



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



November 10, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 17

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

ROBERT "BOB" ERICKSON

Unity Point – Trinity, CEO

Guest Speaker at Rock Island Rotary today was Robert Erickson. Erickson was named the organization's president and CEO last August. He assumed day-to-day leadership on September 23, 2019. Mr. Erickson brought more than 27 years of health care leadership experience to the



Quad Cities and Muscatine. Erickson comes to the Quad Cities from Joliet, Illinois where he most recently was President of Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center. Prior to his time there, Erickson was CEO at St. Joseph Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri following his role as president and CEO at St. Francis Health in Topeka, Kansas. Erickson is a native of La Crosse, Wisconsin. He earned his bachelor's degree in speech pathology and audiology from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1988 and a master's degree in speech and hearing science from Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona in 1990. He completed all pre-dissertation requirements for a doctorate in cognitive psychology in 1994 before making a career change to health care administration. In 2010, Marquette University College of Health Sciences honored him as their Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Erickson is passionate about community involvement. He has served on the boards of many non-profit organizations including Rotary Club, American Red Cross Illinois River Valley, and the Will County Center for Economic Development. He has served as a Trustee for the University of St. Francis. His community service extends to Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the country, the Kansas Hospital Association as a District President and a Board Member for the Kansas Health and Education Research Foundation. He has also served on the Chancellor's Advisory Board for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Bob and his wife, Cindy, have three children: Jake, Samantha, and Conrad. Erickson said his passion has been Not for Profit Community Health Care, have worked in both for profit and not for profit systems. He also prefers the medium sized systems with regional governance. He said he found what he had been told, that the river is a "barrier", is true. People really do not like crossing the river for care. Although, he also noted that 1/3 of the care needs leave the Quad Cities for specialist at such locations as the University of Iowa and the Mayo Clinics. Erickson was working for more collaboration between Genesis and Trinity, expanding out-patient and express care, and recruiting more medical specialists to the Quad Cities, when the pandemic sidetracked those efforts. He said the Midwest was fortunate to have time to prepare for the pandemic which first struck the more populated east and west coast urban areas. Now the pandemic has hit locally and has hit hard! He said Trinity has now complete 40,000 COVID tests, found 5,000 positive results with 600 hospitalized and 52 deaths. He said because so many others are non-symptomatic the virus spreads quickly. Currently hospitalizations, patients in ICU, and those on ventilators, are all up. 125 Trinity staff members are out with COVID. Persons feeling ill and coming in for testing are currently 37% positive for COVID. Erickson said all hospitals are full and adding beds. Non-COVID elective procedures are being delayed. Fortunately, he said there is good news regarding a vaccine which may be available soon. He said that some good coming out of the pandemic is the acceptance of tele-health, better awareness of good health practices, and improved protocols for early identification and prevention. Finally, he noted that Trinity will be adding a 44-bed acute rehabilitation

Nov. – Dec. Calendar

- Nov 10 - Robert Erickson, Unity Point
Chief Executive Officer
- Nov 17 - Angie Kendall, Hand in Hand
Chief Executive Officer
- Nov 24:- Loredana Cooper - Black
Hawk Colle ESL/International
Transition Specialist
- Dec 1 - TBA
- Dec 8 - TBA
- Dec 9 - Circa 21 Holiday Party
- Dec 15 - TBA
- Dec 22 - TBA
- Dec 29 - TBA



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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** – Today we again welcomed Duncan Cameron of the Naples, Florida Club as our one and only guest. 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!
- ❑ **DINING BOOKS AVAILABLE** – 2021-22 Quad City Dining Books are available from Bud Phillis. With over 150 local restaurants represented with 2 for 1 coupons, you'll have no trouble quickly recovering the \$35 cost of the book. The Circa 21 coupon by itself is worth more than \$35! Don't delay, supplies are limited and sales end soon. Dining Books make great Christmas gifts for that hard to buy for person. Everyone enjoys dining out, particular after months of sheltering at home! Contact Bud at rphillis35@gmail.com
- ❑ **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.

THE TAB GROWS

Rotarian generosity shone brightly today in the absence of our official "finer" when President Campbell asked for volunteer Happy/Sad dollars. Dr. Pat Cunningham started things off offering \$100 Happy Dollars for Notre Dame Football's victory over previously unbeaten and ranked #1 Clemson. Fellow "Fighting Irish" devotee Kevin Koski joined the celebration with his own happy dollar. Monta Ponsetto put in a very happy dollar for being able to hear her son, John's voice. John is on tour at sea on the USS Nimitz and was able to call home for the first time in many weeks. John Wetzel and Mark Mayeski each added a happy dollar celebrating the announcement that Iowa basketball will be playing Gonzaga in the upcoming season. Both teams are in the top 10 pre-season ratings. Mark then added another dollar in honor of his youngest daughter being accepted at Cornell, which was her first choice for college. Thanks to all who contributed. Tab funds go to the Rotary Foundation.



