



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 28, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 26

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



GOODBYE 2021

WELCOME 2022

Dec. - Jan Calendar

- 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

Today, Rock Island Rotary marked the 26th meeting of the current Rotary Year with a Club Assembly led by President Justin Peterson. Club Assemblies allow our Club to assess the past progress and plan for the future of Club projects and activities. Justin began by stating that our club has been incredibly active during the first six months of his tenure, even though we have been contending with the Coronavirus pandemic throughout the time. He stated that we have honored 16 new Paul Harris Fellows and have 4 more in line to be presented. We also have added two new Paul Harris Society members, all accomplished in the past 6 months. Our Birdies for Charity campaign raised a record setting \$7,300 in support of our local Club Foundation. That along with other donations and bequests has increased the Club Foundation Assets by nearly \$50,000 since July 1st. Our Club held a successful Blood Drive after having to cancel our normal February drive due to the pandemic. Thirteen Club members donated blood. Justin mentioned that we also partnered with the Rotary Itabuna Sul club to help finance the renovation of a Teen Center in Itabuna, Brazil. Justin then stated that our Wine Auction featuring wine from the Nimble Vineyards in California raised over \$6,000 and when several memorials were added allowed us to increase the funds in the Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship for Rocky Students by \$7,600. He also reported that we obtained a District 6420 matching grant which allowed us to fund scholarships for 40 youngsters to participate in the First Tee program next spring. A first for the Club and for our area was organizing and hosting the first ever Joint Rotary World Polio Day Gala held in October. The event brought together Rotarians from twelve area Clubs and was attended by District officials from both Iowa and Illinois. A highlight of the event was testimonials presented by two Rotarian polio survivors. Just a few weeks later we hosted our annual Rotary Trivia Night which raised over \$6,000 for our Community Grants and Earl Hanson Partnership. We followed that with the annual Rotary Reindeer Ramble 5K run which raised \$2,200 for local charitable work. Rock Island Rotary again volunteered to host an Angel Tree for needy students at Earl Hanson Elementary School. This year the number of children in need nearly doubled, and Rock Island Rotarians provided gifts for 58 children. On a Giving Tuesday in November Foundation Chairman Bud Phillis spoke of the importance of supporting the Rotary Foundation. President Justin made an impromptu challenge to see if we could raise \$1,000 on the spot, with Bud offering to match whatever was raised. Even Justin was amazed that in less than two minutes his goal of \$1,000 was achieved. In addition to all the fundraising and great philanthropic work accomplished Justin also praised the outstanding speakers and programs that have kept us aware of the many wonderful assets of the Quad Cities along with some of the little-known treasures that are available to us. He then cast his vision forward and set goals for the coming six months which included holding another successful wine raffle in April; supporting a new and fun fundraiser, the Rotary Rock & Roll Bingo Bash at a location to be determined; continuing our "Keep Them Engaged" literacy initiative; finding an appropriate project for our Club Foundation Grant; and doing all we can to build membership by following the International President's goal of "Each One – Bring One" over the final months of this Rotary Year. Toss in Salvation Army Bell Ringing, our Coat Drive, and Justin is right, it has been a very active first six month and with his leadership we look forward to the coming six months with excitement and anticipation.



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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

