



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

November 29, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 22

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Harriet Thomas, Board Secretary Argrow's House



Nov. – Dec. Calendar

- Dec 4 - Rotary Reindeer Ramble 5K
- Dec 6 - Rock Island High Chamber Singers
- Dec 7 - Rotary Circa 21 Holiday Party
- Dec 10 - Rotary Rings the Bells for Salvation Army at Rock Island HyVee
- Jan 9 - State of the City, Mayor Mike Thoms Monday with Kiwanis

Harriet Thomas serves as Secretary of the Argrow's House Board of Directors. She worked for 30 years at Deere & Company serving as an executive administrative assistant, and as Coordinator of International Tours for Deere, working out of the company corporate headquarters in Moline. Argrow's House is a safe space where free services are offered daily for women healing from violence and abuse in the greater Quad Cities area. Argrow's House is also a successful social enterprise where women healing from violence and abuse create beautiful bath products that provide a living wage for themselves in a safe space that celebrates who they are. Dr. Kit serves as a minister at Grace City Church. Kit resides in Davenport, Iowa with her husband, Pastor Dwight L. Ford, and children; Imani and Justice. Argrow's House is named after Rev. Argrow Margaret Warren, grandmother of Argrow's House founder Dr. Kit Ford. Rev. Warren lived through a violent marriage, but embraced such courage and love, according to Dr. Ford who stated, "We wanted to empower women mind, body, spirit, as well as financially. So we started a bath and body business where women healing from abuse can create beautiful all natural bath and body products that provide a living wage for themselves in a safe space that celebrates who they are. For Women, Made by Women, Survivor Strong!" Products include soaps, bath balms, bath balm salts, shower balms, body lotion, body butter, essential oils, and hand sanitizer. Apparel and various products from around the world via #survivorstrongmarket and Nigerian #survivormade market, plus gift sets and gift cards are also part of Argrow's inventory. Argrow's house offers a support group to help survivors heal after abuse, and let them know that they are not alone on their healing journey. They also have a monthly Food Box Delivery/Pick-up for Women and Children in Need in partnership with the River Bend Food Bank with the goal of providing a food box to as many women in the community as possible. Healthy, nourishing food is distributed for pick up or delivery monthly! They host a weekly Family Fun Day on Saturdays at their 2313 44th Street location and welcome all women and children for fellowship, family and fun! Argrow's House also uses artistic methods to enhance mental health through painting, crafting, and other art therapy exercises. Taught by trained art therapist, Rachel Kratz! All women and children of all skill levels are welcome. Argrow's House has two facilities. The original Argrow's House in Davenport is now used strictly as a housing shelter for abused women. Women needing safe shelter can stay in the home up to six months. While there they must comply with strict rules and structure. Their other facility is located in Moline at 2313 - 44th Street. That facility is the manufacturing and sales site for Argrow's House products. Tours may be arranged to see how the products are made and regular store hours are offered for those wanting to shop the wide variety of products available. Argrow's House products are also available at many local gift shops, hospital gifts shops, and at the Iowa Machine Shed restaurant. Ms. Thomas stresses that the values of Argrow's House are peace and safety, inclusiveness, empowerment, and a strong sense of community. She said abused women often enter very shy and afraid to speak. After going through the Argrow's program they are able to return to fully productive lives with self-confidence and courage. She also stated that those interested in the Argrow's House products can shop online at www.argrowhouse.org. Donations may also be made via that website. We thank Ms. Thomas for an informative and heart-touching presentation and invite our member to shop Argrow's House for holiday gifts!



P.O. Box 4514
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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

