



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

June 28, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 51

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



THANK YOU PRESIDENT JUSTIN PETERSON

July - August Calendar

- July 5 - President Cindi Gramenz induction and Address
- July 12 - Richard Hammar - Astrophotography
- July 19 - TBA
- July 26 - District Governor. Laura Kann
Official Club visit.
As a former president said, "Dress Nice"

It seems incredible that another Rotary year has passed, but as they say, "Time Flies When You're Leading The NUMBER 1 CLUB!". Today brought the curtain down on Justin Peterson's presidential term. Justin was installed as our Club president for 2021-22, July 6, 2021. A "hometown" fellow, Justin graduated from Rock Island High School. In 2000. He received his bachelor's degree from Knox College in Economics with a minor in finance. Justin has spent his career in the banking industry, starting at Staff Management as Manager of Business Solutions. He then became Assistant Vice President - Business Relationship Manager for Wells Fargo Bank. Justin moved to Deere Harvester Credit Union in 2012 where he served as Business Services Manager. In 2015 he was hired by First Midwest Bank as Vice President of Commercial Banking and in 2018 he moved to his current position as Vice President, Commercial Banking at TBK Bank in Bettendorf. In 2007 Justin married his high school sweetheart, Rachel Boyle. The couple along with their son and two darling daughters reside in Andalusia. Taking the rostrum for the final time as Rotary President, Justin reviewed the many accomplishments, challenges, and goals set and accomplished during the past 12 months. Justin began his comments stating that the Rock Island Rotary Club is "People in Action" in the form of Service Above Self. He stated how honored he was to have been entrusted with the presidency of the Club and expressed his thanks to all present. He congratulated and noted that Eric Westphall had brought in over \$1,700 in fines and happy/sad dollars over the year, well above his budgeted expectation. He reviewed the recent Wine Raffle that raised over \$7,500 and the subsequent Wine Auction that raised another \$5,000, the two sums allowing the Board with the addition of \$5,000 general funds to permanently endow our Service Above Self Scholarship. He thanked Kathy Trone for chairing our Trivia Night which raised \$6,000 and the first ever Rotary Rock & Roll Bingo that raised another \$4,200. Our Reindeer Ramble 5K race added an additional \$2,000 making it possible for our Club to continue and expand our community service. During the year our Club obtained a District matching grant that allowed us to provide 40 scholarships for children to attend the First Tee summer golf program. Our Community Grants Committee solicited and screened donation requests and allotted \$6,000 in grants to various community organizations including Girl Scouts, Humility Homes, Rock Island-Milan Little League, and others. A Kevin Koski led Birdies for Charity campaign raised over \$6,000 for our Club Foundation. We continued our strong support of literacy and Earl Hanson Elementary School hosting monthly Birthday Books celebrations, a Pumpkin Palooza field trip at Halloween, an Angel Tree providing more than 60 needy children with Christmas gifts, and our 7-month long "Keep Them Engaged" campaign that collected school supplies and activities that allowed us to provide over 300 children with summer activity packs. This year also saw the rebirth of the Rock Island Interact Club with a new active faculty sponsor and 5 students selected and sponsored by our Club who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership camp in May. We also obtained new faculty sponsors and club liaisons to re-establish the Jordan Elementary School EarlyAct Club. Justin concluded his comments and his term as president with a heartfelt thank you to the club and to his lovely wife, Rachel, and his three darling children, for their support, patience, and love. His speech was augmented with a clever slide and video presentation. Upon concluding Justin received a very well deserved standing ovation from our members. He had asked members to wear Rotary blue. See photo, page 10.



