



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 29, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 39

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Dr. Steven C. Bahls President, Augustana College

Fellow Rock Island Rotarian, Steve Bahls, is the eighth president of Augustana College. He joined the college in the summer of 2003 and was installed as president in October of that year. Among the major developments on campus since then:

- Faculty, staff, and students worked together on two strategic plans — first Authentically Augustana: A Strategic Plan for a Premier Liberal Arts College and now Augustana 2020: Our Path Forward.
- Major campus improvements have included the building of Duane R. Swanson Commons; the Dorothy Parkander Residence Center, the Murry and Cindy Gerber Center for Student Life, John and Mary Thorson-Lucken Field, the Austin E. Knowlton Outdoor Athletic Complex, the Kim and Donna Brunner Theatre Center, and most recently, the \$18 million, 52,000 square foot, Peter J. Lindberg, M.D. Center for Health and Human Performance, which is the home to the college's swimming and diving and water polo teams. Students majoring in public health or kinesiology will have classes in the building, in the classroom and lab spaces built into the new space. In addition, substantial renovations have been completed to Old Main, Emmy Evald Hall, and the Thomas Tredway Library.
- Augie Choice, a unique grant providing all students up to \$2,000 to work with faculty mentors on research projects, pursue international study or engage in an internship, was introduced.
- More than half (54 percent) of students now have a meaningful international experience by the time of their graduation.
- Approximately one-third of Augustana students are either U.S.-born persons of color or international students, representing the most diverse student body in the college's history.
- New programs have been added in Africana studies, creative writing, engineering physics, ethics, graphic design, international business, journalism, music composition, neuroscience, and data analytics; faculty leaders have launched the Augustana Center for Polar Studies, the Upper Mississippi Studies Center, and the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning.
- Women's and men's lacrosse, men's volleyball, women's bowling, women's and men's water polo, and women's wrestling have all been added to the college's NCAA Division III athletic program, and Augustana has maintained its ranking as a leading producer of Academic All-Americans.
- A conversation led by Campus Ministries resulted in the Five Faith Commitments of Augustana College, an expression of what it means to be a church-related college in the 21st century.
- The college has raised more than \$152 million as part of a comprehensive campaign, enabling Augustana to provide additional funds for scholarships, programming and enhancing buildings.
- Augustana's enrollment has grown by almost 10 percent, and the faculty has grown by more than 13 percent.

President Bahls has written extensively about a wide range of higher education topics, from shared governance to teaching financial literacy. His writings have been published in numerous journals such as Trusteeship, Huffington Post, Inside Higher Education, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and Intersections — the Journal of Lutheran Higher Education. He is the author of the Association of Governing Board's "Shared Governance in Times of Change: A Practical Guide for Universities and Colleges." He recently has published two book chapters, "From Shared Governance to Shared Accountability" (SUNY Press) and "Liberal Arts Colleges: Building the Capacity to Thrive" (Peter Lang Publishing).

See BAHLS page 3



March - May Calendar

- 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

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 we were pleased to welcome visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron of the Naples, Florida Club, via ZOOM. In person guests included Steven Nowinski a prospective member and guest of Bob Swanson. Kenda Burrows also a prospective member was a guest of the club. Mark Carlson was a guest of Eric Westphall. Tyla Sherwin-Cole, the new Executive Director from the Day Foundation and a prospective member also was a guest of the Club today. Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School, Skylar Thorpe and Sophia Heim also joined us. Guests, especially prospective members, are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary. “The Number 1 Club”!
- ❑ **DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED** for April we are collecting **Sidewalk chalk/bubbles/ other simple games/summer fun – indoors or outdoors.** 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 April 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 all meeting dates in May and behone. All you need to do is to arrive a bit early for your meeting. Bring a smile and handshake or fist bump.
- ❑ **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 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
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net. Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings.

Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces



“Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School

APRIL COLLECTION ITEMS:

**Sidewalk chalk/bubbles/ other simple games/
summer fun – indoors or outdoors**



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

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

With president Justin and 2nd VP Eric not in attendance, 1st VP Cindi Gramenz filled multiple roles today from presiding over the meeting to levying fines. Jeff Dismer paid a fine for his wife's Air Guitar performance at the Rock n Roll Bingo fundraiser. I hear she won the prize for best “air musician.” Frank Lambert paid a happy dollar for the Cardinals resigning slugger Albert Pujols. Kathy Trone added a dollar for Duke's making it into the NCAA Basketball Final Four. Angela Campbell suggested that Kevin Koski be fined for the recent news that for the 5th straight year, Finland has been named as the “Happiest Place to Live”. Kevin gladly paid and offered an addition dollar in celebration of Finland's Hockey Team winning the Olympic Gold Medal last month. Sue Rector had a happy dollar celebrating the return of fellow member, Pete Wessels. Great to see him back and looking good! Thanks to all who made Cindi's fining job highly successful!

BAHLS – Continued

Steve has served on the boards of national higher education organizations including the Council of Independent Colleges and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and he currently chairs the board of the Lutheran Educational Conference of North America and the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. He also served on the NCAA Division III Presidents' Advisory Council and was an invited member of President Barack Obama's White House Summit on Higher Education. A recognized scholar in the area of business law and agricultural law, President Bahls has also written hundreds of articles in both scholarly publications and magazines such as Entrepreneur, Independent Banker and Nation's Business. His writings about legal issues have been cited by 150 scholarly law journals, including the Harvard, Yale, Cornell, and Columbia law reviews, and have been cited in reported court opinions in seven states.

Steven was born in Des Moines in 1954. He and his wife, Jane, were married in 1977. Jane Easter Bahls is a graduate of Cornell College and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. She had a 22-year career as a freelance writer after eight years as a college religion and philosophy instructor. Steve and Jane have three children: Daniel, Timothy, and Angela.

Steve noted that during his 19 years as Augustana President he learned three lessons:

1. **The importance of Broader Community Support.** Dr. Bahls pointed out that the Quad Cities are extremely well supportive of higher education, noting that Augustana, St. Ambrose, Palmer College, and Trinity School of Nursing are all highly regarded nationally. Illustrating the support of the community, he stated that in his 19 years the community along with alumni of the college have donated \$300,000,000.00 to Augustana. Support from the broader community has allowed Augie to offer students paid internships with local businesses. This provides them with a hands-on, real-life experience in their field of study. Financial support from the community has also helped Augustana add seven sports to its athletic offerings and has provided significant assistance in establishing new facilities for both sports and academics.
2. **The importance of Shared Governance.** Stating he wished he had leaned this earlier, Dr. Bahls noted that involving students and faculty in decision making is critical. The old school view of administration was that the President and or other administration leaders more or less ran schools by edict and expected the faculty and students to comply. Often this led to faculty and students being adversaries of the administration. Steve learned that including the faculty and students in discussion and decision making led not only to approval and support for decisions, but also led to better decisions. Through such involvement Augustana ranks number one nationally among small colleges in the number of new academic programs added, including a new Bachelor of Engineering degree added to the existing Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees offered at Augustana. It also led to Augustana being recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the most innovative colleges in America.
3. **Student Activism is a good thing.** Dr. Bahls says that student activism has made Augustana a better place. He said the current student activism has roots in a passion for the environment and for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Augustana has worked with the students rather than trying to thwart activism. They have reached out to students for ideas on how to achieve the goals of their activism. Those discussions have led to expanding the international studies program to include Asia and Africa, making the program now offered to every continent other than Antarctica. It has also led to a more diverse faculty, and a broadening of religious and cultural activities and events on campus. He said Augustana has approached student activism with a "Midwestern common sense." They don't try to shut down or block speakers or discussion of controversial issues, rather they urge respectful debate and meeting controversial issues with well-reasoned contrary arguments.

Once again Steve Bahls proved to be an outstanding, thought provoking, gifted speaker. We were thrilled to hear that upon his retirement this summer he will continue teaching classes at Augustana. We hope that means that he will remain one of our Rotary members well into the future. Thank you Steve for a great presentation.



