



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

August 31, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 9

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



NITA LUDWIG R I County Health Department Covid Update



Nita Ludwig is the Public Health Administrator for the Rock Island County Health Department. She also serves as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the County. Educated at the University of Illinois, Ludwig has been the principal spokesperson regarding the covid pandemic in the Rock Island County. Today she provided a detailed update on the status of the pandemic and the ongoing effort to battle the disease and also gave us a rundown of the many other programs and services provided by the Health Department. Ms. Ludwig has been with the Rock Island County Health Department for 26 years and is frequently seen on television and heard on radio as the Department's spokesperson. She first recounted the effort to battle Covid thanking the many volunteers who have assisted. The Department sponsored drive through vaccinations at the Milan Auto Auction site and at the Tax Slayer Center prior to phasing into regularly offering free Covid vaccinations at the Milan Community Center. They continue to offer Tuesday & Friday free clinics at the Health Department office. She reported that to date Rock Island County has recorded 16,442 cases of Covid and 339 deaths. Two of the deaths were in the past week. She noted that 43 are currently hospitalized in our County with Covid. Ludwig said that in the past two months the average age of those stricken with the virus is 39 with well over 90% being unvaccinated. The same holds true of those hospitalized, the vast majority are unvaccinated. She acknowledged there are some "break-through" incidents of fully vaccinated people testing positive for Covid, but said their illness is typically not severe and of short term. She made a strong plea and argument that everyone eligible should get vaccinated as quickly as possible. She also said that the Department is working closely with schools in our county with a goal of helping them stay open and offering in person learning. She said they are helping with testing at the schools and stated that two tests are being used, one provides results in 12 hours, the other in about 15 minutes. Availability of the testing kits has controlled what is used. On an encouraging note, she said that the recent upswing of the disease and the Delta variant has resulted in an increase in the number of non-vaccinated people coming in to get the shots, which remain free of charge. Ms. Ludwig then took time to review the many services of the Health Department beyond battling Covid. She noted that the Department is the hub of the County's Emergency Preparedness plan which covers a variety of possible emergency situations and guidelines for response. They meet with their key partners and stakeholders within the community to share plans and to ensure integration with their own agency emergency plans. RICHD writes a quarterly newsletter to keep healthcare providers apprised of current public health issues. They also administer the Federal WIC (Women, Infants, & Children) program in Rock Island County. The program provides federal grants for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. The Department also is tasked with inspecting all restaurants and food serving outlets and also inspects wells and septic systems to ensure they are safe and properly functioning. In addition the Department collects data and administers medications for many communicable diseases other than Covid including Influenza, tetanus, diphtheria, polio, hepatitis A & B, pneumonia sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, anthrax, head lice, hemorrhagic fever, pertussis (whooping cough), shigellosis, smallpox, and tularemia. Finally Nita discussed the Medical Reserve Corps, organized by the department to combat unexpected and crisis situations. This consists of retired doctors, nurses, and medical personal plus clerical volunteers that can be called up whenever the need exists. Thanks to Nita for a very informative presentation.

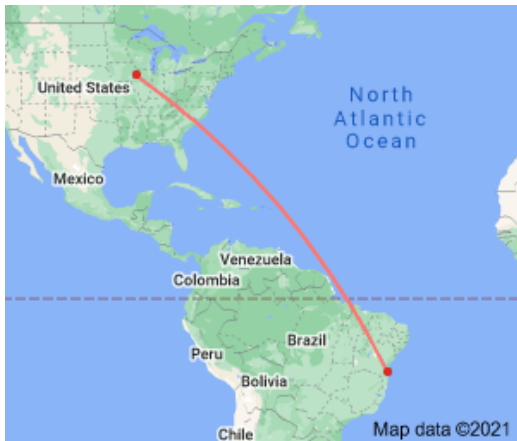
July – Sept. Calendar

- 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 14 1pm – 2pm -Literacy Committee meeting following Club meeting
- Sept 21- Alfred Ramirez, Diversity in the Workplace
- Sept 21- 1pm-2pm Trivia Night Committee meeting following Club meeting
- Sept 28- Monta Ponsetto, Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation

LIZ & DAVID NINO – See Page 2

Rotarian David Nino visits from Brazil

Brazil Teen Center Project Update



Liz Nino joined Rock Island Rotary in 2018 and has previously presented two programs for our club regarding her position as Director of International Recruitment at Augustana College. Earlier this year Liz accepted a new position as Assistant Head for Enrollment at Rivermont Collegiate in Bettendorf. As a high school student Liz was a Rotary Exchange outbound student and spent a year in Sweden, an experience she credits with her chosen career in International Recruitment for Augustana and now for Rivermont. The job switch led to Liz transferring her membership to the Bettendorf Rotary Club. However, she remains in close contact with Rock Island Rotary and notified us earlier this year that her brother, David Nino, was living in Itabuna Brazil, where he is part of the Rotary Itabuna Sul club. David too was a Rotary Exchange outbound student and spent a year in Brazil in 2006. He loved the experience and had a goal of returning to live in Brazil. In 2018 that opportunity arose, and he returned to the same community where he had visited as a Rotary Exchange student. He visited his former host family and they offered to again open their home to him while he got established and located an apartment. Once settled, David joined the Rotary Itabuna Sul club. A project that club took on was renovating a Teen Center in Itabuna. David said the doors were literally falling in, the electrical was bad, there was no air conditioning, and the paint was peeling off the walls. The president of the Itabuna Club owns an HVAC business and he donated and installed a new air conditioning system. Taking inventory on other work that was needed the Club began fundraising with a goal of raising \$1,600. David reached out to Liz to see if there might be interest in Quad City Rotary Clubs to help. Liz contacted us and as they say, the rest is prolog. Our Board quickly voted to donate \$500, a seeming small sum for us, but representing almost 1/3 of the fundraising goal. David verified that what was relatively insignificant for us was huge for Brazil! As part of his presentation, David played a video made by the president of the Rotary Itabuna Sul club (all in Portuguese which David interpreted for us). It was a very sincere "Thank you" for our great generosity. David then explained that the teen youth center provides leadership programs in music, dance, and computer skills. He said that the Center is in use every day with youngsters practicing their music, working on dance, and learning vital computer skills that may assist them in obtaining work. He displayed a photo of Brazilian teens in the newly repainted, clean, and safe Teen Center practicing with their musical instruments. It was our great fortune that David traveled home to the Quad Cities for a visit and that Liz informed us that he would like to give us a report on our donation. It was great to have an "in-person" update on a project we partnered on, some 5,077 miles from Rock Island. This was a perfect example of Rotarians from two distant nations, with different languages and cultures, joining hands to serve those in need. Thank you, David for the update and Liz for bringing the project to our attention. Please pass on our best wishes to your fellow Rotarians in Itabuna, Brazil, and our congratulations for their successful Teen Center renovation project.



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 had three guests. Debbi Swanson was a guest of husband Bob and came to help distribute our new Club shirts. Dick Fislar was guest of wife Mary, who also came early to hand out shirts. We had one visiting Rotarian, Duncan Cameron, from the Naples, FL Club. Guests are always welcome at the “Number One Club”. Have you invited a guest to Rotary lately?
- 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.
- ROTARY PARADE ENTOURAGE NEEDS YOU!** – Monday, September 6th at 9:30am the 2021 Rock Island Labor Day Parade will step off. Rock Island Rotary will be represented and we need more members to accompany our float to hand out candy to children along the parade route. We have many “younger” members who should view this as just a walk in the park! Even if you did not sign up, please just show up! We’ll provide the candy and ice water!
- IMPORTANT MEETINGS SCHEDULED** – Members of the **Literacy Committee** will meet immediately following our **September 14th** Club meeting, roughly from **1pm – 2pm**. The **Trivia Night Committee** will meet **September 21st** following our regular Club meeting, again roughly **1pm - 2pm**. If you’re not sure if you’re on the committee, check pages 11 & 13 of the your new Club Directory. All interested Rotarians are welcome.
- 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 guest Dick Fislar who took the cash. He then donated it to the Rotary Foundation. The second ticket was held by Reggie Lawrence who took home a bottle of wine! Thanks to all who participated. Our raffle proceeds go to the Rotary Foundation. – No Raffle next week. Kiwanis is hosting our joint meeting.