P.O. Box 4514
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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 Wetzell
Feb-Mar	– Kai Swanson/ Dave Hodge
Apr-May	– Kathy Trone/ Jeff Rose
Jun-Jul	– Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we welcomed visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from Naples, FL. Also in attendance were guests of President Peterson, his wife Rachel, son Liam, and daughters Lillian & Leila. They were not only cute as can be, but extremely well behaved! Nice Job! We love to have visitors and guests and welcome all to Rock Island Rotary, the Number 1 Club!
- ❑ **THANK YOU!** – To Club Directors completing their terms on our Board. John Daly, Sue Rector, Gary Rowe, and Molly Shattuck. Your commitment of time and leadership is greatly appreciated and was critical to the success and growth of our club during the past two years! Thanks also to Angela Campbell for her year on the Board as Past-president. Your advice and dedication was critical!
- ❑ **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! Have a Junly birthday, be sure to attend on the 12th.
- ❑ **2022 ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK** will be on Friday, August 12th. We have private seats in the Pepsi Luge Boxes, QC Airport Tumblers will be given away when you enter. See 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?
- ❑ **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 next week's meeting.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net. Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings

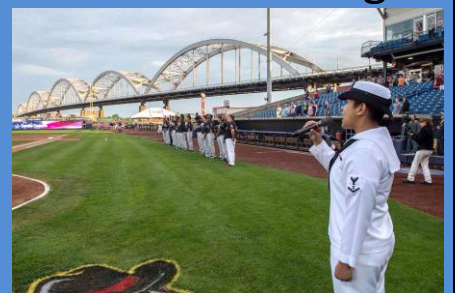


ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

FRIDAY – AUGUST 12th

Tumbler Giveaway – After Game Fireworks!

Bring The Family, Invite Your Friends! Get Tickets from John Oliger



PRESIDENT JUSTIN MADE A GREAT IMPACT ON ROCK ISLAND ROTARY

Aided by an easy-going personality, an understanding of organization, and a deep commitment to Rotary, Justin Peters led an open and welcoming year of Rotary. New ideas were welcomed, and members were given opportunities to see their ideas come to life. Over the course of the year, we saw many sides of our president!



The Dad who taught his son that being silly and having fun while working for a great cause is an important lesson. Justin donned Ruth Lee's wine bottle costume and took a shift at the HyVee selling Rotary Wine Raffle Tickets with his son along side!



From his first Rotary Directory photo in 2016 Justin's friendly smile and welcoming personality Made him a well-liked addition to our Club.



Now and then Rotarian Justin demonstrated he was willing to "let his hair down" and have fun to advance a Rotary cause



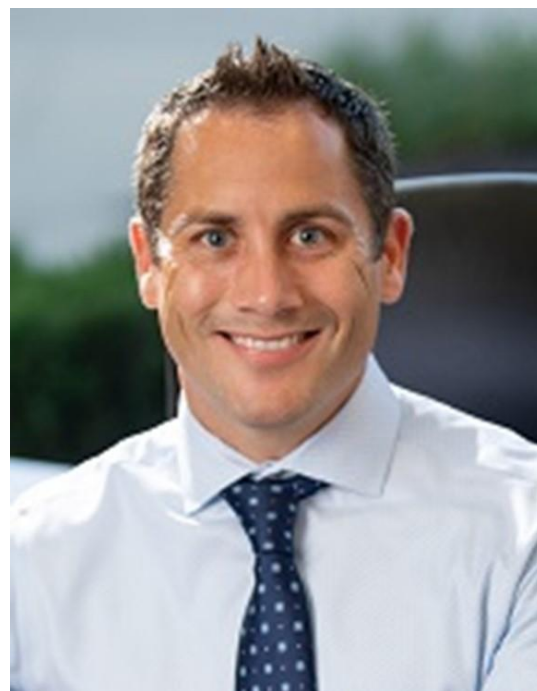
Justin had the ability to quickly return to a dignified leadership role, when called upon to ensure the Rock Island Rotary remained strong and headed in the proper direction.



JUSTIN PETERSON
107TH President
Rock Island Rotary



Ever present was that big smile welcoming all to the **Number 1 Club**, Rock Island Rotary!



THANK YOU!

