



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

January 26, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 29

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Dave Heller River Bandits

Dave Heller is the president and CEO of Main Street Baseball, LLC, and the majority owner and Managing Partner of the Quad Cities River Bandits, a Midwest League, Advanced-A affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. Mr.

Heller was unable to make his presentation at today's meeting. We will attempt to reschedule him for a later date. However, his accomplishments and news regarding our Quad City River Bandits team warrant recognition today. In December 2016, Main Street Baseball was awarded Ballpark Digest's coveted "Minor League Baseball Organization of the Year" honor – one of the industry's highest honors. Heller's teams are known primarily for three things: fun, innovative promotions; making significant ballpark improvements benefiting both fans and players; and giving back generously to each club's home community. In addition to the River Bandits, the Mr. Heller's organization owns baseball clubs in Lowell Massachusetts, Wilmington Delaware, and Billings Montana. In the Quad Cities, since Heller took over, the River Bandits have sparked a stunning resurgence of baseball, winning three championships in seven seasons (when no other team won even two), setting the per-game attendance record and earning numerous awards for innovative promotions and ballpark improvements. Over the years, the team has set records for attendance, concessions, group, and sponsorship sales. Upon purchasing the Bandits, Heller sold ballpark naming rights to Modern Woodmen of America; MWA later extended its deal through 2027. Modern Woodmen Park has since earned as many accolades as any ballpark in the country. It was voted "best minor league ballpark" by the readers of USA Today and 10Best.com and the Midwest League's best ballpark by Baseball America. It earned a 5-star rating from Ballpark Digest, was named one of the two most beautiful ballparks in the minors by USA Today, one of the top 10 by Parade Magazine and "the #2 Coolest Minor League Ballpark in America" by Complex Magazine. The team even won an award for best TV commercial! Under Heller's leadership, the River Bandits have added many fun new features to the ballpark, including two outfield bars, five concourse-level "loge boxes," an 80-foot-long HD ribbon-board, a 36' x 42' HD video board, new sound system, a playground and a kids' party room ringed with ten X-Box and PS4 stations. The team also added new concessions stands and food carts, a triple suite, a Hall of Fame autographed jersey display, three new group areas, a special group area for our nation's veterans, a small solar farm, a permanent home for the Quad-Cities Sports Hall of Fame and a (sponsored) corn field from where the players are introduced at the game's outset (after all, it is Iowa)! Heller also helped design and finance the spectacular Budweiser "Champions Club," a large, multi-purpose banquet hall with glass garage doors that open/close based on the weather. That room helped the club increase wedding business by more than 1,000%; the team now hosts 175 non-baseball events a year. In 2014, the Bandits unveiled their biggest improvement – a new 105-foot-tall Ferris wheel, the first in Minor League Baseball! That ride transformed the Quad Cities' skyline and has become an iconic part of downtown Davenport – it, too, was named by Ballpark Digest as "the nation's best ballpark improvement" (the fifth time in 10 years Main Street Baseball earned that award!). The team also added more than \$2 million worth of new rides to the ballpark, including a spinning kids' coaster, two new thrill rides, a swinging pirate ship, and a

### Feb. – Mar. Calendar

- Feb 2 - Brian Baxter, Executive Director Quad City Symphony. .  
"Symphony During the Pandemic"
- Feb 9 - Mike Nitzel – Retired Principal Thomas Jefferson Elementary  
"How People Become Great Leaders"
- Feb 16 - Nita Ludwig, Administrator, Rock Island County Health Department
- Feb 23 - Mike Halpin, Illinois State Rep.
- Mar 2 - TBA
- Mar 9 - Dr. Guilou Huang, President, Western Illinois University
- Mar 23 - Liz Murray Tallman, DARI
- Mar 30 - Sara Leonard, Earl Hanson Principal