STILL LOOKING FOR A HANDYMAN/WOMAN IN THE CLUB

Our Little Library at Earl Hanson Elementary Schools is in need of major repairs. The library is off the post and is now sitting in the front entrance of the school. The knobs are gone, and the plexiglass is broken on one door. Do we have a volunteer who would take a look at it and perhaps renovate and get it back on the post? If parts or materials are needed the Club will reimburse the cost. Just for reference, the photo shows how it looked prior to being damaged. If any member is willing to run down to the school to assess the project, please contact our Literacy Chair Sue Rector. The Little Libraries get a great amount of use and provide a service to the children that attend the school and live in the neighborhood. Sue’s contact information is (cell) 563-343-7985 or email, surector@augustana.edu. If you can help, please call.



New Member Application

We are pleased to announce that Mindy Mahon, an assistant professor at Augustana College has applied for membership as an associate member of the Augustana corporate membership. Mindy also is planning to assist as a faculty sponsor of the Augustana Rotaract Club. She is member of the Business Administration Department. She received her B.S. from Western Illinois University, M.B.A. from the University of Iowa, and D.B.A. from St. Ambrose University. She and husband John live in Davenport. Mindy has been a guest at our Club the past two meetings and looks forward to becoming a member. Direct comments to President Justin Peterson or 1st Vice-President, Cindi Gramenz.

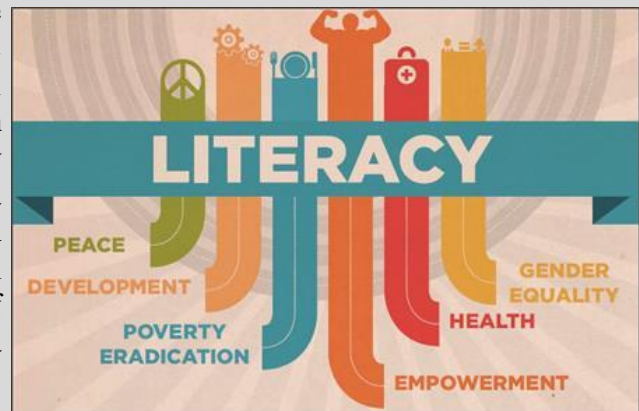


FOUNDATION MINUTE

Week 1 of Rotary International's Basic Education and Literacy Month.

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to ensure that all people have sustainable access to basic education and literacy by increasing adult literacy in communities and working to reduce gender disparity in education. To kick off this month's theme, TRF recently awarded a \$30,000 Global Grant Scholarship to a graduate of the International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies Program of the London School of Economics. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, Casey Lynn Crow is a choreographer, business owner and a travel enthusiast. The second-year doctoral student, in Public Health and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will use her grant researching access to sexual and reproductive health care in humanitarian crises, particularly for refugees and people with disabilities. Expressing her gratitude to the sponsoring clubs, Crow promised to carry out the humanitarian objectives of TRF as a Global Grant Scholar, adding "This award will allow me to continue my studies and conduct my fieldwork in the largest refugee camp in the world, Bidi Bidi Camp in Uganda, next year. I am thrilled to represent Rotary as I continue my research and do my best to make a difference in the world."

Foundation Minute wishes Casey Crow much success.



ONE FINAL PARADE PLEA

The Rock Island Labor Day Parade is **Monday at 9:30am** and we are in it! Rock Island Rotary will have a float, five convertibles, and hopefully 8 or 10 walkers to hand out candy to children along the route. We will provide the candy and cold bottled water to any who volunteer to walk with us. As of now we have 5 signed up to walk so we can definitely use some help! If you have a Rotary shirt, new version or previous version, wear it. If you have a spouse or children old enough to assist, bring them along! Our lineup location is on 37th street at 18th avenue along the American Bank and Aldi parking lots. The parade is scheduled to start at 9:30 so please be at our lineup location by then. We can arrange to drive you back to your car if you leave it at the lineup area. The important thing is to make an impact on the community. The float and the cars will promote all we do in the community and beyond, and will invite those interested to join us, but nothing makes a better impression than people. Seeing faces of people they know or would like to know has a great impact on spectators. So, if you are available on Monday, please just show up. We'll have the candy and water ready for you!



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



James Benson



[Get checkbooks ready]

JUST 2 DAYS REMAIN!

ARE YOU PART OF THE ACTION?



CHECK YOUR BID -- AUCTION LINK

<http://bidpal.net/oncloudwinewithrirotary>

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!"



A blonde gets home from work early & hears strange noises coming from the bedroom. She rushes upstairs to find her husband naked lying on the bed, sweating, and panting.

'What's up?' she asks.

"I think I'm having a heart attack," cries the husband.