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 Rock Island Rotary welcomed visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. Also, guests today were two Jr. Rotarians from Rock Island High School, Lucas Rettig and Julian Anderson. Rock Island Rotary is always pleased to welcome guests. Our Club is known as "The Number 1 Club", not just for being the first Rotary Club in the Illinois Quad Cities, but also for being the most welcoming, fun, and active club in the area. We hope you enjoyed our meeting and will visit us again in the future.
- ❑ **ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE IS THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th.** We are looking for runners, walkers, and workers! Contact Chair Kathy Lelonek or Holly Sparkman to sign up! The entry form to run or walk is in this newsletter on page 4. Fill it out and get entered today. If you prefer to help in registration and packet distribution, starting line, race course helpers, after race refreshment help, handing out awards, or clean up, email Kathy at kathylelonek@mchsi.com. Please spread the word. We need runners & walkers! Still time to sign up!
- ❑ **CIRCA 21 HOLIDAY PARTY** is December 7th. If you didn't get your tickets today, email Bob at bobdebswanson@att.net to arrange to get them. Our private Salon Party begins at 5pm, dinner is at 6pm followed by the the Bootlegger's pre-show and then the main Stage show, **WHITE CHRISTMAS**.
- ❑ **CLUB MEMBERS WILL BE RINGING** the Salvation Army Bells at HyVee on December 10th. If you didn't volunteer to help, be sure to stop by, say hello, and drop a donation into the kettle in support of our members who are giving their time as volunteer bell ringers! Time is 9am to 3pm.
- ❑ **FESTIVAL OF TREES** — Our first ever attempt to participate in the Festival of Trees has proven to be a great success. Our tree, "Imagine Through Literature" won Third Place and bids to purchase it are steadily climbing with proceeds going to support Quad City Arts. Special thanks to Sue Rector who "took the bull by the horns" and spearheaded the planning and decorating of the tree. Thanks also to Lonnie Behnke, Bob Swanson, Beth & Jason Kauzlarich who help decorate the tree and to Earl Hanson kids, Rocky Interact members, and our Club members who made the ornaments!
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** — Send to bobdebswanson@att.net

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Club of Peterborough announced Friday November 18, that the club's application for a Rotary Foundation of Canada Grant to fund vocational training to women in Badikhel, Nepal has received approval.

In a news report by Alex Schummer of The Examiner Reporter, the grant of \$67,874 USD will fund the training of 140 Nepalese women in skills that will enable them to work in their chosen professions or to run their own businesses. "Women in Nepal are less likely to be educated by their families for a lot of different reasons," said Marie Press, co-chair of the club's international committee. "So, we've decided to provide these women training that would give them really good skills such as plumber, electrician, teacher, seamstress."

Nepalese women often work a lot of menial and even dangerous jobs like construction, for little money, explained Press. These skills will allow them to earn a living income and support their families, she added. "It's hard to believe it, but the caste system still exists in Nepal," she said. "So, women have lower castes have a lot less opportunity."

Nepal has the sixth highest rate of child marriages in the world, explained Press. Rotarians hope this training will promote female empowerment and self-sustainability that will have a long-term effect in Nepal, she added. "Research has proven when women are the breadwinners, or earn a really good wage, they are more likely than men to put that money back into their family, especially educating their own children," she said. "And Rotary is really about sustainability and sustainable project, so we know that we're going to be impacting generations, not just these 140 women."

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



In observance of Giving Tuesday, we held a special raffle today. We brought out one of our last bottles of Nimble Vineyards Wine imported from California retailing at \$40 per bottle. We also continued the tradition of the 50/50 cash drawing. Tickets were \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Tracy Pugh, who took the wine. The second winner belonged to Bob Swanson who took the \$65 cash prize and donated it back to our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. Thanks to all who participated! The club portion of the 50/50 drawing goes to our Rotary International Foundation account and is used to assist members striving for Paul Harris Fellow status.



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Filling in for 2nd V.P. Sue Rector, 1st V.P. Eric Westphall started the fun asking for Happy/Sad Dollars. Kathy Trone spoke up and made a \$28 happy dollar donation in honor of her son's 28th birthday. Cindi Gramenz had a happy dollar saying that duties required her to work a partial shift on Thanksgiving Day at Christian Care. The happy dollar was in recognition of a group of students from Bettendorf who came and worked telling Cindi that they are in the process of trying to form an Interact Club at Bettendorf High School. Holly Sparkman pitched in two happy dollars in honor of the Rock Island Students who were recently honored as "All State Musicians", Among the nine Rock Island High School students selected were our two current Jr. Rotarians, Julian Anderson, and Lucas Rettig. In addition to the high school students, fourteen elementary students from Frances Willard School were also named "All State" members and earned spots on the 6th-Grade All-State Elementary Choir and the 4th/5th Grade All-State Elementary Choir. V.P. Eric then turned to fines and levied a \$1 fine for any Rotarians serving on the Rock Island-Milan School Board plus all those who are Rocky alumni, for a front-page story regarding the debate over renovating the High School swimming pool. Bob Swanson paid a \$5 fine for sending an email to all members urging their participation in the "Frigid Feet – Step into the Shoes of the Unsheltered" event coming up on December 17th. Holly Sparkman has invited any who do the walk to join her for a "Bridge Loop" run after the walk. President Gramenz offered a \$5 donation for each Rotarian that joins Holly and completes the loop run.

