



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

April 6, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 39

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



SARA CROSS

First Tee of the Quad Cities



Sara Cross became the first full-time executive director of First Tee of the Quad Cities in 2019. With a background in development with the Boy Scouts of America and an educational background in Sports Management from Northern Illinois University, Sara was a natural for the job. Sara is a native to Moline. She graduated from Moline High School in 2008 where she accepted a full tennis scholarship to Northern Illinois University. Upon graduation in 2012, she accepted a graduate assistant position where she coached at Northern while perusing her Masters in Sport Management and went on to graduate in 2012. She joined Rock Island Rotary in 2017 when with the Boy Scouts. A change in job duties led to resigning from the club in 2018. After accepting the First Tee position she was again able to continue her interest in Rotary and she rejoined our club in 2019. The First Tee of the Quad Cities is a youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. Through after school and in school programs, The First Tee of the Quad Cities helps shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by reinforcing values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf. The First Tee of the Quad Cities serves the community with Facilities at Red Hawk in Davenport, Highland Springs in Rock Island, Two Rivers YMCA in Moline, as well as an affiliate program at the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley in Moline. Sara said that the strength of their program is the outstanding group of coaches that work with the kids. Coaches have been “recruited” by Sara’s establishing a relationship with area golf courses and college golf coaches. She solicits their suggestions for potential coaches after explaining what the program is looking for. Names received are screened and then extensively trained so they are well equipped to teach not only the skills of golf, but all the other life skills The First Tee seeks to instill in those who participate in the program. In 2020, First Tee of the Quad Cities had 400 participants ages 7 through 18 who signed up and paid the program’s fees. They had an additional 250 “scholarship” at risk children who attended without charge. Thirty-four percent of the participants were female, and forty percent were minority. Sara stated that the program seeks to reach a widely diversified group including black, white, Asian, and mixed children from throughout the Quad Cities. She noted that the largest group, but by no means a majority of the participants, come from Rock Island because of the close relationship First Tee has with Spring Forward, the King Center, and other Rock Island organizations. The program consists of about 90 minutes each week for six weeks. The first 25 minutes is spent in a classroom setting where the curricula, stressing values, confidence, and making good decisions is emphasized. The kids then move to the golf course where they are confronted with situations requiring them to use what they learned in the classroom. Sara stated that the golf equipment provided for the children is entirely obtain via donation. First Tee has an arrangement with a local outlet that cuts down and regrips adult sized clubs so they can be used by children. Financially, First Tee of the Quad cities runs on a budget of approximately \$200,000 per year. Last year they took in \$220,000 through grants, donations, events, promotions, and registration fee (which is the smallest source of income). First Tee expenses were \$190,000 leaving a significant carry over to help fund this year when hopefully the program will be back in full swing, post pandemic.

April - May Calendar

- Apr 13 - Bert Blood Scholarship Awards – John Wetzel
- 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 4 - Denise Browning, Sunset Marina Manager
- May 6 - RIHS incubator Pitch 9am #2 9:00am
- May 11 - TBA
- May 12 - RIHS Final Incubator Pitch 5pm
- May 18 - Tyler Mitchell, Public Relations manager for The Project of the Quad Cities
- May 25 - TBA



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 Wetzal
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 Rotarians Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport, IA Club. Also attending was former member Ametra Carrol-Castaneda who plans to rejoin us. Next week we expect many guests in support of our program participants. Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the “Number One Club”. We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- WINE RAFFLE POSTERS STILL 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 Trone at 309-794-9400 to get a poster. **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 SCHEDULED** – The Wine Raffle Committee will meet immediately after our Club meeting on Tuesday, May 27th. Committee members and all others interested should stay on the call after our regular meeting adjourns. REMINDER if you still have not returned or paid for the five tickets sent to you in December, (37 members still have tickets out) we need the check & studs or the tickets returned ASAP! Thanks.
- 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.

Member Application

Ametra Carrol-Castaneda, a former member of our Club joining in 2017, resigned her membership due to health issues in 2019. With those issues behind her she has applied to rejoin Rock Island Rotary. Ametria is with the Community Caring Conference and is sponsored by Dave Geenen. She was previously an active member of our Club and regularly attended meetings and Club projects. We are delighted that she desires to renew her membership with Rotary and our club. Please direct any comments to Angela Campbell or Justin Peterson.



THE TAB

We started off with a “Bang” as loyal Gonzaga “ZAG”, Mark Mayeski contributed \$31 in celebration of the Gonzaga men’s basketball team racking up 31 consecutive victories this year and earning an appearance in the College National Championship game. Great team – Great season! Angela Campbell had a Happy Dollar for National Library Week. Kathy Trone had 2 happy dollars, one for learning she has a grandbaby due in September and one for getting her 1st Covid shot. Sara Cross had a Happy Dollar celebrating the 1st Tee 2021 Kickoff with 175 kids signed up! Ruth Lee put in a Happy Dollar for her daughter Elizabeth being selected to run in this year’s Chicago Marathon. Ruth added another Happy Dollar for leaving on Saturday for Montana to reunite with hubby Dan, and Ruth’s faithful puppy dog. Dan and the Dog were “socially distanced” for the past year at their family cabin in Montana. Tammy Weikert contributed a \$1 fine for leaving early today. Thanks to everyone who donated today!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 1 of April, RI's Month of Maternal and Child Health. **Maternal and Child Health is one of Rotary International's Seven Areas of focus.** The Foundation Minute will begin this month by reminding us all of what the month means. Rotary International makes high quality healthcare available to vulnerable mothers and children so they can live longer and grow stronger. **An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of 5 die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and poor sanitation which are all preventable.**

