



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

September 28, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 13

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Rock Island Education Foundation Monta Ponsetto Executive Director



We often say that our best programs are those presented by our own members. Today, was an excellent example of this, with fellow member Monta Ponsetto speaking about the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. Monta is a native of Indiana and was educated at Indiana University. She and husband Mike live in Rock Island and their children are graduates of Rock Island High School. She has a fascinating background including work as a consultant in the Quad Cities for International Professional Relations, work as a Realtor with Ruhl & Ruhl, and a lengthy stint of almost 28 years working as a professional improvisational comedian. She was a regular on stage for the popular "Comedy Sports" in Rock Island. She served as Executive Director of the Epilepsy Foundation of North Central Illinois, Iowa & Nebraska for five years prior to becoming Executive Director of the Rock Island-Milan Education Association in the fall of 2015. Today she gave an informative presentation supported by numerous photos on the excellent work done by the Education Foundation. Monta stated that the Foundation began when a small group of local citizens while chatting informally decided to "help" local students. They began offering donations and quickly came up with \$1,500. A year later in 1985 the group became an official 501(c3) charitable organization and in their 5th year had raised contributions of \$5,000. Today, just over 35 years later, Monta reports that the Foundation assets are now just under \$4 million. She then reviewed the principal programs established by the Foundation, highlighting "Prime Grants", a program providing grants to teachers of up to \$1,500; to departments and schools with grants up to \$3,000; and grants to district wide projects of up to \$5,000. Applications for grants must provide a description of how the funds will be used and are limited to innovative projects above and beyond what the school district is expected to fund. Recipients are also required to report on the outcome/success of their project at the end of the year in which the award is received. This past year the Foundation awarded \$90,000 in grants funding 43 individual projects. Another Foundation program is the Austin Academic Achievement Awards which are given to the Top Ten students of each class at Rock Island high school and the top 2 seniors (as determined by teachers) in eight academic areas including Business, Math, Career & Technical Development, Science, English, Social Studies, Fine Arts, and World Languages. Monta stated that the only fundraiser of the Foundation, other than direct mailing requests, is a "Major Saver Card" fundraiser. Students assist with the sale of the cards which provide free and discounted deals at numerous local businesses. Through this effort \$241,000 has been raised in the past seven years. Another Foundation project is providing a welcome bag to every new teacher and administrator that joins the Rock Island-Milan School District. Included in the bag are gift cards from local school supply companies, along with coupons and cards for special treats such as Whitey's Ice Cream. Information about the Foundation is also included in the bags. This has been extremely well received by faculty and staff members. A relatively new project is the "Bright Ideas Award". Teachers that come up with an idea that will enhance their room or class can apply for a grant of \$200. Ideas need to be innovative and of direct benefit to the students in the class. A very successful project of the Foundation is the Incubator Entrepreneurship program at Rock Island High School. Rock Island Rotary helped fund the establishment of the program and the Foundation has provided ongoing funding and support. Over the past few years Rock Island students have won the National Championship in Incubator competition and have also placed in the national quarter-finals and individually a Rocky student was 1 of just 4 students receiving national recognition and an award. Our club provides several mentors and coaches for the program and has an ongoing relationship with the class. Another project of the Foundation is the "Returning Rock" program where a successful graduate of Rocky is brought back to speak and work with current students and tell about their profession and their successes. The biggest program of the Foundation is their scholarship program, which last year awarded \$285,000 in scholarships to Rock Island seniors. All in all it appears the Foundation is living up to its Mission Statement, *Enhancing Academic Opportunities for Student Success*. The foundation is a great asset to our schools and community and Rotarian Monta Ponsetto is a major factor in its growth and success! Thank you for an excellent program!

Sept. – Nov. Calendar

- Sept 30 - Birthday Books – 2pm at Earl Hanson School
- Oct 5 - Mark Werning - Bank Fraud/Scams
- Oct 12 - Dennis Harker – Missing Persons Network
- Oct 19 - Jessica Gordon – German American Heritage
- Oct 24 - World Polio Day
- Oct 26 - Dennis Ritter & Curtis Lundy Nehant Marsh
- Nov 2 - Kathy Kwiat-Hess – District 6420 Foundation Chair
- Nov 9 - Deb Bowen – "Books By Me"
- Nov 16 - Cecilia O'Brien – United Way
- Nov 23 - Norm Moline – China
- Nov 30 - Chad Pregracke – the Bison Bridge



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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

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today our club welcomed two visiting Rotarians, Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club and Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. We also greeted Mike Matherly a guest of Kathy Lelonek. Mike is a member of the Rock Island-Milan Board of Education. We love having guests at “The Number One Club”, Rock Island Rotary!
- ❑ **UPCOMING EVENTS** – As we enter our “busy” season, be sure to mark your calendar. October 20th is this year’s Joint Rotary Celebration of World Polio Day. It will be an evening meal preceded by a social hour cocktail party at the Botanical Center. All members are urged to attend and to bring spouse and guests. I should be a great program and a fun opportunity to meet Rotarians from all over the area. Also coming up soon are “Pumpkin Palooza” on October 22nd; our Trivia Night on November 12th; the Rotary Reindeer Ramble on December 5th; and our Holiday Circa 21 Party on December 8th; and Salvation Army Bell Ringing on December 11th. It’s Great to be in an *ACTIVE* club!
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **FINAL CALL FOR ROTARY SHIRTS!** – If you miss missed out on ordering a new Club shirt, we would be placing another order next week. **If you missed out and have decided you would like a shirt, please let Bob Swanson know asap.** We will put together another order soon. Cost is somewhat determined by the number ordered. Specify size and which shirt you want, Polo or Tee.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net.