ROTARY ANGEL TREE

Molly Shattuck is once again chairing our Angel Tree Project. For 2022 teachers at Earl Hanson Elementary School have identified 32 children who are at risk of having few if any gifts this holiday season.

Rotarians are asked to select a child and provide presents to ensure they have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or whatever their holiday celebration might be called. You will be provided with the child's first name, grade in school, sizes, and a brief list of items they have requested from Santa Claus. Time is a bit short as Molly needs the gifts wrapped and returned to her in two weeks (December 13th). For those that want to help but can't shop, you can make a cash donation to Molly, and she and other Rotary "Elves" will do the shopping for you! Approximately \$40-50 is the recommended expense. Molly will provide full instructions on just what needs to be done. If you didn't take a name at today's meeting, please email Molly at molly@hammarcpa.com.



NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

Annually one of our most popular programs is the holiday performance of the Rock Island High School Chamber Singers. In addition to voting on our revised Bylaws and celebrating our December birthdays, we will have a full slate on the agenda, plus the talented singers. Please arrive a few minutes early if at all possible, so we can get the meeting started shortly after 12 noon. This Chamber Singers always help kick off the holiday season with an array of classic and contemporary holiday music often featuring multiple cultures, religions, and beliefs. It is one of the best programs for bringing a guest. Whether it your spouse, significant other, partner, work colleague or social friend, feel free to invite them to be your guest for lunch. We're confident they will enjoy the entertainment and will leave with a positive view of Rotary and Rotarians!





Sponsored by the Rock Island Rotary Club

This Sunday, December 4, 2022 @ 9:00am

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201

COURSE - Flat & Fast, scenic, accurate, wheeled distance.

SHIRTS - Size guaranteed to pre-registered runners and walkers

RUNNER'S AWARDS -- Overall male and female 3 awards per ages 0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+

WALKER'S AWARDS -- Overall male and female, 3 awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+ ALL THIS PLUS GREAT FOOD & DRINK!

REGISTER ONLINE! – www.GetMeRegistered.com/RotaryReindeerRamble

REGISTRATION FEES – Pre-registered \$25.00 After Nov 20, \$30.00 for all.

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:45AM to 8:45AM RACE DAY

If you have questions call Kathy Lelonek (309) 752-3014 or email kathylelonek@mchsi.com

-----CUT HERE-----

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (MAY BE DUPLICATED) PLEASE PRINT!!!

First name _____ Mid _____ Last Name _____

Age race day _____ Date of birth _____ Male _____ Female _____ Run _____ Walk _____

Phone _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Circle shirt size S M L XL XXL (ADD \$2.00 for XXL) No shirt option _____ deduct \$5.00 if you choose no shirt!

WAIVER (MUST BE SIGNED) In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do hereby release and discharge Rock Island Rotary, the City of Rock Island, any sponsors, supporters or volunteers, for all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner arising or growing out of my participation in the ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K Run or Walk. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Participant, or Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age.

Make checks payable to **RI Rotary** & mail entry and payment to: RI ROTARY, PO Box 4514, Rock Island, IL 61204.
No refunds! Race will be held regardless!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING SCHEDULE

ROCK ISLAND HYVEE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

<u>Time</u>	<u>West Door</u>	<u>East Door</u>
9-10am	Sue Rector Jim Moran	Gary Rowe Bud Phillis
10-11am	Mark Mayeski Kim Mayeski	Sarah Gorham John Phillips
11-12pm	Rick Devinney Rick Emery	Amber Wood Marcy Bell
12-1pm	Howard Beck Avalon Thomas-Roebal	Angela Campbell Dan Campbell
1-2pm	Tom Hammar Molly Shattuck	Cindi Gramenz Dan McNeil
2-3pm*	Kai Swanson Jenni Swanson	Kevin Koski Jim Nordquist



*Last shift-Please leave the bells, bucket, and apron. Salvation Army will pick up later.

