story". "The second thing is the historic tax credit access." said Brainard. "It would help the city restore older properties". Historic places are added to the National Register by the National Park Service based on recommendations from the State Historic Preservation Office, a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of properties that merit special attention and preservation. The City obtained a \$11,813 grant to employ MIA as a consultant in 2018 and in 2019 the 300-page application was filed with the Illinois Review Board. After nearly a year of review and revision the application was sent to the Department of Interior in Washington, DC. On July 6, 2020 federal approval was received and the downtown officially became part of the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Brainard said, "In addition to redevelopment loans, the designation provides an opportunity for Rock Island to showcase heritage tourism, as a means to advance and encourage historically appropriate development." The boundary for the downtown Historic District encompasses sections of properties between 1st and 6th Avenues along the blocks of 21st Street through 14th Street and includes the entire Centennial Bridge. The Fort Armstrong Hotel is among the buildings in downtown Rock Island being recognized. In general, properties must be more than 50 years old to be eligible for the National Register. A listing places no obligations on private property owners but does make properties eligible for some financial incentives. For a property to be listed, it must meet at least one of four criteria – It has to be associated with an important event or series of events. It must be associated with an important person or group. It must have distinctive architectural features or a unique method of construction. It must have the potential to yield significant information (like an archeological site might). Plaques are presented to properties which have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to having general historic value, things that are listed must possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Brainard said one goal of the City in seeking the designation is to develop Rock Island as a historic tourism destination. He pointed to Galena as a community that has successfully achieved that status. He said plan are in place for revitalization and redevelopment of our downtown and just need to be executed. Thank you, Mr. Brainard for an interesting and highly informative presentation!



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Cindi Gramenz, 2nd Vice Pres.
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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** – This week we had one visiting Rotarians and no other guests. With us was Duncan Cameron, a member of the Naples, Florida Rotary club. Don't forget you can invite a guest to join us on ZOOM if you think they might enjoy the scheduled program and/or might have interest in joining Rotary. Just pass on the meeting ID and password. Then feel free to introduce your guest when the meeting begins. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotarv. the Number One Club!
- ☐ **SURVEY FOR RESUMING LIVE MEETINGS – Has been concluded!** Thanks to the members that responded. A full report appears on pages 6 and 7.
- ☐ **SPECIAL MEETING FOR WORLD POLIO DAY** – Members are reminded that we will host a ZOOM meeting on Friday, October 23 in conjunction with other Illinois Quad Cities Clubs. It will be a celebration! Don't Miss It.
- ☐ **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.



CONTINUING A TRADITION

Rock Island Rotary will again ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the holiday season. We will be staffing two doors at the Rock Island HyVee on December 5th from 9am until 3pm. As in the past, Mark Mayeski will chair the project. Volunteers are needed to take a shift. Rotarians and their family members are invited to help. Teams of two work great and you can set up your own team or let Mark place you with a fellow Rotarian. Please email Mark at mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com to sign up.

THE TAB GROWS EVEN WITH OUR CHIEF FINER ABSENT!

With second vice-president, Cindi Gramenz, unable to attend today's meeting, President Campbell had to rely on the generosity of Rotarians to supply some "happy/sad" dollars in lieu of fines. Ruth Lee offered a happy dollar prior to the start of the meeting, but as we sit right now, I can't remember what it was for, so I guess I owe a dollar too! Kathy Trone had a dollar to celebrate having a new grandson on the way. The first male in a long line of family females. First VP, Justin Peterson, had a happy dollar in celebration of his 13th anniversary with wife and high school sweetheart, Rachel. (Makes me feel old to remember them as kids in the Rocky hallways!) Kai Swanson contributed a dollar to celebrate his new wedding ring, which he had to replace after an ill-advised jump into a frigid lake leading to the loss of his original. Bud Phillis had a dollar as well to tell of losing his wedding ring while mowing.



Rock Island Rotary PUMPKIN PALOOZA 2020 DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, BUT STILL IMPORTANT!

Because of Covid-19, our annual PUMPKIN PALOOZA will take on a different look this year. Kids are not in school and bus fieldtrips are not recommended; instead, we will go to Earl Hanson Elementary school and piggyback on their two food distributions on October 20 and 23 at noon. We will be passing out pumpkins, shirts, books, and goodies. **TWO MORE Rotary volunteers are needed each day.** Contact Sue Rector to help at suerector@augustana.edu. Let's make sure the kids have a "Palooza" to remember!

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 9th 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!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 2 of October, the Economic & Community Development Month of Rotary International.

Kidney disease affects millions of people all over the world. Many of these patients suffer devastating consequences caused by lack of adequate care. Poor and developing countries generally do not have the necessary infrastructure to combat the disease in all its manifestations. Dialysis remains a hugely expensive, yet very necessary method of intervention. In most nations individuals are expected to fund their own treatment. In communities and hospitals where a patient cannot afford this extravagant cost, such a person faces a grim future. As part of its mission to improve world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, TRF recently came to the aid of patients with kidney disease in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India.

