



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

May 11, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 44

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Skip-a-Long

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

A program of SAL Family and Community Services

Marcy Mendenhall

Exec. Dir. of Skip-a-Long



Marcy Mendenhall is President & CEO of SAL Family and Community Services a position she has held since July of 2013. Previously she served as Executive Director of Scott County Kids serving five years in that post. She was educated at the University of Dubuque with a Bachelor of Science Degree and then moved on to St. Ambrose University earning her Master of Social Work in 2002 specializing in Administrative and Clinical Social Work. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Illinois, a Licensed Independent Social Worker in Iowa, and is a registered Play Therapist by the Association for Play Therapy. For over 50 years, Skip-a-Long Child Development Services has been providing early childhood care and educational services for families in the Quad Cities. They have five locations in our area, and proudly boast to have consistently earned the Gold Circle of Quality and 5 Star rating - the highest recognition for childhood care providers - in both Illinois and Iowa. Mendenhall says Skip-a-Long not only cares for children - the charge the mind. At Skip-a-Long, 94.5 percent of their kids have been assessed as kindergarten-ready. For those students in need of additional support, Skip-a-Long offer the teachers, tools, and time to prepare children for a bright future. Skip-a-long centers are committed to safety, security, and support, according to Mendenhall. "Learning best happens when kids can immerse themselves in a friendly, nurturing, loving environment." All five Skip-a-long facilities boast state-of-the-art security indoors, and fun and fenced-in spaces outdoors to allow children to learn and play under the watchful care of Skip-a-Long's educators. They also offer mental health therapists on-site to support the children and their families on-site. They are the only child development center to offer that support in the Quad Cities. Ms. Mendenhall says, "We go the extra mile for our families. Our team of childcare providers are not only dedicated to the child - but also to parents, who receive reports on how their child is doing, and are invited to participate in special events and activities year-round. Skip-a-Long provides care and education from newborns to 12 years old, with fully licensed childhood educators. They maintain a low child to teacher ratio and have on-site mental health therapists. They focus on social skills, language and literacy, math and science, social studies, and the arts. While at the center children receive healthy meals and snacks and transportation to and from school is provided. Scholarship and financial assistance are available for qualified families. Currently Skip-a-Long has 275 employees and operates on an \$18 million budget. Noting that the Covid Pandemic has taken a huge toll on working families and particularly working mothers, Mendenhall said 13% of the women's workforce had to leave work to care for children when schools closed. Overall unemployment for women nearly doubled from 5% to 9%. For women of color, 50% lost their jobs, of those still working over 50% worked fewer hours and had less income. Skip-a-Long is striving to provide care for infant through toddlers to help women return to work. Mendenhall stated that 7,000 slots for such children are needed in Rock Island. She was excited to tell of a new federal grant obtained by Skip-a-Long that will do much to close the gap. They will receive \$2 million for start-up costs, \$100,000 for training, and then \$3.8 million per year for the next 5 years. The grant will renew for another 5 years if goals are met. Funds will be used to add staff and facilities. Programs will expand adding a pre-natal program, weekly home visits, socialization training, staff nurses, and mental health therapists. In response to a question regarding the typical cost for childcare services, Mendenhall said \$500 to \$700 per week, per child, is the norm in our area. Fortunately, the new grant is aimed as low-income families and will help greatly in making quality services available to all. Hearing Ms. Mendenhall it is evident that Skip-a-long is not a baby-sitting service. It is early childhood education with additional benefits in health, nutrition, and socialization. Thanks, Marcy for an interesting presentation!

