



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 9, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 35

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY



**Dr. Guilou
Huang**

**President,
Western
Illinois
University**

Mar. Calendar

- Mar 11 - Mega – PETS Zoom Meeting 6:30 PM
- Mar 13 - Mega – PETS Zoom Meeting 3:15 PM
- Mar 15 - Rotary Board Meeting 11:45
- Mar 16 - Dave Heller, Q.C. River Bandits
- Mar 20 - District Training Assembly Zoom Meeting 8:30–11:30am
- Mar 23 - Liz Murray Tallman, DARI
- Mar 25 - District Grant Management Seminar - via Zoom 6–7:30pm
- Mar 30 - Sara Leonard, Earl Hanson Principal
- Apr 6 - Sara Cross – First Tee Update
- Apr 13 - Bert Blood Scholarship Awards – John Wetzel

Guest speaker at today's Rock Island Rotary meeting was the recently named President of Western Illinois University, Dr. Guilou Huang. Dr. Huang is the 12th president of WIU. Huang served as president of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania since July 2019. In his role as president of Edinboro, Huang led the University through the COVID-19 crisis and transitioned from in-person to online modality in Spring 2020 and established reopening plans that allowed for a safe opening of the Fall 2020 semester. "It is an honor and a privilege to be selected as president of Western Illinois University," Huang said. I am excited to meet everyone in person, to work with the Board, the University and regional communities, and to lead Western Illinois University forward." Previously, Huang served as the chancellor of Louisiana State University of Alexandria from January 2017-June 2019. He has also served as the senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, acting chief international officer and professor of English at Norwich University in Northfield, VT. Huang was the founding dean of the Biscayne College of Liberal Arts, dean of Undergraduate Studies and Programs and professor of English at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, FL. He has also served in a variety of academic roles at Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI), Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA), Texas A&M University at College Station, Beijing University, and Qufu Normal University (Shandong, China). Huang has published 13 books and over 60 scholarly articles and has keynoted and presented at numerous national and international conferences. He earned his doctorate in English from Texas A&M University at College Station; completed graduate studies in English from Beijing University; and his bachelor's degree from Qufu Normal University. He is also a 2009 graduate of the Harvard Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, among other Harvard institutes. Huang and his wife, Jennifer Qian (pronounced Chian), have a daughter, Claire, who is a fifth grader, and a son, George, who is a junior studying political science at Rice University in Texas. Dr. Huang is a native of China and came to this country as a college student in August of 1989. He became a US citizen in 1996. His career has taken him from Texas to Louisiana, Vermont, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and now for the past 2.5 months to Illinois. He is a Rotarian having joined clubs in Louisiana and Pennsylvania. He stated WIU, along with all colleges and Universities faces many challenges, not the least of which has been the coronavirus pandemic. Recruiting students took a major hit with recruiters and prospective students unable to travel for visits. When dorms and classes shutdown, significant revenue was lost without a commensurate decrease in expenses. He noted that Western's demographics show a significant number of first-generation college students and a majority from middle-and lower-income Families.

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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 was another of those rare times when we had no guests in attendance; however, we do want to acknowledge a guest we missed at last week's meeting. Sonya Geenen, a Director of the Rock Island Public Library Foundation, and wife of Rotarian David Geenen joined us. So sorry we didn't catch that for last week's newsletter. 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.**
- ❑ **WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE MEETING** – Via ZOOM immediately after our Club meeting on Tuesday, March 30th. 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!
November 12th at the Milan Community Center - doors open at 5:45pm

