



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

October 6, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 13

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



PATRICIA MATSON ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL INCUBATOR PROGRAM



Oct. – Nov. Calendar

- Oct. 13 - Miles Brinard- Rock Island Downtown Historic Dist.
- 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

Almost six years ago the Rock Island-Milan School District approached our club with an idea and a request. The idea, to establish an INCubatoredu program at Rock Island High School. INCubatoredu programs are a full year course and offer an authentic entrepreneurship experience as students build a business. Students make mistakes, take risks, and learn to pivot. They develop their own product or service startup to gain investment funds in a final shark-tank style pitch event. Real entrepreneurs and industry experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the processes of developing hypotheses about a business concept, testing those hypotheses, adapting, and continually learning and improving. Students leave the course having completed a Business Model Canvas, competitive analysis, financial model, minimum viable product, pitch deck, future communications plan, and future funding plan. The request was that Rock Island Rotary become a major funding source for establishing the program, which requires special classrooms, furnishings, equipment, and curricula materials. In August of 2015 Rock Island High School unveiled its new INCubatoredu Entrepreneur and Enterprise Program and its state-of-the art business incubator classroom. The ribbon cutting was held with school officials, local political leaders, and Rock Island Rotarians in attendance. The program was the first of its kind in the Quad-Cities and has become a model for other school districts throughout the Midwest. Rock Island High School's INCubatoredu Entrepreneurship Class is truly a unique program where students learn what it is to be an entrepreneur, dig into all aspects of business and develop skills such as team building, problem-solving, public speaking, and creative and critical thinking. Students develop their own product or service start-up and pitch it in a "Shark Tank" style to potential investors at the end of the year at the Final Pitch Night event. The students also take their ideas and make their "pitch" in national local and regional competitions with other Incubator programs. The best emerging from these competitions garner an invitation to participate in a national contest against incubator program winners from all over the country. In just their second year Rock Island students were one of five teams from INCubatoredu high school programs invited to compete in the National Student Pitch Competition, a Shark Tank-like event held in Chicago. Students compete to win funding for the launch of their new business. The student teams pitched their business concepts to prominent entrepreneurs and business leaders serving as judges. Michael Miles, co-founder of INCubatoredu announced, "The winners are ... Rock Island High School's LEAD team which aims to launch a non-profit organization to teach African American youth about leadership." Our kids were National Champions! This year during the first quarter the 29 students enrolled in Rocky's program met virtually. When they return to school later this month, they will for the first time be able to meet in person and enrollment is expected to grow to 50 students. Even without personal team meetings, the work has progressed, and the kids are on schedule to be competition ready by the end of the year. Rotarians are needed and invited to serve as Coaches, mentors, and/or judges. Contact Trish at patricia.matson@rimsd41.org. Thanks for a great program!



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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** – This week was a rarity for our club -- we had no visiting Rotarians and no other guests except for our program speaker, Trish Matson. 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 Rotary, the Number One Club!
- ☐ **SURVEY FOR RESUMING LIVE MEETINGS** –If you have not completed the survey, please make your opinion known by finding the survey sent to you and responding. The Board can only make good decisions if they have the necessary information from our members. Thanks!
- ☐ **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.

OCTOBER ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

A small but select group of October Rotarians!

Steve Morenz	October	8
Mike Thoms	October	26
Sam Doak	October	27



THE TAB GROWS!

The tab grew just a bit this week. Perhaps the summary of fines to date in last week's issue scared some members from speaking up. However, those that did "confess" were: Cindi Gramenz and Sue Rector for leaving early; Kai Swanson for his recent "Letter to the Editor"; and Ruth Lee offered a happy dollar for returning from her extended time and grandma duties in California. Thanks to all!



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, tee shirts, books, and goodies to the kids. A few Rotary volunteers are needed. 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 1 of October, the Economic & Community Development Month of Rotary International. This month's theme used to be Vocational Service.

The Rotary Foundation supports disaster relief and recovery efforts through grants from the Rotary Disaster Response Fund. These District Grants (DG), termed a Community Service Grant, is a block grant from TRF to a Rotary International district. These grants are used to support short-term projects to help solve humanitarian concerns within a specific community initiated by clubs in that district.

Over two months ago, a Derecho pounded parts of the Midwest, leaving miles of overwhelming destruction across eastern Nebraska, across the middle of Iowa from the Missouri to the Mississippi River. Some cities within District 6000 got help from their Rotarian neighbors when the District 6000 Disaster Response Committee allocated \$5,000 toward recovery efforts. TRF has added \$25,000 for Derecho relief, especially in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and Dubuque. Interested clubs should contact Troy Thompson, Chair of the District's Disaster Relief Committee for an application (Thompson.go@gmail.com).

