



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 22, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 38



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



*Write On, Ryan!  
The Midwest Writing Center  
Visits Rock Island Rotary*

Ryan Collins, Executive Director of the Midwest Writing Center, is no stranger to the organization. His uncle, David R. Collins, along with Evelyn Witter, incorporated the Center in 1980. With the help of numerous volunteers, the Midwest Writing Center (MWC) is the only 501c3 nonprofit in the Quad Cities area that devotes 100% of its resources to literary arts programs and education.

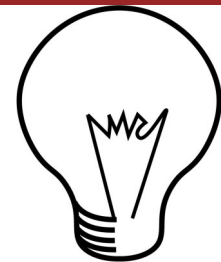
Ryan earned his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Poetry at Columbia College in Chicago. Not only is he the Executive Director of MWC, but he also teaches college courses at St. Ambrose University.

Today's Rotary program was very interactive. Ryan first asked if there were any writers in the group. A small amount of hands went up. Then he asked if anyone ever wrote correspondence, or emails, or journaled. More hands went up. His point—everybody writes! This is one of the reasons why the tagline of the center is "Write More Light into Your Life." Midwest Writing Center believes that everyone is, or can be, a writer. As the brochure says, "Writing is a positive force in all our lives. From improving professional communications, to finding new forms of self-expression; from better organizing our thoughts and daily activities to managing stress, anxiety, and depression, the simplest writing practice can have a major impact, and be a source of light, for everyone."

Ryan went on to describe the numerous accessible programs available through the MWC. From lectures to hands-on classes, there is

## Upcoming Programs

- 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



**MIDWEST  
WRITING  
CENTER**

*Write More Light into Your Life*

*Fostering the appreciation of  
the written word; supporting &  
educating its creators.*

[www.mwcqc.org](http://www.mwcqc.org)

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P.O. Box 4514  
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[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)

## 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  
Co-Sergeants at Arms  
Cindi Gramenz  
Bob Swanson

## Program Chairs 2021 - 2022

Aug. – Sep	Gary Rowe
Oct. – Nov	Frank Lambert
Dec. – Jan	John Wetzell
Feb – Mar	Kai Swanson/ Dave Hodge
Apr– May	Kathy Trone/ Jeff Rose
June – July	Tom Hammar

## Club Notes & Announcements!

**WELCOME** to prospective member, Natalie Linville-Moss, owner of MediaLink advertising firm in Rock Island.

**UNUSUALLY QUIET** - No visiting Rotarians were in the audience or on the call. Where is Duncan hiding?

**EARLY LEAVERS:** No one fessed up to it.

**DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED!** For **March**, we are collecting **new or gently used books, appropriate for ages 5-12 years old.** We have 300 Earl Hanson students to supply with a fully stocked summer activity 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!

**WINE RAFFLE TICKETS** – We still have a number of members who have not picked up their 5 wine raffle tickets. Gary Rowe has them at each Tuesday meeting. If you are not able to attend, please email Gary at [gnrowe47@gmail.com](mailto:gnrowe47@gmail.com) or call 309-948-3403 and he will send them to you. Tickets are \$20 each and you are welcome to keep or sell them as you please. All proceeds from the raffle will go to fund our Fred Houlton “Service Above Self” scholarship which will be presented annually to a deserving graduate from Rock Island High School

**GREETERS NEEDED** - Greeters are needed! All that is required is the ability to come a few minutes early and bring your great 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. Sign-up at the Sergeant-at-Arms table.

Email Bob if you have any content for the newsletter: [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)

# Rotary Rock & Roll

**THIS** Friday,  
**March 25, 2022**  
**6p - 9p**  
Upstairs at the  
Blue Cat Brew Pub  
Downtown  
Rock Island



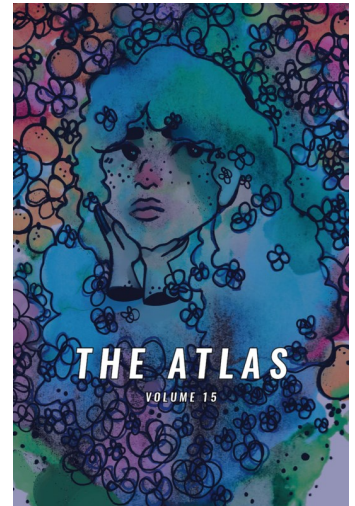
Playing is simple and fun. You buy a bingo card for \$10 or 3 for \$25. You'll notice that rather than numbers on the card there are song titles. The moderator then plays segments of songs from the 70s up to the present, and you mark each song you hear that is listed on your card (don't worry, the song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

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! Please let Kathy Trone or Sue Rector know if you will attend.

something for everyone at the Center. Ryan is especially passionate about the Young Emerging Writers program that meets every summer and provides paid internships to students, ages 15-19, who are interested in learning more about writing professions. Throughout the course of the summer, the students prepare to launch a literary magazine called *The Atlas*. They learn how to produce such an undertaking while also learning real life skills that result in being paid for their efforts, and end with a completed, published work to add to their portfolios. Finally, the group has a launch party for the literary magazine that draws hundreds of people in attendance. Ryan calls it “graduate-level work meets job-skills” programming. Nicely done!



Other items of interest from MWC include an annual chapbook series, named after Mary Foster and the first QC Poet Laureate, Dick Stahl. The Center receives submissions from authors representing more than a dozen states.

