



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 14, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 24

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION

Club Foundation Treasurer Tom Hammer stated that the Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation was created in 2008 as a result of a generous bequest of \$200,000 from the estate of Rotarian, Stan Harris. This Foundation supports projects and programs that benefit the people of Rock Island. Directed by a Trustee Board of Rock Island Rotarians, the policy is to use only the net income and appreciated value of the fund to further the goals of Rock Island Rotary to help the Rock Island community. Over the past 13 years assets of the Foundation have grown through additional donations from many Rotarians and now stand at over \$500,000.00! The annual net income available for community projects now averages over \$12,000. Tom highlighted some of the projects funded by the Foundation which include purchasing a van for the Spring Forward Learning Center; providing lights for the Rock Island Girls Softball League on what is now called, "Rotary Field"; helping to fund the establishment of the Entrepreneur Incubator program at Rock Island High School; and making a substantial contribution toward the creation of the Children's Garden at the Quad City Botanical Center. Foundation Trustee Bill Stengel reported that each January the Trustees meet to discuss potential projects for funding. They do not solicit outside requests; but rely on Rotary Club members to suggest potential projects. The Trustees then review and screen the requests and make a project recommendation to our Club's Board of Directors. The Board gives the final approval for spending Foundation funds. In some cases, the Board has skipped a year in funding in order to buildup a larger sum for a more significant project. Foundation Trustee John Phillips then reported that during the past year the Foundation Assets grew through Rotary donations to Birdies for Charity which netted over \$7,000, individual member contributions, memorials, and bequests. Stan Coin was lauded for a substantial contribution made during the past year. John then recognized those that have contributed at various levels from over \$500 up to over \$25,000. John gave special mention of memorials received in honor of Tom Showalter and Don Peterson who both passed during the year. Shellee Showalter, daughter of Tom, and Virginia Johnson, widow of Don, were in attendance and were recognized and applauded. In addition, John announced that a bequest from Don Peterson's estate would add an additional \$25,000+ to the Foundation assets. In conclusion, John noted that when funds are given to the Club Foundation, they remain in the Foundation permanently. Only the income and asset growth are used for annual donations. Therefore, a contribution to the Foundation is a way to provide philanthropic services throughout one's life and beyond. It was a great update on a wonderful giving opportunity! Thank you Tom, Bill, and John.

### Dec. - Jan Calendar

- Dec 21 - The Taxman Cometh – Tom Hammar & Molly Shattuck on the new Tax Code
- Dec 28 - CLUB ASSEMBLY – Mid-year Checkup led by President Justin Peterson
- Jan 4 - TBA
- Jan 10 - MONDAY Joint Meeting with Kiwanis for Mayor Mike Thoms' State of the City Address
- Jan 18 - TBA
- Jan 25 - TBA

### HOW WE BECAME:

## "THE NUMBER ONE CLUB"!

John Wetzel stepped to the Rostrum and presented a unique "Rotarian in The Spotlight." John didn't speak of himself but of former member Donn logha who passed away in 2008. Donn was a long-time member of our Club whose job classification was "Entertainment Industry Administration". Donn had a long and illustrious career in managing movie theaters, including the local movie theater Showcase Cinemas in Milan. Donn was a past president of our Club in 1983/1984 and he and wife Gracie were Paul Harris Fellows. He was noted for giving a stock market at each Club meeting. In 1983 John and Donn attended the Rotary International Convention in Toronto Canada and Roosevelt Greer a NFL Star lineman was one of the featured speakers. Donn decided he and John should meet "Rosie" and led John as they pushed their way through the crowd, talked they way past security and got to the room where Mr. Greer was taken after speaking. Donn went right up to him and said, "We are Rotarians from the Quad Cities, which you have probably never heard of, but there are lots of Rotary Clubs there, but we are from The Number One Club in the Quad Cities." The label stuck. When asked why we are Number One, Donn simply said, "Because we are!"



