Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review October 4, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 14

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



CLUB ASSEMBLY 1ST FOR 2022-23 President Cindi Gramenz

IMAGINE

ROTARY

Periodically Rotary Clubs are urged to conduct "Club Assemblies", a time when Rotarians devote time for discussion of exclusively centered on the Club's activities, operations, and procedures. It is a time for both evaluating and innovating. Members receive updates on committee activities past and future projects, and are encouraged to give input on improving any and all aspects of the Club. Thinking "outside the box" is encouraged. Today was the first Assembly conducted under the leadership of president Cindi Gramenz. Members were greeted with a wall full of banners displaying many of the accomplishments and projects of Rock Island Rotary. Banners were courtesy of John Oliger and Modern Woodman. The meeting consisted of reports from numerous Club committees and some open "give and take" comments from



Oct. – Nov. Calendar			
Oct 11 -	Gaye Burnett,		
	Azubuike Council for		
	the Arts		
Oct 18 -	Jennifer Hirsch,		
	New Metrolink Fleet		
Oct 25 -	Paul Plagenz, CEO		
	Moline Foundation		
Oct 29 -	World Polio Day		
	Banquet		
Nov1 -	Pastor Peter Petit,		
	St. Paul Lutheran		
	Church in Davenport		
Nov 4-5	District Conference		
	At NIU – DeKalb		
Nov 8 -	Heidi Huiskamp		
	Collins –		
	"Philanthropy"		
Nov 15 -	Tracy Singleton,		
	Lincoln Resource		
	Center		
	Center		

members. The goal was to make all aware of Club activities and to solicit suggestions for making the Number 1 Club even better! Committee Chairpersons took turns at the rostrum bringing Club members up to date on activities and projects. Here is a synopisis of what was reported:

MEMBERSHIP – Chair Mary Fislar reported the committee is updating our new member and mentor packets. They are also making calls to those members who have not attended recently to check on wellness and encourage retention of members. They are also reaching out to past guest speakers to urge them to consider Rotary membership. Mary has also volunteered to serve on the District 6420 Membership Committee and will bring back ideas from District that might be useful to our Club.

PUBLIC RELATIONS -Kimberly Calhoun reported that the Public Relations Committee met

recently and has initiated a weekly photo contest. Rotarians are urged to take a photo of anything they desire, but the photo must be taken <u>during a regular club meeting</u>. The photo can be funny, serious, or whimsical. Email your photo to <u>rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com</u>. A photo of the week will be chosen with prizes awarded at a future meeting. It is urged that you tell the subject of your photo that you have taken and plan to submit the photo so there won't be shock and perhaps ill will created if it is chosen and published! The committee also discussed the possiblity of hosting a monthly social event for Club members and guests. *Continued-ASSEMBLY page 3-*



P.O. Box 4514 Rock Island, IL 61204 <u>www.rirotary.com</u>

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

,			
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 two new Jr. Rotarian students from Alleman High School. Annie Rouse and Katie Rector were introduced by Lindsey Honert, Alleman's Marketing Coordinator. Also, a guest for the final time was Kenda Burrows, Senior Reporter for Quad Cities Regional Business Journal. Kenda has applied for membership in the club sponsored by Sue Rector. We look forward to welcoming her into our membership at an upcoming meeting.
- **PUMPKIN PALOOZA** <u>DATE CHANGE</u>– 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 Friday, Oct. 28th. The date was changed from the 21st because of the unavailability of buses on the 21st. Rotarians are needed to help guide the children. Arrive at 9:45am. Sponsors are needed for the shirts given to the kids. This sponsorship is not part of the new "bundled sponsorship" plan because it is not a fundraiser. See Sue Rctor to be a sponsor. The fee is \$100.
- **FESTIVAL OF TREES MEETING**.- October 4th. Sue will have the DIY ornaments ready to make that day. Bring your creative skills! Immediately after our regular meeting we will have a work session to finish the ornaments.
- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING** The Fundraising Committee will meet immediately after next week's Rotary meeting. Committee members Mark Mayeski, Justin Peterson, Sue Rector, Eric Westphall, Rick Devinney, Jeff Rose, and Pete Wessels please arrange to stay after the meeting. Chair is Kathy Trone.
- ROTARY CPR MEETING CPR Continuously Promoting Rotary. Our next social CPR meeting will be Thursday, October 20th. At 5:30pm. Location is yet to be determined. Watch for information, but mark the date on your calendar. All members are welcome for an informal social gathering of Rotarians and their guests. Spouses are welcome. It's a chance to kick back, have a beverage or two, enjoy some snacks and chat about our Club and how to make "Number 1" even better. If you have not attended a CPR, make this one your first!
- NEWSLETTER Send items for our newsletter to <u>bobdebswanson@att.net</u>. Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings

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.