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When COVID-19 shut down businesses, many students and their parents lost jobs and were forced to withdraw from school. States also had significant tax revenue losses and funding for education was affected. Dr. Huang said that WIU currently gets 31% of its funding from the state and relies on student tuition and fees for the rest. He was pleased to note that funding for the coming years is projected to remain the same as last year. Many states are cutting funding for higher education. A second and very related challenge is enrollment. As the main source of University funds, student enrollment is critical. Western has for the past decade experienced declining enrollment. Dr. Huang faced the same challenge at his last position as President of Edinboro University. He was able to turn that trend around and hopes to do the same at WIU. He stated that schools like Harvard, the University of Chicago, and other major Universities don't have to spend funds to market their schools. Students know about them and want to attend. Other schools are located in major urban Cities which also attract students without marketing. Schools like WIU in communities like Macomb, must devote revenue, time, and effort, to marketing. In his first 2 months at WIU Huang discovered that just 35% of WIU freshman stay around to graduate four years later. Six years ago, that number was 51%. Dr. Huang stated WIU must do a better job of retaining their students. He has set a goal of a 5% annual growth in student enrollment along with a dedicated effort to retain those who do enroll. He believes the key is to make Western a "Distinctive University". That can be accomplished, he believes, by program development

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and program delivery. He said WIU needs to market the programs that have gained recognition as among the best in the nation. Examples given were WIU's Agriculture, Education, Law Enforcement, and Justice Administration departments along with the Business Department which is rated in the top 15% of accredited programs. He also said programs that are being developed currently at WIU are Cyber Security, Robotics, and Social Media Studies. All are "hot topics" and popular with prospective students. President Huang then opened the discussion for questions. The first centered on recent news reports that the City of Moline and the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce have suggested some other institution take over the WIU Quad City Campus. Dr. Huang said he, the Western Board of Trustees, and the WIU faculty are committed to the Quad City Campus. He has established two committees charged with finding ways to develop and strengthen the campus. He also is developing a strategic plan for the Quad Cities. Enrollment is again the key factor, which with COVID, the perceived loss of Illinois college aged students to other states, and the demographics of the United States with fewer children being born makes it difficult. He said efforts are being made to increase the on-line offerings of the University and to reinstitute recruiting of International students once the pandemic frees up travel. On a very positive note, he stated that enrollment in WIU graduate programs is running double what it was a year ago. Overall Dr. Huang gave an excellent, upbeat review of WIU and where he hopes to lead it. His previous success at similar institutions facing similar challenges makes it very likely we will see WIU on an upward trend in the near future. Thank you, Dr. Huang, for an outstanding program!

THE TAB

The TAB did very well today. Happy Dollars were led off by Angela Campbell for scheduling her first Covid shot. Tom Showalter put in a dollar for getting his taxes done. Ruth Lee had a happy dollar for getting home after a lengthy stay in California. Gary Rowe had a happy dollar for the Fighting Illinois Basketball team's successes. John Wetzel, Kai Swanson, Sue Rector, and Bruce Peterson had happy dollars for Augustana's men's basketball advancing in the CCIW Tournament. Tom Hammar and Doug Hultquist added \$3 each for the Augie celebration. Bruce added another dollar for having to leave the meeting early today. John Wetzel added two more dollars for the Cubs and White Sox both opening their ball parks to fans (20% capacity) for the coming season. Howard Beck added \$1 for the Cubs and John Phillips \$1 for the Sox. John Wetzel dropped \$2 more for getting his Covid shots and for his condo neighbors finally getting a new roof to replace the tarps they had covering their building. Bob Swanson had a happy dollar for a successful cataract surgery this morning. Sue Rector had a happy dollar for a great chat with Honorary member, Don Peterson. Kim Calhoun had a happy dollar for the reopening of Circo21! Thanks to all contributors!!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 2 of Rotary International's Month of Water and Sanitation.

Happy Women's Month to all Rotarians and other women around the world.

In the past week, Rotarians in D9110 (Nigeria); D9455 (Australia) and D3610 (South Korea) funded a 30 million Nigerian Naira (USD 72,898) Rotary Foundation Global Grant in their effort to fulfill one of RI's 7 areas of focus. Twelve schools in the Lagos area of Nigeria will benefit from the RF's Matching Grant aimed at improving literacy and education in two local government areas of Lagos. Along with the three international districts, seventeen local Rotary clubs, including Okota and Isolo, contributed 2.5 million Naira (USD 6,075) to provide each school with e-learning equipment or smart classrooms. Each school will receive an interactive board, a projector, software resources and a 2.3KVA generator. E-learning cuts across all subjects and the president of Rotary Club of Okota said the equipment will help students properly assimilate. The principal of Okota Junior Grammar School, Mrs. Oduguwa Taiwo, appreciated the efforts of Rotary and assured the organization of proper maintenance of the equipment.

