



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

August 10, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 6

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



JACK CULLEN Downtown Rock Island Partnership

Jack Cullen was hired as Rock Island downtown director and took the position April 1, 2021. His focus is on building

relationships with business owners and to recruit retailers, boutiques, restaurants and other businesses to the downtown area, in addition to implementing physical improvements. The City entered into a two-year contract with the Quad-Cities Chamber of Commerce in January, paying the Chamber \$225,000 for the services of the Rock Island downtown director, with funds coming from the city's downtown TIF district. In return, the Chamber agreed to form a downtown steering committee and provide monthly activity reports to the city and progress updates. Cullen hopes to improve the physical look of the downtown area using \$1.5 million from the city's downtown TIF district. Physical improvements will include planting more trees, installing new sidewalks and lighting, and possibly removing the stage from the Great River Plaza in the District. Prior to his present position, Cullen began working for the Chamber in 2018 as the Q-2030 project manager and most recently as marketing and communications manager. Before that, he was a reporter for the Quad-City Times for five years after graduating from Augustana College. "Rock Island is my hometown in the Quad-Cities," Cullen said. "I lived in downtown Rock Island for a couple of years, and that's when I fell in love with it while getting to know the businesses, the unique people and places that make up downtown Rock Island." Cullen said one of his first goals would be to build relationships with business owners, property owners and those who are investing in downtown Rock Island. "I'll be doing a lot of listening, hearing what people's concerns are, hopes are for downtown Rock Island and what they think it needs to become a more welcoming and vibrant place," Cullen said. One thing was obvious throughout the presentation, Mr. Cullen brings a great deal of enthusiasm and dedication to his job. It was also evident that he has a number of exciting ideas and plans for downtown development. He noted that "Place Making" is now considered a term of importance in the community development business. People and places must be connected physically, culturally, and socially. Places, such as downtown Rock Island need to be viewed as a place to live, play, work, and enjoy. One of the first things Mr. Cullen did after taking the position was to begin working with the Downtown Steering Committee appointed by Mayor Thoms last year. One of Cullen's and the Committee's primary tasks will be to decide how to use over a million dollars in city TIF funds. They have developed a plan which Cullen presented through videos that includes beautification, seasonal decorations, renovation, refurbishing, and improvements to storefronts and buildings. Improved lighting and a new mural area in what has been an alleyway near 3rd Avenue and 20th Street. Cullen is working to support existing downtown businesses and attempting to attract new businesses and promote economic growth. He identified three main areas of work needed: 1) Infrastructure and improved livability 2) Advocacy and promotion of the area 3) Enhancing Public Places in the downtown. Among many decisions to be made by Cullen and the Steering Committee is the future of the current downtown plaza, now some 50 years old. Part of the Committee's plan include renovation and modernization of the plaza. Cullen also was excited to announce that the outdoor music event Alternating Current, previously based only in Davenport will be expanding to Rock Island with their first performance occurring this month. He also invited all to attend the grand unveiling of the first mural in the new alleyway mural project, which will occur at 3:45pm next Thursday. Another exciting announcement was that Rock Island now hosts a weekly Farmer's Market in the Schweiber Park parking lot from 8am until noon every Saturday. The first was held last Saturday. Area farmers will bring and sell their fresh produce. Sounds like a big job ahead and looks like the City hired the right person to do it! Thanks for a great program!

July – Sept. Calendar

- Aug 17 - Margie Kane, Karples Museum
- Aug 24 - Christian Schrader, Black Hawk Area Special Ed. Dist.
- Aug 31 - Nita Ludwig, Rock Island County Health Department
- Sept 6 - Labor Day Parade
- Sept 7 - Dr. Reginald Lawrence II, "State of the Schools"-Joint meeting with Kiwanis
- Sept 14 - Dave Bills, Rotary District 6420 Governor
- Sept 21 - Alfred Ramirez, Diversity in the Workplace
- Sept 28 - Monta Ponsetto, Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation



Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

Justin Peterson, President
Cindi Gramenz, 1st Vice Pres.
Eric Westphall, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Angela Campbell, Past President