Assembly – Continued from page 1

CLUB FOUNDATION GRANT – Chair Justin Peterson reported that our Club Foundation did not make a grant for 2021-22 and opted to hold the funds to be combined with the 2022-23 grant to make a bigger impact on our community. The combined funds will give Rotary over \$22,000 in available cash for this year's grant. The Committee will be soliciting ideas for an appropriate use of the funds and will be formalizing the process of making application for the grant.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLASS - Monta Ponsetto reported that the Entrepreneurship program at Rock Island High School has rebounded from the pandemic and again has two classes of participants. Rotarian volunteers are needed as coaches and mentors for the students. There will be a "final pitch" again in the High School Auditorium in May and Rotarians may also offer to serve as judges. Monta noted that since Rock Island Rotary put up the initial \$10,000 investment to get the program started, more than 60 innovative products and/or services have been developed by the Incubator students. Coaching and mentoring may take as little or as much time one wishes to devote. Please contact Monta if you are interested in helping.

FUNDRAISING – Chair Cathy Trone reported on a very busy fundraising committee. She gave a brief history of Trivia Night which she has chaired for the past 12 years. The first year the event raised \$1,600 which has increased steadily to an average in recent years over \$7,000! The committee is currently accepting signups for this year's Trivia Night which will be held on Friday, November 11th. The committee also has plans for a 2nd annual Rock & Roll Bingo fundraiser in the spring. After much discussion at the Board level regarding the Wine Raffle, it was decided to put it to the members for a vote on whether to continue holding our Wine Raffle. There has been discussion about discontinuing the raffle, raffling something other than wine, or continuing as in the past. Rotarians were asked to vote during today's meeting. IF YOU WERE NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING AND WANT TO REGISTER YOUR OPINION, EMAIL PRESIDENT CINDI AT cgramenz15@gmail.com. The Club gave Kathy a nice round of applause for serving as Fundraising chair for the past 15 years!

NOMINATIONS -Chair Gary Rowe reminded us that nominations is the way we keep our club going and then pointed out that 1st Vice-President Eric Westphall will ascend to the presidency next year taking office in July of 2023. 2nd Vice President Sue Rector will move into the 1st V.P. position. A candidate for 2nd Vice President will be saught with that person starting through the chairs and serving as Club president for 2025-26. The nomination committee will also be seeking four club members for 2-year terms on the Board of Directors. Gary also noted that our treasurer, Carrie Crossen is stepping down at the end of this year and the committee will be seeking a candidate for Treasurer. If anyone has interest in these positions, please let Gary know as soon as possible. Gary also noted that the District is seeking candidates for Assistant District Governor, a position Gary has held for the past three years, and for District Governor a four year commitment to work through the District chairs. See Gary if you have interest.

YOUTH EXCHANGE – Chair Jeff Dismer reported that Rotary International has authorized a restart of the Rotary Exchange program for the 2023-24 school year. The committee will be soloiciting and interviewing local high school candidates to be outgoing students sponsored by our Club for a year of study abroad and will also apply to host an incoming student from a foreight country to be our exchange son/daughter for the 2023-24 school year.

INTERACT – Lonnie Behnke our Rock Island High Schoool Interact Club sponsor reported that at the first meeting of the Club this year 12 students attended and joined. Club shirts provided by our Club have been distributed to the Club members. For a brand new starting up group the Club has been very active. They voted to do an International, a Local, and a School project this year. For their International project they decided to purchase a water filter and become a partner in our Kenya Water project. They have already raised money through the sale of salsa and pickles, and by working concessions at the Rocky Homecoming football game to purchase their first filter. For their school project the Interact Club volunteered to take over the school garden. It is a plot of ground on the north side of the high school. They have been busy weeding and winterizing the garden and will be planting and raising produce in the spring. For their Local community project the Interact students voted to provide assistance to our Rotary club when ever needed and possible. They have already helped work our Milan Harverst Festival Food tent and joined us in the Labor Day Parade handing out candy to kids. We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with Interact!

