



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 8, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 32

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Neil Dahlstrom

Deere Company Author



Neil Dahlstrom is an archivist, writer, and speaker. He grew up and lives in the Quad Cities, once known as the farm implement capital of the world. Today the Quad Cities is a vibrant community of cities on the Illinois and Iowa sides of the Mississippi River with an exciting history of innovation in the farm equipment and automobile industries. Neil works at Deere, as the archivist and historian. He is a member of the Kitchen Cabinet, the Food and Agriculture Advisory Board at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, and Visit Quad Cities.

Neil's research and speeches have taken him to historical societies and museums, abandoned factories-turned-coffee shops, and state-of-the-art research centers across the country. His book, *Tractor Wars* engagingly tells the story of one of the great business battles of the twentieth century. Anyone interested in business, agriculture, or tractor history will enjoy this great tale, well-told. Neil earned his Master of Arts in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University and his bachelor's degree in History from Monmouth College. Mr. Dahlstrom began his presentation by inviting us to visit John Deere, noting that the newly renovated John Deere Pavilion is now open to the public along with the John Deere Museum and the John Deere Historic Site. He then presented a fascinating and informative discussion of his book, "*Tractor Wars*," just released last month. He said after the turn of the century motorized tractor production began and he laid the foundation of the "Wars" that would continue up to 1928. Initially International Harvester was by far the industry leader and was one of the largest companies in the United States selling 4 out of every 5 tractors purchased. John Deere at the time was a much smaller company and specialized in plow manufacturing. Deere built their first experimental tractor in 1912. . At that point most tractors were very large and made primarily for the large corporate farms in the west. Scores of tractor producing companies sprung up trying to make a smaller family farm version. In 1916 the many manufacturers of tractors decided to promote their products by taking a "Farm Show" on the road so people in rural areas could see a tractor in person and close up. Previously most farmers had only seen photos of tractors. The Farm Show accomplished its purpose and interest in purchasing smaller farm sized tractors grew. Shortly thereafter Henry Ford announced just one month after introducing the Model T auto, that he was entering the Tractor industry and he promised to produce one million tractors in the coming year. Although with the advent of WWI, virtually all of Ford's tractors were sent to Britain to help feed the people during the war. Deere and Company specialized in medical ambulances for the war. After the war attention returned to tractor production. At the time there were 160 different manufacturers of tractors, and a price war broke out with Ford, International, and others lowering their prices substantially. By 1925 Ford had 75% of the market. Many of the competitors had gone out of business. By 1925 there were just 50 manufactures and by 1938 competition was down to 10 tractor producers. Ford, Deere, and IH emerged as the remaining big 3. Ford was based in Dearborn Michigan, Deere in Moline, and IH in Chicago. The War came to a head when IH purchased the former Rock Island Universal Tractor Company in Rock Island and moved it's Farmall tractor manufacturing division there. This was in the backyard of Deere & Company. At the time HIS was selling 100,000 tractors a year and Deere was selling 30,000. Ford subsequently dropped out of the market reportedly having lost \$1,000 on every tractor they had sold. A few smaller companies continued to make tractors, but IH and Deere emerged as the two big players in the farm tractor market. Dahlstrom's book ends at 1929 leaving a teaser, will the next book take us from 1929 to the present? Thanks Neil for a fascinating and historical presentation!

Feb. – Mar. Calendar

- Feb 15 - Rebecca Wee – Augustana Poet
- Feb 22:- Joel Vanderbush - Niabi Zoo
- 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



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

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Cindi Gramenz, 1st Vice Pres.
Eric Westphall, 2nd Vice Pres.
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Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
Angela Campbell, Past President

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Monta Ponsetto
Sue Rector
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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 four visiting Rotarians with us today. Duncan Cameron from Naples, Florida and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport club joined us via Zoom. Dougal Nelson of the Moline Club and Joy Dodson from the Bettendorf Club attended in person. We had two prospective members in attendance, Mike Matherly a guest of Kathy Lelonek, and Jack Cullen, a guest of Eric Westphall. We also welcomed Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School, Ellen Dopler and Elijah Farewell. Rock Island Rotary is always pleased to welcome guests to our Club and hope that you enjoy the meeting and will join us again!

