



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

May 17, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 45

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



**Arron
Sutherland**

CEO

Illinois Casualty
Co.

Jack Cullen

Director
Downtown
Rock Island



May - June Calendar

- May 24 - Dr. Julie Schroeder - Life and Family Medical
- May 31 - Megan Brown-Saldana Lead(HER) - Exec. Director
- June 7 - TBA
- June 14 - RYLA Report – Students who attended recount their experience
- June 21 - TBA
- June 28 - President Peterson's Final Address
- July 5 - President Gramenz Induction and Address

Today's guest speakers included one of our own members, **Arron Sutherland**, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Illinois Casualty Company. Arron holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Michigan State University and a Master of Business Administration from Saginaw Valley State University - College of Business and Management. Prior to rising to his current position Arron served as Assistant Controller, Vice President, and Chief Financial officer of ICC. Arron joined Rock Island Rotary in 2019. He was joined at the rostrum by **Jack Cullen**, Director of Downtown Rock Island a joint City of Rock Island – Quad City Chamber effort to redevelop and revitalize downtown Rock Island. Mr. Cullen previously served as Manager of Marketing & Communications for the Quad Cities, Iowa Metropolitan Area and was project manager of Q2030. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Augustana College and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Iowa. Arron is chairman of the Downtown Rock Island Steering Committee, which has helped guide plans for the downtown improvements. The plan is a major, multi-million-dollar renovation and redesign of our downtown district. Arron began the presentation first telling of his hometown, Flint, Michigan. As a youngster Arron said that Flint was a thriving community and was known as the city that manufactured more automobiles than anywhere else in the world. Then as time passed he saw the community deteriorate and become known for their tainted water supply and as the third city with the third highest crime rate in the nation. He said he has seen firsthand what can happen to a community if renovation and redevelopment are not priorities. He also noted Illinois Casualty Company's stake in Rock Island. The company was founded in Rock Island. Even though it now serves 13 states, they have kept their home office in Rock Island and in 2003, at the insistence of the company president at the time, built a new national headquarters in downtown Rock Island. Therefore, ICC as well as a philanthropic and community interest, has a financial interest in seeing the downtown thrive. Sutherland said, "ICC cares about the community they are in." He then turned the program over to Jack Cullen. Mr. Cullen stated that planning for the revitalization of the downtown and establishment of the steering committee began over a year ago. The plan has five major areas: Renovation of the Great River Plaza; Development of Arts Alley; Establishing a pedestrian gateway to Schwiebert Park and the riverfront; Development of a downtown dog park; and Street scaping including new light posts and lighting, benches, restaurant outdoor eating areas, repainting and building façade improvements, and general landscaping. The City Council directed \$2.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds toward the project with another \$1.5 million in Tax Increment Financing District revenue. They also have a pending \$3 million matching grant from the State of Illinois Rebuild Downtowns Capital Grant Program, which would bring the total to a \$7 million for the project. Approval of the grant application is anticipated next week. Mr. Cullen said the first project to be tackled would be reconstruction of the Great River Plaza, which is the 2nd Avenue pedestrian mall. The plan is to make the Plaza more pedestrian friendly. Outdoor dining spaces will be installed along with enhanced lighting, small park areas with trees, seating, and repainted pedestrian crosswalks. The plaza will be the core focus area, but the improvements will expand out from there. Cullen then returned the rostrum to Arron Sutherland who said the hope is to establish an SSA (Special Service Area Tax) of 1.15% on property in the downtown area which must be approved by the city council. Funds would be used exclusively to maintain and provide extra services in the area. The tax would expire in 5 years and would require a review and renewal by the City Council if the project proves successful.