Board Members

John Daly
Rick DeVinney
Dan McNeil
Monta Ponsetto
Sue Rector
Gary Rowe
Molly Shattuck
Kathy Trone
Bob Swanson Co-Sgt.-at-Arms
Cindi Gramenz Co-Sgt.-at-Arms

Program Chairs 2021-22

Aug-Sept	- Gary Rowe
Oct - Nov	- Frank Lambert
Dec-Jan	- John Wetzel
Feb-Mar	- Kai Swanson/ Dave Hodge
Apr-May	- Kathy Trone/ Jeff Rose
Jun-Jul	- Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we welcomed three guests. Connie Emery was a guest of husband Rick Emery. Nancy Luckenbill was a guest of the Club. We also had one visiting Rotarian, Duncan Cameron, from the Naples, FL Club. Guests are always welcome at the “Number One Club”. How long has it been since you invited a friend or colleague to be your guest at Rock Island Rotary?
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **THANKS TO BLOOD DONORS** – Last week we held our make-up Blood Drive. Thanks to Rotary Club donors Kim Calhoun, Rick Devinney, Linda Golden, Cindi Gramenz, Tom Hammar, Chris Lemon, Jim Moran, Molly Shattuck, Bill Stengel, and Debby Swanson. From Kiwanis Steve Andich, Chris Elsberg, and Susan Foster. A special thank you to Chris Lemon for organizing the drive.
- ❑ **SIGN UP AT SERGEANT’S TABLE** – There are two signup sheets at the table:
 - 1) Sign up to participate in the Labor Day Parade as a walker/candy distributor, and
 - 2) Also last chance to sign up to order your Club polo and/or Club tee shirt. We need to place the order to have them for the Labor Day Parade!
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today’s Foundation raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and fine wine donated by Anne McGlynn! The first ticket drawn was held by Bill Stengel who opted for the cash and promptly donated it to the Rotary Foundation. The second ticket taking home the wine was held by guest, Dick Fislar who had previously given a happy \$20 in honor of his anniversary with bride Mary. Nice to know they will have wine to go with their celebration dinner! Thanks to all who participated. Proceeds go to the Rotary Foundation.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTED!

President Justin Peterson had the very pleasant privilege of induction Erin Williams as our newest Rock Island Rotarian. Erin is the Director of Annual Giving at Augustana College. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University. She and husband Mike reside in Bettendorf. Erin has a background of working with nonprofits including Gilda’s Club, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and United Way of the Quad Cities. Director comments to Justin Peterson or Cindi Gramenz. Please make Erin feel welcome and take time to say “Hi” when you see her at a meeting. Pictured are sponsor Eric Westphall, Erin, and President Justin Peterson. Welcome, Erin!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. The Rotary Foundation supports six areas of focus: Economic and Community Development; Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Maternal and Child Care; Disease Prevention and Treatment; Education and Literacy; and Peace. When someone asks what Rotary is and what we do, these six areas of focus provide a clear and concise answer. Rotary advances Economic and Community Development through millions in grants for project throughout the world. Clean water has long been one of Rotary's principal projects with Club throughout the world helping to fund wells and water purification programs. Our own Club has raised over \$100,000 and purchases water filtration systems that are providing over 19,000 children in Kenya with safe, sanitary drinking water. The Foundation funds Maternal and childcare programs throughout developing nations that provide training and supplies for mothers and their children. In the area of Disease Prevention and Treatment, no organization has done more than Rotary to rid the world of Polio and currently to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. In education and literacy Rotary has built schools, funds education, and works locally and internationally to raise the literacy level of the world. As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We work for better international understanding through student exchange programs, Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships. Rotary vocational training teams (VTT) to other countries either to learn more about their profession or to teach local professionals about a particular field. Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations. Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk. Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient. Promotion of Peace has been a goal of Rotary for more than 100 years. We can all be proud of our membership in Rotary; and can all ensure the that our efforts locally and internationally continue by giving our support at whatever level we can to the Rotary International Foundation. Your support helps make all of this possible!