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

In recognition of 2nd Vice-President Westphall's final day as official "finer" of the club, Eric was met with a particularly enthusiastic chorus of "Boos". Unphased he got right to the business of filling the Club's coffers with a fine of President's Justin. Justin's wife and three super cute children attended today. Eric fined Justin a dollar for each year of the children's age. Justin just emptied his wallet into the fine box! Eric also fined Tracy Pugh for asking prior to the meeting if he was going to be fined. Then he asked for Happy/Sad dollars. Gary Rowe had a happy dollar for attending District Governor Laura Kann's installation in Princeton, IL. Duncan Cameron offered a dollar for wearing his "Rock Island Rotary" blue shirt (he is a member of the Naples, FL Club). Monta Ponsetto had 1 sad and 4 happy dollars. The sad dollar was for the passing of George Shultz. It was just 3 weeks ago that George entertained us as "Big George" a member of the GIT Improv comedy team. Monta's happy dollars were for her son, John, being safely back in the US in port in Seattle on the USS Nimitz; for seeing a line of kids going to one of our Little Libraries; for failing to carefully read the our newsletter and not wearing Rotary blue today. Rebecca Arnold pitched in two happy dollars, one celebrating the 125 children who are participating in summer programs at the M. L. King Center. and one for the King Center being a polling place for today's primary election. Angela Campbell had a happy dollar in celebration of the Rock Island Public Library's Summer Reading Program. She reported that readers are far exceeding the goals set at the start of the program. Sue Rector had a happy dollar celebrating Eric's final day as our Club finer. (Sue takes over next!) Eric then threw in his own dollar as a fine for being spotted by Mary Fislar in a photo celebrating the ribbon cutting of a new coffee shop in Eldridge, Iowa. Finally, Rotarian John Wetzel made his annual wedding anniversary donation, one dollar for every year of marital bliss with wife, Marcia. Today's contribution was \$53! Congratulations John & Marcia. John specified that he wanted his contribution to go to our Club Foundation. Fines and happy/sad dollars, unless otherwise designated go to our Club's Rotary International Foundation account. Thanks to all for your generous participation!

STILL TIME TO JOIN JOHN PHILLIPS' BASEBALL CHALLENGE

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 Oliger - **Royals** Duncan Cameron - **Brewers** Tracy Pugh - **Braves**

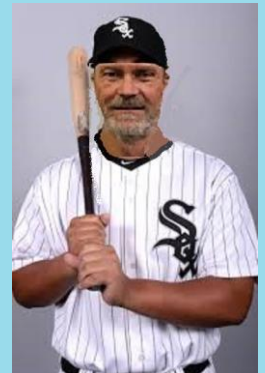
Sue Rector - **Guardians** Ruth Lee and Howard Beck - **Twins**

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



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!**



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! It's Rotary, it's Social, It's Fun! Suggestions of topics are welcome and can be emailed to Cindi Gramenz cgramenz15@gmail.com or Anne McGlynn amfm1924@gmail.com.



FOUNDATION MINUTE

When we talk about PolioPlus, we know we are eradicating polio, but how many of us realize what the “Plus” stands for? The “Plus” are the many benefits that have been added to the Rotary polio eradication effort to not only eradicate polio but to help alleviate some of the conditions that allows the polio virus to exist. The “Plus” that is provided as a part of the polio eradication campaign might be a hand-operated tricycle or access to water. It might be additional medical treatment, bed nets, or soap. A 2010 study estimates that the vitamin A drops given to children at the same time as the polio vaccine have prevented 1.25 million deaths by decreasing susceptibility to infectious diseases.’

Eighteen million people around the world who would have died or been paralyzed are alive and walking because of the polio eradication campaign. Health workers and volunteers supported by PolioPlus grants have built an infrastructure for delivering health care and collecting data that, in many parts of the world, didn't exist before. It's already being used to improve overall health care and to fight other diseases, proving that the legacy of PolioPlus is more than eradicating a deadly disease from the planet — it's also building a stronger health system that provides better access to lifesaving interventions for the world's most vulnerable children.

A quick step back in time will provide you with the backstory to how the polio eradication effort began and how quickly it developed into a global effort to improve the quality of life for every citizen of the world.

Clem Renouf, the 1978-79 Rotary International president who helped propel Rotary toward its top goal of eradicating polio worldwide, died in June 2020, at age 99. But in early 1979, on a flight home from the Philippines, Renouf read a magazine story about the eradication of smallpox. He wondered if Rotary's new 3-H Grants (Health, Hunger and Humanities) could be used to eliminate another disease. These grants would for the first time, allow Rotary projects to be taken on by more than just one club or district.

