



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

July 5, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 1

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## **CINDI GRAMENZ 108<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT ROCK ISLAND ROTARY**



### **July - August Calendar**

**July 12 - Richard Hammar –  
Astrophotography**

**July 19 - TBA**

**July 26 - District Governor.  
Laura Kann  
Official Club visit.  
As a former presi-  
dent said, "Dress  
Nice"**

**Aug 2 - TBA**

**Aug 9 - TBA**

**Aug 16 - TBA**

Today Cindi Gramenz was officially installed as the 108<sup>th</sup> president of Rock Island Rotary. 2021-22 District Governor David Bills officiated at the brief ceremony that also included the installation of First Vice President Eric Westphall, Second Vice-President Sue Rector, Secretary Anne McGlynn, Treasurer Carrie Crossen, eight Club Directors, and the Sergeant at Arms. Cindi joined Rock Island Rotary in 2018 and has previously served as a Director and as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president. She is Director of Operations for Christian Care In Rock Island. President Gramenz grew up in the small town of Algona, IA. She has 2 brothers and 1 sister. Her parents are both deceased. Cindi holds a bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado State University. She enlisted in the United States Airforce in 1994 and served six years leaving the service in 2000 as an E-5 Staff Sergeant. She did 3 tours in Saudi Arabia and 1 in Kuwait in support of Desert Storm. Cindi was a Military Working Dog Handler (Explosives detection) at Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs. At that time the Air Force Academy did not have a canine until so the team at Peterson would split time between Peterson and the Academy. Cindi was called on to do several temporary duty assignments for "Distinguished Dignitaries", which allowed her to work side by side with the Secret Service, ATF, and other governmental departments. She once spent 12 hours standing next to a dumpster with a secret service agent guarding the dumpster. "My dog would sniff the garbage and the agent would throw it in the trash", Cindi said. Here are some other details you didn't know about Cindi. In her younger days she was a softball player and played Rugby! That's right, knock 'em, sock 'em Rugby! While stationed in Colorado she became a diehard Denver Bronco fan and got to do security at several of their games at Mile High Stadium. She moved back to Iowa when her mother's health deteriorated and landed a job with Family Resources in Davenport. She found she liked the Quad Cities and decided to make it her home. Eventually she left Family Resources and took her first position in homeless services as the Program Director at the Humility of Mary Shelter (now Humility Homes and Services). After eight years in that position, feeling a bit burned out, she resigned and left non-profit services for a year. Then missed working in service, she joined the staff of Christian Care as Grant Writer and Development Coordinator. Now in her sixth year with Christian Care, Cindi has risen to Director of Operations. She noted that the first grant she wrote was for a Rock Island Rotary Community Grant. She was successful and was asked to come to our meeting to accept the check. She was seated at a table with Kathy Lelonek and as the two talked Kathy extended an invitation and convinced Cindi to join. Now about five years later she is being inducted as our President! Since 2014 Cindi also has served as a Commissioner on the Veterans Affairs Commission. Commissioners oversee the Scott County Veterans Affairs Director and ensure our veterans are receiving the services they are entitled to. Cindi began her comments by congratulating Sue Rector for earning our District's Rotarian of the Year Award. She also thanked members of the Board who just completed their terms. Finally she thanked her employer, Christian Care and her Executive Director who allows her the flexibility to devote time to Rotary. She then told of her first visit to Rotary and learning all about our Club from Kathy Lelonek who was the member who extended the invitation to Cindi to become a Rotarian. She also spoke of her Rotary "Aha" moment when she saw the close friendships, hugs and handshakes exchanged between members. She realized this organization was more than just a Tuesday lunch club.

See GRAMENZ, page 3



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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, Florida, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. We love to have visitors and guests and welcome all to Rock Island Rotary, the Number 1 Club!
- ❑ **JULY BIRTHDAYS WILL BE CELEBRATED NEXT WEEK** – Have a July birthday? be sure to attend on the 12<sup>th</sup> for our July celebration!
- ❑ **2022 ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK** will be on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. 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? Se John Oliger to get your tickets. Make checks to: Rock Island Rotary.
- ❑ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORIES** – Were distributed at today's meeting. If you did not get one, stop at the Sergeant's Table next week!
- ❑ **SIGN UP TO HELP AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL** - Rock Island Rotarians will be selling walking tacos and grilled sweetcorn at the Milan Harvest Festival September 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Please check the article on page 7 of this newsletter for details and the available time shifts for helping. Shifts are just 3, 3½, or 4 hours. We are counting on every member to pitch in!
- ❑ **LABOR DAY PARADE** – On September 5<sup>th</sup> Rock Island Rotary will have a float and cars in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade. We invite all members to don your Rotary shirt and join our group. You can walk or ride a bicycle along with our Club float and cars driving our officers and award winners. Mark your calendar.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings

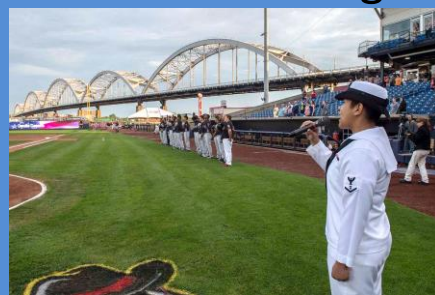


# ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

## FRIDAY – AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup>

### Tumbler Giveaway – After Game Fireworks!

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



#### Gramenz Continued –

Cindi talked about attending PETS (presidents-elect training seminar) where she was told “You will leave her inspired”, and she said she did. She was also told “No one can mess up a Rotary Club in just 1 year”. She said nobody laughed! President Gramenz then said that she felt a good deal of her success in her career has come from recognizing that the little things in life do matter. Paying attention to what may seem small may mean a great deal to others. She then noted that at PETS a speaker said that every new Rotary member should be asked “Why did you join?” and “What do you want to get out of your membership.” She said she believes strongly that Rotary can provide whatever the member hopes to receive. Whether it be an opportunity to serve, a chance to network and meet other people, fundraising for worthy causes, advocating for peace, or a desire to improve health and stamp out disease. Then becoming more specific President Gramenz turned to several goals she hopes our club can achieve during the coming year.

1. Meeting the challenge of our new District Governor, Laura Kann, in having every Rotarian in the district contribute at least one new book for donation to a local library.
2. Establishing a Legacy Giving program for Rock Island Rotary. Cindi emphasized that we have members with the knowledge and expertise to get this done.
3. Increasing the number of members who give to the Rotary International Foundation. Cindi said she realizes that there are varying degrees of ability within the Club but urges everyone to support the Foundation at whatever level they can.
4. Continued support for Polio Plus. Noting that the fight to end polio was unknown to her prior to involvement in Rotary and our World Polio Day project two years ago. Participating in that program Cindi interviewed members who were personally familiar with the polio crisis and those that had been personally impacted by the disease. She spoke with pride mentioning that our Club is 1<sup>st</sup> among all clubs in District 6420 with 23 Charter Members in the Polio Plus Society. She emphasized that we are within a handful of cases to eliminating Polio from the earth.
5. Increase participation in our service projects. Cindi urge all of us to do our part and get involved as our club serves our community and the world.
6. Finally, she set a goal to increase our membership and improve our public image. She said she was excited and feels we have an outstanding membership committee for 2022-23. She is also hopeful that our social media footprint and public image in general will grow significantly.

Cindi set some lofty, but obtainable goals. We all need to get behind her and make it happen! Welcome, Pres. Gramenz!

## 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](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com) or Anne McGlynn [amfm1924@gmail.com](mailto:amfm1924@gmail.com).



## ROCK ISLAND'S SUE RECTOR ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR!



District Governor David Bills had double duties today while attending our meeting, in addition to installing our officers and directors, Governor Bills brought with him a plaque. In what appeared to be a great surprise to Sue, Governor Bills called Sue Rector her forward and presented her with the 2021-22 District 6420 Rotarian of the Year Award. Noting that there are more than 1,400 Rotarians in our district, he compliments Sue on her dedication and commitment to Rotary and read from the letter he received nominating Sue. Perhaps a bigger surprise than winning the award was the appearance of Sue's husband, Rick, her daughter, son, and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren. They joined our meeting just in time to see sue receive her award. Congratulations, to a great Rotarian!



## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022-23



**Cindi Gramenz**  
**President**



**Eric Westphall**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**



**Sue Rector**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**



**Anne McGlynn**  
**Secretary**



**Carrie Crossen**  
**Treasurer**



**Justin Peterson**  
**Past President**



**Bob Swanson**  
**Sergeant at Arms**



**Rebecca Arnold**  
**Director**



**Amber Brummit**  
**Director**



**Rick Devinney**  
**Director**



**David Hodge**  
**Director**



**Mariah Johnson**  
**Director**



**John Phillips**  
**Director**



**Monta Ponsetto**  
**Director**



**Kathy Trone**  
**Director**

Rock Island Rotary thanks those who have agreed to give their time and talents to guild our Club in the coming year. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 11:45am in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at the offices of Studio 483 Architects, 124 Arts Alley, Rock Island. We appreciate Rotarian Jeff Dismar for making the facility available to us. Board meetings are open to all Rotary members and attendance at a Board meeting may be used as a "make-up" for those maintaining Rotary perfect attendance. New members are encouraged to attend at least one Board meeting to get an inside look at our Club's operations.



**Newly Installed Officers and Directors for 2022-23**

## FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President took over the fining duties today and promptly announced that she is a professional fundraiser, and she intends to earn all the “boos” and “cat calls” she receives. She began by anteing up her own \$20 for placing promos on every table for the upcoming CASI event on July 16<sup>th</sup>. They are hosting an evening of music, beer, soft drinks, and food starting at 4:30. The Tailfins will play at 5pm followed by the Soul Storm at 8:30. There will also be a raffle for a 4-burner gas Nexgrill plus a \$100 gift card from Kwik Star. Sue has tickets for the event. Then she began levying fines: Justin Peterson for a Facebook shot of him at the Deere Classic Golf Tourney, and also a shot showing his 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Angela Campbell paid for a picture of her bird on Facebook. Jeff Dismar also was hit for his 4<sup>th</sup> of July pictures on Facebook. Then she fined everyone who was in our Club photo taken last week (that got almost all of us!). Monta Ponsetto paid \$11 for being 11 minutes late to our meeting. Frank Lambert paid a Happy Dollar for the Cardinals being back in 1<sup>st</sup> place. New President Cindi was fined a \$1 for forgetting to bring her 1<sup>st</sup> VP Pin to pass on to Eric. Duncan Cameron has a happy dollar in recognition of a recent article stating that member Mark Mayeski had been honored by his company, Edward Jones, for Exceptional Achievement in Building Client Relationships and Lonnie Behnke offered a bunch of happy quarters for having a successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade before the rains hit! Thanks to all who contributed to today's collection!

## 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 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, [Phillipsjohn99@gmail.com](mailto:Phillipsjohn99@gmail.com) or [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)



Aren't You Going to Play with us?

DON'T MISS  
THE FUN SIDE  
OF ROTARY!

## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT

NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

ROCK ISLAND HOLIDAY INN

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



### More Senior One Liners

- Wi-fi went down for five minutes, so I had to talk to my family. They seem like nice people.
- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffers from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."
- I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me
- I really don't mind getting old, but my body is having a major fit.
- Camping: where you spend a small fortune to live like a homeless person.
- The world's best antidepressant has 4 legs, a wagging tail and comes with unconditional love.



# FOUNDATION MINUTE

## Welcome to Week 1 of Rotary International's Month of Transition

By now most Rotary clubs around the world are welcoming new cabinet members ready to take on the service of doing good around the planet. While new officers are assuming their duties, new projects are being undertaken by clubs and districts in different regions of the world.

For example, as part of efforts to reduce the spread of hepatitis disease in Nigeria, especially among residents in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Rotary International has funded an initiative to screen, test and treat people for free. During a three-day training on hepatitis eradication project for health workers recently, sponsored by Rotary International, in collaboration with Rotary Club Garki Neighbourhood and the Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria (IHVN), the District Governor Ayola Oyedokun, stated that hepatitis has killed more people than COVID-19. Without training, we will not be able to tackle this menace. The government relies on Rotary as well in polio eradication. We were part of the structure that eradicated it and can be replicated in other sectors."

In another development, six dialysis machines with dialysis chairs worth Rs 48 Lakhs (\$ 60,798 USD) were donated by Rotary Club of Chennai Galaxy, RI District 3232 (India) by its president Rotarian G Palani, along with host club Rotary Club of Chennai Hallmark whose charter president, Rotarian PHF S Rhama, was the coordinator for this Rotary Foundation Global Grant Project. This donation will benefit additional 75 patients a week. The entire dialysis procedure is done free of cost. Rotary District 3232 headed by Governor Rotarian Sridhar has added nearly 140 machines in one year to various hospitals of government, corporation, and trust hospitals.