In a joint effort Global Grant, the Rotary Club of Emory-Druid Hills (D6900 USA) and Rotary Club of Udaipur (D9600 India) coordinated a project aimed at improving the quality of life of a differently-abled community. TRF provided the necessary matching funds for the \$182,995 Global Grant which was spent on developing a central fabrication unit for prosthetics and orthotics at Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) in Udaipur, Rajasthan India. When fully operational, the unit will provide artificial limbs and equipment to bolster the center's campaign for empowering the differently abled. According to PDG Rajesh Agrawal of D6900, with the help of TRF, NSS is serving needy individuals with essential services including free food, operative surgery, limbs, education, and life-saving skills.

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life. When people have access to clean water and sanitation, waterborne diseases decrease, children stay healthier and attend school more regularly, and mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families. (<https://rotary.org>)

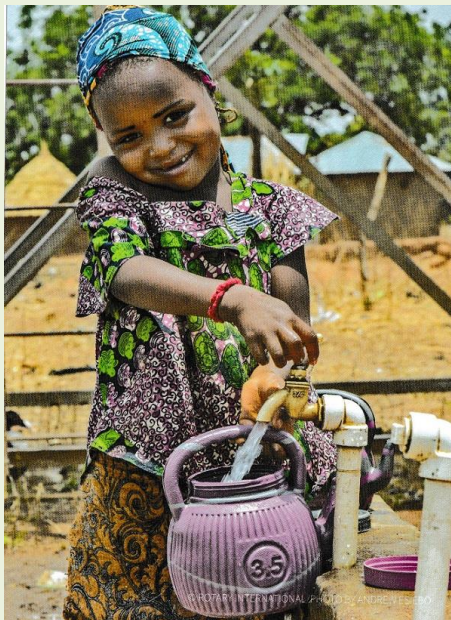
Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night November 12, 2021

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.



March 22 has been designated as **World Water Day**. What a wonderful time to make or renew your commitment to our Club's Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa Rotary Water Project. Five years ago, our Club founded this project with an initial \$10,000 donation from Sam and Hilde Wray. Since then, the project has grown to include partner Rotarians and Clubs all over Illinois and Iowa and has directly provided safe, clean water to over 17,000 children in rural Kenya. The campaign is nowhere near over with millions of children still having no access to safe water for drinking, bathing, and cooking. Thousands die every day from diseases resulting from drinking water straight from rivers and stream that are shared by cattle, sheep, oxen, and scores of wild beasts. One Vestergaard Lifestraw Community water Filter which we purchase for \$350 can provide safe, clean water for up to 70 children for three years! Then a \$75 replacement filter element renews the unit for three more years. Our purchase includes shipping to Kenya, delivery and installation in remote village schools, training for use of the filter and general sanitation instruction. Also included is the replacement element after 3 years. Why not mark this **World Water Day** by becoming a Water Filter Donor? A one-time \$350 donation may save the life of a child. Donations of any size are welcome. The smallest of donations can be added with others to purchase a filter and get lifesaving, clean water on the way to children who desperately need your help. Make checks payable to Rock Island Rotary and note "Water Project" on the memo line. Thank you for caring!

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

GREAT NEWS! RESTAURANTS ARE OPEN!

DINING BOOKS ARE BACK!!

One of our most popular fundraising projects, the Quad City Dining Tour Book is now available for 2021. Project chair, Bud Phillis, has received a supply of the new books with over 350 Coupons including a **2 for 1 Circa 21 Coupon** good for our Rotary Holiday Party! Dining Tour books make great gifts and Introduces you to new restaurants throughout our area! The price remains at \$35 for the value packed book. Rock Island Rotary receives a minimum of \$10 for each book sold. Books are valid until October 31, 2021. **Get a book by emailing Dr. Bud Phillis at rphillis35@gmail.com.** He will deliver your book and pick up your check. You don't even need to invest in a stamp! Make checks payable to Rock Island Rotary and write "Dining Book" on the memo line. If the Circa21 is the only coupon you use the savings more than pays for the entire book! Most all popular restaurants from the very finest dining establishments to fast food outlets have coupons in this book. Just look at the list!