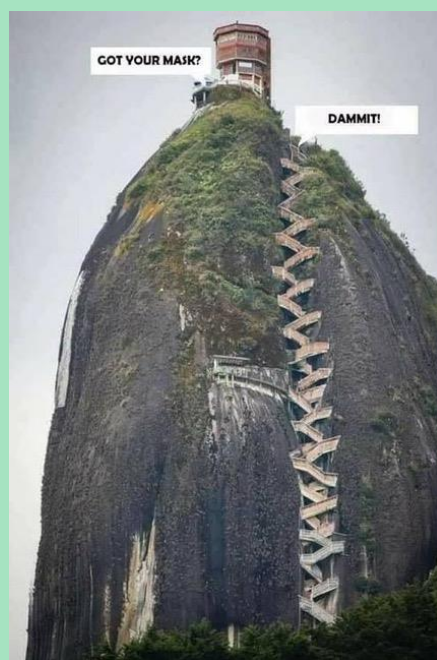
Program Chairs

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
Jun-Jul	– Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- WELCOME GUESTS** – Today our Club welcomed two visiting Rotarians. Jenni Swanson, a member of the Moline Rotary Club was a guest of husband Kai Swanson. Mark Zimmerman, a member of the Davenport Rotary Club joined us via Zoom. We love having guests at “The Number One Club”! Invite a friend or colleague.
- DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED** For **JANUARY** we are collecting **coloring books/puzzle books/word searches/crossword books**. We need to supply 300 Earl Hanson students and want each to get a fully supplied summer bag to “Keep Them Engaged”. Bring your donation for the January cause!
- GREETERS NEEDED** – Greeters are needed for January, February, and beyond. All that is required is the ability to come a few minutes early and bring your smile. Handshake, fist bump, elbow bump, whatever your pleasure is fine. It's a great way for newer members to get to know your fellow Rotarians. Signup at the Sergeant's table.
- NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2022!** –
 - *Become a “Sustaining Member” of the Rotary Foundation by committing to donate \$100 during the coming year, it can be done in one chunk, or in weekly or monthly pieces.
 - *Become a Paul Harris Fellow by donating \$600 to the Rotary Foundation during the coming year (our Club will chip in \$400 to help get your award!).
 - *Becoming an automatic withdrawal contributor to the Foundation? Set up any amount you are comfortable with for an automatic withdrawal from your bank account. See Bud Phillis for details on getting it set up.
 - *Becoming a “Friend”, “Patron”, or “Sponsor” of our Club Foundation. See John Phillips for how to get started.
 - *Resolve to attend Club meetings more regularly.
 - *Resolve to bring a friend or colleague as a potential Club member.
- NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net



**I just paid for a
12 month gym
membership. My
bank called to
see if my credit
card was stolen.**



Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces



“Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School

**NEXT TUESDAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO
BRING YOUR DECEMBER DONATION**



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!

**JANUARY GOAL: We are looking for coloring books/puzzle books/word searches/crosswords
Bring your donations of paper or cash to purchase paper to our meeting**

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

With the weather contributing to low attendance today, the odds for winning were greatly improved, although a bit of luck is still very helpful! The first lucky ticket drawn was Held by Howard Beck who took the 50/50 cash and donated his winnings to the Rotary International Foundation. The second lucky winner was Jeff Dismar who took home the wine for the second week in a row! Raffle proceeds go to support the Rotary International Foundation and your participation is greatly appreciated!



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

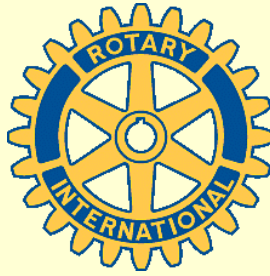
Filling in for absent VP Eric Westphall, Justin levied fines on Mary Fislar, Tammy Weikert, and Howard Beck for early leaving privileges. Tammy was assessed a second dollar for taking her badge home last week and forgetting to bring it back. Bud Phillis offered a Happy Dollar for 2021 being over! Bob Swanson and Tom Hammar each had a Happy Dollar for the Bears win over the Seahawks. Bob noted that Happy Dollars for the Bears have been rare this year! Thanks to those that contributed!

GREETERS NEEDED

Greeters for meeting in February and beyond are needed. Please sign up at the Sergeant at Arms Table. It is an easy and fun duty and only required that you arrive a bit earlier than usual. It is a great way to meet and learn the names of members and for our members to meet and get to know you! It is a highly recommended activity for new members. Don't be shy – step up and volunteer to greet at an upcoming Club meeting.

COAT DRIVE A GREAT NEW PROJECT!

Last week 14 coats were brought by Rotarians and donated to the Heart of Hope Food & Clothing pantry. They were extremely happy that more came in today and are excited that we hope to bring them many more! At this time, they are accepting only coats because of their limited storage space. In the future other clothing will be appreciated, but for now, it is strictly the much needed warm, winter coats. Bring coats you no longer wear to Rotary, and we will see that they get delivered to Heart of Hope. All sizes are needed, men's, women's, and children's from toddler on up! What a wonderful opportunity to turn something you don't need or use into possibly a lifesaver for someone in need. Let's keep them coming!! Next week is your final 2021 opportunity to donate a coat.



Why Join Rotary?