LITERACY - Chair Sue Rector reported on one of our most active committees. With the leadership of Molly Shattudk we have continued our Birthday Books program with Earl Hanson Elementary School. Sue has also met with the new PTO officers at Earl Hanson and is working to get us more "hands on" involved with the kids. To that end we have been invited to participate in ther Hanson "TRUNK OR TREAT" event on October 26th. The idea is to fill you trunk with treats for the kids and be at the Earl Hanson parking lot from 5 to 7pm You may decorate your car/trunk if you wish, and may come in costume if you wish. The idea is to provide a safe trick or treat experience for the kids who will walk from car to car gathering treats.

Continued - ASSEMBLY from page 3

Keeping the literacy theme, Sue plans to hand out books as her treat. We also have 3 Little Libraries serving the community and have all of them covered with "overseeers" who report when repairs or additional books are needed. We appreciate a partnership with the Illinois Quad Cities Club who assists with this project. The committee also brought to our attention the need for funds to continue the Hanson after school program. Rotary provided funding along with the Education Foundation and the Day Foundation and the program was saved. We are continuing the Pumpkin Palooza program and this year will have a mobile Library at the pumpkin patch and hope to make books available to the more than 70 students who will participate. This year Rotary obtained funding assistance from the IH Credit Union who will cover the admission costs for the students. Rotary will be providing tee shirts to all participants and goodie bags. Our Club also added the Festival of Trees to our projects this year and decided on a "Literacy" theme for our tree. In the future the committee is exploring the possibiliity of helping to host a Winter Holiday Night project for Hanson kids, and also helping to organize and run a School Fun Night/Carnival for the kids.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION - Chair Sue Rector reported 10 new Paul Harris Fellows have been recognized since July 1st and several more are currently in the works for recognition in the next few weeks. She noted that the generosity of some of our members with many recognition points has allowed our club to continue the practice of matching each member's \$600 contributions with 400 in donated recognition points to earn Paul Harris Fellow recognition. She urged all members to continue support of the Foundation and to earn Paul Harris honors for loved ones.

DISTRICT GRANT – President Cindi Gramenz reported on our 2022-23 District Grant project which is to provide a large scale mural on the South side of the Youth Hope headquarters on 11th Street in Rock Island. Although there was much advance preparation, the project was physically almost completed in one day. Last Saturday Rotarians and Youth Hope students under the direction of a professional began and nearly completed the painting of the mural. Funding was provided half by our club and half from a grant from our Rotary District 6420. Cindi showed pictures of the work as it progressed from the first outline of the design to the almost completed vibrantly colored mural. See more details later in this newsletter.

Overall, this was one of the most informative and entertaining Club Assemblies in some time. Thank you president Cindi for organizing it and to all the dedicated Rotarians who reported and to those that serve on the many committees mentioned.

FEELING LUCKY?

TRY YOUR HAND AT ROTARY BINGO

The game just started today and there is still plenty of time to jump in. All money going in the fine pool.

- 1] You buy a Bingo card for \$1. You can buy multiple cards!
- 2] Throw in \$1 each week to play.
- 3] Two numbers will be pulled each week and we will continue until someone gets a bingo. If that happens in the first two-three weeks we will start a new game.
- 4] \$1 on the first day to get a card And \$1 first and subsequent weeks to play two numbers. You may purchase multiple cards
- 5] Five in a row Bingo may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.
- 6] Winner spins the wheel to see which prize you win!





FOUNDATION MINUTE

In response to Rotary International's focus on increasing its impact, and mobilizing networks in order to create lasting solutions, **TRF** created **Programs of Scale** to support Rotary member-led, evidence-based programs with demonstrated success.

Each year, **Programs of Scale will support a competitive grant process resulting in one award of \$2 million from TRF that is distributed over a three-to five-year period to a club -or district-sponsored program showing success and readiness to expand to help more people in more places**. TRF \$2,000,000 Programs of Scale Recipient for this year, is **The Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria**. Aimed at reducing the maternal and neonatal mortality rates in four Nigerian states by 25%, the grant is a collaboration of the following entities: **Rotary Districts 1860 (Germany); 9110, 9125, 9141 and 9142** (**Nigeria**); **the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health; Nigerian Federal and State Ministries of Health; Medical Associations and Community Leaders**.