The blonde rushes downstairs to grab the phone, but just as she's dialing, her four-year-old son says, "Mommy, Mommy, Aunt Shirley is hiding in the closet & she has **no clothes on!**"

The blonde slams the phone down and storms upstairs into the bedroom right past her husband who rips open the closet door and sure enough, there is her sister, totally naked and cowering **on the floor**.

'You rotten Bitch', she screams. 'My husband's having a heart attack, and you're running around naked playing hide and seek with the kids!!'

ROTARACT RECRUITING!

Friday, August 27th Augustana College hosted an Activities Fair on the Quad behind Old Main. Dozens of clubs, organizations, sororities, fraternities, and food tents dotted the grounds. One of the prominent tables was the Augustana Rotaract Club. Staffed by Rotarians Sue Rector, Kai Swanson, Erin Williams, and Bud Phillis, the table featured candy, hand sanitizer, and chap stick giveaways, brochures about our Kenya Water Project, color photos of our Water Filter in use by Kenyan children, and one of the actual filters. The event was aimed at Augustana freshmen who arrived on campus last week. Upper-class students report this week. Many students took notice of the filter display and stopped by to hear Bud explain how it works and what our club is doing to provide safe water to children who have never before had anything but tainted and disease spreading stream water. Then Sue, Kai, and Erin would take over and explain the relationship between Rotary and Rotaract and let the students know that the Rotaract Club can join with us on projects and can adopt and run their own service projects both for the local community and internationally. They obviously did a great job with a list approaching 20 students signing up! Next there will be a follow up email, an effort to reach upper-class students, and a gathering for their first meeting of 2021. Thanks go out to Sue, Kai, Erin, and Bud for giving 3 hours of their day to help re-establish Rotaract at Augustana.



Erin Williams and Bud Phillis chat with a potential Augustana Rotaractor

NEXT WEEK — Will be our annual "State of the Schools" address presented by fellow Rotarian, Dr. Reginald Lawrence, to a joint meeting of Rock Island Rotary and Rock Island Noon Kiwanis. The media will be invited. Coming out of a year of closed school buildings and virtual learning, you won't want to miss Dr. Lawrence's report on how our School District answered the challenge and is moving forward! For those unable to attend the meeting will be available via ZOOM.

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!



Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT

Proceeds benefit Rock Island Rotary Youth Programs

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Gold Sponsor \$500

- Listed on all advertising material
- Complimentary Table for up to 10 players, including mulligans and double score sticker
- Day of event recognition as a Gold Sponsor

Corporate Sponsor \$250

- Complimentary Table for up to 10 players
- Day of event recognition as a Corporate Sponsor

Friend of Rotary \$100



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, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, and Yorkton

South-Central Division:
Areas V & VI
Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, San Diego, San Jose, and San Francisco

West-Central Division:
Areas VII & VIII
Denver, Fort Collins, Kansas City, Omaha, and St. Louis

Western Division:
Areas IX & X
Boise, Butte, Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Seattle

Monthly standings will be posted here on the District website.

Rotary Foundation

A Message from our President

Reprinted in part from the September

2021 Rotarian Magazine

GREETINGS, MY DEAR
CHANGEMAKERS,

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary. Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health, and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 percent of the world's adult population — 762 million people — lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtaining better housing, health care, and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year.

Empowering people through education is among the boldest goals we have as Rotarians. We don't have to travel far from our homes to encounter those whose lives are being curtailed because they struggle with reading, rely on others to read for them, or cannot write anything more than their own name.

Starting this month, consider how your club can *Serve to Change Lives* through literacy: Support local organizations that offer free programs to support adult literacy or local language learning, or that provide teachers with professional development centered around reading and writing. Become literacy mentors or work with an organization like the Global Partnership for Education to increase learning opportunities for children around the world. Have conversations with local schools and libraries to see how your club can support their existing programs or help create needed ones in your community.

In India, the TEACH program, a successful collaboration between the country's Rotary clubs and its government, has demonstrated how to scale up literacy efforts to reach millions of children. And at a time when schools across India were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program's e-learning component reached more than 100 million children through national television.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."



President, Rotary International

Rock Island Rotarians can be proud of having a very active and involved Literacy Committee that has earned our club multiple awards for Birthday Books, Little Libraries, Earl Hanson Partnership, Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship, and numerous grants to Spring Forward Learning Center. Always looking to do more – We serve!