ROTARY BASEBALL CHALLENGE

Diehard White Sox fan John Phillips has thrown down the gauntlet! He has heard enough from the Cardinals, Cubs, Brewers, Yankees, and fans of other major league teams! John says it is time to "Put up or Shut up!" So, here is his challenge: "We have many baseball fans in our club who are loyal to their teams. Cubs, Cardinals and White Sox dominate but there are other teams as well. These teams are doing well this year and have post season aspirations. As a Sox fan, I am willing to bet that the win/loss record for the White Sox will be better than the other teams at the end of the regular season. If they do not have the best record, I will donate \$100 to the Rock Island Rotary Foundation. I challenge the other fans of their favorite teams to do the same. If their team does not have a better record than the other teams in the challenge, they agree to donate \$100, \$50, or \$25 to the Rock Island Rotary Foundation or the Rotary International Foundation (their choice)."

To join the Challenge, we need to know your name, your team, and the amount you agree to pledge if your team does not have a better final record than other teams in the challenge. Rotarians can let John or Bob Swanson know if they want to participate. Who is willing to face the Challenge and add your name?



John Phillips
Bill Stengel
Jim Nordquist
Kathy Trone



Frank Lambert



Anne McGlynn
Bob Swanson
Jim Moran
Gary Rowe
Justin Peterson
Molly Shattuck
Bud Phillis



Duncan Cameron



Doug Hultquist



John Oliger



WORKING HARD TO PULL OFF A GREAT WINE AUCTION!

Our creative team takes a moment to celebrate completing the staging and photographing of all the individual wine and liquor groupings for our upcoming on-line wine auction. The crew of dedicated creative minds included Dick and Mary Fislar, Sue Rector, Gary Rowe, Cindi Gramenz, Kim Calhoun, and Marcy Bell. Hostess for the evening and the driving force behind the fundraiser, Ruth Lee, was behind the camera. They worked two nights last week to create the perfect bid items!



WINE AUCTION

Bid on your favorite lavish red and white options at our **ROTARY WINE AUCTION!** Treat yourself to these exclusive **SONOMA VALLEY** wines that are not found in any local stores!

Online Bidding begins Aug. 18

Online Bidding closes Sept. 2

***Minimum bids will be required*

All proceeds go to our Service Above Self Scholarship

Rotary



Rock Island



AUCTION PREVIEW

You can go online [now](http://bidpal.net/onclou) and preview all the items that will be up for bid when our auction officially opens for bids at 9am on August 18th.

With the next few days you will be able to beat the crowd and get a head start to plan your strategy by Previewing our Auction offerings at <http://bidpal.net/onclou> [dwinewithrotary](http://bidpal.net/onclou)

If you try it and it says the auction is currently unavailable, try again in a day or two!

PUMPKIN PALOOZA 2021!



Pumpkins Palooza 2021 plans are in the works.

Each year generous Rotarians have supported a bright orange t-shirt for each of the kids and teachers in 1st and 2nd grade at Earl Hanson. These are pretty prized gifts for the kiddos, and we want to continue the tradition this year.

Might you consider joining a small, but mighty, group of Rotarians who have consistently sponsored these treasures? The investment is \$100, and we do have the opportunity to include your logo or name on the shirts. Believe me you get good mileage from your sponsorship - the smiles are awesome, and these shirts truly are worn throughout the year.

If you are interested, let Sue Rector know at srector3614@gmail.com. We will need to know by August 31 so that we can get the shirts ordered and ready to go for our October fun with the kiddos.

Humor from Dr. Bud Phillis - With the note "Laughter is the best medicine!"



Dr. Jim Nordquist sent me this one: Did you know that Julie Andrews does not like cheap lipstick? She's been heard to say: "Super colored fragile lipstick gives me Halitosis!"

VICE-PRESIDENT ERIC WESTPHALL ACCEPTS DOLLARS AND LEVIES FINES!