The \$2 million grant will enable the program to provide education and training for quality care, knowledge of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies and full adoption of the national system for death surveillance and response. In addition, the grant will expand health education for families as well as access to quality clinical care for pregnant women, mothers, and babies.

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

VP Sue Rector had another successful day levying fines and collecting happy/sad dollars from club members. Bud Phillis was fined for a handsome photo of himself being honored by Friendship Manor for his as a veteran of military service on Veteran's Day. Sue Rector paid a fine for finally meeting Katie Rector in person. Sue has paid many fines for Katie's tennis accomplishments at Alleman each time they are reported in the newspaper. The two are not related, but under the "Austin Rule", if it's your name – you pay! Jeff Rose had a happy \$5 in celebration of he and his wife Jennifer winning the Crow Valley Couples Golf Tournament. Frank Lambert had a happy dollar for the Cardinals winning their Division in major league baseball. Kathy Tron had a sad dollar for her aunt and uncle who lost their home and all its contents to the recent Florida hurricane. John Oliger had a happy dollar for his daughter's college graduation in Washington State. John Phillips had a happy dollar celebrating his recent return from a family vacation to Ireland. We understand he did some singing and guitar playing while there! Gary Rowe had a happy dollar in celebration of the Illini football win over Wisconsin and a sad dollar for the Wisconsin head coach who was fired after the game. Sue Rector had a sad dollar for the Iowa Hawkeyes football team who were blasted by Michigan last Saturday. Gary Rowe finished things off with a happy dollar celebrational



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured a bottle of fine wine from the Grape Life Wine Store in Davenport, and a 50/50 cash drawing. The first ticket pulled was held by Monta Ponsetto who took the cash and directed that it be donated to Rotary's Polio Plus campaign. The second ticket drawn was held by Sue Rector who took the wine and then donated it back to the Club for future raffle drawing.



We thank and appreciate all those who participated. Proceeds go to the Rotary Foundation.

PICK YOUR REPLY CAREFULLY

In the course of each week, we all get many emails. Often we are asked to reply. When you do reply note that you have TWO OPTIONS: **REPLY** and **REPLY TO ALL**. If you just need to reply to the person sending you the email please use **REPLY**. If you use **REPLY TO ALL** then <u>everyone who received the email also gets your reply</u> and not everyone needs to know that you want a jar of pickles, or a seat at Circa 21. Some members use their business email for Rotary, and you may cause them issues with their employer from receiving too many non-business emails. PLEASE BE COURTEOUS AND LIMIT USE OF **REPLY TO ALL** TO WHEN IT IS REALLY REQUIRED. Thanks!

Our District conference is right around the corner and online registration is open! C;LICK ON THIS link to the registration site - <u>https://bit.ly/3Q9KGxH</u>. 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. Start the weekend off right and register for the November district conference... Scan QR Code below and register today! WANT TO GO? ROCK ISLAND ROTARY WILL REIMBURSE YOUR REGISTRATION IN FULL. JUST SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION RECEIPT FOR REIMBURSEMENT! LET'S HAVE A BIG ROCK ISLAND ROTARY REPRESENTATION! DEKALB IS A GREAT UNIVERSITY TOWN!

2022-2023

Register Now!

MAGINE

SCAN ME

ROTARY

Don't do scanning and prefer to register online, control/click on this link, and follow the instructions <u>https://www.crsadmin.com/EventPortal/Registrations/PublicFill/Even</u> <u>tPublicFill.aspx?evtid=dca660f6-17ea-4189-9ae1-c46f4061fc53</u>

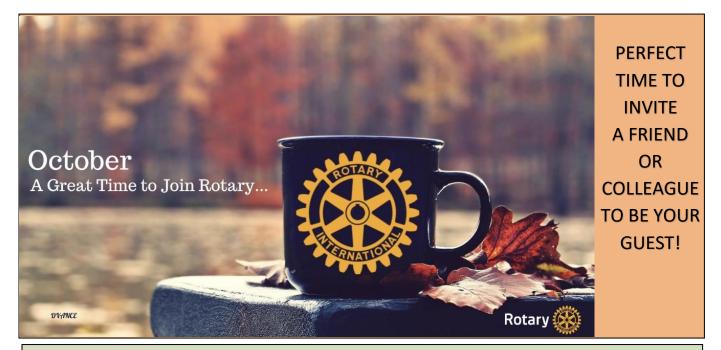
District 6420 Conference

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY'S DISTRICT PROJECT WELL UNDER WAY!