RESTAURANT NAME	RESTAURANT NAME	RESTAURANT NAME	RESTAURANT NAME
1 Hundred West	Domino's Pizza	La Flama	Red Lantern
11th St. Precinct Bar & Grill	Donut Delite	Lagomarcino's	Red Robin Grill
Acapulco Cafe	Double D Diner	Las Margaritas	Revive Café
Antonella's	Duck Creek Pancake House	Le Mekong	Rise Neighborhood Café
Arby's	Dunkin' Donuts	Lemongrass Café	River House Bar & Grill
Aroma Coffee	Eastern Iowa Baking Co.	Lolita's Taco House	Riverbend Pizza Place
Asian Gourmet	El Patron Restaurant	Los Agaves	Rookies Sports Bar and Grill
Azteca 4	Exotic Thai	Los Amigos	Rubys Beers, Bikes, Brats
Baked Beer & Bread Co.	Fields of Pizza	Los Portales	Rudy's Tacos
Baskin Robbins	Filling Station, The	Lynn's BBQ & Saloon	Saint Giuseppes Pizza
Bent River Brewery	Firehouse Subs	M.J. Chinese & Vietnamese	Sakura Express
Big Swing	Flavors of India	Maid Rite	Sancho's
Bix Bistro	Foundry	Minh's Gourmet Chinese t	Senor Julios
Black Sheep	Frankie's Sports Bar & Grill	Miss Mamie's	Sonic
Boozie's Bar & Grill	Freshii	Mo Brady's Steakhouse	Spinner's Pizza
Broken Saddle	Ganzo's	Montana Jack's	Sriracha Thai Bistro & Oyster Bar
Burger King	GiLanella's Pizza	Nally's Kitchen	Subway
Cabos Cantina & Grill	Godfather's Pizza	New China	Sweet Peas Grill & Bar
Café d'Marie	Great American Cookies	Noodles & Co	Taco John's
Café Express Deli	Grinders & Spaghetti House	Oishii Hibachi & Sushi	Tantra Asian Fusion
California Burrito	Gunchie's	Olympic Gyros	Taqueria Roly's
Capriotti's Sandwich Shop	Habanero's Mexican Cuisine	Orange Julius	Taste Buds
Checkers Restaurants	Hall of Fame Pizza and Wings	Orange Leaf	Teriyaki Madness
China Café – Davenport	Happy Joe's Pizza	Osaka Japanese Cuisine	Thai Flavors
ChinaMax	Hardee's	Osaka Japanese Steak House & Bar	The Pub
Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse	HuHot Mongolian Grill	Pagalo	Trattoria Tiramisu
Cold Stone Creamery	Hungry Hobo	Palmer Grill	Treehouse Pub & Eatery
Combine	Igor's Bistro	Panda Garden	Tuggers
Cookies by Design	IHOP	Papa John's Pizza	Ultimate Chocolates & Confections
Cool Beanz Coffee House	Iron + Grain Coffee House	Peachwave Frozen Yogurt	Villa Pizza
Crane & Pelican Café	J.Gotti's Pizza Pasta Paninis	Pee Wee's	VIP's Corner Bar & Grill
Crust Stone Oven Pizza	Java Lab Grind & Dine	Phoenix	Viva in The Current
Dairy Queen	Jersey Grille	Pickermans Soup & Sandwich	Waterfront Deli
Dead Poet's Espresso	Judy's Barge Inn	PitaPit	Wetzel's Pretzels
Denny's	Jujube Frozen Yogurt	Porkie's	What BBQ & Bar
Diamond Daves	Jumer's – DJ's Steakhouse	Qdoba Mexican Grill	Wing Stop
Doctor Gyros	Jumer's – Players Buffet	Red Ginger Sushi	