As part of its goals to improve literacy, TRF matched a \$5,800 Rotary Club of Cleveland Noonday grant for the Raider Reader Program in the City of Cleveland Schools. The \$11,600 will provide every first and second grade student with a book to take home and keep before each of the five extended breaks (Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring and Summer). Carolyn Ingram, a member of the Noonday Rotary Club, said "This program is one of the best things that we have done to promote literacy in our schools. I am thrilled to be a part of it."

October 2020 Reminders:

5-11: Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week
24: World Polio Day

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.

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!



WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW



This year, more than ever, the fundraisers we can host are critical if our Club is to continue as a leader in local community service. Because of the pandemic our usual “in-person” events have either been cancelled or postponed. One event that helped us continue our philanthropic work last year was the wine raffle. Now the time has rolled around to start planning for this year. The Wine Raffle Committee will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, October 7 at 4:30 pm. Committee members Anne McGlynn, Kimberly Calhoun, Rick Emery, John Olinger, Tammy Weikert, and Eric Westphall are asked to attend, and any other Club members that are interested are more than welcome. Just contact chair, Ruth Lee, at rotarianruth@gmail.com to get the meeting ID and password. Mark your calendar, Wednesday, October 7th at 4:30pm.

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.



A LOOK BACK AT OUR ROTARY FAMILY

Perhaps the most dramatic impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Rotary has been the suspension of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. Restrictions on travel and very understandable concern on the part of parents lead to the decision to forgo Youth Exchange for 2020-21. Hopefully, we will be able to resume the program next year. It is with that hope that we take a fond look back at our most recent Exchange sons and daughters. Here's a look at our sons and daughters from the past five years. We miss them all!



Emil Rosin
From Finland for the 2010 -2020 Year



Rocio "Sheño" Robolledo Hernandez
From Chile for the 2019-2019 Year



Pitchayapa "Pat" Rungrueng,
From Thailand for the 2017-2018 Year



Agata Burzynska
From Poland 2016 -2017 Year



Camila VeLasco Medina
from Peru for the 2015-2016 Year

Youth Exchange is an integral part of Rotary's goal of World Peace and Better Understandings between all people. It is always interesting to hear our Exchange sons and daughters tell of their pre-visit notions about the United States and how those views change after spending time with us. They learn we are not "all rich"; we are not "out to rule the world"; often they leave finding us to be a fun loving, generous, and caring people. We are confident that our outgoing American exchange students also carry that message to the world.

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.

LAST CHANCE TO RESPOND TO MEETING SURVEY

On September 21st, all members were emailed a survey seeking their input regarding resuming in-person meetings. To date, 54 members have responded. Thirty-six members have not responded. **The survey will close as of 5pm this Friday, October 9th.** If you have not completed the 3-question survey that takes about 1 minute to complete, please do so immediately. Important decisions will be made based on the information received.

Several members of our Club plan to visit the Bettendorf Club on Wednesday, October 14th. Bettendorf has continued to hold in-person meetings while simultaneously offering a ZOOM option for those who prefer to remain home. Our Board is currently considering this option and our visit to Bettendorf is, in addition to an opportunity to meet fellow area Rotarians, an information gathering venture. We want to see how they are doing their "blended" meetings and to evaluate if such an option might work for our club. Bettendorf meets at the Tanglewood Pavilion at noon on Wednesdays. If you would like to join the other Rock Island Club visitors, the 14th is our planned visit.

SUPPORT CIRCA 21



We suspect that no one would doubt that Circa 21 is an incredibly wonderful, fun, and cultural asset to the Quad Cities and particularly to Rock Island. In addition to being a great source of fun and entertainment for us, Circa 21 annually attracts thousands of visitors and bus junkets to Rock Island. The Covid-19 Pandemic has hit Circa 21 particularly hard, forcing show and concert cancellations, ticket refunds, and a total close down for several months. When they were recently allowed to reopen it is with a restricted maximum attendance of 50 patrons.

Their normal seating accommodates over 300! With just 50 customers in the theater, even at full price, break-even costs are just barely met. Circa 21 is totally locally owned and lives or dies on sales to survive.

Many of us look forward annually to our Rotary Holiday Party at Circa 21 and we purchase Quad City Dining Books (a Rotary Fundraiser) that contain a 2 for 1 Circa 21 dining coupon. To support Circa, we are asking those that may attend Circa more than once this year, to hold off using your dining coupon for a show later in the season. If your attendance at our Holiday Party is somewhat contingent on being able to use your coupon, by all means use it, and it will be honored. But if you can delay use of your coupon for a show next spring or summer, that will greatly help Circa 21 survive the pandemic.

Circa 21 is a corporate member of Rock Island Rotary, and we are most happy to help them when we can.

REMINDER – On Monday, October 12th, Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms will proclaim October 24th as World Polio Day in Rock Island. All members are invited to attend the 6:45pm City Council meeting at Rock Island City Hall (3rd Floor). Bud Phillis, our Foundation chairman and a polio survivor himself will accept the proclamation on behalf of our club