



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 15, 2020: Volume XXVIII, Issue 22

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL GARDEN



SPRING FORWARD LEARNING CENTER

DAN MCNEIL, Director



Spring Forward's mission is to provide educational programs at no cost to enhance the lives of families in our community. That mission is led by Executive

Director, Dan McNeil. Spring Forward has reached thousands of kids and adults through its many years of programming and service. Spring Forward has grown to serve more than 600 children in after-school programs and summer enrichment camps. Another fifty adult English Learners participate in Spring Forward's Family Literacy program. McNeil says, "We aim to support a community in which all people are embraced and have an equal opportunity for success". Director McNeil has a broad background in community service, starting as Director of Development for the Figge Art Museum in 2007. He was named Vice President of Marketing for Putnam Museum in 2010 and then made the move to become Project Manager for River Action and Partners of Scott Count Watersheds in 2012. In December of 2014 he was named Executive Director of Spring Forward Learning Center and has presided over substantial growth and program development during the past 6 years. Programs include Summer Enrichment Camps, Kids on Campus, After School Programs, a Family Literacy program and even Spring Forward Soccer and basketball clubs. McNeil says, "Literacy is the driver of everything we do at spring forward. We know that reading is a key to success for people in school and beyond, that is why we make it a priority in all our educational programming. Through our leveled literacy intervention curriculum, regular attenders of our programs reliably see measurable results." With virtually all their programs involving face to face learning, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a huge disruption and forced rethinking of how best to serve children. Mr. McNeil explained the strategies which began with establishing an on-line after school program. The thought at the time was that it would be a relatively short-term program and that kids would be returning to school. The program consisted largely of positive messages and encouragement. Kids were urged to keep up online. As COVID lingered on, Spring Forward created "Spring Forward Together at 4", a daily streamed program for kids with positive messages and family activities. With school shut down and group gatherings banned, it became obvious that Spring Forward's summer camps had to be cancelled and something new had to be created. On May 5th, a decision was made to do a Remote Summer Camp. Not to be confused with a virtual program, the remote camp reached out to kids far beyond watching on a computer. Summer Success Kits were created each week containing books, food, activities, and a mix of fun and educational items. 400 kids registered for the program and received the kits for 6 consecutive weeks. By the end of the camp participants each had received 10-12 new books. A YouTube page was created offering kids on-line field trips to the Putnam Museum, Figge Art Museum, Nahant Marsh, and other area attractions. Staff members took to the streets on bikes 4 days a week taking books to the neighborhoods for free distribution to kids. The van Rotary helped Spring Forward purchase was used to deliver books and Summer Success Kits all over the city. Mr. McNeil stressed that there is no substitute for live one on one learning and noted that the more affluent children tend to have books in their homes and positive reinforcement for reading and learning. Spring Forward strives to reach those who may lack resources and helps provide books, direction, and encouragement to ensure they keep learning and up to date with their schoolwork. As is usual, one of our own presented an excellent program! Thanks Dan!

Dec. – Jan. Calendar

- Dec 22 - Preparing for your 2020 Tax Year - Tom Hammar & Molly Shattuck
- Dec 29 - Club Assembly – Committees Will report their activities
- Jan 5 - Jeff Rose – 2021 Economic Forecast – A Banker's Perspective
Forecast: A Banker's Perspective
- Jan 11 - State of the City, Mayor Mike Thoms **NOTE THIS IS A MONDAY JOINT MEETING WITH KIWANIS**



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 had just one guest. Visiting Rotarian. Mark Zimmerman of the Davenport Club joined us and even chipped in some happy dollars. Thanks Mark, always glad to have you with us!
- ☐ **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
- ☐ **WINE RAFFLE** – So far only about half the club has responded! We need either your \$20 check and filled out stubs, or the five tickets that were sent to you, returned to Anne McGlynn, at 11502 - 47th Street, Milan, IL 61264 or dropped off to Kathy Trone at Wessels & Wierman law firm, 423 -17th Street, Rock Island. Wine Raffle tickets make fantastic stocking stuffers or holiday dinner favors! A small gift now could mean a \$700 prize in May!
- ☐ **HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA** – Here's an idea for that very special person who already has everything. Make a charitable gift in their name. We will provide an appropriate, personalized certificate card for presentation to the recipient. Give a water filter for children in Kenya - \$350; or a Paul Harris Fellow award - \$1,000. The gift is a great and caring way to honor your recipient and may have beneficial tax consequences for you as well. Contact Bob Swanson for details.
- ☐ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** – Rock Island Mayor Mike Thoms will present the annual "State of the City Address" to a joint meeting of Rock Island Rotary and Rock Island Kiwanis on MONDAY, January 11th. Rotary will not meet on Tuesday, January 12th. At this point we are assuming the meeting will be via ZOOM. Details as to how to join the meeting will be provided prior to the 11th.
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