CONTINUING A TRADITION

Rock Island Rotary will again ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the holiday season. We will be staffing working 1 hours shifts 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.

R.I. ROTARIANS DOING FUN SERVICE PROJECT TONIGHT!!

Volunteers from our club will be gathering tonight from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Quad City Botanical Center to help hang lights for the Center's Winter Nights - Winter Lights display. The annual giant array of Christmas lights has become a holiday season destination for thousands of visitors from all over Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. During November Botanical Center Staff and scores of volunteers are hanging lights and setting up displays. With Covid-19 shutting down most of our "hands on" service project, a Botanical Center request for help seemed like a perfect opportunity for outdoor, safe, service. After an email asking for help, Rotarians responded and a crew of 19 will devote 3 hours to the project tonight. After working, Rotary will treat the workers to hot chocolate, apple cider, donuts, and cookies. A big thanks to Bob & Debbi Swanson, Avalon Thomas-Roebal and her mom, Molly Shattuck & family, Cindi Gramenz, Bill Stengel, Monta and Mike Ponsetto and their son and daughter-in-law, Amanda De La Cruz and her son, Jim Moran, Linda Golden, Mark Pealstrom, and John and Karen Phillips. Thanks for volunteering! Winter Night-Winter Lights opens to the public on Nov. 20-Jan. 10 with the gardens in winter bloom with over 100,000 lights. Admission: \$8 adults | \$4 Youth | Under 2 Free | Members \$6 adults | \$2 Youth



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 2 of Rotary International's Foundation Month.

This past week has witnessed its own litany of woes not only from the pandemic but unwanted natural disasters around the globe. But, before you get discouraged, it is uplifting to know that while COVID-19 decimates families and storms ravage communities, Rotary clubs have intensified their efforts at improving the quality of life for people in need.

Rotarians have always cooperated with members in different corners of the world on projects that fall within the Seven Areas of Focus. An article in a recent Rotarian, the chair of TRF's Trustees reported that the success of TRF Global grants model is unmistakable. "At its introduction in 2013-14, the Foundation awarded 868 grants worth over \$47 million. By 2019-20, the number of approved grants had risen to 1,350, worth over \$100 million."

A recent Global Grant approved by TRF was jointly coordinated by Districts 2232 (Belarus and Ukraine) and 6990 (Florida, USA). The Rotary Club of Cherkasy, Ukraine, assisted by the Rotary Club of Miami Brickell, USA secured a Global Grant that was approved and matched by TRF with \$15,025 for a total of \$54,289. The funds will be used to procure much needed medical equipment, training and supplies for the Regional Center of Children Oncology and Hematology in Cherkasy, Ukraine. The new equipment will replace outdated and non-functional equipment and provide precise administration of aggressive chemotherapy drugs to children suffering from cancer and related diseases. The grant will provide for the proper treatment for approximately 1,250 children suffering from cancer for the next five years.

"The Rotary Foundation offers the best opportunity I know for us to invest in a better future for communities around the world. Your generosity today and throughout this year is the oil that keeps our grants burning bright, reaching the ones who need us most." (K.R. Ravindran, The Rotarian, November 2020)



ANGEL TREE UPDATE

Chair Molly Shattuck reported that Rotarians have signed up to take 36 Angels from the tree! Taking an "Angel" means agreeing to see that their "Angel" has gifts for Christmas day. About \$30 is the typical expense. Molly will be providing information about each child with sizes, needs, and wishes. Rotarians will go shopping or, if time is an issue, will provide the funds and our Rotary "Elves" will do the shopping. Molly needs Elves to help her shop! Since we are not meeting in person and couldn't personally take an Angel off the tree, volunteers emailed Molly. Some took as many as 3 Angels. If you want to do one and did not get your request in, you can still let her know that you will be an Angel. Those that offered to do multiple Angels will give one up for you. If you want the Elves to do the work, be sure to let her know. To get an Angel or to offer to help shop, email Molly at molly@hammarcpa.com. Do it asap so we can be sure all the children in need are covered. We need to get the gifts purchased, wrapped, and returned for delivery to Earl Hanson. Some little guy or gal is counting on you! Thanks to all who have already signed up!

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.

Sue has already started collecting some favorite products to make a Sustainable Products Basket, and there are always great sales around the holidays, closeouts from the summer that we can take advantage of not to mention re-gifting opportunities!! And she's got a stash of baskets if you will need one and is happy to take random items and put them together to make great baskets if you don't want to do a full basket.



