



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 30, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 38

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



EARL HANSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sarah Leonard Principal

An annual highlight in our programs is to host the principal of our adopted Rock Island school, Earl Hanson Elementary. Sarah Leonard is in her second year as principal. Much of her tenure at the school has been spent dealing with the pandemic, on-line learning, and blended classrooms. Hopefully, the school will be able to return to near-normal for 2021-22 and we will be able to resume our monthly Birthday Books and our Pumpkin Palooza. Even though hampered by the pandemic, much has been accomplished and much more is in the works for the future. Ms. Leonard began her comments with a big "Thank You" to Rock Island Rotary saying all we do for Earl Hanson is "overwhelming". She then mentioned the Chess Class lead by Tom Hammar, Birthday Books, the Pumpkin Palooza, and Angel Tree, as some of the things we do. In describing each, she became a tad emotional when talking about Angel Tree saying it was just amazing to see the children receive their Angel Tree gifts. Principal Leonard said that the 50th Anniversary of Earl Hanson School occurred during the pandemic and the celebration was put on "hold". However, in the near future they plan a birthday celebration with every student receiving a new book, a boxed cake mix to take home along with all the ingredients necessary to make a celebratory birthday cake. Ms. Leonard then reviewed what went on in Learning this year; What is planned for the Summer; The outlook for next Fall; and a look beyond into the future. During the past year she noted there were many challenges arising from the pandemic and schools closing. There was an immediate demand for increased technology. Every child was provided with a Chrome Book (laptop computer) to use at home. Internet access was provided to all students by agreements with Mediacom and installation of base stations throughout the community. Staff collaboration and training was stepped up to meet the challenge of teaching virtually. A major issue was the loss of school breakfast and lunch programs when the buildings closed. In response the school began a food take home program that distributed meals to kids several times each week. Staff members conducted numerous home visits to help set up computers, provide training on how to use Google Classroom, and to check on the wellbeing of students who were not attending virtual classes or failing to hand in homework. At times teachers were working with both in-class students and at-home students at the same time! The challenges were great; but were met by the Earl Hanson staff. Turning to plans for the summer, Principal Leonard, said that their typical summer program was being expanded with Spring Forward providing the bulk of the services. The goal will be to "catch kids up" who may have fallen behind during the pandemic. In the fall Ms. Leonard said the staff will "meet kids where they are" meaning if they have fallen behind, teachers will adjust their normal routine to bring kids back to grade level as quickly as possible. An additional challenge for Earl Hanson arises from a significant refugee student population with nine different languages spoken at the school. Hanson has 1 full and 1 part-time staff member with ESL certification. When asked what she would like to see in the future at Earl Hanson she said development of an outdoor education area would be high on her wish list. For now, 275 of Hanson's 375 students are back in the building. Thank you, Sarah Leonard, for a job well done and a very informative program!

April - May Calendar

- Apr 6 - Sara Cross – First Tee Update
- Apr 13 - Bert Blood Scholarship Awards – John Wetzel
- Apr 13 - Wine Raffle Committee will meet immediately after our regular Club meeting.
- Apr 20 - Rock Island High School Entrepreneur Incubator Class
- Apr 27 - Lindsey Kerr, LifeLine Pilots
- May 3 - RIHS Incubator Pitch 9am #1 9:00am
- May 6 - RIHS incubator Pitch 9am #2 9:00am
- May 12 - RIHS Final Incubator Pitch 5pm



Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

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Angela Campbell President
Justin Peterson, 1st Vice Pres.
Cindi Gramenz, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
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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 we were joined by visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. Duncan spends summers in the Quad Cities and winters in Florida. We were pleased to hear he will be back with us in May. Our only other guest was our guest speaker, Sarah Leonard from Earl Hanson School. 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! PLEASE REPORT WHERE YOU PLACED POSTERS TO HELP AVOID DUPLICATION.** Also the easiest way to purchase tickets is to go to www.rirotary.com. Right at the top you can click to buy 5 tickets for \$20 or 1 ticket for \$5!
- ❑ **WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE MEETING** – Via ZOOM immediately after our Club meeting on Tuesday, April 13th. Committee members should stay on the call after the Club meeting ends. All others interested are welcome as well.
- ❑ **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.