April - May Calendar

- May 12 - RIHS Final Incubator Pitch 5pm
- May 18 - Tyler Mitchell, Public Relations manager for "The Project of the Quad Cities"
- May 25 - Rotary Awards Luncheon
Rev. Dwight Ford, Speaker
Awards to students and leaders from our Club and the Community.
- June 1 - Memorial Day joint meeting with Rock Island Kiwanis.
- June 8 - TBA
- June 15 - TBA
- June 22 - TBA
- June 29 - President Angela Campbell
- July 6 - President Justin Peterson



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 we had three guests at our meeting. Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club were guests Rotarians. Also joining us was Virginia Houlton, a guest of hubby and former District Governor, Fred Houlton. Guests are always welcome at the “Number One Club”. We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **LUNCH PROCEDURE REMINDER** – Until the pandemic is fully behind us please understand our buffet table is not a serve yourself buffet. Bridges staff will handle the utensils and fill your plate as you direct. Please do not attempt to serve yourself. Wait for the staff server to help you. She will prepare your plate and hand it to you. You may then obtain your drink from the beverage station. Hand sanitizer, rolled silverware, napkins, and salt/paper are provided at the buffet table.
- ☐ **WINE RAFFLE CRUNCH TIME** - Our drawing is just 14 days away! The committee needs all sold ticket stubs turned in by next week’s meeting to ensure they get into the “fishbowl” before the drawing. Unfortunately, we are still quite a ways short of our goal of \$5,000 in ticket sales, so please if you can spare \$20, go to our club website, www.rirotary.com and buy another book of tickets. Better yet, sell a few more booklets! It is easy to get tickets on line through our website! Please help fund our “Service Above Self” scholarship with Wine Raffle Ticket sales!
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

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 empty baskets to fill and will pick up whatever you have! Just call or email.

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. If you don't want to do a full basket Sue is happy to take random items and put them together to make great baskets. Sue will store things until the event and will event come pick items up from your home. Call 563-343-7985 or email srector3614@gmail.com.





FOUNDATION MINUTE

Happy Mother's Day to all Rotarians and other Mothers around the world!
Welcome to Week 2 of Rotary International's Youth Month

This is May, the month dedicated to the activities of Rotary Youth Service programs. Much has been happening already with preparations for RYLA being top on the list. However, this past week we have been bombarded with terrible news about the unrelenting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in India. Rotary Clubs and Rotary Districts have been responding in several ways to ease the untold hardships resulting from the virus in India. Several clubs around the world have sent truckloads of oxygen canisters, ventilators, masks, and necessary PPEs to combat the plague.

The Rotary Club of Cupertino (Los Gatos, CA) is among several clubs in Rotary District 5170 (USA) that have partnered with other organizations to help ease India's COVID-19 crisis. In a report by Anne Gelhaus, editor of The Bay Area News, Cupertino Rotarians, together with Rotary e-club of SV Smart Village and the nonprofit Pratham USA, are raising funds to support a global grant for an oxygen generator for COVID-19 patients in New Delhi, as well as an effort to provide for more immediate distribution of oxygen products.

"India is experiencing a huge surge in COVID-19 cases," said Ramesh Hariharan, past governor of Rotary District 5170. "This has resulted in overwhelming the country's hospitals and led to thousands of people dying. India has also experienced a massive shortage of oxygen, and the administration is struggling to vaccinate people amid this surge."

To donate, visit <https://www.classy.org/give/338345/#!/donation/checkout>.



NEW CLUB DIRECTORY IS BEING PREPARED

All members should have received an email asking you to review your directory listing and photo. If you did not get such an email, notify Bob Swanson immediately! Over half the Club has responded. If you have not, please do it today! If any information is incorrect or incomplete, or if you have a different photo you would like us to use, please email the corrected information and/or your new photo to bobdebswanson@att.net.

We will distribute the new directory at the first meeting of the 2021-22 Rotary year, which this year is July 6th. To do that everything needs to be turned in, all changes made, and our 60-page book with over 90 individual listings must go to the printer by early-June.

Please either approve your current listing or send your corrections as soon as possible!

Thank You!

Rotarian Friends,
Thank-you so much for
your cards and phone
calls.

I appreciate your
thoughtfulness.

I hope to see you at a
meeting sometime.