That magazine article led to a telephone call to Dr. John Sever, who was a district governor in Maryland, USA, and chief of infectious diseases at the United States National Institutes of Health. Sever, who knew both Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, posed Renouf's question to the scientists, was world-wide eradication possible. They said yes. Armed with this information Renouf challenged the Rotary International Board of Directors in November of 1979, to make the eradication of polio a primary goal of the 3-H Grant program. The Rotary Board of directors accepted the challenge and working with the WHO, World Health Organization and the Philippine government began the eradication effort in the Philippines. Over the past 30 years the eradication effort moved from the 3-H Grant program into the Polio Plus program of today.

We have come such a long way since 1979 when we started the polio eradication effort. Today we are so very close. We need everyone's support and commitment to finish what we started. Please consider becoming a Polio Plus Society member this year. Your annual contribution of \$100 becomes \$300 with the Gates Foundation match.

For more information about the Polio Plus Society contact Sue Rector, Bud Phillis, or our district's Polio chair.

Join the DISTRICT 6420 POLIOPLUS SOCIETY by Contributing \$100 prior to July 1st and receive recognition as a CHARTER MEMBER! **JUST TWO DAYS LEFT!**

Use the Pledge card below. Turn it in to Sue Rector *or Give online between now and June 30.*

Join 9 of our members along with others in District 6420 to eradicate polio!

As of last week, our club was leading the district in charter members. Let's keep that distinction!

You Must complete the pledge form and either already have made a \$100 polio gift this fiscal year or must make a gift for polio with a check dated June 30 or before.



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

Senior One Liners

- I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over putting on my underwear.
- I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes... so she hugged me.
- My wife says I only have 2 faults. I don't listen and something else....
- I told my wife I wanted to be cremated. She made me an appointment for Tuesday.
- I thought growing old would take longer.
- I came, I saw, I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps, got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.
- Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons, and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.



MILAN HARVEST FESTIVAL RETURNS!

September 1-5 Camden Park

Rock Island Rotary will 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. 1st Thursday	4:30pm – 7:30pm (3 hours)	7:30pm – 11pm (3½ hours)
Sept. 2nd Friday	4:30pm – 7:30pm (3 hours)	7:30pm – 11pm (3½ hours)
Sept. 3rd Saturday	Noon – 3:30pm (3½ hours) 7:00pm – 11pm (4 hours)	3:30pm – 7pm (3½ hours)
Sept. 4th Sunday	Noon – 3:30pm (3½ hours) 7:00pm – 11pm (4 hours)	3:30pm – 7pm (3½ hours)
Sept. 5th 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? Walking Tacos and Sweetcorn off the grill! Plus, soft drinks and water and perhaps dessert treats too!

WE ALSO NEED TO BORROW SOME EQUIPMENT – SEE BELOW!

THINGS WE NEED FOR OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL FOOD TENT

If you have something listed, we’d love to borrow it for September 1st-5th! Otherwise, we will be paying a fee or needing to rent it!

- Portable Generator capable of running a freezer We will supply the gas!
- Folding 6’ and/or 8’ Tables
- Large coolers – We will supply the ice!
- Small Cash Register
- Large Capacity Gas Grill – We will supply the propane!
- Grilling utensils {tongs for turning corn on the grill} & hot mitts

These things we have already secured from Club Members:

- 20’x20’ Tent
- Roaster Pans
- Chest freezer
- Small lockable Trailer for storing supplies and overnight security

LAURA KANN INDUCTED AS NEW DISTRICT 6420 GOVERNOR

Our Incoming president, Cindi Gramenz and Assistant District Governor Gary Rowe also a Rock Island Rotarian had the opportunity to attend the induction of Laura Kann this past week in Princeton, Illinois, Governor Kann's home club. Cindi reported that the induction was very nicely done and shared the below photos with us.



The omdictopm was held at a beautiful out door setting. Rotarians were greeted with this banner.



Princeton has Little Libraries – like we do! Quite a paint job!



Current Governor David Bills Inducts Governor Kann



Our new Governor addresses the crowd.



Left: Rock Island President Elect Cindi Gramenz stands with Marcy O'Brien, incoming president of Quad Cities Rotary, Toni Lucas incoming President from River Cities Rotary, and Ben Rhine incoming president of East Moline-Silvis Club.



