



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 23, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 33

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Michael Halpin 72<sup>nd</sup> District State Representative



### Feb. – Mar. Calendar

- Mar 2 - Rock Island Library –  
Presented by Rotarians  
Angela Campbell and  
Kathy Lelonek
- 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

Mike Halpin was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in November of 2016 and took office in January 2017. He is now in his third term representing the 72<sup>nd</sup>

District which encompasses the metropolitan Illinois Quad Cities and the western half of rural Rock Island County. He currently serves as Chairman of the Personnel & Pensions Committee. Halpin received his bachelors' degree from Roger Williams University and his Juris Doctorated law degree from the University of Illinois. He served as a legislative aide to former Congressman Lane Evans, and as a former public guardian for Rock Island County. He has served on the board of directors of Bridging the Gap: and Stand Down for Homeless Veterans. Representative Halpin resides in Rock Island with his wife and two children. Mr. Halpin divided his comments into three major areas: the COVID pandemic; the State Budget; and the recently enacted Criminal Justice Reform act. Starting with the pandemic, Rep Halpin said Illinois is doing better than many states in the distribution and administration of vaccine. He acknowledged that Rock Island County has suffered from a shortage of vaccine and stated he is working with the Department of Public Health to obtain more supplies. Halpin also said that he believes we are headed in the right direction and that there is now a light at the end of the tunnel. His prediction was that within the next several months Illinois should be good shape and able to ease more of the COVID restrictions. Turning to the Governor's recently proposed Budget, the Representative said the pandemic created a revenue loss for the State with business being closed resulting in the loss of tax revenue. He noted however that the loss was not as severe as had been predicted and that the State was able to pay off some debt that would have had to be paid out of the new budget. Stressing that the Governor's budget is a "proposal", he said the General Assembly and Senate would review and debate the budget and may make changes prior to returning it to the Governor for signature. One thing Halpin is hoping for is to get an increase in Education funding put back into the budget. The Governor's budget kept most spending flat, including Education, which was not fully funded this past year. He said the proposed budget asks for no new taxes, other than closing some corporate tax "loopholes". Opponents argue those changes will be extremely harmful to local businesses. Halpin also said that the budget assumes no additional federal funds, which could possibly come if an additional COVID package is passed by the US House and Senate. The Representative then turned to the Criminal Justice Reform bill, which he noted was highly controversial. It was strongly opposed by law enforcement agencies and Halpin admitted it was not a "perfect" bill. But weighing the benefits against the areas he did not support, he felt overall it was worthy of support and he voted for the bill. He did push for and got one significant change in the bill prior to lending his support, that was to keep in place the qualified immunity provision of the current law for law enforcement personnel. He noted the bill eliminates cash bail and makes the decision as to release or incarceration pending trial based on severity of the crime, potential for endangerment of the public, and potential for fleeing, rather than ability to pay. The bill bans choke holds and neck and head restraints, limits the use of impact projectiles (rubber bullets, etc.), requires body cameras for all law enforcement personnel by 2025, limits who can alter or edit body camera footage, and requires more officer training in mental health, de-escalation, and the use of force.

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[www.rirotary.com](http://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 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in a row with no guests! Where is Duncan and Mark? We miss you! Truly unfortunate since we were treated to another quality program. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the “Number One Club”. We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- ☐ **WINE RAFFLE POSTERS AVAILABLE** – If you have a business or know of a public location where a wine raffle poster could be posted, please contact Kathy Trone. The posters are attractive and professionally done. Getting the word out is a big part of having a successful fundraiser. Call Kathy at 309-794-9400 to get a poster. **Your help is needed and appreciated!**
- ☐ **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).
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net).

### Halpin from page 1 –

The bill also makes officers more accountable to misconduct and ‘decertifies’ bad actors so they can’t just move to another jurisdiction and continue. In response to questions, Mr. Halpin said that legalizing marijuana has brought in significant tax revenue and has not resulted in more DUI arrests or traffic accidents. He said the recent leadership change with Mike Madigan’s resignation has resulted in a more technologically aware leader and a more inclusive democrat caucus. He stated that a bill to provide pre-judgment interest is pending and would be beneficial to persons who successfully prove their claims. Thanks to Representative Mike Halpin!

## SAVE the DATE

### The Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT Has Been Rescheduled!

To Ensure we can have a large in-person crowd  
we have moved Trivia Night to November 12<sup>th</sup> at the  
Milan Community Center - doors open at 5:45pm  
Proceeds used to support Earl Hanson Elementary School  
and Rock Island Rotary Community Grants

## THE TAB

It was a good day for the Foundation today with many fines and happy/sad dollars. Anne McGlynn started things off with an Austin Rule dollar for "Ann" McGlynn's letter to the Editor. Kevin Koski followed with a \$1 fine for a newspaper photo of his getting a COVID shot. Tom Showalter and Anne McGlynn each had happy dollars for getting their 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID shots. John Wetzel put in 5 happy dollars in recognition of Augustana's men's basketball team getting their 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive win. Justin Peterson had a happy dollar recognizing Dave Geenen's recruiting a soon to be inducted new member, Jeremy Steiner, Principal of the Quad Cities Christian School. Ruth Lee offered \$2, one happy - one sad. Happy to be heading home next week from California, and sad to be leaving her grandson and daughter's family. Bob Swanson put in a dollar for Ruth's agreeing to have 16 cases of wine delivered to her home for our wine auction. Gary Rowe added a dollar saying it was "Business as Usual" for Ruth! Thanks to all.



## FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 4 of RI's Month of Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution.

Promoting peace is one of The Rotary Foundation's 7 areas of focus. As the month of Peace and Conflict Resolution draws to a close, The Foundation Minute will focus this week's attention on the Rotary Foundation's funded Peace Centers.

According to Rotary International's website, the Rotary Peace Centers were created in 2002 to identify and train highly qualified professionals to become agents of peace. The purpose of these "agents of peace" is to: promote national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict through their service activities.

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers programs train "the agents of peace" to become professionals or practitioners in being effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 peace fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, non-government organizations, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. Each year the Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities in 7 countries: England, Thailand, United States, Japan, Australia, Sweden and the most recent, Uganda in East Africa.

We believe that one must live one's life with compassion. Our wish is that, as citizens of the world, we can create a society where people of all regions in the world esteem and care for others. By supporting the Rotary Peace Centers, we foster compassion and enhance the impact of the many good things that the Rotary Foundation does. (Masafumi & Hatsumi Fukui, Rotary Peace Centers Supporters, Japan)

## WINE RAFFLE TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are pleased to announce that Wine Raffle Tickets may now be purchased online in a very simple process. Just go to our Club webpage, [www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com) and you will see our Wine Raffle information as the top headline on the front page. You can click on a link for "information" which pulls up the Raffle flier, or you can click on a link to purchase 5 tickets for \$20, or a link to purchase 1 Ticket for \$5. Just click on the item of your choosing. From there it is easy, just enter your information, click the button, and the tickets are yours! All proceeds from our Wine Raffle will go to fund our new Rock Island Rotary "Service Above Self" scholarship for a Rock Island High School senior.

If you still have tickets that were sent to you as part of our "Stocking Stuffer" promotion and haven't previously paid for them, you can complete that purchase by keeping the tickets and sending your stubs and check for \$20 to Anne McGlynn at 11502 - 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Milan, IL 61264 or you can drop off you stubs and check to Kathy Trone at the Wessels & Wierman office at 423 -17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 102, in Rock Island. The drawing is May 25<sup>th</sup>!





# ***Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night November 12, 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 the event! Call 563-343-7985 or email [srector3614@gmail.com](mailto:srector3614@gmail.com).



## **IN PERSON MEETINGS**

To keep all aware of the Board of Directors' consideration of returning to "live" meetings, here is what is going on. We periodically review the COVID guidelines provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health and also check with the Quad City Botanical Center to see what they are offering and recommending. Currently Health Department regulations limit gatherings to no more than 50 people and require masking and social distancing. Masks may be removed for eating (to be replaced immediately upon completion of eating) and when speaking at the rostrum. Currently the Quad City Botanical Center is "closed" for group meetings and will not reopen until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our caterer, Bridges, will provide lunch when the Botanical Center reopens. How the lunch is provided will depend on the number of members we believe will attend. If numbers are sufficient, Bridges will provide a "served buffet". Members would identify what items they want, and Bridges staff will handle the serving utensils and fill a plate for the member. If the number projected to attend is smaller, pre-boxed lunches will be provided. We are currently inquiring as to the exact number required for a served buffet. The Botanical Center will set tables at a minimum of six feet apart and will limit the number seated at each table to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines. As much as we desire to resume in person meetings, the health and safety of our members is our top priority. When we do return to the Botanical Center, we anticipate temporarily offering a ZOOM option for those who are not comfortable returning to in person meetings. The Board discusses this issue at each board meeting and will keep you informed.

## **WINE RAFFLE NOW IN FULL SWING!**

After a short respite from our successful "Stocking Stuffer" campaign, the Annual Rotary Wine Raffle is now kicking off our major campaign leading up to the drawing on International Wine Day, May 25, 2021. Tickets are available on our Rotary website, [www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com) and on our Rotary Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>. You can also get ticket both to purchase and to sell by contacting Anne McGlynn at [amfm1924@gmail.com](mailto:amfm1924@gmail.com) or Kathy Trone at [kathy@wesselspc.com](mailto:kathy@wesselspc.com). All Raffle proceeds are earmarked for our new "Service Above Self Scholarship" administered through the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. Word of mouth and posters are the only way we are advertising the raffle, so please post a sign (available from Anne or Kathy) if you have an appropriate spot and tell your friends and associates about the event. You can copy and email the flier shown on the next page! We need all hands on deck!

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

# Wine Raffle

All proceeds benefit the  
Rock Island Rotary  
Service Above Self Scholarship  
with the  
Rock Island-Milan  
Education Foundation

1st Prize— \$500 in Wine

2nd Prize— \$300 in Wine

3rd Prize— \$200 in Wine

\* Winners get to choose their own  
Wine from The Grape Life!

## Tickets:

1 for \$5 or  
5 for \$20

Drawing will be held  
on May 25, 2021

Purchase Tickets Online via Square at:  
[Facebook.com/rockislandrotary](https://www.facebook.com/rockislandrotary)

Or email us at:  
[rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com) for more info.



HAVE A PLACE OF BUSINESS OR PUBLIC LOCATION WHERE A  
WINE RAFFLE POSTER COULD BE DISPLAYED?

PLEASE CALL KATHY TRONE 309-794-9400