



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

August 2, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 5  
MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## “Kinna’s House of Love”

Luekinna Hodges is President/CEO of Kinna’s House of Love. Working out of her home Kinna has organized a community coat closet on her front porch. She held a Juice and Paint Fundraiser at Centennial

Park in Davenport. The event focused on empowering children and providing a way for them to express themselves. There was live music and performances as well as free crafts and coloring. Kinna’s House of Love focuses on assisting homeless women and girls in the community, by providing needed resources. Kinna’s House of Love Inc. was founded in 2020 to help get women off the streets. Kinna tells that she left home at 12 years old and ended up homeless on the streets. She was a victim of sex trafficking, physical abuse, and drug addiction. She survived six rapes, the first when she was 12 years old and living at home. She said her mother was a drug addict and her only comment after Kinna’s rape was “you should have got paid for it.” In frustration, hurt, and confusion she left home. She went to find her father in Chicago. Finding him she said he was into drugs and introduced her to smoking crack at age 12. He molested her and she left and moved onto the streets. She survived through prostitution, became a drug addict, and was sex trafficked. She lived that life both in Chicago and after returning to Davenport. Into drugs and prostitution, she ended up with a criminal record and felt she knew no other way to live. She was married twice, both ending in domestic violence. Kinna attempted suicide more than once and felt there was no help for her. She eventually got into the Job Corps and through that was encouraged to go back to school. She attended classes at a local Jr. college earning several associate degrees. She then enrolled at Upper Iowa University and in 2017 earned her BA Degree in Psychology, earning numerous academic accolades along the way. She was fortunate to escape her former life saying learning to pray and forgive started the healing process. She said one can’t comprehend the feeling of wishing to be dead. A strong faith in God helped her survive. She planned to escape the area and the influences of her former life with a move to Omaha. However, a serious accident while on route landed her back in Davenport. She said God didn’t want her to go. She saw many of the girls she had worked with on the streets and felt she had to do something to help them get off the streets. Her help has included providing shelter for homeless women, cooking meals for the homeless and praying with them. She has sponsored back to school drives, hygiene drives for the less fortunate, and is providing classes in community skills, conflict resolution, and training to recognize sexual abuse and exploitation of children. She hopes to purchase a home and provide housing for the homeless saying single women without kids can’t get help. She created Kinna’s Korner, a facility for children designed to help children express themselves and teach what is appropriate adult behavior toward them. Keena’s Korner provides a safe environment for children with comprehensive video surveillance to ensure the security of the kids. Kenna says, “I don’t trust anybody!” Kinna has also arranged free therapy and social skills training for those she helps. Thank you Kinna for sharing an amazing story.

### August Calendar

- Aug 9 - Kelly Kreiter Penning  
“New Kingdom Trailriders”
- Aug 16 - Marcella O’Brien –  
Children’s Advocacy Center
- Aug 16 - Literacy Committee  
meets after Club meeting
- Aug 18 - CPR Gathering
- Aug 23 - Jared Johnson –  
WVIK Radio
- Aug 23 - Membership Committee  
meets after Club meeting
- Aug 30 - Sam McCollum, CEO  
of Steam on Wheels
- Aug 30 - Legacy Committee  
meets after Club meeting.
- Sept 6 - Dr. Reginald Lawrence  
State of the Schools
- Sep 13- Dan McNeil Spring  
Forward Learning Ctr.
- Sep 20 - Mason Boyer, Heart  
of Hope Ministries
- Sep 27 - Ty Grunder, US Bank
- Oct 4 - Club Assembly
- Oct 11 - Jennifer Hirsch -  
New Metrolink Fleet
- Oct 25 - Paul Plagenz, CEO  
Moline Foundation
- Nov 4-5 District Conference



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## Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President  
Eric Westphall, 1st Vice Pres.  
Sue Rector, 2nd Vice Pres.  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Justin Peterson, Past President

## Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director  
Amber Brummit, Director  
Rick DeVinney, Director  
David Hodge, Director  
Mariah Johnson, Director  
John Phillips, Director  
Monta Ponsetto, Director  
Kathy Trone, Director  
Bob Swanson, Sergeant at Arms