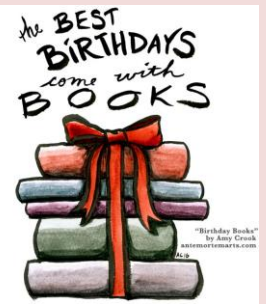
FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today raffle ticket purchasers had the opportunity to win three great prizes. Gary Rowe had the first lucky ticket and opted for the cash, which he then used to purchase a Rotary Wine Raffle Ticket. Alleman Jr. Rotarian, Skylar Thorpe, had the 2nd winning ticket and took home some official Rotary International socks bearing this year's presidential theme, "Serve to Change Lives". Guest Mark Carlson had the third winning ticket and took home a bottle of fine wine! Thanks to all who participated in today's raffle. All proceeds go to our Foundation account and are used to assist members desiring to earn Paul Harris Fellow recognition.



Birthday Books this Thursday at Earl Hanson School

Rotarians are needed to help with this month's Birthday Books presentation at Earl Hanson Elementary School. Please arrive at 2:30pm and make your way to the school library. Everything needed will be there including a wide selection of books and cookies. Your job is very simple. You help direct children to books appropriate for their age and once a selection is made your write a very short note such as "Happy Birthday from Rotary" and add your autograph. You then enjoy a cookie and join in a quick chorus of "Happy Birthday." The entire process takes about 30 minutes, and the memory of the big smiles on the faces of appreciative kids will make your day!



PAUL HARRIS AWARDS PRESENTED TO OUR CLUB'S FAVORITE "FINN"

Foundation chairman, Bud Phillis had the pleasure today of calling forward Rotarian Kevin Koski. Kevin and wife Jane are already Paul Harris Fellows and today Kevin bestowed that honor on his son, Andrew Koski. Andrew was unable to attend and therefore Kevin accepted the certificate and pin on behalf of Andrew. Then Bud announced that Kevin has passed the \$2,000.00 threshold in donations to the Rotary Foundation and therefore received his Paul Harris +1 lapel pin. That pin is a regular Paul Harris Fellow pin with the addition of an emerald signifying his "+1" status. Congratulations Kevin, and thanks for your continued support of the Rotary Foundation. By the way Kevin, is Andrew a "Finn" or a "Half-Finn"? Wondered if he might be a 2.50?



NEXT WEEK – BERT BLOOD SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE AWARDED

Bert Blood was born in 1870 on a farm near Cambridge, Illinois, graduated from Iowa's Cornell college and then the University of Chicago. Professionally, Bert was Superintendent of Schools in Tiskilwa and Park Ridge, Illinois for 17 years, and served as President of the Cook County Teachers Association and as Secretary of the Educational Council of Cook County. In 1917, he opened the A.M. Blood Co., a school supply business in Rock Island. He became a Rock Island Rotary Club member in 1920 and served as our club's honorary president during 1969-70. Bert chaired the agricultural committee of the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce and Retail Bureau. Although an urban businessman, Bert never lost touch with his rural roots. He organized our club's annual Rural/Urban program up to his death, at age 101 in 1972. Bert not only challenging 4-H students to academic excellence, but also worked to ensure that Rock Island Rotary kept in touch with our dependence on rural production and supply. To honor his 101 years of life and preserve his rural legacy, our Club established a \$101 memorial scholarship in 1973. This scholarship was awarded annually to a college bound high school student who, in the eyes of our club's judges, presented the best 4-H project. As tuition costs increased and with the help of Rock Island County's 4-H Foundation, the program was expanded, and funding gradually increased. We now award five scholarships. Three to high school seniors and two to college students that have been 4-H members. Next Tuesday the high school scholarship finalists will present our program, which will consist of each making a presentation about their 4-H project. Our Bert Blood Committee will then announce the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place scholarship winners along with naming the two college scholarship winners. Please join us along with the student finalists and their families at next Tuesday's meeting of Rock Island Rotary

SHARE ROTARY WITH YOUR FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

We were thrilled today to see several prospective members in attendance. That only happens because a Rotary member invited them to visit us. We all have friends who care about children who don't have access to safe water, girls who don't have access to education, and the economic and community development of impoverished areas of the world. Friends and colleagues who care about maternal and child health, support basic education and literacy, and believe in peace and conflict prevention/resolution. Who isn't in favor of disease prevention and treatment and helping to teach basic sanitation to third world countries? Bottom line, we all have such friends and colleagues, and everything mentioned above falls directly in Rotary's "Seven Avenues of Service." Your friends and colleagues should be invited to Rotary. They may find that Rotary provides a way for them to support and have an impact in the areas they care about. However, they will never find out, if you don't invite and encourage them to be your guest at an upcoming meeting!