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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 welcomed students Nate Gottcent and Lynzie Heggen along with our new Interact sponsor, Lonnie Behnke from Rock Island High School. Also present were Jr. Rotarians Danielle Luzano and Lauren Melin from Alleman High School. Visiting Rotarians Duncan Cameron from Naples, FL ; Mark Zimmerman (via Zoom) from the Davenport Club; and Jenni Swanson, a member of Moline Rotary and a Rock Island City Council member and wife of Kai Swanson also joined us. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh was a guest of husband and new member Tracy Pugh. We welcome all visitors and guests to our Club!
- ❑ **BIRDIES FOR CHARITY** – Don't forget to support our club's local Foundation by making donation to Birdies for Charity. Any amount you donate will be totally returned to us along with at least a 5% match from the John Deere Charitable Foundation. A \$10 donation earns our Foundation at least \$10.50, a \$100 donation will return a minimum of \$105. It is a great way to get started as a supporter of our Club Foundation which funds solely local community needs!
- ❑ **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 May 31st and all of June and beyond. All you need to do is to arrive a bit early for the meeting. Bring a smile and handshake or fist bump. We want all who enter to feel welcome.
- ❑ **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2022-23** – Last week President elect Cindi distributed committee preference forms for the coming Rotary year which begins July 1st. She asked every member to review the options and select at least one committee. She also "warned" that those that fail to let her know where they would be willing to serve, will be **assigned** to a committee. You might get put in an area that is not of great interest to you. If you want some input on where your energies can best be used, let Cindi know at cgramenz15@gmail.com.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net. Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

MAY is the Youth Service Month of Rotary International.

This week, Foundation Minute is reprinting this latest tweet about **The Rotary Foundation**. This organization has outshone itself, especially in its immediate response to Ukraine.

"Because of our generous donors around the world, The Rotary Foundation has raised more than \$10 million dollars to provide food, medicine, clothing, and shelter for the people forced to leave their homes in #Ukraine."

3:33 PM · Apr 29, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Need more be said?

MORE THAN
\$10 MILLION
RAISED

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Eric displayed his talent at raising money today calling first on volunteers for happy/sad dollars. Ruth Lee had a happy dollar in honor of Norway's Constitution Day (Signed in 1814). Kim Calhoun had a happy daughter in celebration of her daughter's college graduation and employment at the Quad City Animal Hospital. Gary Rowe had a happy dollar for the Rock Island Education Foundation who last Wednesday gave \$137,000 in scholarships to graduating Rock Island seniors. Among those scholarships was our Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship. Monta Ponsetto followed that with her own happy dollar adding that in addition to the scholarships, a total of 134 students were recognized for their academic excellence. David Parker had a very happy dollar in honor of his newly born great-grandson. Eric then offered his own happy Dollar in honor of his son's high school graduation "with honors." He also added \$20 for his own selection to play in the John Deere Classic Pro-Am representing MidAmerican Energy Company and pledged another \$250 if his team wins the Pro-Am. He then levied fines. A dollar on every member who did not attend the Education Foundation Scholarship presentation, Finally on President Justin for saying "Foundation Tuesday is something we celebrate on the 3rd Wednesday of each month". Thanks to all who helped us work toward meeting the fines & happy/sad dollars budget!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured a 50-50 Cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine, and two tickets to this weekend's Quad City Steamwheelers game! Howard Beck had the first ticket drawn and took the cash which he donated back to the Foundation. Bud Phillis had the second lucky ticket and took the wine. The final lucky winner was Sue Rector who took the game tickets. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation and support the great philanthropic work done throughout the world. Thanks to all who participated!



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT SAVE THE DATE – NOVEMBER 11th ROCK ISLAND HOLIDAY INN

ROTARIANS ANSWER JOHN PHILLIPS' 2022 BASEBALL CHALLENGE!



John bet all Rotarians that the **White Sox** would have a better record at the end of the regular season than any other Rotarian's favorite team. He backed up his bet with \$100 payable to our Club Foundation and invited any and all members to bet on their favorite team at whatever amount they wished, \$25, \$50, \$100, or more. Rotarians that bet and lose won't pay John, rather they will have their choice of paying either our Club's Foundation or the Rotary International Foundation. SO FAR ... The following members have taken up John's Challenge!

Steve Morenz and Bill Stengel - **White Sox**; John Oliger - **KC Royals**
Doug Hultquist – **Yankees** Sue Rector – **Guardians** Frank Lambert - **Cardinals**
Bud Phillis, Bob Swanson, John Wetzel, Tom Hammar and Gary Rowe - **Cubs**
John Wetzel also bets on the **Red Sox**. Howard Beck - **Twins**

To join the fun. Email John or Bob. This is war with braggin' rights at stake!

Phillipsjohn99@gmail.com or bobdebswanson@att.net

NEW CLUB ROSTER/DIRECTORY BEING PREPARED



All members received an email today requesting you to review the information we have for you prior to our submitting it to the printer for the new Club Directory. We sent you what we have along with the picture we have on file for you. If information is missing or incorrect, please by return email give us the needed correction. If you are not happy with your photo, you may email a new photo of your choice. Please make sure everything is accurate. If you have not yet replied, please do so soon! Just send a return email stating everything is "OKAY" or send corrections!

