



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 2, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 30

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



BRIAN BAXTER Quad City Symphony

Brian Baxter became Executive Director of the Quad City Symphony in February of 2018. Mr. Baxter came to the Quad Cities after nine years as Chief Operating Officer of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra. There he oversaw more than 600 students in the orchestra programs and managed the community engagement programs which reached thousands of students annually. During his tenure, he led three successful international tours, grew the CYSO's student body by 30%, and expanded the organization's programmatic offerings by adding a seventh orchestra, a jazz orchestra, a composition seminar, and a neighborhood steel band program increasing the community's access to the CYSO. In addition to his administrative expertise, Baxter is also an accomplished musician, and composer. He co-founded the Chicago Composers Orchestra (CCO) and served as its co-Artistic Director and President of the Board of Directors. Since its inception, Baxter has overseen the CCO's incorporation as a 501(c)(3) organization and produced eight consecutive concert seasons. Mr. Baxter holds a bachelor's degree in Music from Illinois Wesleyan University and a master's degree in Music Composition from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts. Today his presentation centered on leading the symphony through the COVID pandemic. Mr. Baxter noted that he has great optimism for 2021. He said just prior to the pandemic the symphony had adopted a new strategic plan, which had to be dramatically altered after COVID hit, however they stayed on mission and found creative ways to achieve their goals. They set three goals: OPEN COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE QCSO; ENGAGING WITH THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY; and LEADING THROUGH ARTISTIC & EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS. They also established four "Core Values": – COMMUNITY-FOCUSED; COMMITTED TO INNOVATION AND RISK-TAKING; COLLABORATIVE; and REFLECT THE COMMUNITY IN THE SYMPHONY ORGANIZATION. To help achieve their goal of increasing diversity, the Symphony has affiliated with the National Alliance for Audition Support, a SPHINZ organization dedicated to increasing diversity in American orchestras. It will do so by offering Black and Latinx musicians a customized combination of mentoring, audition preparation, financial support, and audition previews. Baxter then reviewed the many educational programs of the Symphony. He said that in a "normal" year, QCSO musicians visited virtually all elementary schools in the Quad Cities along with most jr. and sr. high schools. During COVID such visits are impossible. The Symphony obtained a grant to record and make digitally available performances by their chamber groups. Videos were given to area school music teachers and band and orchestra directors. In a normal year, the QCSO hosts a "Students at the Symphony" concert with 1,000 area students admitted free. This year the concert was "virtual" and was viewed by over 9,000 students free of charge. The QCSO "Symphony Day" normally reaches 6,000 3rd and 4th grade students. This year doing it virtually, over 11,000 students attended the performance. QCSO is also currently providing private lessons to over 70 area students. Baxter noted that nationally many orchestras totally shut down. Our orchestra geared up and found new ways to serve our community. Their "Masterworks Series" of concerts continues in digital format with performances in February, March, and an April outdoor concert. Please visit www.qcso.org for dates, concert descriptions and details on how to join the audience!

Feb. – Mar. Calendar

- Feb 9 - Mike Nitzel – Retired Principal Thomas Jefferson Elementary "How People Become Great Leaders"
- Feb 9 - Wine Raffle Committee ZOOM meeting after our Club meeting
- 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 16 - Dave Heller, Q.C. River Bandits
- Mar 23 - Liz Murray Tallman, DARI
- Mar 30 - Sara Leonard, Earl Hanson Principal



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 our good friends, Mark Zimmerman of the Davenport Club and Duncan Cameron of the Naples Florida Club, were visiting Rotarians at our meeting. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the “Number One Club”. We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- ☐ **THANK YOU AMERICAN BANK!** – Last week we asked if anyone had space where we could store the surplus books for our Little Libraries. The ink was barely dry when Rotarian Amanda Delacruz responded offering space in American Bank’s Hill Top location (38th Street). Thank you Amanda, manager of the Hill Top and Downtown Rock Island branches, and Jeff Rose, American Bank President, two of our newer, super club members!
- ☐ **THE WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE** had so much fun and so many good ideas in their meeting today that they are going to do it again right after next week’s meeting. If you’re on the committee, stay on ZOOM after the Club adjourns!
- ☐ **START SAVING!** – With COVID vaccine becoming more available and getting into the arms of our residents, it may not be too long before we can again enjoy one another’s company at in-person meetings. When that happens all of those “TAB” totals for those who have not mailed in contributions will be due. We should have a pretty neat “line up” when we each file by and “pay the piper”. By the way, does anyone have a pipe?
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