Greeted by the traditional chorus of BOOs, VP Eric first asked for volunteer Happy/Sad Dollars. Rick Emery quickly offered a Happy Dollar in commemoration for American Bank & Trust Company obtaining a new downtown Rock Island bank location. He said they expect to open the facility in October. Ruth Lee added a Happy Dollar for the great volunteers that worked at her home putting together the various packages for our upcoming Wine Auction. Then Eric stepped in and lowed the dreaded gavel of fines! Rick Emery was fined a dollar for appearing in a recent news article regarding American Bank's donation to Alternative for Older Adults. Mark Mayeski was dinged a dollar for an article announcing his recent Edward Jones reward for "Exceptional Achievement in Building Client Relationships". Congratulations Mark! Turning to a report on recent results of the corporate games, any representatives present from businesses named in the article were fined. The businesses included Mid-American Energy, American Bank & Trust, Quad City Chamber, and the City of Rock Island. President Justin paid a dollar for being appalled by the Iowa Hawkeye stickers on our guest speaker's laptop! Justin also agreed to pay a \$1 fine for the Q.C. Take Out and Delivery web page. I didn't catch Justin's connection to it, but we'll take the dollar!

TWO RECEIVE PAUL HARRIS FELLOW HONORS

Club Foundation Chairman, Bud Phillis presented two prestigious awards during today's meeting. Rick Emery was called to the rostrum along with his wife Connie. Rick is himself a Paul Harris Fellow and Chairman Phillis announced that Rick has now donated \$2,000 to the Foundation entitling him to name a second honoree to receive a Paul Harris Fellow Award. Rick said his wife Connie has been the mainstay of their family and he chose to honor her with the award. Phillis present Connie with her Paul Harris Fellow pin and certificate. Our apologies for the photo of Rick and Connie with Bud Phillis which unfortunately was not usable. The lack of a photo does not diminish our appreciation for your dedicated support of the Rotary Foundation.



Nancy Luckenbill with Bud Phillis

Bud then asked Nancy Luckenbill to come to the rostrum. Nancy's is the widow of long-time club member Fred Luckenbill that served both as our Club president and as Governor of District 6420. He was a Paul Harris Benefactor and a Paul Harris plus many times over donor. Since his death, Nancy has continued donating to the Rotary Foundation in her own name. Today she received a Paul Harris +3 Award signifying that she has now contributed in excess of \$4,000 to the Foundation. Nancy is no stranger to Rotary having traveled the District with Fred and traveled the world attending many Rotary International Conventions. When asked for a comment Nancy simply referred to Fred saying he was a giving person and she wanted to continue giving as he would have done. We miss Fred and are thankful to have Nancy as a loyal and dedicated supporter of our Club.

International Convention to be held in Houston

During a joint news conference held at George R. Brown Convention Center, Rotary and Houston First Corporation representatives announced that more than 20,000 service-minded people from around the world will gather in Houston for Rotary's 113th annual international convention on June 4-8, 2022. The coveted international event is returning to Houston for the third time, marking the 50th anniversary of the 1972 international convention. The Bayou City also hosted the 5th Rotary convention in 1914. The event is expected to deliver \$30 million in economic impact for the city's hotels, restaurants, retailers and attractions. "As a global membership organization that brings people from all continents and cultures together to share, learn and take action to bring positive and lasting change to communities around the world, we are thrilled that our first in-person international convention since 2019 will take place in Houston," said Rotary's International President Shekhar Mehta. "And for the first time ever, our annual event will be open to members of the public who want to connect, learn and be a part of our work to grow and change lives." Rotary's 2022 international convention will transform the George R. Brown Convention Center into an energized hub and cultural mosaic as the organization's global network of volunteers gather to share information about all the ways they are taking action to address issues in their communities, to learn from notable experts, gain inspiration from world-class speakers, and connect with lifelong friends shaped through service.

SAVE THE DATE



Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, November 12th at 6:30pm

SAVE the DATE and get your team together for Rock Island Rotary's annual fundraiser! Cash prizes, cash bar, 50/50, silent auction and TONS of FUN with MR. TRIVIA!!!