Sincerely,
Mary Fistar

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET MONDAY AT 11:45AM

Our Club's Board of Directors will resume in-person meetings starting this Monday, May 17th at 11:45am. We meet in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at Jeff Dismer's office located off the Arts Alley entrance at Studio 483 Architects, 124 Arts Alley, in downtown Rock Island. It is a very large room with plenty of space for social distancing. Starting with this meeting Board meetings will no longer be aired on ZOOM. All members will receive the Agenda and monthly financial report via email and are welcome to attend in person. If you are unable to attend and have an opinion or issue you would like the Board to consider, please send it prior to the meeting to club President Angela Campbell at campbell.angela@rigov.org.

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:

www.rirotary.com

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



Chip in for your charity

OFFICIAL PLEDGE CARD **2021**



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

937

BIRD NUMBER

I pledge and promise to donate:

☐ \$_____ one-time flat donation.

Please attach payment. Checks payable to
Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation.

☐ \$_____

extra donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund

Donations to the BFC Bonus Fund (#3041) help provide the 5% match
for all participating charities.

GUESS THE BIRDIES & WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2021 LEXUS NX!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.

Only 1 grand prize will be awarded. Void where
prohibited by law.

BIRDIES SCORED (YEAR)

2,160 (2011)	2,040 (2014)	1,918 (2017)
2,113 (2012)	1,990 (2015)	2,355 (2018)
2,142 (2013)	1,982 (2016)	2,091 (2019)

PLEDGE INFORMATION (Please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE OR EMAIL _____

Use this form to make your 2021 Birdies Pledge Today! Every cent pledged comes back to Rock Island ROTARY, Plus the Golf Foundation kicks in an additional donation for us! Funds are dedicated to our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. You can turn in your pledge to Kevin or to the Sergeant at Arms Table at any Rotary Meeting, or if you prefer you can mail your pledge to Kevin Koski, 1309 – 38th Avenue Court, Rock Island, IL 61201.

Club Members Give Saturday Time for Wine Raffle Sales!

Thanks to arrangements made by Eric Westphall, Rock Island Rotarians were given permission to sell our Wine Raffle Tickets at the Rock Island Hy Vee last Saturday. Like the weather, sales were brisk! As promised, Justin Peterson donned the Pinot Noir costume and attracted a lot of attention. He even brought his handsome young son along to help with sales. One customer remarked, "Who can turn down someone that cute!" Thanks to all who gave their time raising \$422 for our "Service Above Self" scholarship.

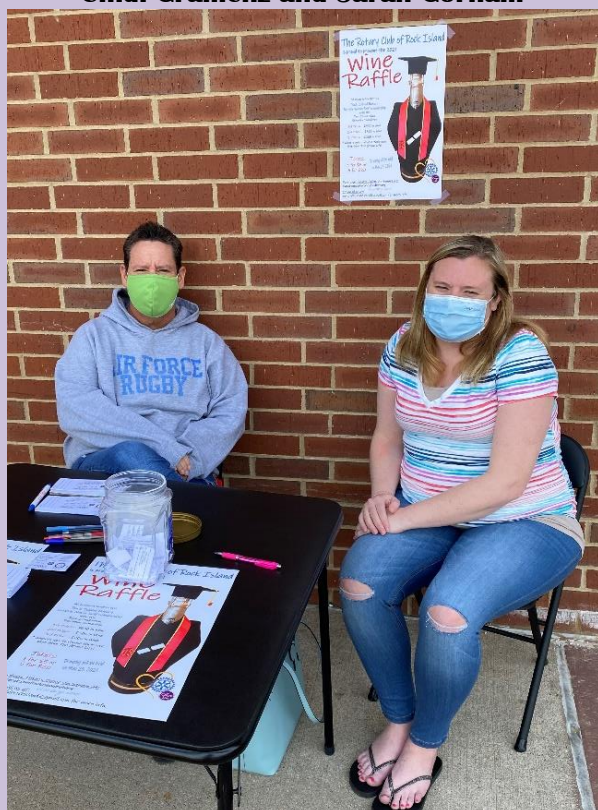
Justin & Liam Peterson and Erick Westphall