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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 Mark Zimmerman of the Davenport Club and Duncan Cameron from the Naples Florida Club, were visiting Rotarians attending our meeting. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the “Number One Club”. We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- ☐ **HELP NEEDED** – AT HEART OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY Volunteers are needed from 3:30pm to 5:30pm every Thursday to help make up food packages and assist in handing them to needy recipients. It is strictly as drive thru, no contact distribution. Heart of Hope also needs old grocery sacks. They also have a clothing ministry and need donations of clothes. Older or slightly used men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing will be appreciated. This time of year, coats, gloves, and caps, as well as warm pants and shirts/blouses are greatly appreciated. Project chair Steve Morenz will arrange to collect sacks and clothing. Email Steve at [smorenz3@gmail.com](mailto:smorenz3@gmail.com).
- ☐ **CLUB DIRECTORY UPDATE** – The correct email address for Mike Oberhaus is: [moberhaus@quadcitieschamber.com](mailto:moberhaus@quadcitieschamber.com). Please make that correction in your Club Directory. Thanks!
- ☐ **WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE** – Will meet right after our regular Club meeting next Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Committee members please stay online after the Club meeting adjourns. Chairman Ruth will join us from California.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT DISTRICT MEETINGS FAST APPROACHING** – The District Grant Management Seminar - via Zoom will be held on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM. The PETS (President-Elect Training) Orientation Zoom Meeting will be held on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net).

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



Foundation Chairman Bud Phillis reported that since March when our in-person meetings stopped the foundation account has not had the opportunity to raise funds through our weekly raffle drawing or our monthly Foundation Tuesday giving. As a result, the Foundation account has suffered. Fueled only by a \$3.50 assessment quarterly from our dues and those members who have established automatic account withdrawal contributions for the Foundation, the result is that money is not available for the Club to make its normal \$400 match to help members achieve Paul Harris Fellow status. (Typically, that has been \$600 from the member and \$400 from the Club). However, until the fund builds back up, two very generous members, Dr. Tricia Barron, and Ruth Lee, have offered to share their excess recognition points to help members become Paul Harris Fellows. One recognition point equals \$1. Bud noted that we have had a few new Paul Harris Fellows this year but would very much like to have more. Contributions can be given cumulative over time. You can become a “Sustaining Paul Harris Member” by simply committing to work toward a Paul Harris Fellow award with a minimum total contribution of \$100 annually. Each week our “Foundation Minute” provides stories as to how these vital funds are used for philanthropic work throughout the world.

#### **River Bandits– Continued from Page 1 -**

30-foot-tall Drop-N-Twist to go with a myriad of bounce houses, a kiddie train and the only double-decker carousel between Chicago and Kansas City. Heller also improved the “back of the house,” flood-protecting the entire ballpark, adding three large storage spaces, renovating both the home and visitors’ clubhouses, adding a new weight and workout room, enclosing the batting cages, redoing the playing field and irrigation system, adding new protective netting beyond the ends of the dugouts, expanding the club’s kitchen facilities and, in 2017, making Modern Woodmen Park the first Single-A ballpark in the country to install new, energy-efficient LED lights along with new light poles. No wonder Baseball America named the Quad Cities River Bandits one of the 12 “Most Accomplished Franchises of the 2010s.” Heller and the River Bandits love giving back to the Quad Cities: the team has donated more than \$5 million to area charities, helped raise \$101,000 for flood relief, and won multiple U.S. Army Gold Awards for its community service. Its “Bandit Scholars” program, which pays an entire year’s college tuition, funds three such scholarships. In 2015, 2017 and again in 2019, Ballpark Digest honored the River Bandits with its “Commitment to Charity” award in Minor League Baseball, the only team to win that distinction three times (no other club has won twice). We look forward to Mr. Heller’s rescheduled presentation.

### **THE TAB**

**Today happy/Sad Dollars accounted for donations to the TAB. Tom Showalter and Clarence Darrow each gave a happy dollar for having received their first COVID vaccine shot last Tuesday. Clarence added another dollar in celebration of his grand-daughter’s selection as an Attendant for the 2021 Virtual Mardi Gras. Tammy Weikert added a dollar in celebration of holding the first “ZOOM COURT” session yesterday. This offers a safe and convenient opportunity to continue important court business for Rock Island County residents. Bob Swanson pitched in \$75 for our Club Foundation in recognition of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Doug Hultquist had a sad dollar as a loyal Green Bay Packers fan. Their season ended Sunday with a loss to Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. His sad dollar was quickly matched by Happy dollars from Bear fans Angela Campbell and Steve Morenz. Thanks to all who contributed!**



## **FOUNDATION MINUTE**

Welcome to Week 4 of Rotary International’s Vocational Service Month!

It’s the last week in the month when Rotarians worldwide focus on promoting, fostering and supporting the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations. Using the highest ethical standards and fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public Rotarians should take every opportunity to promote vocational excellence by example and service to others.