## Program Chairs

### 2022-23

July	- Tom Hammar
Aug-Sept	- Tyla Sherwin-Cole
Oct - Nov	- Open
Dec-Jan	- John Wetzel
Feb-Mar	- David Hodge
Apr-May	- Gary Rowe
Jun-Jul	- Tom Hammar

## Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we welcomed visiting Rotarian Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. Kevin Nolan, Ray Turkmani, and Kirk McKnight were guest of the Club's Community Grants Committee. Heather Hallmann from Kinna's House of Love was also a guest of the Club. We love to have visitors and guests and welcome all to Rock Island Rotary, the Number 1 Club!
- ❑ **2022 ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK** is 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.
- ❑ **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 and help hand out candy to kids or ride a bicycle along with our Club float and cars driving our officers and award winners.** Mark your calendar and sign up at the Sergeant's table.
- ❑ **LITERACY COMMITTEE MEETING** – Immediately after our regular luncheon meeting on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Members please arrange to stay after.
- ❑ **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** – Immediately after our regular luncheon meeting on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Members please arrange to stay after.
- ❑ **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



Tickets are \$25 which gets you a reserved box seat in the Pepsi Luge Section AND a \$20 gift card you can use for food, beverages, carnival rides, or team shop gear. Only 14 tickets left! Join the Fun!



## Try Your Hand at 5 Card Draw

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Sue Rector dealt the first cards for our 5 Card Draw game of chance at today's meeting.. ""Dealer" Sue brought a triple deck of cards. Rotarians were given the chance to purchase a card for \$1. Over the next six weeks players can purchase additional cards to accumulate their hand. At the end of that time the Rotarian holding the best poker hand can pick from a variety of prizes. All proceeds from the game will go toward the fines pool of funds. Get your hand started next week!

## FOUNDATION MINUTE

### Welcome to Week 1 of RI's Month of Membership & New Club Development.

This report is culled from The Gilbert Sun, the newsletter of the Rotary Clubs of Gilbert. It describes the efforts of The Rotary Club of Gilbert and The Rotary Club of Sun Lake, Rotary District 5495 Arizona, in providing water to the Navajo Nation through a Rotary

Foundation Global Grant in partnership with the Rotary Club of San Andreas Cholula, Mexico, District 4185.

A tanker truck arrives and fills the cistern with clean water through an above ground valve and the homeowner receives training to operate, maintain and repair the system, as well as a number to call should problems incur. All this unfolds over 24 hours. The Gilbert Rotarians learned that each installation costs \$4,500 and worked with Rotary International District 4185 in Mexico to co-sponsor a global grant to support the Navajo Water Project. With the assistance of Jim Bissonett, District 5495 Rotary Foundation Chair and RI R-Club Southwest, a global grant was initiated.

In May 2018, the Rotary Club of Gilbert and its international partner in Mexico, the Rotary Club of San Andres Cholula, launched the first phase of Navajo Water Project. Backed by a \$78,000 RI Global Grant, they provided home water systems for 18 families – the 64 individuals near Thoreau, New Mexico. Even before the pandemic, the average Navajo uses seven gallons of water per day compared to the 80 gallons used by the average American.

A year later, the Sun Lakes Rotary Club partnered with a sister club in Ontario, Canada, and completed the second phase. They provided home water systems to 33 families – that's more than 100 individuals – with the support of a \$144,000 Global Grant.