□ **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 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. We still have open dates for February and March

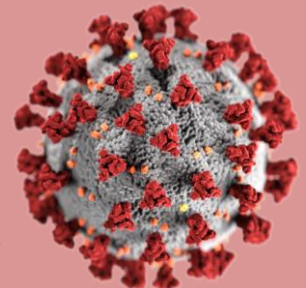
□ **FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNERS!** This week our prizes were a 50/50 cash drawing, a beautiful fabric bowl made by past president Angela Campbell, and a bottle of fine wine. The holder of the first ticket was Bryant Beal who took the cash and then promptly donated it back to the Club for the Rotary Foundation. Molly Shattuck had the second winning ticket and took the bowl. Lucky Bryant Beal had the third winner and added the wine to his winnings! Thanks to all who participated!



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

FREE COVID TESTING

If you are concerned that you might have Covid, Rotarian Rebecca Arnold, offers you the opportunity for a free test. 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. The nose swab PCR test for COVID-19 is an accurate and reliable test for diagnosing COVID-19. A positive test means you likely have COVID-19. A negative test means you probably did not have COVID-19 at the time of the test. Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.



**HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT INSTRUMENTS SEARCHING FOR INTELLIGENT LIFE
ARE POINTED AWAY FROM THE EARTH!**



CLUB LOSES ONE OF OUR BEST

Rotarians were saddened to hear of the passing of long-time member, Lo Milani. Lo (Italo) Milani joined Rock Island Rotary in 2007. He served as a Sergeant at Arms Aide for many years and was the creator of our tradition of offering a bottle of wine for our weekly Foundation raffle. He donated so many bottles of wine that some member actually believed the "Milani Wine Cellar" was a real thing. However, Lo revealed that he had the opportunity to purchase a large supply of Charles Shaw wine at a bargain basement price and couldn't pass up the opportunity. Rotary was the beneficiary of Lo's purchase and generosity. Always a faithful volunteer for projects and committees. Lo Milani will be greatly missed. Our best wishes and deepest sympathy to JoAnn and the Milani family.

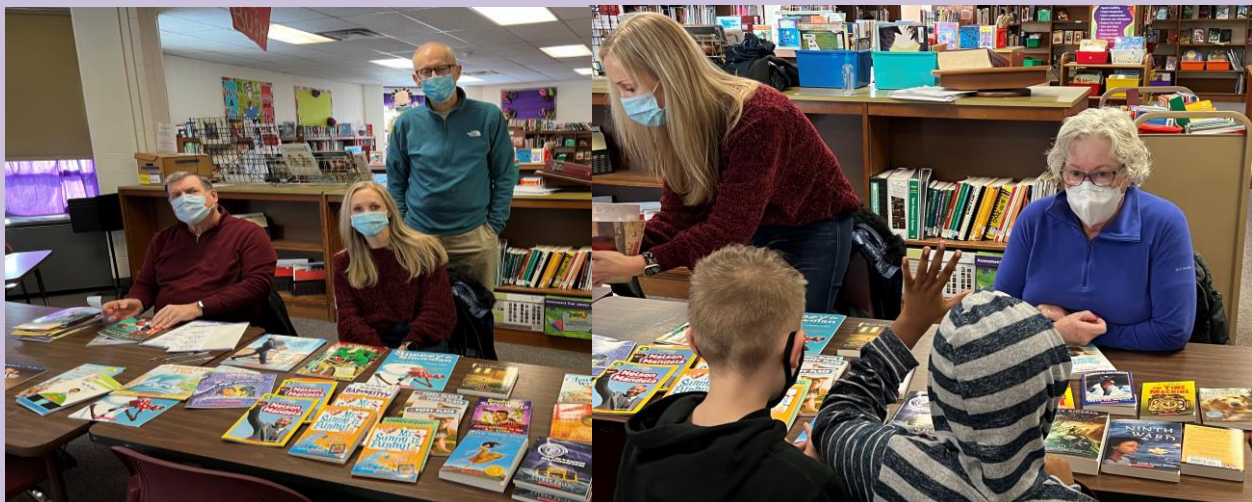


Rotary Provides BIG Birthday Celebration for Hanson Kids!

