



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 9, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 31

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



MIKE NITZEL

How people become great leaders

Mike Nitzel retired in June of 2020 after completing 16 years as Principal of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Milan. A graduate of Moline High School and Black Hawk College, Nitzel earned his Bachelor's Degree in

History from Illinois State University and completed his Master's in Educational Administration and his Educational Specialists degree at Western Illinois University. After graduating from ISU, he taught social studies in Milledgeville, Illinois for one year, Blue Mound High School in Blue Mound, IL for two years, after which he was hired to teach Social Studies at Moline High School, eventually becoming department chair. In 1999 Mr. Nitzel became Principal at Orion High School and after serving in that position for five years was hired as Principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Milan, where he spent the last 16 years of his career in public education. Nitzel retired from the Rock Island-Milan School District at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. He is currently an adjunct instructor in the School of Education at St. Ambrose University and is the owner and president of The Einstein Project Group, LLC, a handyman/home improvement business. Mike's wife, Amy Nitzel, is Principal at the Rock Island Center for Math and Science. Mike is a past Rotarian, serving in a number of leadership roles including President for the Illinois Quad Cities Rotary Club. Today he presented an outstanding program on Leadership. He began by asking each of us to think of someone we consider a "hero" and to jot down some characteristics we associate with that person. He asked members to tell who they selected and why. Several members offered who they thought of and why. Mr. Nitzel noted that the characteristics we described were in fact the attributes we admire. From the examples given he pointed out the importance of having confidence, being a decision maker, knowing how to learn, perseverance, and being a risk taker. Nitzel then presented a video by Doris Kearns Goodwin that identified important leadership characteristics, illustrated by various well-known world leaders. She identified the following critical traits of great leaders: 1) Having respect for others 2) Willing to share the credit for successes and to share the blame for failures 3) Keeping your word 4) Giving group members room to fail 5) Giving individual attention to all members of the group 6) Managing conflict 7) Knowing when to let people go and 8) Setting the right tone by leading by example. With each she identified a famous leader and explained how they exhibited the trait in their real-life leadership situations. Mr. Nitzel offered his own, excellent summary of important leadership traits saying 1) A great leader knows his/her own strengths and weaknesses (which Nitzel called "growth opportunities"). 2) A great leader brings people into the team by inclusion and encouragement 3) A great leader values the people in the team and helps them grow. 4) A great leader is able to be bold and make tough decisions when required. 5) A great leader exhibits ethical behavior. And 6) A great leader takes care of themselves. Using the illustration of the oxygen masks in an airplane, Mr. Nitzel said you must take care of yourself before you can take care of others. He noted that many times people feel they do not have time to do those things necessary for person mental and physical health and need to be reminded and urged to keep themselves in good condition if they want to have any hope of helping other group members. The minutes passed quickly which is a good indicator of a successful program! Thanks, Mike for an interesting and informative presentation!

Feb. – Mar. Calendar

- Feb 9 - Wine Raffle Committee ZOOM meeting after our Club meeting
- Feb 16 - Dr Rebecca Heick, Professor of public health at Augustana and infectious disease expert
- Feb 23 - Mike Halpin, Illinois State Rep.
- 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



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Officers

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Justin Peterson, 1st Vice Pres.
Cindi Gramenz, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Mark Mayeski, Past President

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Molly Shattuck
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John Daly
Chris Lemon
Sue Rector
Gary Rowe
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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 Duncan Cameron, a visiting Rotarian from the Naples Florida Club, was our one and only guest. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the “Number One Club”. We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- ☐ **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** – Next Monday, February 15th via ZOOM starting at 11:45am. All club members are welcome to sit in on Board meetings. You will be receiving the ZOOM joining information and the agenda and financial report for the meeting in the next few days. If you have interest in an agenda item or just want to see what is going on, feel free to join the ZOOM! Your interest and support is highly valued by our Board!
- ☐ **BUSY AND EXCITING DAYS AHEAD!** – Living with COVID, face masks, social distancing, plus over a month of below freezing temperatures with snow and ice covering everything and a week ahead with temperatures in the plus/minus single digits, it is easy to get depressed and frustrated. Better days are on the way with COVID vaccines becoming available, restrictions gradually loosening and warmer temperatures in the offing. So let's all be ready! Ahead lies our Trivia Night, the Wine Raffle, Birdies for Charity, a return to Circa 21, Rotary at the Ball Park, and Rotary in-person meetings and lunches. Hang in there, it's coming!!
- ☐ **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