Right: Andy Axup District Chair for Literacy, Rock Island's Gary Rowe District Assistant Governor, and David Emerick District Governor-Elect join the group for a photo.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER – DR. YOLANDA GRANDBERRY-PUGH



In his final meeting as Rotary President, Justin Peterson had the pleasure of inducting Dr. Yolanda Grandberry Pugh into Rock Island Rotary. Dr. Pugh is an educator & presenter of professional workshops. She is employed by the Rock Island/Milan School District #41 and teaches English at Rock Island High School. She is the wife of Rock Island Rotarian Tracy Pugh. Yolanda received her Bachelor's in English Education from Illinois State University. Illinois State University. She earned a Master's in Leadership & Policy Studies from The University of Memphis, her Leadership in Educational Administration Certification from Capella University, and her Doctor of Education - EdD, K-12 Leadership and Administration from Western Illinois University. She served as President, Vice-President, secretary, corresponding secretary, and is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In our community Yolanda served for over 9 years as a Social Services Youth Advisor, and Newsletter Editor for the NAACP, Rock Island Branch And for over two years served on the WQPT Community Engagement Committee. At Rock Island High School, she created

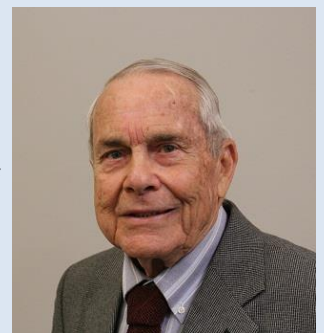
and is co-sponsor of the African American Heritage Club. Please welcome Yolanda to Rock Island Rotary!

FREDERICK R. HOULTON SERVICE ABOVE SELF SCHOLARSHIP NOW PERMANENTLY ENDOWED

Today was a historical date for Rock Island Rotary. Less than three years ago our Club decided to establish a Service Above Self Scholarship to annually award a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving Rock Island High School Senior. Arrangements were made with the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation to administer the scholarship which was funded by the past two Rotary Wine Raffle proceeds and a special Wine Auction held in 2001. The first scholarship was awarded last year. When the proceeds of over \$5,000 from this year's Wine Raffle were readied for deposit into the scholarship account the Foundation advised our Board of Directors that after receipt of that deposit there would be within about \$5,000 of having enough in the account to permanently endow the scholarship. In effect there would be enough anticipated interest of the fund to make the annual \$1,000 scholarship payment without any additional deposits to the account. If additional deposits are made the amount given or the number of scholarships presented could be increased. In addition to funding the scholarship, our Board also deemed it appropriate to make the official name the Frederick R. Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship in honor of Rock Island Rotarian "Fred Houlton". Fred joined Rock Island Rotary in 1963 and will be celebrating his 60th year in our club in 2023. He served as our Club President in 1970-71 and served our District as District Governor in 1985-86. He was recipient of the A.T. Peara Award in 1985. Through his generous contributions Fred along with his wife and multiple family members are Paul Harris Fellows. In addition to his long and distinguished dedication to Rotary, Fred's career was in education. He served as a teacher and administrator in the Rock Island-Milan School District for many years, including a lengthy stint as principal of Eugene Field Elementary School. Together with his wife Virginia, Fred established a District 6420 Foundation Fund providing grants to assist Rotary Clubs throughout northwestern Illinois.



President Justin Peterson presents Rotary's \$10,000 check to Executive Director Monta Ponsetto, of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation to fully endow The Rock Island Rotary Club's Frederick R. Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship.



Frederick R. Houlton

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured a bottle of fine wine, a 50/50 cash drawing, and a set of antique Rotary Coaster discovered and brought back by Sue Rector in a Wisconsin antique shop. Tracy Pugh had the first winner and snapped up the coasters. The second winning ticket was held by John Oliger who took the wine. The final ticket was also held by Tracy Pugh, so he won the cash and promptly donated it back for the Rotary International Foundation. Looks like a good day for Tracy to visit the casinos! Thanks to all who participated in today's raffle.



President Justin Peterson asked all members to wear their Rotary Gear or at least Rotary Blue for his last meeting as our president. As you can see, we had good support. When the photo was taken, he asked that members show "Number 1" for the Number 1 Club!



Rock Island Rotary Club – June 28, 2022