On Thursday, February 3rd Rotarians visited Earl Hanson Elementary School and hosted a "make-up" Birthday Books party for students with January and December birthdays. A large array of books was provided allowing each child to flip through and decide which book they wanted to take home as their Birthday gift from Rock Island Rotary. In addition to the books, an ample supply of tasty cookies was provided to make the celebration a real party! There were 29 students at the Birthday Book event and thanks to your response to our last-minute plea, Rotarians Tom Hammar, Anne McGlynn, Frank Lambert, and Holly Sparkman were on hand to help chair Molly Shattuck, talk about Rotary, hand out books and cookies, and give our Happy Birthday wishes to each child.



Molly tells the students about Rotary and the work we do locally and throughout the world.



Frank, Molly, and Tome are prepared to the kids!

Molly and Anne help kids select their gift book.

Our unseen hero behind the camera was Holly Sparkman. Thanks for providing the great photos!

Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces

“Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School



FEBRUARY COLLECTION ITEMS:

Simple Craft supplies: stickers/beads/yarn/ pipe cleaners/felt, etc.

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!

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

FOUNDATION MINUTE

It's Week 1 of Rotary International's Month of Peace & Conflict Prevention / Resolution.

Over 70 million people are displaced worldwide as a result of conflict, violence, persecution and human rights violations. Half of them are children. Over the years, Rotarians and TRF have been involved in service projects aimed at addressing the underlying causes of conflict including:

poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education and unequal distribution of resources.

Rotarians and TRF have achieved these humanitarian goals through several peace-promoting projects such as:

Australian clubs to end domestic violence, assisting refugees in Canada, protecting albinos in Tanzania, and helping Boko Haram victims in Nigeria.

In their roles as promoters of peace, Rotarians are:

Practitioners: who build optimal conditions for creating peaceful societies by fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, and improving the health of mothers and their children among other goals.

Educators: who have become catalysts for peace through the **Rotary Peace Centers where more than 1,300 scholars have been trained.**

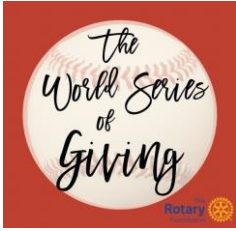
Mediators: who have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

Advocates: who as impartial peace brokers, are committed to creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive and resilient.

“You cannot solve a problem from the same consciousness that created it. You must learn to see the world anew.” Albert Einstein.

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

VP Eric asked for a moment of silence in respect and memory of Lo Milani and then suggested that each member contribute a Sad Dollar for the loss of Lo. Members responded as expected. Sue Rectors paid \$65 following the tradition of \$1 per year for a birthday. Eric said he thought it should be just 35! Kim Calhoun had a happy five dollars for her daughter Sarah nearly finishing her degree by setting up a veterinary internship starting in March and for being a pain in her mother's neck during the past five months. Jim Moran, Eric Westphall, and Justin Peterson each paid for taking their badges home. Jim added a happy dollar for his son being selected to present the student speech at this year's Alleman graduation. Kai Swanson paid a happy dollar for his mom's birthday and Sue Rector added \$5 because his mom is such a fantastic lady. Holly Sparkman paid a dollar for leaving early. Justin Peterson added \$3 for the Illini's two wins this week and added another happy dollar for today's pink lemonade! Again, thanks to everyone for your generosity and good humor!



Good afternoon, Rotary baseball fans. We're now past the half way point in our first annual World Series of Giving competition, having completed 5 innings of play. For anyone who thought that recent winter weather was going to cool our clubs' competitive spirit, just take a look at this month's standings!