This fundraiser supports Earl Hanson Elementary School and RI Rotary Community Grants. Corporate Sponsorships are available!

When: Friday, November 12th , 2021

Where: Milan Community Center, 2701 1st Street East, Milan

Time: 6:30pm START time, doors open at 5:45pm

Cost: \$100 a table, up to 10 players

RSVP: Kathy Trone 309-794-9400 or Kathy@wesselspc.com

The Rock Island Rotary Club is challenging all other Rotary Clubs in the QC Area to participate and TRY to win the "Traveling Trophy" for the SMARTEST ROTARY CLUB!



SAVE THE DATE

ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE



SUNDAY

December 5, 2021

9:00AM

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201

COURSE - Flat & Fast, scenic, accurate, wheeled distance.

SHIRTS - Size guaranteed to pre-registered runners and walkers

RUNNER'S AWARDS-- Overall male and female 3 awards per ages 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+

WALKER'S AWARDS-- Overall male and female, 3 awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+ ALL THIS PLUS GREAT FOOD & DRINK!

REGISTER ONLINE - GETMEREGISTERED.COM/ROTARYREINDEERRAMBLE

REGISTRATION FEES – Pre-registered, postmarked not later than 11-20-20 \$25.00

Rotary members \$23.00

After Nov 20, \$30.00 for all!

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:30AM to 8:45AM RACE DAY

GRAND PRIZE! GIFT CERTIFICATE for two for CIRCA 21. for pre-registered runners only!
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! NO EXCEPTIONS!

If you have questions call Dick or Mary Fislar at 309-788-0500 or e-mail
cruisemaster18@yahoo.com

-----CUT HERE-----

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (MAY BE DUPLICATED) PLEASE PRINT!!!

First name _____ Mid _____ Last Name _____

Age race day _____ Date of birth ____/____/____ Male _____ Female _____ Run _____ Walk _____

Circle shirt size S M L XL XXL (ADD \$2.00 for XXL) Phone ____/____/____

No shirt option _____ deduct \$5.00 if you choose no shirt!

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WAIVER (MUST BE SIGNED) In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do hereby release and discharge Rock Island Rotary, the City of Rock Island, any sponsors, supporters, or volunteers, for all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner arising or growing out of my participation in the ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K Run or Walk. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Participant, or Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCK ISLAND ROTARY Mail entry and payment to ROTARY, P.O. Box 4271, Rock Island, IL 61201. NO REFUNDS RACE WILL BE HELD REGARDLESS!

The World Series of Giving PLAY BALL!



Rotary District 6420 first annual 2021-2022 'World Series of Giving' campaign is under way!

Welcome to July and August Spring Training! This is the time to get your Foundation leadership team together, create goals and develop a team strategy.

The regular season starts in September!

Monthly standings will be posted on the district's website and Facebook site, beginning in October.

Clubs compete based on per capita giving to the Annual Fund and PolioPlus. The top club in each division receives a commemorative Louisville Slugger baseball bat and the division winners will be announced June 1, 2022.



In June (2022), the five division winners compete for the World Series of Giving title and the ultimate winner will be announced on July 1, 2022.

Is your team ready! If not, it's time to dust off the cleats, take a few practice swings and get in there!

The World Series of Giving

Play Ball!

Scoring is based by aggregate per capita giving to the Annual Fund and PolioPlus throughout the year.

Season Schedule:
July & August 2021 Spring Training
September 2021 Start, June 2022 Regular Season

Northwest Division:
Areas I & II
Clarkston, Madison, Portland, Rainier, Rainier Valley, Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Victoria, Whistler, and West Vancouver

Mid-Central Division:
Areas III & IV
Edmonton, Calgary, Kelowna, Kootenay, Okanagan, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg

South-Central Division:
Areas V & VI
Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Kootenay, Okanagan, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg

West-Central Division:
Areas VII & VIII
Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Kootenay, Okanagan, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg

Western Division:
Areas IX & X
Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Kootenay, Okanagan, Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg

Monthly standings will be posted here on the District website.

Rotary Foundation