THE TAB GROWS

"Pickens" were a bit slim with our finer, Cindi Gramenz, unable to attend today's meeting. In her absence president Angela called on members for happy/sad dollars. Mark Zimmerman offered 2 happy dollars for Iowa's football and basketball team who are both having excellent seasons. Bob Swanson gave a happy dollar for the start of COVID vaccine distribution this week. Julie Gelaude had a happy dollar for her son getting his own apartment. Molly Shattuck put in \$6 in honor of those who volunteered to deliver Angel Tree presents to children at their homes. Deliverers were Sue Cassatt, Sue Hammar (Tom's wife/Molly's mom), Holly Sparkman, Cindi Gramenz, Eric Westphal, and Molly. Kathy Lelonek gave a happy dollar for her son coming home for a 2-week holiday break. Kathy gave another dollar along with Bruce Peterson for early leaving privileges. (There was one more early leaver, but I was unable to catch who it was!). Thanks to everyone who contributed!



ANGEL TREE GIFTS DELIVERED!

Rotarians provided over \$1,200 worth of gifts for 35 Earl Hanson children whose teachers feared might not have anything to open on Christmas day. Chair Molly Shattuck was to deliver our Angel Tree gifts to Earl Hanson School and Hanson teachers planned to deliver them to the homes of their students. However, with teachers all working "virtually" and staying home, they were not able to do the delivering. Thanks to Molly Shattuck and a handful of great Rock Island Rotarians the presents were delivered to the children's homes ensuring a Merry Christmas for the kids! Thanks to Hammar & Associates for providing a drop off location for the packages. Thanks again to all who took Angels. Rotarians know, "One Profits Most Who Serves Best!" **Page 7 for photos.**



WE MADE SCARFS!

Cindi Gramenz, Sue Rector, Bob Swanson, Molly Shattuck, and Anne McGlynn met at the Martin Luther King Center after last week's meeting and cut and tied scarfs from material donated by Sue. Angela Campbell and Kathy Lelonek each took material and worked from home. Between 75 and 100 cozy, cute, and warm winter scarfs were created. Molly Shattuck delivered them to Earl Hanson School. They will be distributed to kids needing scarfs when school reconvenes after the holidays.



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 2 of Rotary International's Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

It's been another week of Rotarians preparing for the end of the year in various ways, including Helping neighbors in need both near and far.

With this month's theme of disease prevention and treatment, Rotarians are mindful of the crushing impact of coronavirus on personal lives of families all over the world. This is why several clubs, with the help of The Rotary Foundation (TRF), are responding to the needs of individuals impacted by the virus.

Rotary District 7930, composed of 47 clubs in northeastern Massachusetts, applied for and was awarded a Rotary Foundation Covid-19 Global Grant to support the efforts of Care Dimensions, the largest hospice and palliative care provider in Massachusetts. The \$44,950 (US) was used to purchase PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the not-for-profit organization's "Frontline Workers."

Other contributors in this grant were: Rotary District 2650 (Japan), Rotary Club of Kyoto South and Rotary Clubs in Greater Boston, MA. The president and CEO of Care Dimensions, Patricia Ahren, expressed her organizations gratitude to TRF for "...funding critical PPE for our staff who are on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic....and we are honored TRF has chosen to assist our care teams on the North Shore and in Greater Boston."

District 7930 Governor, Betsy Manzelli, assured Care Dimensions of her district's enthusiasm at "...collaborating with and supporting Care Dimensions during this pandemic." The past district governor, Joan Arsenault, 2019-2020, explained that, as a professional healthcare provider, she realized that TRF "was an incredible resource and could help us address the shortage of PPE and food insecurity."

Past Trustee of TRF and RI Director, Julia Phelps, expressed satisfaction about this grant, which was a first for her district, "that's the beauty of Rotary: people helping people they've never met but knowing they are making a difference and saving lives."

"Wherever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it is a little thing, do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember, you don't live in a world all of your own." – Albert Schweitzer

ANNUAL ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE POSTPONED

Another casualty of the Pandemic is our annual Blood Drive. They are unable to do satellite blood drives because of COVID-19. We are not "cancelling", but just postponing until an all clear is sounded and we can reschedule. In the interim, the Mississippi Valley Blood Center is desperate for blood. There is an URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEER DONORS - Locally and nationally, blood centers have only 2-3 day supply of type O red blood cells. Supplies of AB plasma and Convalescent Plasma are depleted. They are calling for all healthy members of the public to step up now and support care for patients. There are safe local locations taking blood. Call 797-3415 for an appointment.