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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

Amber Brummit  
John Daly  
Rick DeVinney  
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 Dick Fislar a guest of wife Mary Fislar; Debbi Swanson wife of Bob Swanson, Judy Nordquist wife of Dr. Jim Nordquist, and Susan Llewellyn a guest of Julie Gelaude. Mark Werning and Dan Breidenstein joined us from Living Lands and Waters. We love having guests at “The Number One Club”!
- ❑ **DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED** For December we are collecting **construction paper and drawing paper**. We need to supply 300 Earl Hanson student and want each to get a fully supplied summer bag to “Keep Them Engaged”. Bring paper or your donation for the December cause!
- ❑ **WINE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE** – If you would like to have Rotary Wine Raffle tickets to use as stocking stuffers or dinner favors, please contact Ruth Lee. The drawing will be held in May, but for those who want them, tickets are available now. Email Ruth at [rotarianruth@gmail.com](mailto:rotarianruth@gmail.com)
- ❑ **PLANNING TO “SNOW BIRD” AFTER THE HOLIDAYS?** Don't forget to take us along! Just take, or make sure you have access to a laptop or other computer and join us each week via ZOOM. You can maintain your Club attendance by joining on ZOOM. Check your regular email each week for the ZOOM link. If your computer doesn't have a built in camera or mic you can join by telephone. Better yet, add to your Christmas list a portable **webcam**. It plugs right into your computer and gives you immediate ability to see, hear, and speak through your computer. They can be ordered from Amazon or purchased at many local stores for as little as \$15!
- ❑ **DISTRICT 6420 STRATEGIC PLAN** – District Governor David Bills has released the newly approved Strategic Plan for our District. We have included a complete copy of the plan in today's newsletter. Please look it over to familiarize yourself with the hopes, goals, and plans laid out for the next 18 months. Governor Bills' cover letter and the plan are pages 6-11 of this newsletter.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)

## ROTARIANS MAKE SCARFS FOR KIDS!!

Volunteers stayed after today's meeting and completed over 100 warm winter scarfs for children at Eugene Field Elementary School. Sue Rector provided the material and expertise to lead the project which she initiated last year. A big thank you to Sue and the volunteers who made the scarfs!

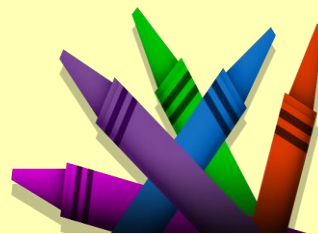


Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces



## “Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School



The Goal: Collect and assemble items in engaging Summer packs for every student at Earl Hanson Elementary School. That means we need 300 of each item!

**DECEMBER GOAL:** We are looking for construction paper/drawing paper!

**Bring your donations of paper or cash to our meetings each week in December**

## The New 2021-22 QUAD CITY DINING BOOK IS A FANTASTIC HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

Even the person “who has everything” needs to eat and almost everyone enjoys eating out and experiencing new places and trying new dishes! For \$35 you can give the gift of dining savings at hundreds of local eating establishments from the very finest in the Quad Cities to the dozens of quick and easy fast-food locations. Packed with 2-for-one coupons, your special person will love not only the savings every time while dining out, but will as a creative source of answers to, “Where shall we go?” The dining book provides over 200 fresh ideas! Pick up as many as you need for under the tree fun from project chair, Bud Phillis. Coupons are all good through October 2022!



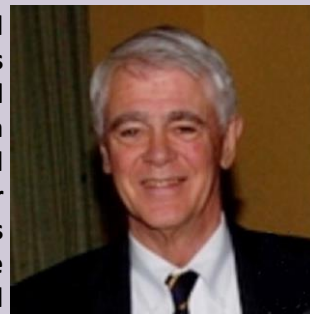
### Need a Stocking Stuffer or Dinner Favor?

Raffle tickets are now available from Ruth Lee for the May 2022 Wine Raffle. The major sales promotion will occur after the first of the year, but we are making tickets available now for anyone who wants them for use over the holidays. Email Ruth at [rotarianruth@gmail.com](mailto:rotarianruth@gmail.com) or see her at next week's meeting if you are interested. Tickets are \$20.



### SAD TO REPORT DEATH OF JAY STANLEY

Jay joined Rock Island Rotary in 1972 and was one of our most devoted members rarely missing a meeting. He spearheaded our Club literacy efforts for many years until he was stricken by a severe stroke which causes paralysis and led to his moving to a care facility. He was named an Honorary member and continued his generous donations to our club up to his death. Jay was 91 and passed last Tuesday.



### FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today the Raffle featured Wine and Cash! Guest Dick Fislar won the cash and after a brief consultation with wife Mary, donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. The second lucky ticket was held by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Eric Westphall who happily took home the wine.

Proceeds from our weekly raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation account and help to provide the Club's ability to match member donations toward Paul Harris Fellow awards. We really appreciate each and every one who participates in our weekly raffle!





## ROCK ISLAND ROTARIANS HELP SALVATION ARMY!

Rotarians helped fill the Kettles and rang the Bells for the Salvation Army Saturday at the Rock Island HyVee. Staffing both doors, club members worked from 10am until 4pm to help raise money for the less fortunate of our community.



## ANGEL TREE GIFTS ON THE WAY TO KIDS!



Earl Hanson teachers identified 59 students that they feared were looking at a bleak holiday season. This number nearly doubled our normal Angel Tree needs. As is always the case, Rock Island Rotarians under the leadership of Molly Shattuck rose to the task and every child was “adopted”, some by Rotarians who took several Angels and others by Rotarians who couldn’t do the shopping but donated the funds so that Molly and her helpers could get presents for every child in need.

Thank you Molly for again leading the Angel Tree Project. Thanks to all Club members who took one or more names and to those who through donation ensured that every child will have surprises to open for Christmas!

## FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

This week fines were fast and furious to the point that I’m sure we missed some! Kathy Lelonek and Angela Campbell paid a fine for a news story about the Rock Island Library’s Comfort Drive – great service to our community! Holly Sparkman paid a fine and received a neat award from MidAmerican Energy for the new addition to Washington Jr. High School. Jim Nordquist paid for taking his badge home last week and Bob Swanson paid \$2 for his phone ringing during the past two meetings! Linda Golden paid a happy dollar for the birth of her first grandniece. Bud paid a “happy or sad” dollar depending on which Illini basketball team showed up! Frank Lambert paid a happy dollar for wife Joyce’s birthday (he said it was her 21<sup>st</sup> – cradle robber!!). Eric Westphall paid \$20 in the spirit of the giving season and in honor of going to Florida to watch his son play basketball. He then levied a fine for all who were not wearing red today in honor of the Holiday season. There were a number of early leaver fines, but that’s what we missed! Sorry, but thanks for the dollars!!



# WE HAVE NEIGHBORS IN NEED!

Steve Morenz, our "Heart of Hope" chairman, was contacted by Linda Sergeant, Director of the Heart of Hope Foot/Clothing Pantry in Rock Island, asking for our help. She said they have had numerous requests for warm winter coats from those less fortunate in our community. With really cold weather approaching in the near future, Rotarians need to help! Steve asks each of us to go through our closets and pull out coats that we no longer wear or need and bring them to Rotary. The need is for all sizes for men, women, and children. If there are no longer children in your home, please check with your children to see if their closets have coats your grandchildren have outgrown and no longer wear.

Let's dedicate the final two meetings in December as "Bring a Coat" meetings. With nearly 100 members, we surely can come up with 50 or more coats! We will transport them to Heart of Hope for distribution to our neighbors in need. If they are not all needed by Heart of Hope, Rock Island Christian care is also in need of warm coats for men. Everything we can gather will go to good use and may help save a neighbor from the bitter pain of winter's chill! What we no longer need may be a lifesaver for another.



Cold people don't worry about style or perfect condition. Bring whatever you have!



## ANGEL TREE PRESENTS DELIVERED!

Thanks to the quick work of Molly Shattuck and Tom Hammar our gifts have been dropped off at Earl Hanson School.





