



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 22, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 34

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



JOEL VANDERBUSH Niabi Zoo

Today our guest speaker was Joel Vanderbush from Niabi Zoo. Joel has been a Zoologist since 1995. He earned his BS in Zoology from Michigan State University and MA in Teaching and Education from the University of Indianapolis. Beginning his career as a zookeeper at the Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, UT and the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI, he then served as a Programs Manager for the Indianapolis Zoo in Indianapolis, IN. In 2007, he founded Animalia, Inc., a non-profit public charity at which he served as its Executive Director and Zoologist for 10 years. In 2017, Joel became the Curator of Conservation & Education at the Niabi Zoo. The zoo's name "Niabi" comes from the Osage Nation language and means "young deer spared by the hunter." Niabi Zoo traces its history back to 1959, when local masonry contractor and animal lover, Gordon V. McLain, opened McLain's Wild Animal Farm to the public. It operated as a privately owned zoo for several years until Patti S. Wiman purchased the farm and some surrounding land in 1963 and deeded it to the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, which owns and operates it as a non-profit community attraction to this day. After the zoo reopened to the public as a property of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, slow but steady improvements began to take shape. The zoo held its first Zoofari Ball fundraiser in 1972 and opened what was then called the "petting zoo" (now Domestic Animals) in 1974. One of the most popular attractions – the train ride – accepted its first passengers in the spring of 1975. The 1970s also saw the establishment of the adopt-an-animal program. This program allows guests to directly support their favorite animals at the zoo. Niabi Zoo offers 40+ acres bustling with more than 600 animals representing 200 species from around the world and is open for general admission April–October annually. This year Vanderbush said the Zoo will open April 18th. He also said there will be a zoo scavenger hunt in which participants purchase a Saving Species Scavenger Hunt booklet for \$5. This series of fun booklets are themed by habitat and provide clues which will take you around the Zoo to find animals from that habitat. Once identified, the booklet can be taken to the Wild Things Gift Shop to collect Conservation Cards for the species found as well as a bonus Conservationist Card. All proceeds go to the Niabi Conservation Fund. Most of Mr. Vanderbush's comments centered on Niabi's conservation efforts. Niabi Zoo's dedicated animal care staff is responsible for the daily welfare of 7 Critically Endangered Species, 5 Endangered Species, 8 Vulnerable Species, and 7 Near Threatened Species. Primary among these is their Amur Leopards, the most endangered cat species in the world. Their male and female have bred, and the Zoo is hoping for a litter of cubs. Niabi also has Red Wolves, a species with only 9 remaining in the wild. They obtained a male White Rhinoceros last year and are enlarging the exhibit area to accommodate a female which they hope to get this year. Niabi is also converting their former lion exhibit area into an African Painted Dog exhibit which will be the largest in the United States. Painted Dogs are endangered and Niabi plans to house a pack of at least five dogs. The renovation project cost will be \$500,000 of which \$441,000 has been raised to date. Niabi has also done extensive conservation work in pollinators, building habitat strips and gardens and prairie restoration. That effort led to the discovery of Rusty Patch Bumble Bees, also an endangered species that was previously thought to be virtually extinct but was found in the Niabi restoration area. Mr. Vanderbush gave an entertaining and educational presentation that was well received by his Rotarian audience. Thanks so much for a fun and enlightening program.

March - May Calendar

- Mar 1 - Dave Hodge – Youth Hope Update
- Mar 8 - Carlene VanDyke – DCFS Foster Care Parent Recruiter
- Mar 15 - Laura Fontaine Director - World Relief Quad Cities
- Mar 22 - Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw, former Miss Iowa - currently hostess of "Living Local" on WHBF-TV – "How About Hope Mental Health Awareness"
- Mar 29 - Steve Bahls – Retiring Augustana College President
- Apr 5 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 12 - Rotary Awards Luncheon
- Apr 19 - Chris Van Spybroek
- Apr 26 - Luis Moreno
- May 3 - Katie Powers
- May 10 - Sarah Leonard – Earl Hanson Principal



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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

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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 – We were pleased to have two visiting Rotarians with us today. Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport club joined us in person and Duncan Cameron joined us (a bit tardy) from Naples, Florida via Zoom. Rock Island Rotary is always pleased to welcome guests to our Club and hope that you enjoy the meeting and will join us again! To Club Members – have you heeded our International Presidents goal of “Each one bring one”? We should all be on the lookout for prospective members and remember to invite them to join you at an upcoming Rock Island Rotary Club meeting.

DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED for **MARCH** we are collecting new and gently used books. We will be providing them to kids from 5 to 12 years old, so we're looking for books for a wide age group. 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 March cause or just drop a few dollars in the collection box on the badge table and we'll do the shopping for you!

GREETERS NEEDED – Please sign up at the Sergeant at Arms table. It's a great way for newer members to meet fellow Rotarians and for long time members to meet our newer members. Spots are open for March and April. All you need to do is to arrive a bit early for your meeting. Bring a smile and handshake or fist bump.

WHAT ANOTHER ERROR? - FIRE THE EDITOR! --- Last week I incorrectly spelled Bud Phillis' son's **Stephen's** name as “Steven.” So sorry for the error because I wanted to make sure to get it right so there would be no mistake when you order your copy of the new book, “**Five Nickels: True Story of the Desert Storm Heroics and Sacrifice of Air Force Captain Steve Phillis.**” Available now from Amazon.



NEWSLETTER – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net



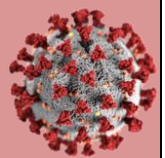
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“First you buy me a new coat and now a trip to Lion Safari Park. What's got into you lately?”

FREE COVID TESTING

Free, walk-in PCR Covid testing is now available at the Martin Luther King Center (630 9th Street) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-3pm, and Thursdays from 9am-5pm. No appointment is needed, and this service is completely free. Call 877-444-4932 with any questions.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNERS!

This week our prizes were a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine. The holder of the first ticket was Bill Stengel who took the cash and used it to purchase a Rotary Wine Raffle ticket. His good deed was rewarded as he also had the second winning ticket and took home the wine bottle of wine! Good day to visit the casinos,. Bill!



Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces



“Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School



New Month MARCH COLLECTION ITEMS:

New and gently used books.

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

Bring your donation items or cash to purchase them to our meeting

FOUNDATION MINUTE

It's Week 3 of Rotary International's Month of Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention.

Foundation Trustee Chair, John F. Germ laments that many people, including Rotarians, take water for granted in the 21st Century because, “we have been fortunate to live in places where clean water is plentiful.” In his latest report to Rotarians, published in *Rotary*, Germ reminds Rotarians that two billion people world-wide (1 in 4 people) lack drinkable water. Germ wonders why, in an age of instant information and space tourism, we have yet to guarantee the necessities of **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** to so many. Germ assures that Rotary is ““doing something about it” because “WASH projects are among the most funded within our areas of focus. Since 2014, Rotary clubs have carried out more than **2100 Global Grants** related to WASH by using **\$154,000,000 in Foundation funding**, impacting countless people.” (*Rotary*, March 2022:58)

Within the past week, the Rotary Club of Traverse City's World Community Services Committee was approved for an **\$83,000 Rotary Foundation Global Grant**. According to *Traverse City Record Eagle*, the funds will support solar power, education technology and sanitation projects for two schools in rural Uganda. The following four Rotary Clubs collaborated on this grant: Rotary Club of Kabale, Uganda, Rotary Club of Petaluma, CA, Rotary Club of Midland, MI and Traverse City, MI.

In an ongoing project the Rotary Club of Rock Island, IL has raised funds and purchased 244 LifeStraw Community filters that are providing clean, safe drinking water and serving more than 17,020 children in rural villages of Kenya.

Your support of the Rotary Foundation helps make these projects possible!