Gary Rowe and Marcy Bell



Cindi Gramenz and Sarah Gorham



Anne McGlynn and Rick Emery

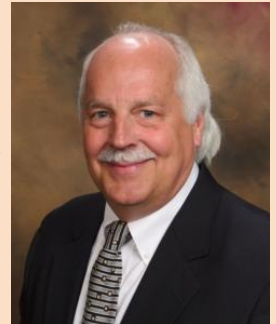


TWO LOYAL ROTARIANS MAKE MAJOR DONATIONS

Mark Zimmerman and Bud Phillis at two of our most dedicated and loyal Rotarians. Bud, a 38-year member of our Club has long served as our Foundation Chairman keeping track of all our contributions to the Foundation and announcing each new Paul Harris Fellow as that status is achieved. He was our Club president in 1997-98 and our A.T. Peara Award winner in 1991. Mark, who actually is a member of the Davenport Rotary, of which his grandfather was a founding member in 1912, is regularly a guest Rotarian at our meetings. Until a few years ago his place of business was just down the street from our meeting location. We were delighted that even after moving to a new location on the Moline – East Moline Border, Mark still attends almost all our meetings.

MARK ZIMMERMAN

In celebration of his 70th birthday, Mark made a \$1,000 unrestricted contribution to Rock Island Rotary. His generosity is a testament to the type of man he is. Paul Harris set Rotary on the path of seeking out the best, brightest, most professional, and most honest career representative in each member admitted to Rotary. We believe he would be very pleased to have Mark Zimmerman on the Rotary roll. His dedication to both our Club and his home Davenport Club are inspiring to us all. Our Board of Directors will be discussing how best to put his donation to use serving our community.



Dr. RICHARD “BUB” PHILLIS

Bud Phillis in celebration of being back at an in-person meeting noted that since we last met, he and his wife, Diane, have each celebrated two anniversaries and two birthdays. He also noted that he has made a commitment to purchase a filter for our water project each year (at \$350 each). He added up the years represented and the filter costs and somehow (we think rounding UP) came up with 1,000 for which he donated \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. A life-long advocate in the campaign to end Polio and District wide activities for Rotary's PolioPlus effort, his generosity and support of Rotary and the Foundation sets a golden example for each of us.



MEMBER INDUCTION



In an effort to “catch up” with in-person inductions of ‘new’ members that had been delayed due to the Covid shutdown, President Campbell had the pleasure of inducting Jeff Rose, an American Bank & Trust corporate member into Rock Island Rotary. Jeff has been a great and active member of our club during the past year. Although most of that time we were meeting via ZOOM, Jeff has regularly attended and has been an important member of our Wine Raffle Committee. Jeff is President & CEO of American Bank & Trust Co. and was a member of Rotary in Des Moines, Iowa prior to coming to the Quad Cities. We are delighted to officially welcome him to Rock Island Rotary.

CINDI COLLECTS FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

2nd Vice-President, Cindy Gramenz did an excellent job in both introducing guests and levying fines today. In addition to the great donations made by Mark Zimmerman and Bud Phillis, Cindy also tapped Rebecca Arnold for the recent news story identifying the Martin Luther King Center as winner of \$10,000 in the recently held “Pitch” competition. She fined Duncan Cameron, “just ‘cause he hadn’t been fined in a while!”, and nailed Kevin Koski for his phone ringing during last week’s program presentation. John Wetzel contributed a happy dollar for the opening of the River Bandits minor league baseball season and another dollar in honor of Modern Woodman Stadium turning 90 years old. 1st Vice-President, Justin Peterson offered dollars for each of the Rotarians who volunteered to sell Wine Raffle tickets last Saturday at the HyVee, saying they did a super job. He offered an additional dollar for getting our District Grant application completed and submitted to District. He said the outlook is very good that we will get a matching grant for our project which will provide 40 scholarship admissions for Rock Island youth into the First Tee summer program. Stan Coin offered a long-distance happy dollar from Tempe, Arizona. Thanks to all who donated!