SAVE the DATE



The Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT
Has Been Rescheduled to November 12th
Milan Community Center - doors open at 5:45pm

THE TAB

Tom Showalter started things off with 80 happy dollars in celebration of his birthday. He did round up a few years to get to that nice fat number! Monta Ponsetto had a happy dollar in celebration of the birth of her newest grandson. Bruce Peterson offered a happy dollar in recognition of former Rock Island student and a previous winner of our Club’s Excellence Award, Brea Beal, now a sophomore and a ‘starter’ for the South Carolina Gamecocks, ranked #1 and in the Final Four of the NCAA Women’s National Championship Basketball Tournament. Howard Beck added a happy dollar for Brea Beal and threw in nine more dollars for playing his first round of golf this spring. Thanks to all who volunteered contributions!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 4 of RI's Month of Water and Sanitation.

This week's sole report is culled from a published news on TRF's contribution to hopefully ending the scourge of Malaria in Africa.

Malaria, a preventable disease caused by a parasite spread through the bites of infected mosquitoes, disproportionately affects children under the age of five and pregnant women in rural populations. To help end malaria in Zambia, The Rotary Foundation, World Vision USA, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will each contribute \$2 million for the Rotary-led Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia program. This \$6 million program will add 2,500 community health workers to the national health system in Zambia, allowing for effective malaria diagnosis and treatment for more than 1.3 million people in ten of the most highly affected districts in Central and Muchinga provinces.

"By empowering community health workers, more people in areas with little to no access to health care will now be reached by trusted members of their communities," said Bill Feldt, member of the Rotary Club of Federal Way in Washington, USA, who spearheaded the program. "This proven health care delivery model is effective and financially sustainable and will bring lasting protection by reducing and eliminating this disease at the local level." Martha Lungu, executive director for Malaria Partners Zambia, an affiliate of Malaria Partners International, and member of the Rotary Club of Ndola (Zambia) said, "Every day I witness firsthand the effects of malaria. This program demonstrates that Rotary members are true partners in our communities and are focused on supporting community health workers to help loosen the grip malaria has on the Zambian people."

Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia is the first awardee for Rotary's Programs of Scale grant. In an annual competitive grant process, The Rotary Foundation, Rotary's philanthropic arm, will award \$2 million to an evidence-based program that aligns with one of Rotary's causes and has the capability for scaling-up to help more people. The programs are sponsored by Rotary members in collaboration with local communities and partner organizations.

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran, Trustee Chair of The Rotary Foundation believes that "the power of Rotary is greatly magnified when we partner with like-minded organizations. As we've learned from our global effort to eradicate polio, our impact on communities is further augmented when compatible partners contribute their own specialized skills, talents and finances to support our efforts."

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.



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 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



QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 18-24

Get back to nature after a long winter and participate in National Volunteer Week, April 18-24 at the Botanical Center. Volunteer individually or as a group up to 10 people to help with spring planting and gardening. Morning and afternoon sessions for 10 volunteers are filling quickly. Volunteers improve today for a better tomorrow.

Want to be part of a **Rock Island Rotary team**, Email Bob Swanson to signed up (bobdebswanson@att.net). Specify if you prefer morning or afternoon. Feel free to invite family members to join the team! Currently the following time slots are open for us:

Thursday. April 22nd from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 4. The Botanical Center will provide lunch for everyone who participates. If we can get 10 for morning and 10 for afternoon, we could all eat together and make it an exclusive Rotary day! Let me know which of those times work for you.

Remember you can bring spouse, parents, special person, kids, and grandkids so long as they can help plant or do other gardening tasks. You do need to let me know today or tomorrow, if possible, because if we can't do it, they need to fill the slots with others.

It will be a great chance to return to SERVICE, get outside, and help our club's home, the Quad City Botanical Center.

I'll be watching for your email!!

NEXT TUESDAY IS ELECTION DAY

The consolidated election in Illinois coming up next Tuesday, April 6th, is typically the election with the smallest turnout. It does not have the glamour of a presidential, senate, congress, governor, state, or county officials' race, but arguably is the most important of all elections. In it we select who will lead us at the most local level. We will pick township and municipal officials, including our mayor and councilmen. We will elect our friends and neighbors who will run our schools and other local entities. Often there are local policy and taxing issues on the ballot, so it seems a real shame that these critical decisions that impact our daily lives the most are made by the small group of people who turn out at the polls, vote absentee, or by early voting. These local races deserve our attention and participation. In this election cycle several members of our Club are on the ballot, Mike Thoms, Dave Geenen, and Gary Rowe are all current public servants seeking re-election. Rotary doesn't take a position on political issues and doesn't endorse candidates, but we do salute and thank all those who are willing to step up, put their name on a ballot, and agree to serve our community. We owe all the candidates the small amount of time and effort required to participate in democracy. It is what makes America special! VOTE next Tuesday.