Through a Global Grant, a Rotary Dialysis Center with three dialysis machines was set up in Kumbakonam. Rotary District 2981 (India) hosted the (\$34,870 US) grant which was sponsored by Rotary District 9820 (Australia). S Piralyon, PDG (D2981) was influential in getting the Global Grant from TRF. "During the lockdown, the new facility was useful for local patients to avoid unnecessary travel and related expenditure."

"Friendship...the craving for which brought Rotary into existence, is the thing that will keep Rotary a living, vital force in the world for all time, the very foundation of our organization." Albert S. Adams (President, RI, 1919-20) Rotary Club of Atlanta Georgia, Address to 1920 Rotary Convention, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY
HOLIDAY PARTY 2020

The Magic of an Old-Fashioned Holiday at CIRCA 21



Rated: PG Wednesday
Area Premiere! December 9th

Over half of our seats are gone. Reserve Now!

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**

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



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

WORLD POLIO DAY 2020 – THIS YEAR A VERY SPECIAL DAY

October 24th is World Polio Day, and we have plenty to celebrate! Just in the past month the continent of **Africa was declared “Polio Free”**. Nigeria was the last African nation to experience a case of wild polio and that was now 3 years ago! Having passed the 3-year threshold made Nigeria officially polio free. Polio now exists in just two Asian countries, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. War and mistrust have made it difficult to get children in those countries immunized, but efforts are now concentrated to do just that! Extremists have spread the rumor that the vaccination is designed by “infidels” to neuter the children. Medical volunteers have been attacked, killed and immunization supplies destroyed. Progress is being made amidst the conflict and there is hope that the final two nations experiencing polio will take their place in the world as polio free in the next year or two. Incidents of poliovirus are up in 2020 in Afghanistan (37 as of July 20) and are down slightly (65 as of July 24) in Pakistan. The 102 total cases thus far in 2020 compare to 84 total at the same date last year.

Rock Island Rotary is planning a special emphasis this year on World Polio Day. Fellow Rotarian, Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms, will be proclaiming Saturday, October 24th as World Polio Day in Rock Island. On Friday, October 23rd our Club will host the first ever Joint Illinois Quad Cities Rotary Club Meeting. The meeting held on ZOOM will begin at 12 noon and will end no later than 1pm. Rotary Clubs from East Moline-Silvis, Geneseo, Illinois Quad Cities, Milan Area, Moline, River Cities, and Twin Rivers RAH have been invited to join us. The program will feature local Rotarians with personal polio experiences and an outstanding World Polio Day video provided by Rotary International **AND** watch Bud Phillis and Kai Swanson on Channel 4, “Living Local” show, Thursday October 22nd at 2:00pm. They will be talking about Rotary, Polio, and our World Polio Day activities.

Mark your calendar: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 12 NOON and plan to join in this unique and important meeting. We could easily have well over 100 Rotarians coming together on ZOOM to commemorate World Polio Day. Be sure you are part of this first ever endeavor! **AND** watch Bud & Kai on TV-4, October 22nd at 2:00pm.



GREAT NEWS! DINING BOOKS ARE HERE!

Our Dining Book chair, Bud Phillis, has the new 2020-21 Quad City Dining Book! They are good through October 31st of 2021. Over 350 Coupons including a **2 for 1 Circa 21 Coupon** good for our Rotary Holiday Party! The price remains at \$35 for the value packed book. Rock Island Rotary will receive a \$12 donation for each book sold! Order by emailing Dr. Bud Phillis at rphillis35@gmail.com. Make checks payable to Rock Island Rotary and write “Dining Book” on the memo line. Ask friends if they want one. Our club makes \$12 for every sale.



DUES\$ ADJUSTED FOR THE COMING QUARTER

With Covid-19 temporarily shutting down in-person meetings, our Club Board of Directors voted to remove the lunch portion of our dues for the coming quarter. Rather than \$150, your dues invoice will be for \$50. That will cover our set costs for International and District dues, insurance, and the Rotarian magazine received by all members. If we can resume in-person meetings during the quarter a box lunch from Bridges Catering will be available for those who want it. The box lunches will be provided on a “pay as you go” basis at each meeting.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY MEETING SURVEY

Surveys were sent to 90 Club Members on September 21st. Two of our members do not have email. As of October 9, fifty-five members completed and returned the 4-question survey. Forty-nine responses were received in the first three days of the survey. Five more were return by the end of the first week. In the past 11 days just 1 additional response was received. We sent individual email reminders twice in addition to reminders in the newsletter cover email, pleas in the newsletter content, and pleas by both Angela and Bob Swanson during the last two meeting. In the end we have responses from 61% of the club. The survey was closed on October 9th.

Here is a final summary of the 55 responses we received.