It was a rather slow day for the tab today. Vice-President Cindi mentioned Clarence Darrow once again for his granddaughter being selected to the Mardi Gras Court being held virtually this weekend. Sue Rector was also a repeat under the “Austin Rule” for the “other” Sue Rector's daughter also being on the Court. Monta Ponsetto offered a happy dollar for a successful Incubator Class MVP Pitch session recently completed with several Rotary members acting as judges. Jeff Rose chipped in \$5 for basking in the Arizona sun while the rest of us shiver in below zero temperatures! Angela Campbell threw in a dollar for the Library's Community Comfort Drive, with the collected items going to the Heart of Hope outreach program. Cindi offered a dollar fine for the Club Directory book she mailed to Eric Westphall last June. It was just returned to Cindi “undelivered” by the post office! Thanks to all who contributed. Fines and happy/sad dollars go to support the Rotary Foundation.

The “AUSTIN RULE”

For newer members who might wonder what is this “Austin Rule” that is often mentioned in our fines, Charlie Austin was a long-time member of our club and served as our President and as District Governor. He was a dedicated supporter of the Rotary Foundation. Under our tradition of fining members when their name appears in the paper, Charlie would “confess” anytime the name “Austin” appeared in the paper. At the time Tracy Austin was one of the top women tennis players in the world and her name was frequently in the paper. Every time she or any other Austin appeared, Charlie would see a chance to support the Foundation and would claim the person as a cousin or niece or nephew. It evolved into the “Austin Rule”. If the name is the same (or pretty close to the same) the fine is levied!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 2 of Peace & Conflict Prevention and Resolution Month of Rotary International!

The news this week comes from Belarus, where TRF has provided the matching funds for the purchase of a minibus for children affected by the Chernobyl reactor explosion. The Rotary Clubs of Shropshire, Staffordshire (D1210, West Midlands, UK) and the Newport (Shrops) Lite are the sponsoring clubs with the Rotary Club of Minsk, Belarus being the host club.

Newport Rotary Lite's Chernobyl Children lead, Margie Haslop said: "This minibus will make an enormous difference to children whose tough lives have been made even worse by the pandemic in Belarus. It will mean they will be able to get to a day centre to give them and their parents a break, the foster care centre, leaving care project and – sadly – their much-needed palliative care services. The children have a whole range of disabilities resulting from the Chernobyl reactor explosion, and unfortunately many of these are life-limiting. Accessing services is extremely difficult for them and we have been told the minibus is already making a real difference to them.... As well as the serious risk of Covid, these children have multiple cancers from an explosion before they were even born, and the support given to the minibus from Newport, other Rotary clubs, schools and Furrows Telford means their lives will be better however long they are."

In her own statement, Linda Walker, executive director of the Chernobyl Children's Project Charity acknowledged the help offered by the Rotary clubs and The Rotary Foundation, adding "What Newport Rotary Lite has done for the children and young people we support is just fantastic...They have helped them for several years, but to get the children a new minibus will make a huge difference to their quality of life which is even tougher at the moment."

49 Fun Facts of Rotary Geography

By Rotarian Steve Garret, DG District 5450

- Were you aware that the Rotary Club of Reno, Nevada, is farther west than the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, California?
- Would you guess that the meetings of the Rotary Club of Portland, Maine, are farther south than those of the clubs in London, England?
- Can you imagine that the Pensacola, Florida, Rotary Club is west of the Detroit, Michigan, club?
- It's a fact that the Cairo, Illinois, Rotary Club is south of Richmond, Virginia.
- There are 69 Rotary clubs with the word "Tokyo" in their club names.
- The Rotary Club of Nome, Alaska, lies west of the club in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Santiago, Chile, club is located east of the Rotary Club of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Rotary geographers will know that virtually every Rotary club meeting in Australia is east of the Hong Kong Rotary Club.
- What do the Rotary clubs of Quito, Ecuador, Libreville, Gabon, Singapore, and Kampala, Uganda, have in common? You guessed right if you said they all meet approximately on the equator.

CARTOON SHADOW QUIZ!



For the past two weeks members have been emailing their tally of successfully identifying the cartoon figure shadows that appeared in our January 26th newsletter. We can now announce the winners and prizes!

Congratulations to Anne McGlynn who identified 27 of the 34 cartoon figures! Just one off the pace was Kevin Koski who nailed 26. A close third was Rick Devinney with 23.

Each will receive a special ROTARY CD of the Top 40 hits of the decade. Our winners can choose their favorite music decade from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, or 90s. Just send an email to Bob with your choice and your prize will be on its way! Congratulations