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 COLLECTS FUNDS FOR UKRAINE

The Rotary Foundation has partnered with Rotary Clubs of Ukraine to provide needed assistance. The funds go directly to those in need to provide food, medicine, and basic necessities.

Want to help? Donate to The Disaster Relief Fund at www.rotary.org.



ROTARY COLLECTS FUNDS TO AID UKRAINE

Rotary International's Disaster Relief Fund has kicked into "high gear" to help refugees in Ukraine. Citizens are struggling to obtain food, medicine, and basic necessities, as they are forced to flee from their homes and communities.

Partnering with Rotary Clubs in Ukraine and on its borders, the Rotary Foundation helps to assure that every donated dollar has the most purposeful impact to help those in need.

Here's how we're helping:

- The Putnam County Rotary Club added nearly \$1,000 to the fund in mid-March, with the help of numerous donors.
- The Northern Illinois Rotary District, which also includes Rock Island, Moline, East Moline/Silvis, and all clubs in Districts 6420, 6440, and 6450, has designated **\$50,000** toward the fund.
- Nine Rotary districts have received **\$25,000** grant from the Rotary Foundation to provide medical supplies.

To donate, go to <https://my.rotary.org/en/disaster-response-fund>. All funds received into the Disaster Response Fund before 30 April 2022 will be used in support of the Ukrainian relief efforts.

The Rotary Foundation is a volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) organization, earning Charity Navigator's highest ranking. Rotary is a non-political international organization supporting community-based services, humanitarian relief and peace initiatives throughout the world.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary's Response to Ukraine

This week's Foundation Minute informs every Rotary club and District of the opportunity to meet all of the needs that the humanitarian crisis of the war in Ukraine is causing. The needs of the neighboring nations accepting the refugees from Ukraine encompass not only The Rotary Foundation's Water and Sanitation focus but in actuality all 7 Areas of Focus. Read below and see how we as Rotarians can help.

The function of the Foundation Minute Editor is to discuss the linkages between The Rotary Foundation and District / Rotary Clubs within the organization. That is why, when the activities of clubs are highlighted it's always how they had cooperated to fund projects supported by TRF. In highlighting these activities, Rotary Clubs which have yet to profit from their involvement with TRF, are encouraged to explore opportunities to engage in projects that would attract assistance from TRF to successfully accomplish some of the Rotary's **Seven Areas of Focus**.

That said, the focus on everyone's laser these days has been the **emergency situation in Ukraine, where as many as 5 million people have been displaced and more than 3 million have fled their homes and are in dire need of emergency aid.** In response to that humanitarian crisis, **The Rotary Foundation** has designated the **Rotary Disaster Response Fund** as the main avenue for contributions from donors around the world to support relief efforts by Rotarians. The Rotary International website announces that TRF has approved the following:



- Now through June 30, 2022, designated **Rotary Districts that border Ukraine and the Rotary District in Ukraine may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each** from The Disaster Response Fund.
- During same period, **other impacted Rotary Districts can apply for \$25,000 grants** from the Disaster Response Fund
- Now through April 30, 2022, Rotary Districts can transfer unallocated District Designated Funds to support the Ukraine Disaster Response Fund.
- While the Disaster Response Fund is the official avenue for TRF, Rotary and Rotaract Clubs are encouraged to create their own responses to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.
- TRF is coordinating with partners and regional leaders --like **The United Nations High Commission on Refugees, ShelterBox and The Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration--** to explore effective solutions to the humanitarian needs.⁶

So, while many have a strong desire to help the brave Ukrainian freedom fighters and the millions of innocent victims of the war, but feel helplessness to do so, be aware that your support of the Rotary Foundation through direct donations to the Disaster Relief Fund or simply by supporting Foundations raffles, fundraisers, and "Foundation Tuesday" collections is helping to make Rotary's matching grants possible. Thank you for your continued support!