This is where TRF comes in. **As of 2018, the Foundation has spent over \$8,000,000 in grants to projects aimed at improving the lives of mothers and children around the globe.** TRF provides education, immunizations, birth kits and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed and how to protect themselves and their children from disease. Over the past few years, TRF has contributed immensely to the overall healthcare of needy mothers and children from all regions of the planet. For example, **Rotary Clubs in Japan and Brazil used a RF Global Grant to fund a lifesaving neonatal equipment. Not only that, in Poland, 26 children traumatized by violence got a chance to be kids again at a Rotary Camp where psychologists "mixed escape and therapy."**

Generally, Rotary, through TRF, funds programs that improve women's access to skilled health personnel: doctors, nurses, midwives, or community health-care workers.

APRIL DESIGNATION IS

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

"What is the value of the life of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own, the price tag would be marked: Not for sale - this life is invaluable." 1979-80 James L. Bomar Jr

Rotary  **TAKE ACTION: Join a Project**

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

ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE

Ramble chairman Bruce Peterson reported that “We are on the calendar”, for our 2021 Reindeer Ramble on Sunday, December 5th. That means that runners from all over the area will be making plans to be in Rock Island for our annual 5K race. Dick & Mary Fislar have agreed to again lend their expertise to help ensure we have a hugely successful event. The Ramble Committee will meet next Tuesday at 11am prior to our regular Club meeting. This will be a separate ZOOM invitation. Committee members and any other Club members who are interested need to email chairman Bruce at bpeterson3536@gmail.com to request the ZOOM joining information.



TIME TO CELEBRATE – HAPPY BIRTHDAY APRIL ROTARIANS!



Tom Showalter	April 1
Mark Zimmerman	April 17
Rick Devinney	April 18
Kristia LeShoure	April 23
Rick Emery	April 26

CAN YOU HELP STAFF A TABLE?



Fellow Rotarian Eric Westphall has obtained permission from the Rock Island HyVee for us to sell our Wine Raffle Tickets at their two entrance doors on Saturday, May 8th. At this point we are just planning two shifts, 10am to Noon and Noon to 2pm. We need 2 people at each door, so a total of 8 Rotarians. Next year's president, Justin Peterson has agreed to don Ruth Lee's Wine Bottle costume and will work the morning shift with Eric Westphall. Committee members Rick Emery and Anne McGlynn have volunteered to work the afternoon shift. So, all we need is two more for the morning shift and two for the afternoon shift. We will have card tables and chairs there for you along with the ticket fishbowl, tickets to sell, and posters promoting the Wine Raffle and our new

Scholarship project. All you need to do is be there! If you can help, specify morning or afternoon, and reply to Bob at bobdebswanson@att.net, You are not expected to put on the wine bottle suit, unless you really want to! Should be a fun couple of hours and an easy way to raise money for our "Service Above Self" scholarship. If we get more volunteers, we can add an additional shift or two!



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. Rock Island Rotary has committed to provide 20 people to help with spring planting and gardening. There is a morning and an afternoon session each needing 10 volunteers. Most of our slots are filled, but we still need help to make our commitment!

Please be part of a **Rock Island Rotary team!** We need just 1 more for the morning shift and 2 more for the afternoon. Email Bob Swanson to sign up (bobdebswanson@att.net). Specify if you want morning or afternoon. Feel free to invite a family members or friend to join the team!

Time slots are Thursday. April 22nd from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 4. The Botanical Center will provide lunch for everyone who participates. Our 10 for morning and 10 afternoon volunteers will be served lunch together at noon. .

FIRST TEE – Continued from page 1

Look ahead, Sara was excited to tell that Highland Springs Golf Course in Rock Island is building a new Clubhouse this summer and has agreed to include a First Tee classroom in the new building. Currently First Tee has a classroom at the Red Hawk Golf Course in Davenport, but participants at Highland springs have had to sit on the ground or at picnic tables. The new facility we e a great improvement for the program is scheduled to open by June of 2022. Sara was also pleased to announce that First Tee has formed a new partnership with the Rock Island Arsenal and will be offering the program on site to children living at the Arsenal. They are also contemplating expanding the program to Saukie and Palmer Hills golf courses and possibility to Geneseo and Iowa City. Another current innovation is the rewriting of the First Tee Curricula. They want to make sure the program remains relevant and updated for children in 2021 and beyond. The last curricula rewrite was done more than 10 years ago. First Tee has also updated their logo and is rebranding itself for the 2020's. Lastly, Sara was happy to report that First Tee will again host a Youth Day at the John Deere Classic. Last year, because of the pandemic, the event was cancelled. This year access to the PGA pros will be tightly regulated, but a full day of activities will be offered for the kids. Sara said hopefully by 2022 they will be back to a normal Youth Day, but in the interim, something is better than nothing! We greatly appreciated Sara's interesting and very informative program. Thank you for sharing and best of luck for an outstanding 2021 First Tee season!

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Today, Jeremy Steiner was inducted into membership of Rock Island Rotary. With the pandemic and meeting via ZOOM we are confident that we have "missed" officially inducting other members (including corporate members) who were approved and have been attending, some for many months. You were not intentionally overlooked, just the proverbial "fell through the crack". If you have not been inducted, please send a quick email to President Campbell at campbell.angela@rigov.org. We want to get caught up with our induction duties!