



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

June 21, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 50

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



June - July Calendar

- June 28 - President Justin Peterson's Final Address
- July 5 - President Cindi Gramenz Induction and Address
- July 12 - Richard Hammar - Astro-photography
- July 19 - Augie Economics Professor "Current Events"
- July 26 - Governor. Laura Kann – Official Club visit. As a former president said, "Dress Nice"

Our guest speaker today was Joe Wick from Hutchison Engineering the General Engineering Counsel for the bridge project. Mr. Wick presented a "final report" on the I-74 bridge project. For more than the past decade Quad City residents heard about a new bridge to replace the old suspension bridges linking Moline and Bettendorf. The project consisted of reconstructing 5.5 miles of I-74, including new river bridges over the Mississippi. Construction began in July 2017. The Iowa-bound bridge opened in November 2020, and the Illinois-bound bridge in December 2021. Additional work, including landscaping and demolition of the old bridges began in 2022 and is still underway. The project cost was estimated at approximately \$1 billion, which included engineering, design, and construction. A defining feature of the new bridge is the bike and pedestrian path, welcoming both residents and visitors to explore the Quad Cities. There are only a handful of such paths on interstate bridges across the country and the Quad Cities is thrilled to be part of bringing this unique feature to the area. An exciting feature on the bike and pedestrian path is a scenic overlook with a glass oculus to provide the public with a unique view of the Mississippi River. The 10-foot diameter oculus is made of thick, tempered glass that is safe to stand on, and the surface is textured to provide better traction. Up lighting is also installed on the scenic overlook, and the entire path is lit at night. The new bridge is more than twice as wide as the former bridges, providing four lanes in each direction. Referring to the bridge as a "World Class Project" Mr. Wick said it is absolutely "state of the art." Some unseen design elements are an internal monitoring system that send information directly to the Department of Transportation regarding the status of the bridge. There is a catwalk under the bridge providing easy maintenance access for future needs as well as an Inspection trolley that transports inspectors and maintenance workers from one end of the bridge to the other. The more visible elements include 240,000 cubic yards of concrete, 20 million tons of stainless-steel rebar, 70 million pounds of structural steel, 75 miles of electrical wire, and 14 miles of fiber optic cable. During peak times of construction there were an average of 450 workers on the project. Mr. Wick said that the normal design lifespan for a bridge is 40 years. This bridge has a design lifespan of 100 years! He noted that the piers under the suspension portion of the bridge are set 35 feet below river bottom and that the roadway across the bridge is 10" deep concrete. He also noted that divers played a vital role in the construction and maintenance of the bridge, inspecting all construction below the water line, identifying, and relocating endangered muscles, building, and removing the underwater foundation for cranes that were used, and continuing ongoing maintenance inspections. Mr. Wick's comments were augmented by a fantastic slide show showing all phases of the construction. We thank Joe for a great presentation and for helping bring this marvel of modern technology to our community





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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 two visiting Rotarians. Duncan Cameron from Naples, FL, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club both attended our meeting. Samantha Yeager Walrath representing Hand In Hand was a guest of the Club. We love to have visitors and guests and welcome all to Rock Island Rotary, the Number 1 Club!
- ❑ **JULY BIRTHDAYS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON JULY 12th** – To allow adequate time on July 5th for our Officer/Director Installation. We'll delay our birthday celebration one week
- ❑ **2022 ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK** will be on Friday, August 12th. The night will feature private seats in the Pepsi Luge Boxes, QC Airport Tumblers given away when you enter, the River Bandits game vs. Cedar Rapids, and a great fireworks display immediately after the game. Tickets are \$25 per person which includes a \$20 Bandits Card good for concessions, merchandise, or amusement rides! Do you think Cindi can get her curve ball over for a strike when she throws out the first pitch?
- ❑ **YOUR IN GOOD COMPANY!** Here are some other Rotarians you may have heard of: **George W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Warren G. Harding, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Donald J. Trump, and Woodrow Wilson.** Not into politics, how about **Walt Disney, Orville Wright and Thomas Edison** – All fellow Rotarians!
- ❑ **OFFICER & BOARD INSTALLATION – July 5th** - Incoming officers and directors for the 2022-23 Rotary Year will be installed at this meeting. District Governor David Bills will officiate and immediately after the installation, President Cindi Gramenz will present her vision for the coming year. **The following are urged to attend to be installed: Cindi Gramenz, Eric Westphall, Sue Rector, Anne McGlynn, Carrie Crossen, Justin Peterson, Bob Swanson, Rebecca Arnold, David Hodge, Mariah Johnson, John Phillips, Amber Brummit, Rick Devinney, Monta Ponsetto, and Kathy Trone.**
- ❑ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORIES** – Will be distributed at our July 5th meeting.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net. Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Sometime in March, the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC) concluded its final field visit to Nigeria to determine the country's polio-free status. The news buzzing around the Rotary world is that Polio is no longer endemic in Nigeria and that the most populous nation in Africa is certified Polio-Free by the World Health Organization. Nigeria has not had a case of wild poliovirus since July 24, 2014. All laboratory data has confirmed that a full 12 months has passed without any new cases.

