



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

September 6, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 10

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



STATE OF THE SCHOOLS Dr. Reginald Lawrence

Today, Dr. Reginald Lawrence was our speaker. He was named Superintendent of the Rock Island – Milan School district in 2019. Now in his fourth year with Rock Island he was eager to provide the annual joint meeting State of the Schools

Report to Rock Island Rotarians and Kiwanis members. Dr. Lawrence earned his Doctorate of Education from the National Louis University in Milwaukee Wisconsin in 2016. He holds an Administrative Leadership Certificate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned a Master's of Science in Curriculum and Instruction and a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education with a Minor in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. Dr. Lawrence brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the school district and has served a total of 32 years in public education. Prior to joining RIMSD #41, Dr. Lawrence, served as Regional Superintendent with the Milwaukee (WI) Public Schools. He also served as a teacher, an assistant principal and principal in Milwaukee Public Schools. He also served as an instructor for the Professional Urban Teaching Linking Seminar at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is a former member of the Wisconsin Army National Guard serving more than 18 years with distinction and honor. We are very proud that he is also a member of Rock Island Rotary. He began his comments with a look back at the covid pandemic which closed schools nationwide for well over a year. He said last school year, 2021-22 brought great anticipation of a return to normal with kids back in the classroom with their teachers. He said it proved to be an extremely challenging year. Relearning old routines with everything from acceptable behavior, attending regularly, doing homework, and studying was not easy. The pandemic was equally hard on teachers who missed being with their students. Overall, he said it was a year of great adjustment. Quoting a phrase from Ringling Brothers Circus, Dr. Lawrence said, tough or not, "The Show Must Go On"! And so it did. He noted that the district is in year 3 of the strategic plan drafted during his first year with the District but essentially missed a year and a half of the time. However, what could be implemented in the absence of kids in the buildings was done. That plan called for general improvement of all areas of the District. He noted that teacher retention has risen to 91% last year. The CNA Nurse program has broadened with the addition of an Intern program that allows students to have hands on experiences and earn pay at the same time. The district is working to expand the Educational Internship Program to include Rocky's outstanding welding program. He hopes to further expand training in the trades to include barbering and cosmetology. In the area of capital improvements, Dr. Lawrence highlighted the completion of the Washington Jr. High addition, providing a new cafeteria, offices, and secured entry for those students and staff. Construction of a new Central Administration Center is also underway and he was quick to point out that the building is actually a long planned central kitchen for preparation of meals for the district schools, and a good sized supply warehouse. Then the idea was added to move the District Administrative offices out of their 110 year old current structure and into the new building. With that move the name "Administrative Center" became associated with the building. He stressed that it is much more than that and will directly be serving the students on a daily basis. He then spoke of the renovation and addition being added to Rock Island High School, which includes a new secured entry, principal's and athletic offices relocated at the entrance for public convenience and security, an expanded and renovated cafeteria, a new student commons area and more. For a virtual guided tour of Rocky's new addition, control/click <https://youtu.be/87uQ-bftqls>.

Sept. – Oct. Calendar

- Sep 13 - Dan McNeil Spring Forward Learning Ctr.
- Sep 20 - Mason Boyer Heart of Hope Ministries
- Sep 20 - Membership Committee meets at 1:05pm at Botanical Center
- Sep 27 - Ty Grunder, US Bank
- Oct 4 - Club Assembly
- Oct 18 - Jennifer Hirsch, New Metrolink Fleet
- Oct 25 - Paul Plagenz, CEO Moline Foundation
- Nov 4-5 District Conference At NIU - DeKalb



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

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

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

Club Notes & Announcements!

- WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we welcomed three visiting Rotarians, Duncan Cameron from Naples, FL: Amber Wood from Monmouth, IL, and Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport, IA Club. Mike Matherly and Dave Rockwell, members of the Rock Island School Board, were guests of Bob Swanson. Todd Thompson Rock Island City Manager was a guest of Mike Thoms. Jen Barton Chief Financial Officer of the Rock Island-Milan School District was a guest of Dr. Lawrence. We love to have visitors and guests at “the Number 1 Club”!
- HARVEST FESTIVAL** – Fellow members of Rock Island Rotary sold walking tacos and grilled sweetcorn at the Milan Harvest Festival September 1st – 5th. The crowds were much smaller than projects and bad weather wiped out what was expected to be the biggest day of sales. Bottom line, expected profits were much smaller than hoped. Expenses are being tallied and a final report will be coming in the near future. Photos coming next week!
- LABOR DAY PARADE** – Yesterday Rotary had a big presence in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade. Our officers and community award winners were proudly driven in convertibles flanked by fellow Rotarians joined by Interact members from Rock Island High School walking and handing out candy to spectators. All this was lead by a float displaying a huge Rotary blowup logo and lists of our Clubs current projects and recent accomplishments. Thanks to all who participated! See photos in next week’s newsletter!
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** – Immediately after our regular meeting September 20th. Please mark your calendar. Chair Mary Fislar.
- PUMPKIN PALOOZA** – We will be taking Earl Hanson 1st & 2nd Grade students to The Corn Crib Pumpkin Patch just south of the Quad City Airport on Route 150 on October 21st. Rotarians are needed to help guide the children. Arrive at 9:45am. Sponsor also needed for the shirts given to the kids. \$100 to sponsor.
- FESTIVAL OF TREES** – Met today at 11am prior to our joint meeting with Kiwanis. Still time for anyone interested in helping design and/or decorate the our tree to get involved. Let Monta Ponsetto know you want ot help!
- NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Quad Cities Area Rotary Clubs are joining together again this year to present an outstanding World Polio Day (week) program. This year's program will take place on:



October 29, 2022
Rock Island Botanical Center

5:00 p.m. social hour, followed by dinner & program



Get this on your calendars now. You don't want to miss this event! More details will follow soon.

Dr. Lawrence – From Page 1

He proudly spoke of the music and arts achievements during the past year including the Drama Department's spring musical and the Art Department's mural project, In athletics our students continue to excel, and Dr. Lawrence noted that athletically Rock Island is rated the 24th best in Illinois out of the 412 high schools that have athletic programs. As an example, in his accompanied video presentation he cited Aoci Bernard for winning the title of Class 2A Illinois State Wrestling Champion. Along with Aoci, this year four Rocks qualified for the State Tournament! He pictured Emily Allison and Marieon Anderson winners of the James O'Melia Award for athletic excellence, sportsmanship, and leadership. He also included photos of eleven students selected as-All-State Musicians. He also was proud to say that the District ranks 33rd in the state out of 639 school districts for quality of teachers. He spoke glowingly about the teachers in District 41, saying they are dedicated and outstanding educators. He said the staff is "amazing" putting in hours beyond the school day and attending professional development courses. He instituted an "Educator of the Year" award honoring one teacher from each building annually. He said the reception to the award was tremendously popular with the awards being presented at a special event with colleagues, families and friends present. He noted that Rock Island High School is ranked number one in the state as the most diversified of all school districts. Currently with over 6,000 students, our district's students are 38% Caucasian, 32% African American, 14% Hispanic, 10% Multi-racial, and 6% Asian. More than 30 languages are spoken in the District, with over 700 children with English not their primary language. He also is proud of the effort being made to encourage and help students who want to become teachers and a program where those that sign a Letter of Intent to become a teacher and return to our District are guaranteed an interview for open positions for which they qualify. He said there are currently 50 students in the teacher preparation program. Dr. Lawrence also said the District is using ARP (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to provide summer enrichment classes to help lagging students catch up. As the new school year started the Superintendent said he moved the open day teacher institute to Augustana College so all teachers from the district could come together to get necessary information and celebrate the start of the 2022-23 school year. One in which he was we will "Help Write the New Norm" in Rock Island-Milan education. In closing he showed photos of another tradition he started for the first day of school. He visits one of our buildings along with other administrative leaders and welcomes students and parents on a "red carpet." The kids love it! Thank you Dr. Lawrence for your informative presentation and all you do for our children! Keep up the great work.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured a bottle of fine wine from the Grape Life and a 50/50 Cash drawing. The first lucky ticket belonged to Tracy Pugh who opted to take the wine. The second ticket pulled was held by Marcy Bell. March took the cash and donated it back to the Foundation for the Polio Plus fund. Thank you to all who participated in today's drawing. The Club portion of the proceeds will go to our Rotary International Foundation account.