Thanks for your help!

WINE RAFFLE DRAWING – NEXT MEETING! TUESDAY MAY 24th



The work is all done, 300 Raffle Chances Sold!
Thanks to our Raffle Committee led by Ruth Lee and Gary Rowe!
And Thanks to all members who sold and bought tickets!

Be Sure to Be on Hand Next Week When We Draw the 10 winners!

- 1st Prize - \$500 Shopping Spree at the Grape Life**
- 2nd Prize - \$300 Shopping Spree at the Grape Life**
- 3rd Prize - \$200 Shopping Spree at the Grape Live**
- 4th-10th – Wins a Selection of Fine Wine Worth at least
Two to Three Times the Cost of the Raffle Ticket**

Winners, if not present will be notified.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY THIS SATURDAY

CAN YOU GIVE 3 HOURS of your time on a Saturday morning?

Lynda Sargent at Heart of Hope has requested our help for Saturday, May 21st for the Heart of Hope “Clean Up, Get Ready to Move In Day!”. It’s essentially spring cleaning at both the Heart of Hope Outreach Center and at their NEW Giving Hope House. We will start at 9am and go until Noon. Heart of Hope will have their grill going and serve up hot dogs, chips, and beverages for lunch following the cleaning.

This would be a great service opportunity for any Rotarians willing to spend a few hours on a Saturday morning in exchange for lunch with some great people. The date is Saturday May 21st from 9:00 am until noon, with hotdogs on the grille afterwards.

If you want to join the project, please email our Heart of Hope chairman, Steve Morenz at smorenz3@gmail.com. Heart of Hope needs to know how many are coming in order to have enough hotdogs ready to eat when the work is done!

Rock Island Rotary has partnered with Heart of Hope for many years starting with helping distribute food at their food pantry on Thursdays. That involved about 90 minutes of service. When the pandemic hit our attendance at the pantry ceased and our service switched to collecting plastic bags and donating warm winter coats to their clothing pantry. Their Giving Hope House is a new venture for Heart of Hope. The property was acquired and then the job of fundraising and total renovation began. To date they have removed the old boiler heating system, radiators, kitchen cabinets, tile flooring, bathroom fixtures, and installed a completely new HVAC system, a completely new bathroom and kitchen. They plan to replace the front and back porches, create a nice deck area; and give a fresh coat of paint to both the inside and exterior. A renovated electrical system and landscaping will complete the renovation creating a beautiful home for the neighborhood and adding value to the community. The home will serve as a place for training and re-entry services. This is a great chance for service with no request for a check or pledge!



Clarification Regarding Board Policy for Paul Harris Fellow Awards

As an incentive to encourage support of the Rotary Foundation, our Club assists members in achieving their Paul Harris Fellow award. The Award is presented by Rotary International to Rotarians who have donated \$1,000 to the Foundation. When a member's own contributions reach \$600, our Club contributes \$400 toward completing the award for the member. By making additional contributions the member can bestow the Paul Harris Fellow award on a family member or friend when contributions reach a second thousand. The Club does not make a contribution beyond the member's initial Paul Harris award. There has been some confusion as to this policy which our Board of Directors clarified at this month's board meeting.

Don't forget Birdies for Charity

If you donate using the Rock Island Rotary Code "937" your entire donation PLUS a Deere Foundation 5% or more match, will go to our **Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation**

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

937

BIRD NUMBER

I pledge and promise to donate:

☐ \$_____ one-time flat donation.

Please attach payment. **Make checks payable to Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation.**

☐ \$_____

extra donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund

Donations to the BFC Bonus Fund (#104) help provide the minimum of 5% match for all participating charities.

GUESS THE BIRDIES & WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2022 LEXUS RX350!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.

Only 1 grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law.

BIRDIES SCORED (YEAR)

2,142 (2013)	1,982 (2016)	2,091 (2019)
2,040 (2014)	1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)
1,990 (2015)	2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)

PLEDGE INFORMATION (Please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE OR EMAIL _____

OFFICIAL PLEDGE FORM

Chip in for your chance to win

When you chip in to help area charities, you could win! But your favorite charity will be the *real* winner. That's because participating charities receive **100% of the donations** pledged to them in this program, plus a bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund which is a **guaranteed 5% match**.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at 15623 Coaltown Rd., East Moline, IL 61244.

