



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



November 3, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 16

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

P O L I O M Y E L I T I S



November 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

Our program today was a “wrap up” of our World Polio Day activities and was presented by Bob Swanson and Bud Phillis. Bob highlighted the past 30 days starting with an October 12th Rock Island City Council meeting at which the Council passed, and Mayor Mike Thoms signed a proclamation making October 24th “World Polio Day in Rock Island”. Then on October 22nd Kai Swanson and Bud appearance on the CBS-TV 4 “Living Local” program. The men spoke about World Polio, Rotary’s international commitment and efforts to end polio, and each told their own personal polio story. Kai spoke of his father, Richard Swanson who was paralyzed as a child by polio and ultimately had to relearn how to walk. Bud spoke of his sister “Bootsie” and he both being stricken by polio. Boostie lost her life to the disease after just 4 days of illness. On October 23rd, our Club hosted an area-wide joint Rotary World Polio Day celebration meeting. We were joined by Rotarians from East Moline-Silvis, Geneseo, Illinois Quad Cities, Milan, Moline, River Cities, and Twin Rivers RAH Rotarians. Our District Governor, Tom Brooks along with several other District Rotary officials joined us. Governor Brooks expressed his greetings to all and praised Rock Island Rotary for organizing the Event. District Foundation Chair, Kathy Kwiat-Hess, spoke and presented Award Certificates to Moline and Rock Island Rotary Clubs for their financial support of the Polio Plus campaign. Videos made by Cindi Gramenz of Bob Swanson, Kai Swanson, and Bud Phillis relating their personal polio experiences were shown along with Rotary International’s Polio Global Update video. The hour-long meeting received rave reviews from both local and district officials along with requests to make this an annual World Polio Day event. Concluding his comments, Bob then showed an informative and inspiring video tracing the history of Polio in the world and in the United States. The video concluded with an update from Rotary International’s Polio Plus director, Carol Pandak. Our Foundation Chair, Dr. Phillis wrapped up the meeting, relating his very personal polio story along with photos of his sister, Bootsie. He then unveiled a one-time “Pass the Hat for Polio” campaign, urging 100%-member participation in donating as little as \$10 to end polio. He noted that a donation sheet would be attached with today’s newsletter. We hope all will open their hearts and purses and join the effort. Funds will be matched 2 to 1 by the Gates Foundation. If our club can raise just \$335, the combined donation will exceed \$1,000! Thank you for your support!



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

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 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 4:30pmm. 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 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 to sign up.

THE TAB GROWS

The TAB grew today even with attendance down a bit from our normal group. Ruth Lee offered a happy dollar for being surprised by her lawn mowing crew who showed up and raked her leaves! Bob Swanson, Ruth Lee, John Wetzel, and Angela Campbell all joined in contributing happy dollars for election day, hoping it means an end to the countless commercials and robo telephone calls! Finally, Stan Coin ensured that the TAB grew significantly by contributing \$91 in celebration of his 91st birthday coming up on November 9th. Thank you, Stan, Happy Birthday!

ELECTION DAY 2020 – WE HOPE ALL ROTARIANS GOT OUT TO VOTE!

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

We all know Rotary isn't a social club, nor is it a lunch club, even though we greatly enjoy our 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.

GOVERNOR NIXES HOLIDAY PARTY

On Monday, November 2nd Illinois Governor Pritzker once again ordered all bars and restaurants in Illinois to close indoor service as of Wednesday, November 4th. An unfortunate casualty of the order is Circa 21. We received the call on Monday that Circa 21 was forced to cancel their production of "Winter Wonderland" scheduled to open on November 13th. Winter Wonderland will be presented as next year's holiday special. For those that have already paid for our Holiday Party at Circa, we will arrange for refunds. We regret this development and sincerely hope that Circa 21 and other locally owned small businesses survive. Bars and restaurants across the river remain open and eager to serve Illinois customers.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week One in November, the Foundation Month of Rotary International

Yes, COVID-19 still rages unforgivably; but Rotarians and TRF are unrelenting in their effort to battle the virus and bring succor not only to victims, but also assist the tireless health workers and essential personnel who put up a valiant fight against the pandemic. At the same time other major challenges are getting the attention of TRF, which is helping to ease the tensions of the sick, the oppressed and the underserved of the world by doing good through the Six Areas of Focus. Equipping hospitals and providing access to clean water are some of the ways Rotarians and TRF continue to fulfill their mission.

The Rotary Club of Kallianpura, D 3182 (India) presented three hemodialysis machines to the Goretti Hospital in Kallianpura. The \$40,871 USD project was supported through TRF Global Grant and two sponsoring Rotary clubs: Chester County, D7450 PA and Smithfield, D 7410 PA, USA. In addition to the hemodialysis machines the hospital also received a reverse osmosis water purifier, air conditioners and hospital beds.

In another development, clean, safe water is becoming more available to remote villages in the Zambezia Province of Mozambique, Africa, through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda Rotary (FL, USA) and the local African nonprofit Water4Life Mozambique. The Rotary Club of Punta Gorda (FL) raised over \$30,000 which was matched by \$50,000 from TRF. This Global Grant will drill around 10 additional water wells in the villages of Mozambique. Water4Life has drilled almost 400 wells in remote villages across the Zambezia Province since Rotarian Annie Eastman founded the certified nongovernmental organization in 2014.