Northeast Division – The Pecatonica club continues to lead the NE Division with 3 Homers, but here comes Loves Park with 2 Home Runs plus a Single. Rockford is close behind with a Homer plus a Triple, and Kishwaukee Sunrise club has a Homer plus a Double. Belvidere has upped their game with their first Homer this inning. This division is truly going crazy and we still have 4 innings to go!

Mid-Central Division – The MC division now has 4 clubs at the Homer or above level. Leading the way is Oregon with a Home Run plus a Double. Hot on their heels are Rochelle, Rock Falls, and Dixon each with a Homer plus a Single. And close behind them is the Twin Cities clubs with a Homer. The Rock River may be iced over, but the Mid-Central clubs are on fire!

South-Central Division – In the SC division, we have a new leader with the Ottawa Sunrise club posting a Home Run plus a Triple. The Putnam County club continues to demonstrate leadership with a Homer and now a Single. And out of nowhere, here comes the Plano club with a Homer of their own and ever so close to an additional Single. The division may have had a slower start, but now each of the clubs is in the thick of it. Stay tuned, this looks to be close!

West-Central Division – Princeton has just jumped into the lead of the WC Division with two Home Runs. Geneseo follows closely with a Home Run and Double, and is closing in on an additional Triple. Still very close behind is the River Cities club with a Homer and a Single. Morrison very close to a Homer for themselves, so all three of these clubs remain in strong contention. But again, as we've seen with clubs in other divisions, any of the others may be poised to snag the lead for themselves.

Western Division – The Quad Cities club has maintained its lead with a Homer plus and a Double. But look out; Savanna is right behind with a Homer and a Single. And Rock Island has a Homer of its own and is inches away from an additional Single. Freeport has joined the Home Run ranks with their own, and they're well on their way to even more scoring. We have four more innings to see where the dust settles in the Western Division; all we know for sure right now is that it's going to be exciting!

Now that we're into a new tax year, look for charitable giving to the Rotary Foundation to continue to fuel this District 6420 World Series of Giving contest. Stay tuned; don't miss a minute of the action!

COAT DRIVE GOAL EXCEEDED!

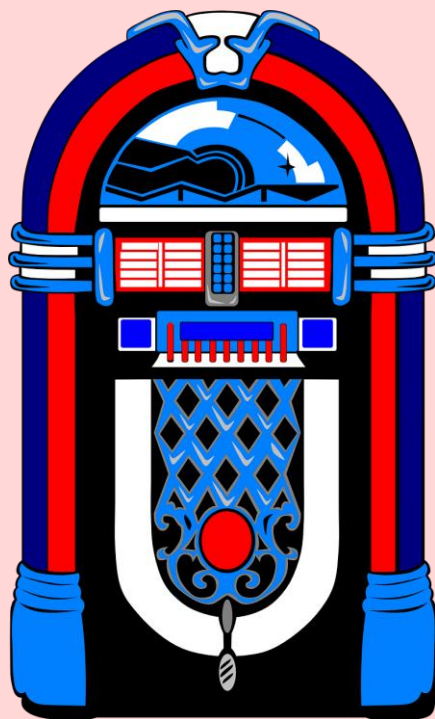


In the past week four more coats were donated to our collection moving our total donated number of coats to **57!** We're now more than 13% past our original goal! The Heart of Hope Clothing pantry is happy to accept all we can provide, so if you discover additional coats you no longer wear, bring them to Rotary and we will see that they are delivered to Heart of Hope. Thanks to all for your generosity!

"THANK YOU" FROM TAMMY

Fellow member Tammy Weikert wished to convey her thanks to all who expressed sympathy and support to her upon the passing of her mother. In tough times, the fellowship and comfort of friends is most important and greatly appreciated. Thanks so much!

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!

WORLD SERIES OF GIVING TRIVIA QUESTION

This month's Trivia Question is: "Pitch at Risk, to Rich Zisk" read the banner in the outfield saluting the most entertaining White Sox team in the club's history. But the former Pirate slugger wasn't the home run leader for the revered South Side Hitmen that magical 1977 season. Who was?

First correct reply to jpetereson@tbkbank.com wins!

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.