**Marriage is a
relationship where one
person is always right
and the other person is
the husband.**



2022

DISTRICT 6420 CONFERENCE

Join us for the 2022 District 6420 Conference at The Bend Center in East Moline, IL

29, 30 APRIL, 1 MAY, 2022

The Bend Center
910 Bend Blvd.
East Moline, IL 61244

All current State & Local Covid-19 regulations will be in effect during the conference.



David Bills

District Governor
District 6420

REGISTRATION AT:

WWW.ROTARY6420.ORG

Conference registration details:

- Registration fee is \$60.00 per person. This includes meals and conference activities.
- Special Note: Ignore the "Pay Online" section. Payment will be made at the conference by cash, check, or credit card.
- Registration ends: April 15, 2022

Hotel Reservations:

HYATT Place Hotel
111 Bend Blvd.
East Moline, IL 61244
1-855-680-3239

Room Block Available Until March 28th
\$119 per night.

Conference agenda is available on the District website

ROTARY DISTRICT 6420 CONFERENCE

The Bend Event Center

East Moline, Illinois

April 29, 30, & May 1, 2022

Friday, April 29

Rotary District 6420 Welcome Celebration

- 6:00 PM Welcome Cocktails (Cash Bar)
- 7:00 PM Dinner
- 7:50 PM Announcements and Introductions
- 8:00 PM "Rotary's 7th Area of Focus – Doing Our Part for the Environment"
Mary Beth Growney Selene, Rotary International Board of Directors 2013-2015 and
Rotary Foundation Trustee 2016-2019
- 9:00 PM Welcome Ice Cream Social

Saturday, April 30

- 9:00 AM Welcome and Announcements
"The Corps of Engineers' Influence on the Mississippi River"
Mike McKean, Natural Resource Officer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 9:50 AM Break
- 10:00 AM "Imagine Our Members Serving the Environment"
Julie Clark, Rotary Coordinator, 2022-2024, Supporting Districts 6420, 6440, and 6450
- 10:50 AM Break
- 11:00 AM "The Bison Bridge"
Dan Breidenstein, Vice-President, Living Lands and Waters
- 11:50 AM Break
- 12:00 Noon Lunch
- 12:45 PM "High Tech Farming and Sustainability"
Than Hartsock, Director of Corn and Soybean Production Systems, John Deere Co.
- 1:20 PM Announcements and Information
- 1:30 PM Break
- 2:30 PM District Outdoor Service Project – Remove invasive honeysuckle in Dorrance Park
District Indoor Service Project – Food packaging for the needy
Alternate Activity – Bus trip to sites of interest in the Quad Cities (TBD)
- 5:00 PM Break
- 6:00 PM Cocktails (Cash Bar)
- 7:00 PM Foundation Dinner
- 8:00 PM "Increasing OUR Impact Through The Rotary Foundation"
Mary Beth Growney Selene, Rotary International Board of Directors 2013-2015 and
Rotary Foundation Trustee 2016-2019
- 9:00 PM Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar)

Sunday, May 1

- 8:30 AM Non- Denominational Prayer Service (optional)
- 9:00 AM Rotary's Campaign Against Human Trafficking
Human Trafficking Survivor
- 9:50 AM Break
- 10:00 AM "Preparing for the Future: Lessons Learned From Our Experience With Polio and COVID"
Pat Merryweather-Argos, Rotary International Director, 2022-2024
- 10:50 AM Break
- 11:00 AM "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion"
Dr. Monica Smith, Vice-President, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Augustana College
- 11:50 AM Break
- 12:00 Noon Literacy Lunch
- 12:30 PM "Telling Stories to Connect with People"
Gary Metivier, Local Author of Children's Books
- 1:00 PM Club Literacy Awards
Andy Axup, District Literacy Chair
- 1:30 PM Closing