The final tally for the third global grant for the Navajo Nation totaled \$395,000; its international partner was the Rotary Club of Merida-Itzaes, Mexico, and its host club was the Rotary Club of Four Peaks in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

## FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

It was another good day for 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Sue Rector as our "fining" officer. She began by paying her own \$10 fine for an outstanding article about her work with the Center for Active Seniors, Inc. (CASI) in Davenport. She added a \$5 fine for plugging the upcoming CASI Golf Outing at Glynn's Creek on September 9<sup>th</sup>. She then asked all who ran, walked, or otherwise participated in the Bix 7 to pay a \$1 fine. Holly Sparkman, John Phillips, and Sarah Gorham paid as did Frank Lambert who wife ran the race for the 43<sup>rd</sup> time! Monta Ponsetto had a Happy Dollar in honor of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation presenting over \$156,000 this morning to teachers and schools in District 41. It was a record amount give to a record number of recipients. Ruth Lee had a Happy Dollar for grandson Owen and his mom and dad, Elizabeth and Michael who will be visiting from California this weekend. Cindi Gramenz had a Happy Dollar for grants recently received from the Day Foundation and the Rock Island Community Foundation. That started a flood of Happy Dollars. Monta gave another dollar noting that the Education Foundation also received grants from the Day and Rock Island Community Foundations. Kathy Lelonek added a Happy Dollar saying that she helps with the Resource Room at Rock Island High School, and they too received a Day Foundation grant. Dan McNeil followed noting that Spring Forward Learning Center also had grants from the Day and R. I. Community Foundations. Next up was Rebecca Arnold with a Happy Dollar noting that the King Center received grants from both Foundations. Kai Swanson added a dollar for Augustana College another recipient of the grants. Tyla Sherwin-Cole added her own Happy Dollar as the Executive Director of the Day Foundation announcing that they had recently awarded over \$700,000 in grants. In recognition of his birthday coming up on August 12<sup>th</sup>, Bud Phillis donated \$1 per year of age. (He didn't reveal the total) Frank Lambert paid a five Happy Dollars for the Cardinals having a better July record than the Cubs. Dan McNeil added a \$1 in recognition of his son finishing all legs of the RAGBRAI route of 468 miles of "not necessarily flat" Iowa roads. How many knew that RAGBRAI is an acronym and registered trademark for the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa? Mark Zimmerman paid a Happy Dollar for his granddaughter's 2-year-old birthday and another dollar for his grandson heading to the Little League Regional Tournament after winning the Iowa State championship.



## FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's Foundation Raffle featured a bottle of fine wine from the Grape Life and a 50/50 cash drawing. Bud Phillis called on past president Justin Peterson to draw the tickets noting that he still has one good arm! The first lucky ticket drawn was held by John Olinger who opted for the wine. Drawing a second ticket, Justin read the number and our Past District Governor, Ruth Lee had the matching winning ticket. She took the cash and then donated it all back to the Rotary International Foundation. Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to our winners.



## TYLA AND TRACY TURN BLUE!



A tradition in our Club is for new members to receive Red name badges so the rest of us can easily recognize and welcome them to Rock Island Rotary. After completing an orientation and becoming active in the Club the new members earn their regular Blue name badge. Today was "graduation" day for Tyla Sherwin-Cole and Tracy Pugh. Both have been absolutely great new club members. Tracy volunteered to be a Sergeant at Arms aide and has faithfully worked before and after every meeting helping to set up and take down all our Club's meeting banners, materials, and electronics. He has frequently volunteered to help with



projects and committees and has been a strong supporter of our fundraisers. He even influenced his wife to become a member. Tyla volunteered for an entire month of greeter duties at our meetings and also volunteered to serve as our September and October programs chair, lining up and introducing programs each week. She too has been generous with her time and talents and has been an extremely active new member. Today president Cindi called them to the rostrum and present each with their regular Rotary Club Blue name badge. Congratulations, Tyla and Tracy, we are so pleased to have you as fellow Rock Island Rotarians!

## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY SUPPORT LITTLE LEAGUE

Today our Community Grants chairman, Frank Lambert had the pleasure of presenting a \$1,500.00 donation to Rock Island – Milan Little League. Representing the Little League at our meeting today were League President Kirk McKnight, Vice-President Kevin Nolan, and Treasurer Ray Turkmani. Mr. Nolan acted as spokesman for the group and said that unlike many area Little League organizations, the Rock Island – Milan Little League fields are not maintained by the city or the park district. The League does all its own field maintenance, repairs fencing and building, and purchases their own equipment. They also ensure that every kid that wants to play can do so, waiving fees and providing equipment if needed. They expressed their gratitude for Rotary's help in meeting all those costs.