Your generous support of the Rotary Foundation helps make all of this possible!

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured a bottle of fine wine, a 50/50 cash drawing, a pair of ROTARY Socks, and an Angela Campbell Fabric Bowl! Guest District Gov. David Bills had the first lucky ticket and took the wine. Sue Rector had the second winner and took the bowl. Governor Bills won again with the third ticket and took the cash and donated it back to our Club's Foundation account. Tammy Weikert had the final winner and will be sporting Rotary socks at a future meeting! Thanks to all who participated in today's raffle. Proceeds got to the International Foundation account.



## THANKS TO A GOOD FRIEND!



For as many years as Rock Island Rotary has held our meetings at the Quad City Botanical Center, we have been greeted and served by Michelle Collins our server from Bridges Catering. After 22 years on the job, Michelle gave notice that she was ending her employment at Bridges. Those of us that have worked closely with her will greatly miss her friendly smile and accommodating personality. Quite often she went above and beyond her duties as our luncheon hostess and server. If someone left something in the dining room or we forgot to put a Rotary item away, Michelle would carefully save it and have it for us the following week. When we needed a special chair for one of our members, Michelle made sure it was ready and in place for each of our meetings. On occasion she would assist us in setting up a display or offer to stay after lunch to help put things away. But most importantly she always served us professionally and took great care to make sure everything was just right. If we needed something and it was within her ability to provide it, we got it. Our room was always neatly prepared with tablecloths, beverages, and glasses in place and ready for our use. We will miss Michelle and wish her the very best in whatever the future may have in store for her! Thank you Michelle!



## WHO ARE WE? WHAT ARE WE?

**Rotary International is a humanitarian service organization which brings together business and professional leaders in order to provide community service, promote integrity, and advance goodwill, peace, and understanding in the world. It is a non-political and non-religious organization.**



## 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. 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	4:30pm – 7:30pm (3 hours)	7:30pm – 11pm (3½ hours)
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	4:30pm – 7:30pm (3 hours)	7:30pm – 11pm (3½ hours)
Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Noon – 3:30pm (3½ hours)	3:30pm – 7pm (3½ hours)
	7:00pm – 11pm (4 hours)	
Sept. 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Noon – 3:30pm (3½ hours)	3:30pm – 7pm (3½ hours)
	7:00pm – 11pm (4 hours)	
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>! Otherwise, we will be paying a fee or needing to rent it! Email Bob Swanson

- 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
- Rotarians to Staff our Tent

***These things we have already secured from Club Members:***

- 20’x20’ Tent
- Roaster Pans
- Chest freezer
- Lockable Trailer for storing supplies and overnight security
- Folding Tables (Still need more)
- Large Coolers (Still need more)

# ***THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND WANTS OUR OPINION ...***

## **News Release**

06/30/2022

### **Media Contact:**

Samantha Gange, City Clerk/ARPA Program Manager

[gange.samantha@rigov.org](mailto:gange.samantha@rigov.org)

1528 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

309.732.2009



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(Rock Island, IL) The City of Rock Island seeks community input on how to invest once in a lifetime American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This law provides funding to local governments to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery that supports long-term growth and opportunity. The City of Rock Island was awarded \$26.5 million in ARPA funds.

ARPA funding is restricted to specific criteria and the city is asking the public to identify their top 5 priorities from options that include: internet/broadband access; affordable housing; assistance to small businesses and nonprofits; community health and wellness including mental health resources; public safety and law enforcement technology; parks, recreation, and neighborhood improvements; workforce training and development; aid to impacted industries such as tourism; market rate housing; childcare, daycare, and early learning facilities; and infrastructure projects for water and sewer.

“There are many needs in our city and we want to hear from the community about their priorities,” said Mayor Mike Thoms. “It is important that we hear from as many people as possible to ensure that this once in lifetime opportunity has long lasting impacts on our community.”

The survey can be completed online by visiting the following link:

<https://forms.gle/CP54CEQ6oX6Kxdr9>

Additionally, paper surveys can be completed at the following locations:

- Martin Luther King Center 630 9th Street Rock Island Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- City Hall 1528 3rd Avenue Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Rock Island Public Library Downtown location Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. or Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The survey closes July 25, 2022.