Finally, at the end of the talk, Rotarians had a chance to write and share their stories. Ryan explained the prompt— “Write the word ‘Dear’ on your paper. Now write a letter/note to something or a concept, not a person.” He told us to use the “first thought, only thought” concept to come up with what we would like to recognize. After just 4 minutes of writing, numerous Rotarians stood up and read their writings. We thanked things like defibrillators, the environment, the pandemic, and the community. It was a beautiful time to reflect. Ryan encouraged us to continue doing this activity, even if you never share what you write. It’s a great meditative exercise!

A big “thank you” to Ryan for spending his lunch hour with us. As the Vice-President of the MWC Board, I know first-hand how hard Ryan and his staff work to make our kids and community a success. I’m also fortunate that they are housed at the Downtown Library. It is truly an amazing sight to see the teens work all summer to produce such an incredible magazine. The other classes MWC offers are worth your time and taught by some phenomenal instructors. Their flagship program is the David R. Collins Writer’s Conference, which will be held this summer, June 23-25th. I invite you all to attend some, or all, of the classes and seminars. More information can be found at [www.mwcqc.org](http://www.mwcqc.org).

## BOARD MEETING UPDATES



- This year’s District Conference is being held at The Bend in East Moline! It’s only \$60, and the Club will reimburse you if turn in your receipt! Simple as pie to register—go to [rotary6420.org](http://rotary6420.org) to learn more!
- The Board accepted, with regrets, the resignation of Jeremy Steiner from our Club. He will be transferring to the Moline Club.
- We’re looking at partnering with QC Rotary on the Little Free Libraries maintenance and restocking





## ANNE = PH+2

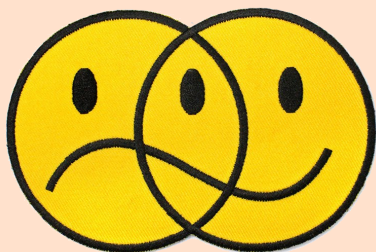
Anne McGlynn received a Paul Harris +2 pin today, meaning she has donated at least \$3,000 to the Rotary Foundation. During her speech she said, "It wasn't all done in one year," encouraging other Rotarians to give what they can, when they can. It adds up! Congratulations, Anne!



## We Need Your Help with a Special Birthday Books Celebration!

**Thursday, March 31st at 2:30pm**  
**Earl Hanson Elementary School**

**TWO MONTHS WORTH OF BIRTHDAYS IN ONE CELEBRATION!**



## FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Kathy Trone - Sad \$1 for Iowa, happy \$1 for Duke

Jim Norquist - Sad \$1 for Iowa and Illinois

Mark Mayeski - \$1 for gratefully living through the Gonzaga game

2nd VP fined Justin Peterson \$5 to celebrate the progress of the TBK Bank Sport Complex expansion project.

Happy \$10 from Eric in honor of his son's mad baseball skills down in Florida - batted .600 for the season, ranked 11th in Florida. Great job!

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of wine, and a handmade fabric bowl from Angela Campbell:

- Wine - Dr. Lawrence
- 50/50 - Howard Beck (donated back to Foundation)
- Bowl - Marcy Bell

Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

*\*Thanks to Jeff Rose for donating a few bottles of wine for our weekly raffle!*



Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces

## **“Keep them Engaged”**

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School

**MARCH COLLECTION ITEMS:  
New or 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 of each item!

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

### ***An update from Sue...***

- We have enough : coloring books, flash cards, construction paper, crayons/markers, gallon bags
- We could use a lot more craft supplies: pipe cleaners, Pom poms, Popsicle sticks, wiggles eyes, glue sticks, bottles of school glue, stickers (any kind)
- We have 170 reading books -need 130 more. Can be gently used and all age books-picture or chapter.
- Next month we'll be collecting something fun for kids - sidewalk chalk, bubbles, simple toys and games. Have about 100 already started.
- We will compile the crafts packets at my house sometime in early May.
- We are in need of a location for sorting and assembling the engagement bags in May. Will need help transporting all the supplies from my home.
- We will need help transporting 300 filled bags to Earl Hanson and distributing -still making arrangements with the school.



# 2022 ROTARY AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Please use the following form to nominate your peers. Make as many copies as you need.

## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB 2022 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rock Island Rotary's annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at noon**. The Awards Committee seeks nomination for the following awards:

**Excellence:** Recognizes distinction or superiority in a field of endeavor. This can be for a single accomplishment or for achieving high standards of achievement or performance over a sustained period of time.

**Community Service:** Recognizes individuals or organizations who have worked effectively for the betterment of our community.

**The Luckenbill-Wray Award:** Recognizes a current Rock Island Rotarian for outstanding service and dedication to our club over the past year.

**A. T. Peara Award for Service Above Self:** Recognized the Rock Island Rotary member who has exhibited the dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were personified by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named.

The first two awards are open to any individual or organization that has demonstrated excellence or worked for the betterment of the Rock Island community. The Excellence Award applies to all lines of work and to all ages.

The Luckenbill-Wray and A.T. Peara awards are limited to current members of Rock Island Rotary. The A.T. Peara Award is a one time, life-time recognition, previous winners are not eligible for that award.

To ensure that our committee has adequate time to evaluate, consider, make the selections, and have awards prepared, the **deadline for nominations is Noon, Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider making one or more nominations using the lower portion of this form. Additional copies are available if you need them, or feel free to print your own. We greatly appreciate your participation and assistance.

Submit nominations to Carrie Crossen: [ccrossen@choosethechief.com](mailto:ccrossen@choosethechief.com)

NOMINEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ EXCELLENCE AWARD    \_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY SERVICE    \_\_\_\_ LUCKENBILL-WRAY    \_\_\_\_ A.T. PEARA AWARD

Reasons in support of your Nomination:

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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](mailto:rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com) for more info.



Must be 21, need not be present to win