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



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

Time: 6:30pm START time, doors open at 5:45pm

Where: Milan Community Center, 2701 1st Street East, Milan

Cost: \$100 a table, up to 10 players

RSVP: Kathy Trone 309-794-9400 or Kathy@wesselspc.com

ANOTHER ROCK ISLAND ROTARY PROJECT COMPLETED!

The last of our “Little Libraries” was recently installed at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Milan. We have now purchased and installed Little Libraries at all the elementary schools in Rock Island and Milan and at other strategically placed sites within our community. Rotary members volunteer to “keep an eye” on each Library to report any needed repairs of maintenance and restock books when needed. The project is chaired by Kathy Lelonek who has a large supply of books used to keep libraries filled. Books in the libraries are free for the taking with readers invited to “Take a Book – Leave a Book”. This project took on particular importance when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, closing schools and libraries throughout the area. The Little Libraries provide a constant source of materials for children and continue our club’s commitment to children and to promote literacy. Any Rotarian willing to “keep an eye” on a library location near your home or on your customary route of travel are asked to volunteer by emailing Kathy at kathylelonek@mchsi.com.



SYCAMORE (With Help From Rock Island} WINS!

Sycamore Rotary president, Michael DeVito, sent a huge “thank you” to Rock Island Rotary and notified us that with many votes coming from Rock Island, Sycamore won the coveted “People’s Choice Award” in this year’s park district Community Tree Decorating contest. The win culminates a “Coats for Kids” project by Sycamore Rotary that raised over \$2,000 and provided more than 70 children with warm winter coats! The project started with Sycamore Rotary enlisting the help of children who came up with dozens of “child-made” tree ornaments. Rotarians then sold the ornaments for \$30 each, which was the exact cost of one coat. The purchasers name was added to the ornament and then Rotarians decorated their tree using the kid-made ornaments. The public was invited to view all the trees vying for the honor of being voted as the People’s Choice for best tree. Rotarians throughout District 6420 were invited to go on-line, check out the trees and vote. President Campbells urged Rock Island Rotarians to support Sycamore’s entry. Long-time Rock Island Rotarian, John Wetzel discovered that by going in day after day, he could vote multiple times (is he from Chicago?). At any rate in accord with our Four Way Test, John told the truth and did not violate any rules! Bottom line, with our help, Sycamore Rotary won and lots of kids will have a much more comfortable winter with a toasty new coat. Congratulations, Sycamore!!



*Raffle tickets make
perfect stocking stuffers!*

\$5 Each
Or
5 for \$20

Contact
Anne McGlynn
for more info:
309-428-3106
amfm1924@
gmail.com

*The Rotary Club
of Rock Island*
is proud to present the 2021

Annual Wine Raffle

Proceeds benefit the Rock Island
Rotary "Service Above Self"
scholarship program.

1st Prize—
\$500 in Wine

2nd Prize—
\$300 in Wine

3rd Prize—
\$200 in Wine



*"It doesn't matter if the glass
is half-full or half-empty, there is
always room for more wine."*

Ticket shown "stocking ready" wrapped around an airlight sized wine bottle.

Please do not forget to forward your filled-out ticket stubs and payment to Rock Island Rotary, P.O. Box 4514 Rock Island, IL, 61254-4514 or kindly return the ticket to that same address or to Kathy Trone at 423 17th Street, Suite 102 in Rock Island.

ROTARY DELIVERS ANGEL TREE GIFTS

With the COVID pandemic closing schools, for the first time ever Rotarians were tasked with delivering Angel Tree packages to the children at the homes. Sue Cassatt, Sue Hammar (Tom's wife/Molly's mom), Holly Sparkman, Cindi Gramenz, Eric Westphal, and Molly Shattuck made the deliveries. If you have wondered if our gifts are appreciated, just talk with any of those who delivered them. Their comments ranged from thanking us for giving them the "opportunity to deliver packages", to "I was taken back by some of the situations or conditions of the housing", and "After one delivery, the young man yelled out the door, a loud and appreciative 'Thank you'. What a great day". Another said, "After seeing some of the situations these kids are in, it made me step back and count my blessings." Thanks again to Molly for organizing the project, to all those who took Angels, and to our Santa's helpers who delivered the gifts. Here are a few shots of the deliver effort.