The past few months have featured Rotary Clubs responding to the needs of their fellow beings through dedicated service in various areas. However, no disaster has challenged the determination of Rotarians like the on-going virulent Covid-19. Rotarians, through the support of TRF, have funded numerous projects aimed at helping frontline workers combat the debilitating coronavirus and help families devastated by the scourge. Certain situations too risky to involve human helpers in dangerously infectious environments, have not dampened the enthusiasm of Rotarians to be of help.

A case in point is the recent event in India where TRF supported a Global Grant that funded robots used to deliver food, medicines, and essential services to highly infectious Covid-19 patients in Assam Medical Hospital. The Tribune of India reports that the robots would be very useful in servicing patients with extremely contagious diseases inside the isolation chambers of the quarantine facilities. In his welcoming address at the occasion, the Past District Governor (D3240), Rotarian Kalpana Khound, reiterated the contribution of Rotary in fighting the pandemic. The Rotary Club of Dibrugarh (NE India) and the Rotary Club of Dhaka Royal in Bangladesh contributed to the Foundation’s Global Grant.

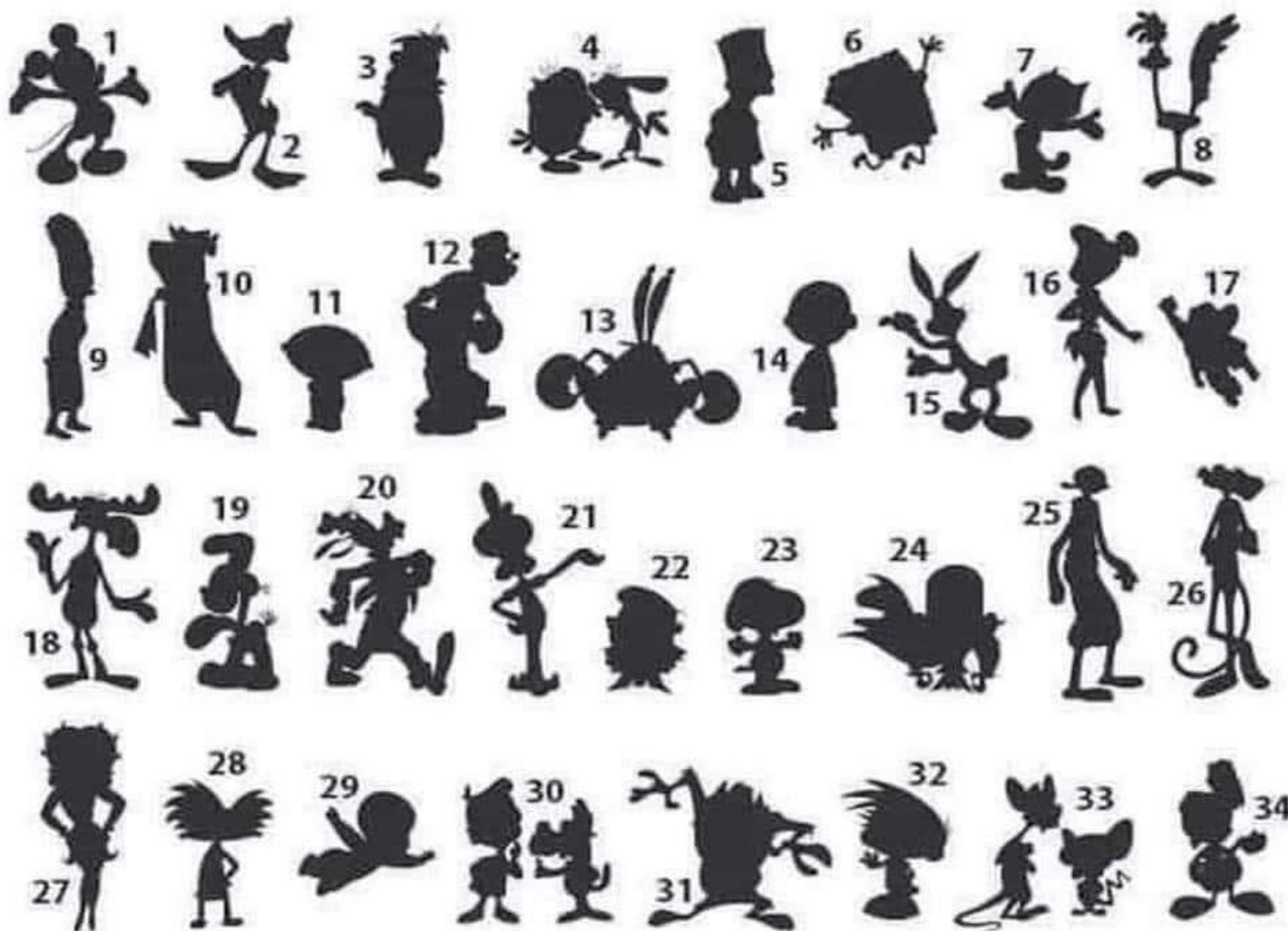
To reduce the danger of toxic water consumption, the Rotary Club of Guwahati South engaged in a joint project with The Rotary Club of Tacoma (D5020) to purify water by removing arsenic through specially designed large arsenic-removal plants. TRF made the Global Grant of \$69,000 possible.