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 1 of RI's Month of Basic Education & Literacy.

This month's theme couldn't have been better manifested than the story of Madison Jacks and her search for higher education. Madison Jacks is a recent graduate of Political Science from Arizona State University with a zest for studying abroad. After researching numerous potential scholarship opportunities, she zeroed in on TRF and its Global Grant Scholarship. With the help of Rotary Club Northlake Mandeville, District 6840 Louisiana, USA, no stone was left unturned. In a report by Grace Butzman, a contributing writer with Nola.com, Northlake Mandeville Rotary quickly adopted Jacks and became her local sponsoring club for her application. Together, they continued the lengthy process.

Next, they needed to get sponsoring clubs on the international level. Jacks was able to do that with the help of Greg Lier, also with District 6840. Lier vouched for Jacks at the annual Rotary 2022 International Convention in Houston. When Lier spoke about Jacks to the international contact, the district contact was fully on board. Jacks then received supporting clubs in France, London, and India.

After much lengthy paperwork was complete, Jacks was approved for the Global Grant Scholarship just under \$90,000. Madison Jacks will begin her dual masters' program, first in International Governance in Diplomacy at the Sciences Po in France. The other master's program will be in Development Management at the London School of Economics

BIRTHDAY BOOKS FOR 2022-23 FAST APPROACHING

Please mark your calendar and come help! Chair Molly Shattuck reports that our **first Earl Hanson Elementary "Birthday Books" for 2022-23 is set for Sept 22 at 2:15 pm.** We will be giving books and cookies to all students who celebrate their birthday in July, August, and September. We expect a lot of kids and will need plenty of Rotarian help to assist in book selection and writing a short Happy Birthday message in each book.

REGISTER FOR ROTARY DISTRICT CONFERENCE ONLINE

District Conference online registration is open! **CLICK ON THIS** link to the registration site - <https://bit.ly/3Q9KGxH>. Early bird registration: \$90 until October 20, 2022. Standard registration: \$110 from October 21 – 28, 2022. No registrations on site.

The registration fee includes the District's annual Foundation Dinner on Friday evening, plus lunch, dinner, and snacks on Saturday. A cash bar will be available both evenings. Free parking will be available at the conference venue.

On Friday, November 4 check-in will open at 4:30pm with a cash bar from 5:00-7:00. The program will begin at 6:00pm.

On Saturday, November 5, check-in will open at 8:30am and the program will begin at 9:00am.

Hotel – Hampton Inn, 663 S. Annie Glidden Rd, DeKalb, IL 60115, (815) 748-4323, 1.3 miles and 4 minutes from the conference venue, \$109 for double or king room (before taxes), free parking at hotel, rooms available until October 30. Please mention the Rotary District Conference when you make your reservation.

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Since we met jointly with Kiwanis today and had a special guest speaker there were no fines or happy/sad dollars today. Be prepared for next week! Sue will be looking to make up for lost revenue!