Q1 If Rock Island Rotary began "In-Person" Meetings in October with a ZOOM option, would you?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 0

Attend In Person	17	31%
Attend via ZOOM	36	65%
Probably Not Attend at All	2	4%

Q2 If You said you would attend in person, is that contingent on a lunch being provided?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 30

Yes	4	16%
No	21	84%

Q3 I would prefer:

Answered: 28 Skipped: 27

An individual boxed lunch	23	82%
Bringing my own lunch	1	4%
No lunch	4	14%

Q4 COMMENTS:

Answered: 19 Skipped: 36

Meeting in person should be done in full compliance with CDC, State of Illinois, and Q.C. Botanical Center protocols. Under these circumstances our meeting in person would not be irresponsible.

I really miss my fellow Rotarians and our noon meetings. However, the COVID cases are still occurring within the county and the safety risk continues amidst all the CDC guidelines. Please continue to send me the link to the meetings and I will try and do better to attend by phone. I continue to work three days a week and have Tuesday noon meetings once a month. We are staying safe here. Thanks for asking for our input Bob. Take care.

If we wait to meet in person until it is "safe" again or when there is a vaccine - we may well be waiting for years. The state is allowing us to meet with precautions - the state and/or Botanical Center would not allow us to meet (with precautions) if it were unsafe. I fear our club will die off if we cannot engage members. Zoom meetings for months on end do not engage members. I respect those that feel like they cannot come to an in-person meeting yet. However, I feel it is critical for the health of our club to begin meeting in person for those that are ready. We are a service club made up of many community leaders. We should be the ones instilling facts-over-fear in our community.

SURVEY COMMENTS - CONTINUED

I can accommodate accordingly whatever works best for everyone else. :)

Hi, Thank-you for doing this survey.... I do not feel comfortable in a group.... even 50 or less. I will try my best to follow the meetings on zoom.

We need to have some social interaction to remain a viable organization. With social distancing and facial masks, the risk is minimal. Those that don't want to attend can join via Zoom.

If my employer does not feel comfortable enough in having us return to the office, then I don't feel it would be appropriate to attend Rotary meetings in person.

I look forward to being with my Rock Island Rotary friends!

We need the direct fellowship.

I have no way of doing Zoom with video at work. I've been "attending" with my phone & can't see the presentations, know who's talking, etc. Honestly, I've gotten very little out of meetings with just my phone & don't really feel any kind of connection to the group this way.

Because of where I work, I will likely attend by Zoom only at this time. If I were to attend in person, I'd prefer that no lunch be served so everyone could keep their mask on.

When infections continue to increase, I don't think the leading service organization in this City should encourage large, in person gatherings.

You are doing a great job

Having a Zoom option is wonderful for people that travel or are still working and getting out of the office for 2 hours in the middle of the day on a Tuesday is not always an option. I would attend occasionally in person but would definitely take advantage of the Zoom option as much as possible.

I am strongly opposed to meeting in-person. I also feel it is irresponsible to encourage our members to meet in-person by offering that as an option.

Won't return to an in-person meeting until there's a vaccine for the virus.

I feel more comfortable attending via zoom for now.

I probably won't be back to an in-person meeting until there is a vaccine and the threat of the coronavirus is over.

Bottom line – Of the 55 members who answered the survey, if we had in-person meetings 17 would attend, 36 would watch on Zoom and 2 would not do either. Four of the 14 would not attend if a lunch is not provided. 82% of those who would attend want a boxed lunch. One would bring their own lunch and four would prefer no lunch. The Board will review and discuss these findings at the October 19th Board meeting.

MAYOR RECOGNIZES ROCK ISLAND ROTARY AND PROCLAIMS OCTOBER 24TH AS WORLD POLIO DAY IN ROCK ISLAND

At the Rock Island City Council meeting on Monday, October 12th, Rock Island Mayor signed a proclamation naming October 24th as World Polio Day in Rock Island. It was noted that aldermen David Geenen and Jenni Swanson are members of Rotary and that Rock Island head librarian, is our current club president. We thank Mayor Thoms, himself a member of our club, for his support and kind words. Dr. Bud Phillis was on hand to accept the proclamation on behalf of our club. A complete text of the proclamation follows:

World Polio Day Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rotary is a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, inspires members to provide humanitarian service, follow high ethical standards, and promote goodwill and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rock Island Rotary has raised and contributed in excess of \$50,000 and Rotary International has contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be leveraged for maximum impact by an additional \$100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical staff, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1.2 million Rotary members in more than 35,000 clubs throughout the world that sponsor service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad.

Therefore, I, Mike Thoms, Mayor of the City of Rock Island, State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2020 World Polio Day in Rock Island and encourage all citizens to join me and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

Mike Thoms

Mike Thoms, Mayor

October 12, 2020

Dated

Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night April 2021

***Serving our community through our generosity of time,
talent and treasure***



***It is NOT too early to start
collecting great ideas and
items for our
Silent Auction.***

I've already started collecting some favorite products to make a Sustainable Products Basket (see below).

And there are always great sales around the holidays, closeouts from the summer that we can take advantage of.... not to mention the re-gifting opportunities!!



I've got a stash of baskets if you will need one and I am happy to take random items and put them together to make great baskets if you don't want to do a full basket.

Give me a call or e-mail with questions or donations.
I will store things until April!

Sue Rector....563-343-7985.... srector3614@gmail.com