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

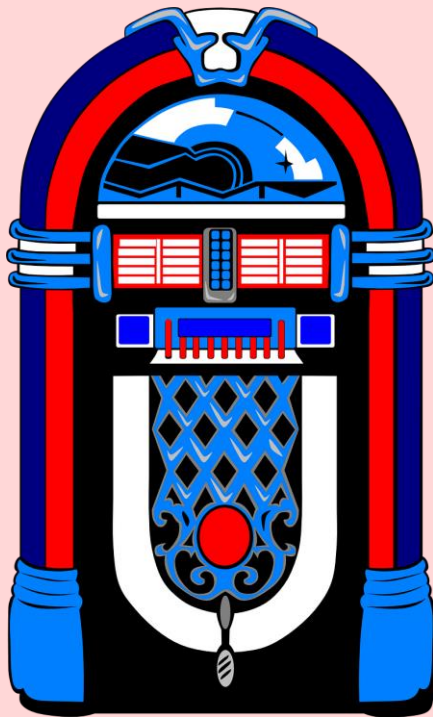
Monta Ponsetto and Bob Swanson were fined for a recent news article announcing a Havlife \$5,000 grant to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. Ruth Lee was fined a \$1.00 but we couldn't hear what for? We will of course accept the dollar when she returns to town. John Daly was fined in absentia for the news that Russell Construction has expanded into the Kansas City market with the acquisition of a company in that area. Jennifer Hirsch was fined \$10 for news that MetroLink received a grant for 10 new electric busses. V.P. Eric Westphall also threw in a dollar for Mid-America Energy's role in the grant. Howard Beck was also fined in absentia for news that Illinois Casualty Company donated some land for a new Dog Park in Rock Island. Tom and Molly Hammer were fined under a loose interpretation of the “Austin Rule” because a large article about the coming tax season appeared in the local papers. Finally, noting that Rotary is becoming a bit like churches with members avoiding the front row of tables, Eric fined everyone who was not sitting in the front row. By our count there were four in the front row and more than 25 in the back row of tables. As a result, it was a good day for the Foundation coffers!

COAT DRIVE GOAL EXCEEDED!



In the past week more coats were donated to our collection moving our total donated number of coats to **64!** We're now well past our original goal of 50! The Heart of Hope Clothing pantry is happy to accept all we can provide, so if you discover additional coats you no longer wear, bring them to Rotary and we will see that they are delivered to Heart of Hope. Thanks to all for your generosity!

ROCK 'N ROLL BINGO – MARCH 25th



***Get Set for Fun in the Private Upstairs
Bar/Dining Room of Blue Cat Brewing Co.
6-9pm***

Playing is simple and fun. You buy a bingo card for \$10 or 3 for \$25. You'll notice that rather than numbers on the card there are song titles. The moderator then plays segments of songs from the 70s up to the present, and you mark each song you hear that is listed on your card (don't worry, the song titles aren't secret). Get five in a row up, down, or diagonally, and you've got BINGO! 5

There will be 10 rounds of Bingo and a prize for the winner of each Round. Your purchase of Bingo cards and participating in the accompanying silent auction and 50/50 drawings is the "funding" for the fundraiser. Plus, the Blue Cat is donating a portion of their food and drink sales from the event.

You have fun, hear lots of great music, and help fund Rotary projects!

2022 ROTARY AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 12th is the date of our annual Rotary Awards Luncheon. At that time, we will present awards to the top two scholars from the senior class from Alleman, Rocky, and Augustana. We will also honor two Rotarians and two community members. Rotarians for the A.T. Peara Award and the Luckenbill-Wray Award; and community members for Professional Excellence and Community Service. The Rotarian and Community Awards are selected from people you nominate. Your participation in the nomination process is critical if we are to honor truly the best in our Club and community.

Simply control/click on this link to obtain the 2022 Nomination form. <..\Awards Committee\Awards Nomination 2022.docx> It will give you the criteria for each award and provide space for you to make your nominations. Please don't assume that someone else will do it, we need YOU to help nominate deserving recipients. Print as many copies as you need and nominate as many individuals as you believe are worthy for consideration for each of our awards. Your participation is vital and greatly appreciated.

The Rotary Club of Rock Island
is proud to present the 2022

Wine Raffle

All proceeds benefit the
Fred Houlton
"Service Above Self"
Scholarship
of Rock Island Rotary

Drawing will be held
on May 24, 2022

1st Prize— \$500 in Wine

2nd Prize— \$300 in Wine

3rd Prize— \$200 in Wine

PLUS 7 Additional Fine Wine Prizes

*Winners get to choose their own
Wine from The Grape Life

NEW for 2022:

Only 300 tickets will be sold!