# ROTARIANS PARTY AT CIRCA 21

Rock Island Rotarians were joined by four Rock Island Kiwanis guests for our annual Holiday Party held at Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse. The evening began with a private party in the Circa Salon with a selection of delicious hors d'oeuvres, holiday music, and beverages of choice. The Swedish meatballs received rave reviews! Also available were selected cheeses, crackers, and a large vegetable with dip selection including some amazing large green olives! President-elect Gramenz provided some great words of welcome and credited Rotarians for all their accomplishments during the past, very difficult, covid, year. That was followed by the door prize drawing won by Becky Berg, a guest of Bob & Debbi Swanson. The prize was a beautiful Christmas basket filled with two bottles of wine, a decorative snowman, holiday towel, and more! It was all put together and donated by Sue Rector. Thank you Sue! The group then moved into the theatre for a wonderful dinner. Each partygoer had a choice of entrees: Sliced Loin of Pork, Chicken Madeira, Cherry Snapper Mornay, or Lasagna Pomodoro. Following dinner, the famed "Bootleggers" took the stage and presented a pre-show of "New" Christmas music. The "new" consisted of numerous well-known carols, each with new, clever, and humorous lyrics. Attention then turned to the mainstage show, "Winter Wonderland" a delightful new musical telling the story of a dad's wish to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas that leads him and his family on a magical journey to another time where he encounters a distant relative who helps him learn that while remembering the past is important, the best way to hold on to tradition is to enjoy the Christmas present! The singing was outstanding and the dancing delightful in this new original show premiering for the first time anywhere at Circa 21. "A good time was had by all!"







Governor – David Bills



Governor-Elect – Laura Kann

## Rotary District 6420 Strategic Plan

We are pleased to share with you Rotary District 6420's new 2021 Strategic Plan. This is our blueprint for moving forward together during the next five years and for taking our Rotary District from good to great. This Strategic Plan strengthens our shared commitment to Rotary's core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership and is consistent with our Four-Way Test.

We began development of the Strategic Plan on July 1, 2021 when we asked every club to help us understand the state of the District by completing a short survey covering the club experience, service and socials, members, image, and business and operations. We were grateful to receive responses from 39 of our 43 clubs. The Assistant Governors used the survey results to help reflect on internal strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and challenges facing our clubs and District. All of this information was then shared with a 10-member District leadership team who met three times to develop the District's new vision, strategic priorities, 18-month goals, and action plan.

District leadership will review the Strategic Plan at least annually to make needed modifications, develop new 12-month goals, and determine a subsequent action plan. District activities and the District budget will be tied to this Strategic Plan. We encourage you to review this document carefully and consider how you and your club can help us achieve our strategic priorities. We also welcome your input about how we can make the plan better in the future for the good of Rotary.

Yours in Rotary,

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## District Vision

An active and diverse Rotary District working collaboratively to enrich our member's Rotary experience and make a lasting impact among those we serve locally and globally.

### Strategic Priority #1 – Membership

**Increase the number of active, engaged, and diverse members and clubs.**

#### 18-Month Goals

- 1.1 Increase the number of members from 1483 to 1533.
- 1.2 Increase the number of Rotary clubs from 43 to 46.
- 1.3 Increase the number of Rotaract clubs from 5 to 6.
- 1.4 Increase the percentage of female members by 10% (from 36% to 40%).
- 1.5 Increase the percentage of members less than 40 years of age by 10% (from 28% to 31%).

#### Action Plan

- ☐ Develop a District-level Membership Committee and associated position descriptions.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to appoint a Membership Chair and Membership Committee that can work directly with the District Membership Committee.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to complete the Rotary Club Health Check.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to offer professional development opportunities (e.g., leadership positions) to new and younger members.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to develop a membership that reflects their community's demographics.
- ☐ Implement a new or continue the current District-wide membership drive "Each One, Bring One."
- ☐ Actively seek communities and causes that could support and sustain a new Rotary or Rotaract Club.
- ☐ Provide to club-level Membership Chairs and Membership Committees membership development trainings that include a focus on membership retention.



## **Strategic Priority #2 – Rotary Foundation**

### **Increase contributions to the Rotary Foundation and involvement in Rotary Foundation programs.**

#### **18-Month Goals**

- 2.1 Increase the amount of giving to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund by 10% (from \$167,248 to \$183,973).
- 2.2 Increase the amount of giving to the Rotary Foundations' PolioPlus fund by 5% (from \$55,293 to \$58,058).
- 2.3 Increase involvement in Rotary Foundation programs.
- 2.4 Establish a District Grant minimum of \$800 available to every club.
- 2.5 Increase the number of Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) clubs from 1 to 5.