Give Sue a call or e-mail with questions or donations. She will store things until April!
Sue Rector....563-343-7985.... srector3614@gmail.com

GREAT ROTARIAN STOCKING STUFFER IDEA COMING SOON

Watch our Newsletter for details!!



Have you made your “Pass the Hat for Polio” Donation?

We wrapped up our 2020 World Polio Day activities last week with a request that every member make a \$10 (more if you wished) donation to Rotary’s Polio Plus campaign. Our funds will be matched 2 to 1 by the Bill Gates Foundation. We set the amount extremely low hoping to have 100%-member participation. If that happens, our 75 members would be donating at minimum a total of \$750 which with the Gates match would make our support \$2,250.00 to help **end polio**. If you have not returned your donation, please do so today.

Please snip and return lower portion with your check. Donations will count toward Paul Harris Fellow recognition

Polio is 99% eradicated. The remaining 1% will take time and dollars Rotary has been outstanding in leading the eradication effort. As a Rotarian, I pledge to help Rotary eliminate the last 1% of polio cases.

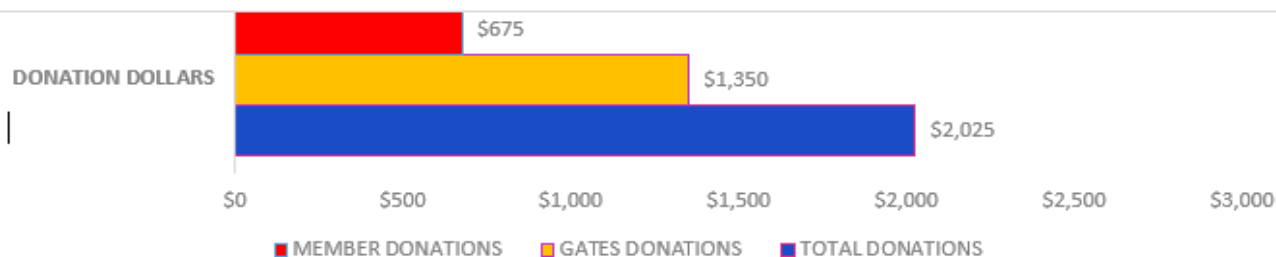
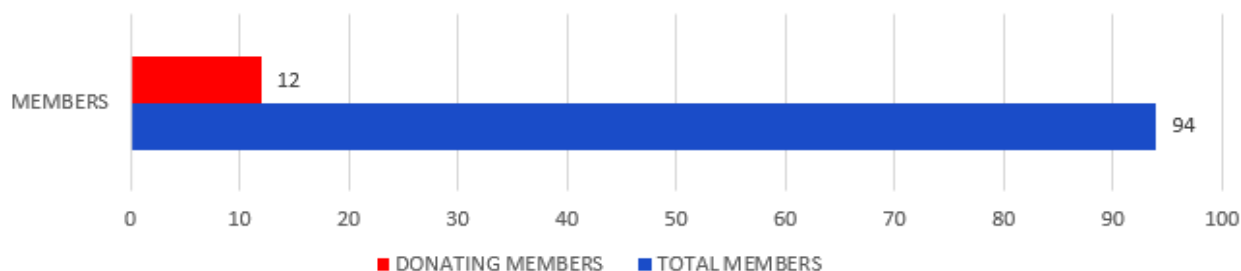
_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 Other \$ _____

Rotarian name _____

Make checks payable to: **Rotary International Foundation** - send to:

Dr. Bud Phillis, Foundation Chair, Rock Island Rotary Club, 2417 – 127th Avenue, Milan, IL 61264

PASS THE HAT FOR POLIO



IF YOU CAN READ, YOU CAN DO THIS SERVICE PROJECT!



We all know Rotary is not a social club, nor is it a lunch club, even though we greatly enjoy or social interactions and our lunches, we all know Rotary is a **Service Club**. Service Above Self is our motto. Unfortunately, the coronavirus pandemic has put a significant damper on our service activities. Community Grants is on hold right now waiting to see what agencies survive the pandemic and which most desperately need help. Similarly, our hands-on projects have been curtailed by shelter at home and social distancing requirements. Today President Campbell offered us a “made for the pandemic” service opportunity. The project will be done in conjunction with the Rock Island – Milan School District. All volunteers need to do is read! You read a book aloud and your voice is recorded. The recording is then made available to our local schools so children can listen and learn, read along, and refugee children can improve their English skills by listening. Many club members have already signed up. If you want to help contact Angela at campbell.angela@rigov.org or Gary Rowe at gnrowe47@gmail.com.



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

Our Causes