L to R: President Cindi Gramenz Frank Lambert Kevin Nolan Ray Turkmani Kirk McKnight

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AUGUST ROTARIANS

Mark Poulos	August	3
Monta Ponsetto	August	4
Dan McNeil	August	9
Jennifer Hirsch	August	10
Marcy Bell	August	11
Mary Fislar	August	11
Reginald Lawrence	August	12
Bud Phillis	August	12
Tracy Pugh	August	17
Amber Brummit	August	17
Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh	August	18
John Daly	August	19
Duncan Cameron	August	19
Jim Nordquist	August	21
Carrie Crossen	August	25
Julie Gelaude	August	29
Bruce Peterson	August	30



**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 Auction, and Friends! A highlight of the evening is always our huge Silent Auction. Sue Rector is starting a stash of items to put together silent auction packages for Trivia night. The online platform that we use for our Trivia night online auction has made some great improvements. We are planning to again do an online auction for some packages prior to Trivia night. We were able to raise close to \$1000 from the online auction last year.**

**Let the closet diving begin -start looking for great, unusual, fun things that we could use in auction packages either online or in person. Does anyone Have any connections for donations of Fun experiences-they are always a hit! Tickets for games, concerts, programs, hotel rooms, timeshares, river cruises, nights out on the town. How about gift cards you were given and won't use!**

**Alcohol and wine are always a hit!!**

**Sue will bring baskets as we get to fall – She has lots of baskets if someone wants to do their own!**

## **Sign up to Help! – You'll Get to Wear a Rotary Apron!**

### **MILAN HARVEST FESTIVAL**

#### **September 1-5 Camden Park**

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

**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? Tacos In a Bag and Sweetcorn off the grill! Plus, soft drinks and water and perhaps dessert treats too!**

### **NEW MEMBER APPLICANT**

New Augustana College President, Dr. Andrea Talentino has applied for Club membership and will be replacing Steve Bahls as the Active Augustana College Corporate member. Dr. Talentino was named president of Augustana College on December 7, 2021, and officially began that position on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She and husband Tom Tarnow (an attorney who has accepted a position with Prairie State Legal Service) have two children, Lucien, and Julia. Both will be attending school in the Rock Island-Milan school system. Prior to moving to Rock Island to accept the Augustana presidency, Dr. Talentino served as provost of Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. She came to Nazareth from Norwich University in Vermont where she was dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Prior to that, she was an associate dean at Drew University in New Jersey. She also held a faculty position at Tulane University and did post-doctoral work at Princeton University. Dar, Talentino earned her bachelor's degree in political science at Yale University, then completed a master's and doctorate in political science from UCLA. While serving as dean at Norwich, she earned a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in organizational leadership. In an interview she was asked to tell something about herself that would surprise people. She said, "I was a teaching tennis pro at a club in Los Angeles for six years, and I gave Jennifer Lopez a tennis lesson. I will say she wasn't J. Lo yet. It was right before the movie 'Selena' came out, so it was before she became a big star. But it does give me a lot of cred with my son and the 14-year-old crowd." Her son, Lucian is 14 and daughter Julia is 10. Please direct any comments to President Cindi [cgramenz15@gmail.com](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com) or V.P. Eric [eric.westphall@midamerican.com](mailto:eric.westphall@midamerican.com).



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS SET!**

Wednesday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>** is the date for our 2022 Circa 21 Holiday Party for Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. Circa subscribers make your reservation through Rotary to join our party group. (You will only pay for gratuity.) Non-subscribers can use your Dining Book Circa 21 Coupon. All will receive our group rate. We will have a private pre-show party in the Circa 21 Salon with complimentary hors d'oeuvres. The cost for party, dinner, Bootlegger pre-show, and the main stage presentation of White Christmas is \$71.21 for 2 using the dining book coupon; \$53.93 per person with no coupon. Kiwanis will also be joining us.