Issues with Salvation Army- Christy Dalberg 816-682-1712

Issues with Rotary- Mark Mayeski 563-528-2359

JOHN PHILLIPS PROVIDES INFO ON OUR CLUB FOUNDATION

Club Foundation Development Chairman John Phillips took a few minutes to provide some valuable information regarding our Club Foundation. He noted that the foundation was created in 2008 as a result of a generous bequest of \$200,000 from the estate of Stan Harris. This Foundation is intended to support projects and programs that benefit the people of Rock Island. The Board's policy is to use only the net income and appreciated value of the fund to further the goals of Rock Island Rotary to help the Rock Island community. The Foundation board is comprised of Rock Island Rotarians. Since its creation the Club Foundation has steadily grown and using a 3% annual allotment from the earnings of the endowed funds has been responsible for major funding of the Entrepreneurship Program at Rock Island High School; Purchase of a Van for Spring Forward Learning Center; Providing lights for "Rotary Field" at the Rock Island Girls Softball Complex; Support for the New 30th Street Rock Island Branch Library, Funding to help build a public community shower facility at Christian Care; and numerous other projects. He noted that when members indicate a "donation to the Foundation" that is typically taken to mean the Rotary International Foundation. To donate to our Club Foundation, members need to specify "donation to the Club Foundation". John stated that so far this year 28 members have donated to the Club Foundation for a total of \$7,800+; 39 members donated to our Birdies for Charity campaign and those funds were dedicated to the Club Foundation. To date this year a total of \$14,752 has been received. The Club Foundation recognizes members for their support at various levels of giving: \$25,000 and up are "**Sponsors**" and include Tricia Barron, Stan Coin, and Don Peterson (deceased). \$5,000 and up are "**Patrons**" and include John Wetzell and Ruth Lee. \$500 and up are "**Friends**" and include Earnie Beane, Howard Beck, John Daly, Jeff Dismar, Marcia Green, Bill (deceased) & Marvel Green, Tom Hammar, Ardo Holmgrain, Doug Hultquist, Kevin Koski, Frank Lambert, Fred & Nancy Luckenbill, Mark Mayeski, Anne McGlynn, John Olinger, John Phillips, Bud Phillis, Sue Rector, Gary Rowe, Molly Shattuck, John Slover, Bob Swanson, Larry Tadlock (deceased) and Mark Zimmerman. A person donating \$50,000 and above will receive the "**Stan Harris Award**". Members are encouraged to become supporters of our Club Foundation.

GENEROUS QUAD CITY STORM TICKET DONATION

To help increase our support of International Giving Tuesday, 1st Vice President Eric Westphall generously donated four “any game” tickets, plus a parking pass for the current Quad City Storm hockey season. Bidding began slowly but became spirited when Sergeant at Arms Bob Swanson and Sergeant at Arms Aide Tracy Pugh squared off as the final two bidders. The two went back and forth in \$5 and \$10 increments. Ultimately Bob won out, but we’re not sure if it was because of his age and experience or Tracy’s youth and compassion for his elders! It was all in fun and the money raised was donated to Bob’s choice of charities, the Rotary International Foundation. Thanks to Eric for his generous donation and to our bidders who helped generate additional funds for our Foundation. We hope that every member digs a bit deeper to help the charities of their choice on this 2022 Giving Tuesday. Internationally over \$2 billion will be raised for non-profit charitable organizations today!



Donor, Eric Westphall

FESTIVAL OF TREES “WINNER”

2022 was our first time as a Tree Designer and Donor for the Quad City Arts Festival of Trees. Thanks to the efforts of Sue Rector and first-time ornament designers from the classrooms of Earl Hanson Elementary, the Rocky Interact Club, and several Rotary Club members, we had all the makings of a great tree. The tree was delivered to the River Center in Davenport by Beth and Jason Kauzlarich who stayed on to help get it mounted on the pedestal stand and decorated. Lonnie Behnke joined the crew and constructed the bookcase that was part of our entry titled “Imagine Through Literature”. Books donated by Sue and a number of other Rotarians filled the bookcase along with Grinch Items, videos, and a train and 9 feet of track. Kathy Trone and Bob Swanson helped Sue, Beth, and Jason load the trees with the ornaments. When finished the tree received the 3rd Place ribbon in the “Whimsical Tree” category. The proceeds from auctioning the tree goes to Quad City Arts, another community organization that Rock Island Rotary is pleased to support!