The TOP 20 REASONS

1. **Friendship / Fellowship / Community:** In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friendship and fellowship. It is one of two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.
2. **Business Development:** The second original reason for Rotary's beginning is business development. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross-section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help each other and collectively help others.
3. **Personal Growth and Development:** Membership in Rotary ensures continuing growth and education in human relations and personal development.
4. **Leadership Development:** Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people. Serving in Rotary positions is like a college education. Leadership is all about learning how to motivate, influence and lead leaders.
5. **Citizenship in the Community:** Membership in a Rotary club helps develop better community citizens. The average Rotary club consists of the most active citizens of any community.
6. **Continuing Education:** Each week at Rotary, there is a program designed to keep members informed about what is going on in the community, nation and world. Each meeting provides an opportunity to listen to different speakers on a variety of timely topics.
7. **Fun:** Rotary is a fun and exciting place to be.
8. **Prestige:** Rotary members are prominent people: leaders of business, the professions, art, government, sports, military, religion, and all disciplines. Rotary is the oldest and most prestigious service club in the world. Its ranks include executives, managers, and professionals - people who make decisions and influence policy.
9. **Citizenship in the World:** Every Rotarian wears a pin that says "Rotary International." There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome - even encouraged - to attend any of the 30,000 clubs in 194 nations and geographical regions. This encourages new friendships in both local and world communities.
10. **Assistance When Traveling:** Traveling Rotarians can secure medical and professional assistance as well as services and advice from fellow Rotarians throughout the world.
11. **Public Speaking Skills:** Many individuals who joined Rotary were uncomfortable about speaking in public. Rotary develops confidence and skill in public communication and the opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.
12. **Entertainment:** Every Rotary club and district has parties and activities that contribute to a diverse, yet professional business life. Rotary holds conferences, conventions, assemblies, and institutes that provide entertainment in addition to Rotary information, education, and service.

13. Development of Social Skills: Every week and at various events and functions, Rotary develops one's personality, social skills and people skills. Rotary is for people who like people.

14. Family Programs: Rotary provides one of the world's largest youth exchange programs; high school and college clubs for future Rotarians; opportunities for spouse involvement; and a host of activities designed to help family members in growth and the development of family values.

15. Vocational Skills: Every Rotarian is expected to take part in the growth and development of his or her own profession or vocation; to serve on committees and to teach youth about jobs or vocations. Rotary helps to make each individual a better doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.

16. The Development of Ethics: Rotarians practice a 4-Way Test that governs their ethical standards. Rotarians are expected to be ethical in business and personal relationships.

17. Cultural Awareness: Around the world, practically every religion, country, culture, race, creed, political persuasion, language, color and ethnic identity is represented among members of Rotary. Rotary is a cross section of the world's most prominent citizens who are aware of their cultures and have developed a love of working with people everywhere. They become better citizens of their countries in the process.

18. Nice People: Rotarians are the nicest people on the face of the earth.

19. Absence of an Official Creed: Rotary has no secret handshake, no official creed, no secret meetings or rituals. It is an open society of men and women who simply believe in helping others.

20. Opportunity to Serve: As a service club, Rotary's business is mankind, and its product is service. This is perhaps the best reason for becoming a Rotarian: the chance to do good.

**BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN YOUR CLUB
INVITE A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE TO BE YOUR GUEST AT A ROTARY MEETING**

FOUNDATION MINUTE - Happy Holidays to all Rotarians!

Foundation Trustee Chair, John Germ has a special message for Rotarians around the world.

"We must remember in all great endeavors, including Rotary – we are part of a TEAM: Together, Everyone Achieves More.

You can't have a great team without great PEOPLE: P stands for pride in our organization, our achievements, and our potential. E is our empathy for others, which we transform into service. O has two parts: the tremendous opportunities to make a difference that Rotary has granted us, and an obligation to pull others up and to increase our ranks. Our second P is for perseverance, helping us stick to our goals, like polio eradication, when the going gets tough. L stands for leadership, and E for enthusiasm — the fuel of Rotary.

While we are revisiting our goals, we also need to remember the WHY. For me, this needs little explanation. WHY wouldn't you help expectant mothers, and their children survive and thrive by supporting a Rotary Foundation grant? AND WHY wouldn't you initiate programs to help preserve the environment, our cherished home?

The pandemic has only renewed my conviction that life is precious, and we must seize every opportunity to enhance the lives of others.

I encourage you this month to join other leaders who participate in Rotary's strong tradition of philanthropy by making a gift to The Rotary Foundation. It is the season of giving, and every gift counts. Please contribute any amount that feels right by 31 December, and your gift will keep on giving in 2022 and for years to come. There are many ways to give, as a club or an individual — why not set up a giving plan?"