The Rotary Foundation is not to build monuments of brick and stone. If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds.... we are engraving on those tablets something that will brighten all eternity.” (Arch C. Klumph, December 1928).



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CARTOON CHARACTERS?

Clue: #29 is Casper. Report Your Score. Don't Cheat!



Email how many you got right to Bob at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). Answers on next page

## 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! Call 563-343-7985 or email [srector3614@gmail.com](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:Kathy@wesselspc.com)

**CARTOON QUIZ**  
1 Mickey Mouse 2 Daffy Duck 3 Fred Flintstone 4 Ren and Stimpy 5 Bart Simpson 6 Spongebob 7 Felix the Cat 8 Roadrunner 9 Marge Simpson 10 Yogi Bear 11 Stevie Nicks 12 Popeye 13 Mr. Krabs 14 Charlie Brown 15 Bugs Bunny 16 Wilma Flintstone 17 Mighty Mouse 18 Bullwinkle 19 Odie 20 Goofy 21 Squidward 22 Dexter 23 Snoopy 24 Jojo 25 Olive Oyl 26 Pink Panther 27 Betty Boop 28 Arnold 29 Casper 30 Peabody and Sherman 31 Taz 32 Bobby 33 Pinky and the Brain 34 Marvin the Martian

**Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.**

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

### What we do

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

### Our mission

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

### Vision statement

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.



## WE ARE ON THE CALENDAR!

Replenish, the organization we work with for our Water Filter Project in Kenya is a major international non-profit organization working with many entities and organization to provide clean, safe potable water and sanitation education to third world villagers. We have now had a five-year relationship with Replenish that has resulted in our purchase of more than 240 filters that are delivered and serving more than 17,000 children in rural villages near Nairobi, Kenya. Each year Replenish prepares a nice quality desk calendar and sends them to clients and contacts all over the world. As one of their faithful partners, we received the new 2021 calendar. Flipping through the months we see a photo of village children using water filters accompanying each month's calendar. We also notice that a majority of the filters look like the ones we have purchases. When we got to the April calendar all doubt was gone! As you can see very plainly, the filter has our project's familiar identifying sticker with the Rotary logo, the American Flag, and the words, "Western Illinois - Eastern Iowa Rotary Clubs" proudly displayed. Kind of neat to know the fruits of our project are being seen world-wide! Thanks to our many members who contributed, and annually continue to support this great project!



## Could You Lend Us Some Storage Space?

As you know, our club paid for the construction and installation of "Little Library" centers throughout our community. There is one located at or near every school in the Rock Island – Milan District, Jordan Catholic School, The King Center, and the Rock Island County Clerk of the Court's Office. We've asked for club members to volunteer to periodically check on a Little Library location near your home or route of travel and to report when maintenance is needed and when books need to be replenished. Children are given free access to take a book and can return books after reading. Many books don't get returned, which is fine if they are staying in the home and are available for brothers, sisters, and for rereading. Rotary replenishes the libraries when needed. The books have been provided through the generosity of members and from other sources. We need to keep a supply of books on hand, and now need a place to store that supply until they are placed into use. If you have an available storage location (garage loft, extra storeroom, etc.) and would make it available for book storage, we would be most appreciative. Please call Sue Rector (563) 343-7985 or Kathy Lelonek (309) 752-3014.