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA Tour Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winners will be randomly selected.

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS AS YOUR RECEIPT

I pledge \$_____ one-time donation

I guessed _____ birdies would be made

Payment was included with pledge

☐ YES ☐ NO

☐ CASH ☐ CHECK NO. _____

Please make checks payable to

QUAD CITIES GOLF CLASSIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



GRAND PRIZE: 2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2022 LEXUS RX 350



LEXUS
SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES

One lucky supporter of the John Deere Classic's Birdies for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2022 Lexus RX350, courtesy of Smart Lexus of the Quad Cities. Other prizes awarded by random drawing.

CONTEST RULES

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties and other prizes determined by random drawing.
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card and received at the tournament office by **June 10, 2022**.
- Rules are available at www.birdiesforcharity.com.
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Pledges submitted after the JDC may be applied the following year.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Tyla Sherwin-Cole, executive director of The Doris & Victor Day Foundation and **Tracy Pugh** were inducted into Rotary membership at today's meeting by president, Justin Peterson. Tyla took the reins of the Day foundation on March 14th of this year. She was previously Executive Director of Dress for Success Quad Cities. Sherwin-Cole is a Rock Island native, whose stepmother is Liz Sherwin (head of the Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living). Tyla dropped out of high school in 10th grade and later got her GED. She then attended Black Hawk College and got an Associate Degree at Scott Community College. She earned her bachelor's in sociology from Ashford University in Clinton, and subsequently a master's in museum studies at Western Illinois University in Moline. "I am a living example of where you can go and who you can be," Sherwin-Cole said. We are delighted to have her join Rock Island Rotary. Her sponsor is Angela Campbell.



Tracy Pugh's says his career as a correctional officer for the state of Illinois taught him the critical relationship between education and a potential life of crime. That led him to seek election to the Rock Island-Milan School Board, a position he won as the top vote getter in our last general election. It also kindled his interest in Rotary and our commitment to literacy, children, and education. In addition to his work in education, Tracy serves as a counselor for Family Resources and is on the Board of Directors of the Quad City Botanical Center. He also is the Criminal Justice Committee chairman for the Rock Island County NAACP. His enthusiasm for Rotary has already shown as he has volunteered to be a Sergeant at Arms Aide and stayed after our last two meeting to learn what that job entails. We are very pleased to welcome him as a member of Rock Island Rotary. Gary Rowe is his sponsor. **Rotarians, make Tyla and Tracy feel welcome!**

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY UPDATE

Chairman Kevin Koski reported that to date we have received 20 pledges toward our goal of 35. Currently the pledges total \$3,135 toward our goal of \$5,000. We are over halfway there with a few weeks left for pledging. Please get Kevin your pledge. You can call or email. He will fill out the paperwork and you will be billed later! Pledging is quick and easy, and all funds will go to our Club's Foundation for used only for Rock Island projects.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO WATER PROJECT

It has been five years since Rotarian Sam Wray and wife Hilde made a \$10,000 donation to kick-start what has become our Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa Water Project. Over the past five years fourteen other Rotary Clubs in Illinois and Iowa have joined our project along with three Interact, one EarlyAct Club, and our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. Plus 43 individual Rotarians, including seventeen members of our club have donated to the project. Nearly \$90,000 has been raised resulting in the purchase and delivery of 245 water filters now serving over 17,000 impoverished children in rural Kenya. Previously our Club by vote of the Board of Directors purchased three filters. At yesterday's Board of Director's meeting by unanimous vote it was decided that the Club would purchase two filters each Rotary year using funds that previously were given in honor of our program guests speakers for the benefit of Earl Hanson Elementary School. Noting that we have established the annual Trivia Night as a source of regular funding for Earl Hanson, the Board determined that the speaker honorariums could be directed to the pressing need for safe water in third-world countries. So don't be surprised when you hear our president advise our guests that in their honor, a contribution will be made toward the purchase of a state-of-the-art filtration system that will provide children who currently have no access to safe, sanitary water in rural villages near Nairobi, Kenya with safe, pure drinking water and sanitation education. The Board is hopeful that their commitment to the project will encourage other clubs and our own members to also re-commit to this incredibly important project.