LAST CALL FOR TRIVIA NIGHT AUCTION ITEMS

If you have items you can donate for our Trivia Night Silent Auction, we need to know as soon as possible. Please drop an email to Sue Rector at srector3614@gmail.com and tell her what you will provide. Sue will be happy to pick it up from your home or from a Rotary meeting. She also has baskets available if you have items but lack a convenient way of presenting them. Time short with the event scheduled for November 12th. Basketball items need to be sorted and photographed for on-line display and a description needs to be written about each item to inform and motivate bidders!

WHAT’S JUST AROUND THE CORNER BELL RINGING, OF COURSE!



Project chairman, Mark Mayeski has scheduled our Salvation Army bell ringing for December 11 at the Rock Island HyVee from 10am until 3pm. We will be covering both doors, so ideally, we need 4 people for each shift. Teams of two work great and you can set up your own team of family members, friends, or fellow club members; or let Mark place you with a fellow Rotarian. Please email Mark at mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com to sign up. Shifts will be for 1 hour. You may sign up for more than one shift if you wish, but Mark can only guarantee you one shift, and can only do that until all shifts are full. It’s fun, gratifying, and a great service to our community!



BIRTHDAY BOOKS!

BIRTHDAY BOOKS resume THIS THURSDAY, September 30th at Earl Hanson Elementary School. We need Rotarians to meet Molly Shattuck at the school to autograph and hand out books to the kids. It is a fun time and will only take about an hour out of your schedule. Come to the school at 1:40 pm on the 30th. Kids celebrating their birthdays in September will be attending and light refreshments will be served. You will be done and on your way home by 2:30pm.

ROTARY BASEBALL CHALLENGE

Diehard White Sox fan John Phillips issued the challenge two months ago! "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)." Many accepted the challenge and here's how they stand today -



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



PUMPKIN PALOOZA 2021!



Pumpkins Palooza 2021 Approaching Fast!

October 22nd is the date and the Corn Crib on Route 150 just south of the Quad City Airport is the place. The time is 10 am -2:15 pm. Rotary volunteers are needed to be on hand to help the kids have fun!

We also hope to put together a goodie bag for each kiddo - any donations of fun kid friendly SWAG would be appreciated. Also, the bags! 54 kids and 5 teachers (if you have any teacher appropriate SWAG-that would be a fun surprise). Please let Sue Rector know at srector3614@gmail.com if you can help or have goodie items.

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**

- Day of event recognition as a Friend of Rotary

FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Stan Coin offered \$63, one dollar for each year of marriage to bride Kay, Congratulations on your 63rd Anniversary! John Phillips also contributed for his anniversary with wife Karen occurring today and also put in for the White Sox clinching their division championship. Frank Lambers had happy dollars for the Cardinals clinching a playoff spot, and Duncan Cameron paid for the Brewers winning their division. Rick Devinney had a dollar celebrating the Moline victory over Alleman. Sue Rector paid to celebrate the Browns beating the Bears and Justin Peterson had a sad dollar for the Bears. John Wetzel offered a sad dollar for Augie's football loss. Pat Cunningham paid for taking his badge home last week. Thanks to all who spoke up and helped fill the Foundation coffers!



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!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Sue Rector officiated today, and we had a successful raffle once again with 50/50 cash and a fabric pumpkin up for grabs. The first lucky ticket was held by Doug Hultquist who took the cash and promptly donated his winnings back to the Rotary Foundation. The second lucky ticket taking home the Pumpkin was John Daly. Thanks to everyone who participated in today's raffle raising over \$50 for the Rotary Foundation! Your generosity is appreciated.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY 2021

The Magic of an Old-Fashioned Holiday at CIRCA 21



Rated: PG
Area Premiere!

Wednesday
December 8th

In this heartwarming new musical, a dad's wish to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas leads him and his family on a magical journey to another time where he learns that while remembering the past is important, the best way to hold on to tradition is to enjoy the Christmas present! This one-of-a-kind show, written for Circa '21 by longtime Bootlegger Brad Hauskins, is a nostalgic celebration of family that will leave you filled with the peace and joy of the holidays.

****Rotary and Kiwanis have 75 seats which will be sold on a first come basis to Club members and their guests. No money needed until November, But you must sign up now to reserve your seats! Make your reservation at the Sergeant at Arms table this week!**

Tickets include a private pre-show Salon Party

Pre-Show Salon Party with Complimentary Hoers Devours and Cash Bar (5:00-6pm)

Buffet Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)

Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)

Winter Wonderland (7:30pm)

TWO WITH DINING BOOK COUPON \$67.21*

ONE ADMISSION (NO COUPON) \$52.75

TWO ADMISSIONS (NO COUPON) \$105.50

*Tip included (not including deserts & bar)

Circa Subscriber? Pay Just \$3.50 per person for gratuity