



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

September 7, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 10

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Dr. REGINALD LAWRENCE “State of the Schools -2021”

### July – Sept. Calendar

- 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

In a joint meeting of Rock Island Rotary and Rock Island Kiwanis, Dr. Reginald Lawrence, Superintendent of Rock Island-Milan Schools presented his third annual “State of the Schools” address. Dr. Lawrence received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He received his Administrative Leadership Certification in Educational Administration and Supervision from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 2016 he earned his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership and Administration from National Louis University-Milwaukee. Dr. Lawrence served our country in the United States Army National Guard from 1985 to 2007 retiring after over 21 years with the rank of Sergeant. Prior to coming to Rock Island, Dr. Lawrence served as Regional Superintendent with the Milwaukee (WI) Public Schools. He also served as a teacher, an assistant principal and principal in Milwaukee Public Schools. He also served as an instructor for the Professional Urban Teaching Linking Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Lawrence was named Rock Island-Milan Superintendent in 2019. He and wife Pandora reside in Rock Island. Dr. Lawrence began his comments with some general School District data noting that the district serves 6,137 students and maintains a 91% attendance average. The student to teacher ratio is 23-1 and the average class size is 23. During the pandemic year school went on with virtual attendance and meals were provided and picked up at school locations throughout the district. In total over 100,000 meals were prepared and distributed to families during the pandemic. A positive coming out of the pandemic was that now 100% of the district’s students are provided a laptop computer and 100% now have access to high speed internet as well as access to Google Classroom which provides remote learning assistance to the children. Dr. Lawrence then moved into what he dubbed “Points of Pride”. He highlighted that during the past year Earl Hanson celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since opening in 1970. Even though school was remote learning, athletics with shortened seasons and strict covid restrictions were able to continue and Rock Island garnered a State Championship in the Long Jump won by Samson Shakuru in the state track meet. Rocky’s wrestling team under head coach Joel Stockwell won the Regional Championship. Rocky’s young artists earned an exhibition at the Figge Art Museum and student Riley Jones of Rock Island High School won the 2021 Congressional Art Competition with her submission “Black Pride” which was displayed in the United States Capitol! Ravon Johnson Taylor was awarded the McKenzie Foundation & Uncharted Learning 2021 Grit Grant award. Chosen as one of four recipients from across the country for his work on “The Cobblers” a project of the Entrepreneurship program at Rocky funded in part by our Rotary Club. Dr. Lawrence was also happy to report that 381 graduates were able to have a “relatively normal” ceremony for their graduation. Members of the graduating class were destined to attend more than 50 different colleges and universities and garnered over \$1,000,000 in scholarships. The class had 75 National Honor Society scholars and 30 members going on to participate in college athletics. The senior class also had 65 Charles O. Austin, Jr. Scholars signifying that during their 4 years at Rocky they maintained a 3.5 or above grade average on a 4.0 scale. The Superintendent also said that the first day of school is a big deal for him and this year he and members of our School Board were at Thomas Jefferson and literally rolled out a red carpet for the students entering their first day of school last month. In innovative programs Dr. Lawrence said the district has developed an apprenticeship program with John Deere where student attend classes in the morning and work for John Deere in the afternoon and receive pay for their work. The district has a similar program for those wanting to enter the medical field called the CNA Program. It is a 2-semester long course that prepares students to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA). Students who successfully complete the program and pass the Illinois state exam, are able to be employed in hospitals, nursing homes, home care, and clinics.



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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 Jim Braet a former Rock Island School district teacher was a guest of Bob Swanson. Jim drove his convertible in the Labor Day Parade of us yesterday. Bryant Beal from Alleman High Schools was a guest of Fr. Mirabelli. Dr. Pandora Lawrence was a guest of husband and featured speaker, Dr. Reginald Lawrence. Visiting Rotarians were Duncan Cameron from the Naples Florida Club and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. Mark loan us his 1963 Pontiac Bonneville convertible for the parade. 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](mailto:smorenz3@gmail.com).

☐ **IMPORTANT MEETINGS SCHEDULED** – Members of the **Literacy Committee** will meet immediately following our **September 14<sup>th</sup>** Club meeting, roughly from **1pm – 2pm**. The **Trivia Night Committee** will meet **September 21<sup>st</sup>** following our regular Club meeting, again roughly **1pm - 2pm**. If you’re not sure if your on the committee, check pages 11 & 13 of the your new Club Directory. All intested Rotarians are welcome.