#### **Action Plan**

- ☐ Create a Polio Plus Society.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to appoint a Foundation Chair and Foundation Committee that can work directly with the District Foundation Committee.
- ☐ Provide easy and multiple opportunities (e.g., pledge cards) for members to contribute to the Rotary Foundation.
- ☐ During new member orientation, encourage clubs to include information about the Rotary Foundation, its impact, and the expectation that all Rotarians should contribute annually.
- ☐ Showcase Rotary Foundation programs and projects at club and District events.
- ☐ Identify a new Global Grant for which the District can serve as the lead International partner.
- ☐ Identify at least one qualified person interested in becoming a Rotary Foundation Global Scholar or Peace Scholar.
- ☐ Help clubs tell Rotary's polio story and educate their members about Rotary's role as the gatekeeper to polio eradication.

### **Strategic Priority #3 – Public Image**

**Improve how we promote Rotary and our positive impact locally and globally.**

#### **18-Month Goals**

- 3.1 Increase the number of District-wide communication strategies from 1 to 3.
- 3.2 Develop and implement a public image training strategy.
- 3.3 Provide a consistent, high-quality social media presence about our Rotarians and activities occurring at the District and club levels.

#### **Action Plan**

- ☐ Encourage clubs to appoint a Public Image Chair and Public Image Committee that can work directly with the District Public Image Committee.
- ☐ Develop a Public Image Award program.
- ☐ Publish a District newsletter that regularly provides relevant and valuable information to engage members, promote Rotary clubs, and encourage Rotary Foundation giving.
- ☐ Create and maintain a District calendar with club and District events.
- ☐ Promote at least two District or club programs or projects each month.
- ☐ Conduct an audit of club websites and social media sites and provide feedback to the clubs.
- ☐ Provide at least two trainings for clubs to highlight the importance of Rotary brand fidelity and state-of-the-art public image strategies, including internal club communication strategies.
- ☐ Have at least two District social media accounts targeted to existing and prospective members.
- ☐ Use Rotary's People of Action materials at least 10 times in social media postings.



## Strategic Priority #4 – Service

**Foster active and involved clubs committed to service.**

### 18-Month Goals

- 4.1 Establish an annual District-wide service project.
- 4.2 Promote club service projects that champion greater Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- 4.3 Develop and implement a strategy to recognize and reward club service project successes.
- 4.4 Increase the number of collaborative service projects within each District Area.

### Action Plan

- ☐ Appoint a District-level Service Project Chair and create a District-level Service Project Committee and associated position descriptions.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to appoint a Service Project Chair and Service Project Committee that can work directly with the District Service Project Committee.
- ☐ Showcase club service projects at club and District events.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to partner with other Rotary and Rotaract clubs to conduct bigger and more impactful service projects.
- ☐ Create a Service Project Award program that includes recognition of projects that champion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).
- ☐ Introduce the District-wide service project at President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) to allow club's ample time for planning.
- ☐ Encourage clubs to seek service project partnerships with other local organizations, particularly those that focus on underserved members of the community.

## Strategic Priority #5 – Operations

**Make more effective use of District resources for the benefit of clubs and Rotarians.**

### 18-Month Goals

- 5.1 Do not increase District dues.
- 5.2 Develop and implement a strategic approach for allocating surplus District funds.
- 5.3 Develop an improved succession plan for District leadership.
- 5.4 Develop and implement a plan to increase club-level awareness and compliance with Rotary's youth protection measures for all youth-related activities.

### Action Plan

- ☐ Conduct a detailed analysis of District finances and develop a long-term plan for allocation of funds reflecting this Strategic Plan.
- ☐ Create and maintain a list of potential District-level leaders that is updated at least every six months.
- ☐ Appoint assistant committee chairs as appropriate at the District level.
- ☐ Require all Presidents-Elect to complete Rotary's *Protecting Youth Program Participants* online course.
- ☐ Require all clubs to sign a District 6420 Youth Protection Policy statement of compliance to conduct youth-related programming.