THE TAB

Lots of cash flowed into the TAB today! Anne McGlynn was fined under the “Austin Rule” for a recent letter to the editor. Steve Bahls was fined for recent articles regarding his pending retirement as Augustana President. Kai Swanson and Doug Hultquist added dollars in honor of Steve fantastic tenure and service. Kai and Doug also added dollars for Augie’s men and women basketball team victories. Ruth Lee also chipped in for the basketball wins. Cindi Gramenz offered a Happy Dollar for Bob Swanson joining the Christian Care Board of Directors. Bob will pay for that one too! Bob also offered a sad dollar for the passing of long time Rotarian Ben Farrar’s wife, Nancy Farrar. Kathy Lelonek paid \$17 in recognition of her 17-year-old son, Pearce, being selected as a page for the Mardi Gras. Gary Rowe and Bud Phillis each gave a Happy Dollar for the Illini basketball victory over Iowa. Ruth Lee added a Happy Dollar for receiving word that Fred and Virginia Houlton recently visited family in Florida. Molly Shattuck paid \$3 in celebration of learning that her soon to be born 3rd child is a boy. Finally, Steve Morenz paid an “early leaver” dollar. Thanks to all who contributed!

Cartoon Quiz

Replies are coming in reporting how members did on the Cartoon “Shadow” Quiz that appeared in last week’s newsletter. We’ll give it one more week while we try to come up with a proper recognition for our top “Quiz Solver”. If you haven’t yet responded, be sure to do so by the end of this week so we can tabulate and identify our top Cartoon fan! Thanks to Cindi Gramenz for coming up with this fun and challenging Quiz!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

February - The Peace & Conflict Prevention and Resolution Month of Rotary International!

For Rotarians, February focuses on conflicts that occur throughout the world that have as their root causes: poverty, despair, economic hardship, and poor health. This is precisely what the grants sponsored by The Rotary International Foundation impact. Throughout the month of January, Rotarians all over the world were doing charitable vocations that were beneficial to all concerned.

Some clubs in St. Lucia, (United Kingdom) donated 12 computers to two high schools; some bought 10,000 masks for a school; several clubs distributed thousands of dictionaries to elementary pupils; D5450 (Colorado USA) organized internships for the homeless. By mid-January, Rotarians in 70 clubs across Nebraska and western Iowa had donated \$15,000 in a multi-district food drive. These donations were more than double with \$17,000 in matching grants from the foundations operated by the two districts.

The last week of January featured another act of kindness undertaken by Rotarians with the support of TRF. With help from a Rotary Foundation Grant, Rotary D7810 (New Brunswick/Maine) donated \$12,000 to Catholic Charities of Maine for the purchase of food for food banks in the two counties because of the increased food insecurity due to COVID-19.



Giving is more than an activity. It is a way of life and a beacon in the search for hope in troubled times. There is great turmoil today, but these are not unusual times, not in the span of human history. The wisdom of the ages is especially important to help us set our path and purpose.

(K.R. Ravindran, Foundation Trustee Chair. The Rotarian, February 2021)

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 rector3614@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

Rotary International Statement on Racism

At Rotary, we have no tolerance for racism. Promoting respect, celebrating diversity, demanding ethical leadership, and working tirelessly to advance peace are central tenets of our work.

We have more work to do to create more just, open and welcoming communities for all people.

We know there are no easy fixes and that challenging conversations and work lie before all of us. Rotary's strength has long been our ability and commitment to bringing people together. We will tap into that strength now as we stand with those who are working for peace and justice.

Rotary will do our part to listen, learn and take action to ensure that we continue to contribute to making positive change.