☐ **ANOTHER ROTARY SHIRT ORDER?** – We have heard from members who missed out on ordering a new Club shirt asking if we would be placing another order. If you missed out and have decided you would like a shirt, please let Bob Swanson know. If there are enough members wanting shirts we will put together another order. Cost is somewhat determined by the number ordered.

## HANDYMAN/WOMAN FOUND!

Thanks to Scott and Molly Shattuck who volunteered to examine and repair our Little Library located at Earl Hanson Elementary School. Rotary will provide the materials and Molly and Scott will add the expertise and elbow grease! The Little Libraries are extremely popular with the children and get a lot of use. Thanks once again for clearly demonstrating “Service Above Self”!



## ONLINE WINE AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to the “connections” of Ruth Lee, the great generosity of the Nimble Vineyards, the help of the Rock Island-Milan Booster Club, the support of many club members and their local businesses, and the hard work of a dedicated Rotary committee, our first ever online auction that concluded last Thursday was a tremendous success. The wine was donated (we paid shipping of about \$650), the Rock Island =Milan Booster Club let us use their on-line auction service subscription (they pay \$4,000 annually for it), and our club members donated top shelf liquor and business swag to add to the wine. In the two-week auction held entirely online, a total 214 bids were received for the 20 groupings of wine and swag offered. The auction ended at 8pm on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and the winning bidders were determined. In total \$5,845 was raised through the wine in the auction, plus an additional \$170 in extra donations brought our total proceeds to \$6,015.00! Thanks to all who participated on the committee, as a bidder, or in supporting the project with donated liquor and swag. One last secret .... We held back a few bottles of the imported Nimble Vineyard wine which will be available in our Trivia Night Silent Auction. So, you have one more chance!

SCHOOLS – Continued from page 1

The District has also created a new Intern program for students hoping to become teachers. Successful completion of that program guarantees the student an interview with District 41 when they are ready to begin their teaching career. Dr. Lawrence then turned his attention to the many exciting capital projects recently completed or underway in the district. Among those mentioned were the Stadium where new and badly needed restrooms were added to both sides of the field. New turf was laid on the playing surface and the track was repaved. The Fieldhouse also received a major renovation with all new bleachers and a section of stadium seats were added and the entire fieldhouse was repainted. Washington Jr. High School received a new secure front entrance, new offices for the nurse and staff, and a redesigned and enlarged lunchroom. Rock Island High School has a new “student friendly” entrance construction project underway which will allow the principal’s office along with other administrators to move to the front of the building. The project also included redesigning the cafeteria and added classroom space. In total the new construction will add 38,000 square feet to the high school building. Another major construction project is underway at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street. That will be the location of a new Administration Center, Central Kitchen for the district, and warehouse and storeroom space for school supplies and property. Dr. Lawrence stated that the capital projects are possible because of the 1 cent sales tax. He also noted that through the federal CARES program instituted during the pandemic the district has or will be receiving 32 million dollars. The school district annual budget is just over \$71 million. Finally, Dr. Lawrence spoke of the new 5-year strategic plan for the district which is called RIM 2025. The plan is available for all to read on the school district website, [www.rimsd41.org/](http://www.rimsd41.org/). They called the plan a “PIPELINE TO A PRODUCTIVE FUTURE”. He said the plan places emphasis on respectful relationships, equity, and improving operating procedures. We greatly appreciate Dr. Lawrence and the annual State of the Schools address. It was upbeat, highly informative, and exciting for all interested in the youth and education of Rock Island and Milan children. Thank you!

## BIRTHDAY BOOKS RESUME! – HELP NEEDED

After a long pandemic layoff Rock Island is resuming our monthly Birthday Books celebrations at Earl Hanson Elementary School. Each month members of our Club will meet at the school to present new books to all the children having birthdays during that month. Kids get to pick the book they want from a large selection. Rotary members “autograph” the books and join the kids for after school refreshments. Molly Shattuck chairs the project, but additional Rotarians are needed to help with the celebration and to sign the books. If you can help, we will do Birthday Books on the last Thursday of each month. Mark your calendar. We will do reminders each month.