Rotary International has contributed, through TRF about \$268 million to fight Polio in Nigeria; so, this is a victory worth celebrating. The chair of Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, Dr. Tunji Funsho, while acknowledging the milestone, cautions Rotarians about celebrating too soon. "It's paramount that we ensure all doors are locked to the re-entry of the wild poliovirus into our country."

As recently as 2012, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide. However, according to WHO, no less than 200,000 volunteers across the country repeatedly immunized more than 45 million children under the age of 5, to ensure that no child would suffer from this paralyzing disease. Commenting on this huge accomplishment, WHO's Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan said, "we must now support the efforts in Pakistan and Afghanistan, so they soon join the polio-free world."

Since 1988, polio incidence has been reduced by more than 99 percent. Before then, the virus was paralyzing an average of 350,000 children every year in more than 125 countries.

As we begin a new Rotary year, let us continue to support all efforts at eradicating Polio from the face of the planet. "There's been an amazing organization that's been behind this...It was due to Rotary that the campaign was started." Bill Gates on Eradicating Polio.

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Vice President Eric Westphall continued his good-natured fining today first dinging representative of American Bank for recent news in the local papers. Then turned to the Quad City Bank for more fines for also having positive news in the papers. Not to omit anyone, Eric also caught the article regarding honoring Steve Bahls for his retirement and asked all Augustana affiliated members to drop a dollar in the fine box. Sarah Gorham and Kai Swanson each were fined a dollar for leaving the meeting early. Then Eric struck all but five or six who were present for a \$1 fine for avoiding the front tables and sitting at the back of the room. (Reminds me of church!) Then Eric asked for happy/sad dollars and John Wetzel offered two dollars, one a happy dollar in honor of his grandson's middle school graduation with a perfect, straight "A" grade card; and a second sad dollar for his own poor handwriting. He presented our invocation today and realized how bad his writing was when he tried to read his own prayer! Bud Phillis closed out the money collection with a happy dollar in honor of the Chicago Cubs, who he said, "won a game this week."

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured wine, money, and a fabric bowl handmade by past president Angela Campbell. The first ticket drawn was held by John Daly who took the cash and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. The next two tickets drawn were both held by Howard Beck who celebrated his lucky day with both wine and the bowl! The wine was selected from the Grape Life and donated to our raffle by Sue Rector from her 2022 Rotary Wine Raffle winnings. Proceeds from our weekly raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. Your participation is greatly appreciated!



JOHN PHILLIPS' BASEBALL CHALLENGE CLOSES AT THE ALL-STAR BREAK!

John will make a \$100 donation to our Club Foundation if the **White Sox** do not have a better record at the end of the regular season than any other Rotarian's favorite team! But only if other Rotarians are willing to bet \$25, \$50, \$100, or more on that their favorite team will have the better record. Rotarians that bet and lose will have their choice of making a donation to our Club's Foundation or to the Rotary International Foundation.

SO FAR - Seventeen members have taken up John's Challenge!

Steve Morenz, Kathy Trone and Bill Stengel joined John - **White Sox**

John Olinger - **Royals** Duncan Cameron - **Brewers** Tracy Pugh - **Braves** Sue Rector - **Guardians**

Ruth Lee and Howard Beck - **Twins** Doug Hultquist and Pete Wessels - **Yankees**

Frank Lambert - **Cardinals** Bud Phillis, Bob Swanson, John Wetzel, Tom Hammar and Gary Rowe - **Cubs**

John Wetzel also bet on the **Red Sox**.

To join the fun. Email John or Bob. This is war with braggin' rights at stake! Phillipsjohn99@gmail.com or bobdebswanson@att.net Apparently Frank really is the only Cardinal fan in our Club?