SAVE THE DATE – HELP FELLOW ROTARIANS

The **Illinois Quad Cities Rotary Club** has been extremely helpful and supportive of our Club. They annually purchase a number of our Wine Raffle tickets and have partnered with us recently taking over the maintenance and servicing of several of our Little Libraries. Now they are asking for our help and support. On **October 6th** they are hosting a Wine Tasting event with all proceeds going to the **Rock Island County Children's Advocacy Center**. The event will be held at the newly opened **Old Oaks Winery** on Route 67 just south of Milan. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a 4-wine sample tasting, one bar ticket good for one drink, heavy hors d'oeuvres, music, and fellowship. Mark your calendar for this fun and very worthwhile event. Control/click on this link to get tickets: <https://e.givesmart.com/events/sdY/>.



Next CPR – September 15th

Mark your calendar! Our next CPR (Constantly Promoting Rotary) gathering will be on Thursday, September 15th at 5:30pm. Location to be determined. Anticipated topic of discussion is the Club Health Assessment recently taken via a members' survey.

CPR gatherings are completely informal, social events. Spouses or companions are welcomed to join us for some snacks, adult beverages, and just fun fellowship. We talk about our club and how we can constantly improve! No idea is a bad idea and the more we have the better chance we have to land on a fantastic idea!

We particularly encourage our newer members and our younger members to come. Fresh ideas and thoughts are always welcome! Watch for announcement of the location. See you on the 15th!

ROCKY INTERACT CLUB FUNDRAISER

Our rejuvenated Interact Club at Rock Island High School is off to a great start. A number of Interact members helped in our Milan Harvest Festival food tent and those of us that got to meet them were very impressed! They also came out in big numbers to walk with us in the Labor Day Parade handing out candy to the children. At their first meeting they identified their first international project. They want to raise money to purchase a water filter for our Kenya water project. How will they raise the money. Club sponsor and our fellow Rotarian, Lonnie Behnke is talented around the kitchen and is offering his homemade salsa and homemade pickles for \$5 per jar. Your choice of Mild Salsa - Hot Salsa - Blended Salsa - Black Bean/Corn salsa – Bread & Butter pickles-Reg Dill-Polish Dill-Hot Garlic-or Pesto. If you want to try them, place your order at the Sergeant's table. Pay upon delivery.



Lonnie
Behnke's
Homemade
Salsa
Pickle Spears
Sliced Bread &
Butter Pickles



SAVE THE DATE ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS SET!

Wednesday, **December 7th** 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; \$54.75 per person with no coupon. Kiwanis will also be joining us.

A Quick Note of Appreciation and Thanks –

The following members devoted time working at our Milan Festival Food Tent: Amber Brummit, Sarah Gorham, Kathy Ruggeberg, John Olinger, Anne McGlynn, Tracy Pugh, Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh, Kim Calhoun, Gary Rowe, Marcy Bell, Mary Fislar, Tom Hammar, Mariah Johnson, Rick Emery, Molly Shattuck, Avalon Thomas-Roebal, Carrie Crossen, Cindi Gramenz, Rick Devinney, Jim Moran, Sue Rector, Holly Sparkman, Steve Morenz, Ruth Lee, Bill Stengel, Trista Foster, Jim Nordquist, Eric Westphall, and Bob Swanson. NON-Rotarians: Dick Fislar, Sue Hammar, Kaylee Johnson, Jennie Newberry, Nancy Devinney, Rick Rector, Fred McGlynn, Frank Roe, Rose Rowe, Gary Vogelgesang, Joan Vogelgesang, John McEvoy, Bill DeVrieze, and Debbi Swanson.



Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night Fundraiser is coming!
Friday, November 11, 2022

Online Silent Auction will start Monday, November 7,
and end at Trivia Night on November 11.
Plus – a few items will only be available by silent auction
at Trivia night!

Sue Rector and Kathy Trone are collecting auction
packages, donated services, gift cards, recycled treasures,
anything, and everything that you believe we could use
to put together a great package! Bring items to a Rotary
meeting or Sue can come and pick things up from your
home or business.

Sue has baskets for your use and will bring some to
distribute at an upcoming meeting.

All proceeds are used to fund our Rotary community
support for area not-for-profits and youth activities.