Our club's District project for 2022 is the painting of a mural on the 11th Street headquarter of Youth Hope. The project is funded half by our club and half by a grant from Rotary District 6420. Our Club applied for the grant several months ago and received approval for the project. A professional mural artist was hired who presented preliminary sketches which were reviewed and ultimately approved. On Saturday, October 1st painting got underway. The building's exterior wall had previously been cleaned and prepared. The artist sketched his design and Rotarians along with students began the process of painting. It is essentially paint by numbers on a large scale. When completed the mural will be an artistic improvement to 11th street and the entrance to downtown Rock Island. The mural artist's is Johan Umann. He is Associate Minister/Director of Worship Arts, Muscatine. A native of Costa Rica, he lives in Muscatine with his wife and two children. Johan has done mural work in Muscatine and in Rock Island. He worked with Youth Hope participants on the design and theme of the mural, and he guided them in their work on Saturday. Fourteen Youth Hope kids worked on the project along with Rotarians Cindi Gramenz, Gary Rowe, Bruce Peterson, and Dave Hodge.



The project is nearly completed and a formal unveiling with a full press release we be scheduled in the next few weeks. When the details are announced it is hoped that many Club members will attend the unveiling and celebrate an extremely successful 2022-23 Rock Island Rotary District Grant project.



BELL RINGING JUST AROUND THE CORNER!



Mark Mayeski announced that Rock Island Rotary's day for ringing the Salvation Army Bells and staffing the kettles at the Rock Island HyVee is Saturday, December 10th. Shifts will be 1 hour and will begin at 9am and run to 3pm. We will be staffing both entry doors and want 2 people at each door. You can call or email Mark 309-788-0399, <u>mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com</u>, to sign up if you want to reserve a particular time. Or you can just sign up and Mark will schedule you for an open slot. It's always fun and is a great way to serve our community and only requires a one-hour commitment.

SAVE THE DATE - HELP FELLOW ROTARIANS -THIS THURSDAY!

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 <u>October 6th</u> 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/sdV/

SAVE THE DATE ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY PLANS SET!

Wednesday, **December 7**th 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.) We will have a private pre-show party in the Circa 21 Salon with complimentary hors d'oeuvres. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE QUAD CITY DINING TOUR BOOK WILL NOT BE PRINTED FOR 2022-23. Our cost for party, dinner, Bootlegger pre-show, and the main stage presentation of White Christmas will be the group rate of \$54.75 per person (under 18 \$36.50) tax & tip included. Grab your favorite sweetheart and make it a holiday date! Sign up with Bob 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.

ORGANIZE YOUR TEAM

Teams may consist of up to 10 players.

Registration fee is \$100 for a table.

Doors open at 5:45pm and Trivia starts at 6:30pm.

Bring your own snacks, beverages must be purchased on premises.

Email Kathy Trone to reserve your table and enter your team: <u>kathy@wesselspc.com</u>

DO YOU WANT TO CONTINUE OUR WINE RAFFLE THIS YEAR?

Our Board of directors decided to leave it to you, our members to decide if we want to do another wine raffle. In the past we have done a \$5 ticket (five for \$20) and last year we tried a \$20 ticket and limited the number of tickets sold. Either way we ended up with about a \$5,000 profit from the raffle. So now it is in your hands. Those present at today's meeting voted by written ballot. Those not present may vote by sending an email to Cindi Gramenz at cgramenz15@gmail.com. You need to vote this week if you want your opinion to count.

- PRO It raises around \$5,000 for support of Rotary Projects
- People are used to it and many are ready to purchase each year
- CON =- Most people do not enjoy selling tickets or asking friends and colleagues for money Not all members can afford to buy tickets and don't have contacts that will buy them