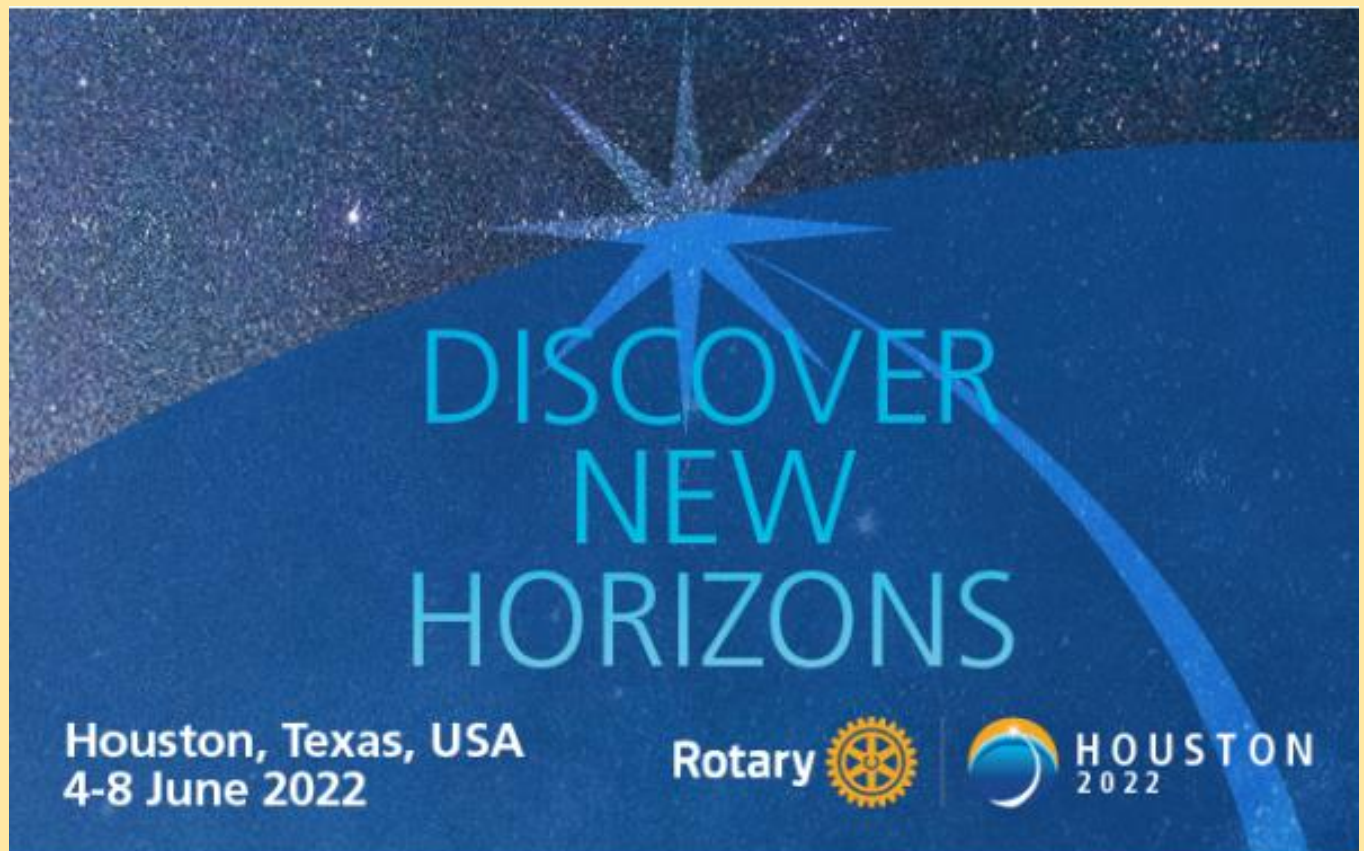
\$20 per ticket

Purchase Tickets Online via Square at:
[Facebook.com/rockislandrotary](https://www.facebook.com/rockislandrotary)

Or email us at:
rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com for more info.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON SALE!



The 2022 Rotary International Convention is rapidly approaching, and we're excited to gather again in person for the chance to learn, grow, and connect. So, take this opportunity to save and register for the convention 4-8 June in Houston, Texas, USA.

But don't delay because this offer expires on 28 February 2022. You'll have the chance to cancel for a full refund until 30 April 2022, minus a \$50 per person administration fee.

[Register Today](#)

The RYLA Event in 2020 was cancelled, but RYLA is back!

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) will be held in-person at Camp Lowden State Park- NIU Lorado Taft Campus from May 6th through May 8th. Rock Island Rotary has the chance to sponsor students from Alleman and Rock Island High School for this fun, high quality leadership training program. If you know of quality high school students who will be leaders in their class and school, please recommend them to our Sergeant's table. Rotarians will be needed to transport students to and from Rock Island to Oregon, Illinois. If you can help, also notify the Sergeant's table