With the help of Punta Gorda Rotary, more wells are being drilled in the region. Punta Gorda Rotary worked with a host club partner in Beira, Mozambique, on the project. Rotarian James Williams of the Punta Gorda Club expressed his club's satisfaction with the water project. "We are very happy to be able to do this...We often partner with clubs in really needy parts of the world and help fund projects that they and we come up with together."

Annie Eastman, in a press release, said that things will change for the better in these villages. "Girls will no longer walk miles to fetch water. Instead they can get an education. They are less at risk for rape and human trafficking. School is better attended as there is less sickness. (And) with water nearby, gardens can be grown."

Your continued support of the Rotary Foundation makes this possible. Thank you!

ANOTHER FUN SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Each year the Botanical Center hosts a “Winter Nights Winter Light” display which is also a significant fundraiser for the Center. They need volunteers to help hang some of the thousands of Christmas lights in the display. Our Club has volunteered to help. We have a Rotary 3-hour shift from 5:30 – 8:30pm on TUESDAY, November 10th and after “working”, finish off the shift with some hot chocolate or cider and donuts. This is a project that spouses and family members could join the crew! If you can help, email Bob Swanson, bobdebswanson@att.net. Bring your spouse and kids. We would like to have a crew of 15. Volunteer asap!



WILL YOU BE AN ANGEL?

Rock Island Rotary will once again provide an Angel Tree for Earl Hanson Elementary school students identified by their teachers as “at risks of not having Christmas”. Specifically it boils down to wonderful little children, who see everything about the holidays going on around them, but unfortunately may be in a situation where their family circumstances won’t allow them to provide the gifts the child hopes for and needs. Information for each child is provided including their first name, age, sizes, and a few suggested items to meet their needs. When you take an “Angel” off the tree, you agree to become their Angel and see that they have some gifts for Christmas day. You can take the information you are given and go shopping or, if time is an issue, you can provide the funds and our Rotary “Elves” will do the shopping for you. About \$30 is the typical expense. If you have a preference for a boy or girl, that request will be honored so far as possible. Molly Shattuck is our Angel Tree chair. Since we aren’t meeting in person and can’t have you personally take an Angel off the tree, just email Molly, and let her know that you will be an Angel for 1 or more children. If you have a boy or girl preference, please let Molly know that too. She’ll send you the information for your child. If you want the Elves to do the work, let her know that too. Email Molly at molly@hammarcpa.com



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

Because of Covid-19, our annual PUMPKIN PALOOZA took on a different look this year. Kids just returned to school and bus fieldtrips were not allowed; instead, we went to Earl Hanson Elementary school and piggybacked on their food distributions. Last Tuesday and Friday Rotarians gave pumpkins, tee shirts, books, and goodies to the kids. A BIG thanks to Sue Rector, Molly Shattuck, and Kathy Lelonek who braved some chilly and wet weather to serve the kids! THANKS!



Molly, Sue, and Kathy made a pumpkin patch out of the school grounds and the kids searched the yard for a “perfect” pumpkin to take home. Each child got an orange Rotary Tee Shirt (Thanks to our sponsors!!) and a bag with goodies and a special Halloween season book. Rotary made sure lots of kids had a wonderful “Palooza” for 2020!

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

CAN THE CHILDREN COUNT ON YOU?

Today we wrapped up our World Polio Day activities with a final video making clear the devastation and havoc Polio does to our most vulnerable, the children of the world. We in the United States are fortunate to have had 45 years of freedom from Polio, mostly due to immunizations becoming a regular part of birthing. However, medical experts tell us that if the effort to wipe out polio were to stop, within ten years we would be back to 200,000 annual cases; 20,000 children will be incurably paralyzed, and thousands will die. Rotary has been the leader in the polio eradication movement and Rock Island Rotary has been among the top Clubs in the Midwest in supporting that effort.

Today we "Passed the Hat for Polio", asking every club member to contribute to end polio. A donation sheet was attached with today's newsletter. The request to all is just TEN BUCKS! That is equivalent to less than one time out to lunch. Wouldn't you sacrifice a lunch for a child's life? You can give more if you wish, but we are more interested in 100% participation rather than big buck donations (which we certainly won't refuse).

Please – print the donation sheet, clip off the top portion, and send your donation today!





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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER ROTARIANS!

Donald Peterson	November	2
Carlos Jimenez	November	4
Randy Tweet	November	5
Stan Coin	November	9
Howard Beck	November	16
Liz Nino	November	18



ROTARY BIRDIES SETS RECORD!



Project chairman, Kevin Koski reported that Rock Island Rotary established a new record in donations to the Birdies for Charity program. He also noted that even with no golf tournament this year the annual Birdies drive did extremely well, allowing the John Deere Charitable Foundation to contribute a 5% bonus to all funds raised. Rock Island Rotary raised a whopping \$6,168.75 this year topping our previous high for the campaign. Thanks to all who made pledges and to Kevin who each year single handedly heads up this important charitable fundraiser.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO MAKE A "PASS THE HAT FOR POLIO" DONATION