## EARL HANSON MEET & GREET THIS THURSDAY!

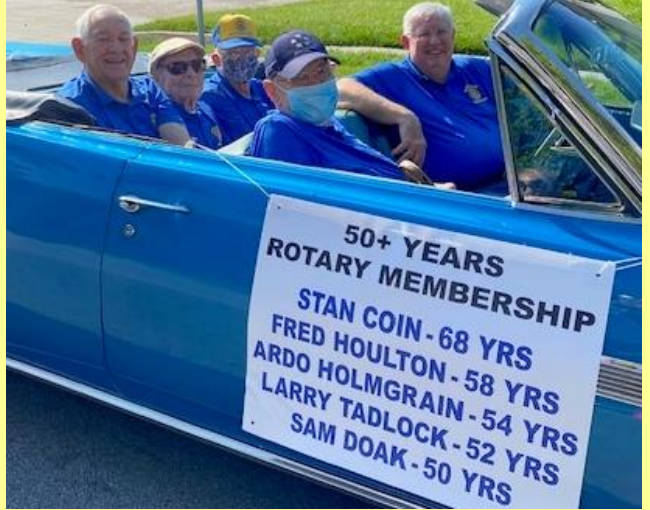
All Club members are invited to our annual “Meet & Greet” with the Earl Hanson Faculty and Staff on Wednesday, September 1st (**TOMORROW**) at 2:30. Molly Shattuck our Earl Hanson Partnership chair would love to have fellow Rotarians join her! This will be a brief introduction to the teachers with Molly sharing a bit about our partnership and principal Sarah Leonard adding information about the school. It is an excellent opportunity to meet the staff and let them know who we are and why we work to help them, all in an informal and social setting. Please join us!

A touch of humor from Dr. Bud Phillis who says “Laughter is the Best Medicine”.



## BIG SPLASH IN LABOR DAY PARADE!

Rock Island Rotary made a huge impression on our community in yesterday's Rock Island Labor Day Parade. Our entourage extending almost a block long included a float and six cars carrying our president and his family; our executive officers; our 2021 Community Service Award winner; our 2021 Excellence Award Winner; and our honored colleagues who have been Rotary members for 50 or more years. Added to that was a group of hearty walkers that passed over 9,000 Tootsie Rolls to kids along the parade route. Our float featured a 10' tall Rotary Wheel, one of the Water Filters we have been donating to schools in Kenya, and a 10' tall list of Club projects and donations. Thanks to the Shattuck Family, Jim Moran, Bud Phillis, and John Phillips for walking. Thanks to Dick Fislar, Jeff Dismer, and Molly Shattuck for the photos.



We heard many calls from the crowd, "Thank You Rotary!", "You people are Great!", "Congratulations 50-year guys!" It was heartwarming to know that "Service Above Self" is indeed appreciated in Rock Island.

# OUR FAVORITE LABOR DAY PARADE PHOTO



Stan Coin was unable to join us but gave us a big wave as we passed by where he and wife Kay were watching the parade. It was our great privilege to honor Stan, Ardo Holmgrain (seated in front), and Sam Doak, Fred Houlton, and Dr. Larry Tadlock (left to right in the rear seat). Thanks also to Rotarian Mark Zimmerman for the use of his '63 Pontiac Bonneville Convertible.

**MORE LABOR DAY PARADE PHOTOS –**



# 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]

## 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](mailto: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.

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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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!



Welcome to the first inning of this year's District 6420 World Series of Giving. Our club president and our newsletter have been updating you on our club's preparations for this year's historic first annual competition. Points are earned via donations made by our member to the Rotary Foundation.

We will be scheduling foundation-related events to lead our club to the top of our division by the end of next May. Each month, beginning in October, we will be publishing in the newsletter the standings for all five divisions. In addition, we will be publishing the "Box Score" division standings charts so we can see how we stack up against other clubs in the District.

We will also be printing each month a baseball-theme trivia question, which the District will provide at the beginning of the month – again starting in October. The first club member to respond with the correct answer to the trivia question will receive 100 Paul Harris points toward his/her Paul Harris Fellow award (or next PHF+ Award). The winners of each club's monthly baseball trivia competition will be entitled for a final year-end trivia competition to be held during our World Series in June 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 our 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 going to the Annual Fund and PolioPlus throughout the year

**Season Schedule:**  
Oct 8 - August 2022, Spring Training: September - April 2022, Final Regular Season: May 2022

Winning standings will be posted here on the District website

**Rotary World Fund**