You Want In On This?

DON'T MISS
THE FUN SIDE
OF ROTARY!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT

NOVEMBER 11th

ROCK ISLAND HOLIDAY INN

**What can be better than Trivia Quizzes, Good Food, your
Favorite adult beverages, a huge Silent A, and Friends!**





ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

FRIDAY – AUGUST 12th

Tumbler Giveaway – After Game Fireworks!

Bring The Family, Invite Your Friends!

CPR [Constantly Promoting Rotary] MEETINGS START IN JULY!

Incoming president, Cindi Gramenz plans to hold monthly CPR Meetings starting In July. The meetings will be on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30pm and will continue monthly at least through December. Topics and locations are to be determined. The idea is to have an informal setting open to any Rotarian that wants to come, where good conversation along with perhaps an adult beverage and something to snack on may lead to great things new ideas for our club. We can chat about fundraisers, service projects, social events, membership, dues, or anything that might make Rock Island Rotary a better and stronger club. Bring a spouse or friend! Suggestions of topics are welcome and can be emailed to Cindi Gramenz cgramenz15@gmail.com or Anne McGlynn amfm1924@gmail.com.



MILAN HARVEST FESTIVAL RETURNS!

September 1-5 Camden Park

Rock Island Rotary plans to have a food tent at the Festival! We believe this can be a major fundraiser for our Club and perhaps more importantly, the first Club-wide “hands on” project in many years. The comradery and friendships that may develop from working side by side makes this much more than a money raising venture. We need your help to be successful. We ask members to staff our tent in 3-hour, 3½-hour and a few 4-hour shifts. We believe you will

find working with fellow members is fun and a great way to get to know others better. We invite members to sign up and include your spouse or family members who want to help! Interact member will help too! Here is our tentative shift schedule.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sept. 1 st Thursday | 4:30pm – 7:30pm (3 hours) | 7:30pm – 11pm (3½ hours) |
| Sept. 2 nd Friday | 4:30pm – 7:30pm (3 hours) | 7:30pm – 11pm (3½ hours) |
| Sept. 3 rd Saturday | Noon – 3:30pm (3½ hours) | 3:30pm – 7pm (3½ hours) |
| | 7:00pm – 11pm (4 hours) | |
| Sept. 4 th Sunday | Noon – 3:30pm (3½ hours) | 3:30pm – 7pm (3½ hours) |
| | 7:00pm – 11pm (4 hours) | |
| Sept. 5 th Monday | Noon – 4:00pm (4 hours) | |

We would like to have four or five people per shift. If you can take more than one shift, feel free to do so. We will have a signup sheet at next week’s meeting, or you can reply email and we will get you on the schedule!

What will we be serving? Sue Rector and Cindi Gramenz are working on that decision, we’re hoping for something easy to prepare, easy to store, and wildly popular with carnival goers! We have some ideas but would be happy to hear your thoughts! Email Cindi cgramenz15@gmail.com or Sue srector3614@gmail.com

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY SUPPORTS HAND IN HAND



Kevin Koski on behalf of our Community Grants Committee and President Justin Peterson present Samantha Yeager Walrath from **Hand In Hand** a \$1,000 check in support of their new Sensory Wall. Hand In Hand works with persons of all ages suffering from disabilities. Their mission is to "Empowers children and adults of all abilities to learn and grow by providing inclusive programs and supporting families."



Join the **DISTRICT 6420 POLIOPLUS SOCIETY** by Contributing \$100 prior to July 1st and receive recognition as a **CHARTER MEMBER!** Use the Pledge card below.
Turn it in to Sue Rector.

District 6420 Polio Plus Society

Polio Plus Society Pledge Form

Full Name: _____

Email: _____

Club: Rock Island Rotary Club, Rock Island, IL

District 6420 PolioPlus Society Launch – Charter Membership Opportunity

We are excited to launch the ***District 6420 PolioPlus Society*** to support Rotary's promise and recently announced endgame strategy to achieve and sustain a polio-free world by 2026. We invite you to become a ***Charter Member***.

PolioPlus Society members pledge to donate \$100 every Rotary Year to the Rotary Foundation PolioPlus Fund until the world is certified polio-free. **To become a *Charter Member*, make your pledge and donate \$100 to the PolioPlus Fund by June 30, 2022.**

Charter Members will receive a specially designed limited edition Recognition Pin.

Please complete this and give to your club treasurer. Forward to pstromborg@mac.com