



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 13, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 2
MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Dr. BRUCE PETERSON

The Natchez Trace Parkway

Dec. – Jan. Calendar	
Dec 20	- Ryan Wille – Quad City Botanical Center
Dec 27	- Club Assembly
Jan 3	- TBA
Jan 9	- MONDAY -State of the City, Mayor Mike Thoms
	Monday with Kiwanis
Jan 17	- Kai Swanson "A Trip Through the South"
Jan 24	- Laura Eberlin & Brent VanDamme, Deere & Company
Jan 31	- John Lohman - Quad City Regional Business Journal

Bruce Peterson joined Rock Island Rotary in 1982. After retiring from his doctor of dentistry practice Bruce moved to Port Byron, Illinois and transferred his Rotary membership to the River Cities club. He has maintained many ties and friendships in our club and is a frequent visitor to our meetings. Today Bruce returned to present a program based on his travels through the Southern United States on one of the nations most scenic national park drives and as part of his geneology search in tracking down his long lost family history. The Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile recreational road and scenic drive through three states. It roughly follows the "Old Natchez Trace" a historic travel corridor used by American Indians, "Kaintucks," European settlers, slave traders, soldiers, and future presidents. Today, people can enjoy not only a scenic drive but also hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping along the Parkway. Using a attractive video of photos taken during his journey, Dr. Peterson told of the battle of Vicksburg and subsequent battles leading to the total defeat of the Confederacy. He noted that along the Trace numerous mansions have been carefully preserved and/or restored and are open to the public for guided tours. He found the people extremely proud of their communities and the history they have been able to preserve. He also brought along a Union army issued musket with shot kit and ceramic bullets retrieved from his daughter's yard located near Nashville, Tennessee. His photos showed plantation mansions, farm buildings, and slave quarters that we common to the area in the mid-1800s. He also had photos of buildings that remain at Civil war battle sites which were riddled with bullet holes, showing the incredible intensity of the battle. At one site he noted 2,000 confederate soldiers were killed and buried on site. Presumably a similar number of union casualties also occurred in the battle. Among those killed was a distant cousin of Dr. Peterson who was pleased to have located and photographed the grave. The presentation was an interesting historical lesson and helped bring to life what most of us read about in our school texts but had no real connection or understanding of the violence and destruction that occurred. That contrasted with the beautiful park like setting of the current Natchez Trace highway on which no trucks or billboards are allowed presented an interesting contrast with the death and destruction that occurred along the Trace in the 1860s.





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

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 Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club.. Also, guests today were four Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School, Jack Mihm, Ouentin Fonseca, Brooke Cunningham, and Emma Sottos. Samuel McCullum was a guest of Tyla Sherwin-Cole. Charlotte Flickinger a prospective member was a guest of Cindi Gramenz. Jack Cullen also a prospective member was a guest of Cindi Gramenz. 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.
- ❑ **ROTARY ANGEL TREE GIFTS DUE TODAY** will be delivered to Earl Hanson Elementary for distribution to the children. We thank those members who took names from our Angel Tree. We are confident the 34 children served and their families will greatly appreciate your generosity. Thanks to Molly Shattuck for once again organizing our Angel Tree, doing much of the shopping, and delivering the packages for us.
- ❑ **CIRCA 21 HOLIDAY PARTY** December 7th was a great success. Fifty-three guests enjoyed a selection of veggies, cheeses, crackers, barbeque meat balls and crab ragoons at our private Salon Party. The presentation of Irving Berlings' "White Christmas" was outstanding! Kevin Koski's wife, Jane was the lucky winner of our Salon Party door prize. Thanks to Sue Rector for putting it together..
- ❑ **CLUB MEMBERS WERE OUTSTANDING BELL RINGERS** for the Salvation Army at HyVee on December 10th. Thanks to chair Mark Mayeski for organizing the project and a big thank you to all who gave their time Saturday to staff the kettles! Jim Nordquist and Kevin Koski claimed to have collected four kettles full of donations! "Is it the truth?" Maybe they count differently in Finland?
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to bobdebswanson@att.net
The Weekly Review is distributed each Tuesday afternoon. To ensure inclusion in the next issues it must be received by 10am Tuesday morning.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today our foundation raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing, a festive Holiday Basket, a bottle of fine wine, and Reindeer Ramble shirt. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Alleman Jr. Rotarian Brooke Cunningham., who took the cash. The second winner belonged to Jeff Dismer who took the wine. The third winner was Amber Brummit who took home a beautiful holiday basket. The final winner was Bud Phillis who took home the Ramble shirt.. Thanks to all who participated! The club portion of the 50/50 drawing goes to our Rotary International Foundation account.



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Sue Rector was in good form collecting fines and dollars from members. She first put in her own \$5 for missing her bell ringing assignment (she was ill). She then fined all members who did not participate in a least one of the past week's activities: Reindeer Ramble, Circa 21 party, Salvation Army bell ringing. Bud Phillis offered a SAD \$5 for the Cubs losing All Star catcher Wilson Contreras to the Cardinals. Frank Lambert followed with a \$1 happy dollar for the Cardinals getting Contreras! Amber Wood paid a fine to promote the SAL upcoming Coat, Glove, & Hat collection scheduled for this Saturday from 4 to 8pm at all Skip Along locations. Collected items will be donated to those in need. Jack Cullen offered \$5 to promote the downtown Christmas Train project showing the group a custom-made Rock Island ornament. Ornaments are hidden at 50 different downtown businesses. The public is invited to get a search card and win prizes if they can locate 10 of the ornaments. Finally, Molly Shattuck had a happy dollar for successfully completing our Angel Tree project for 34 needy children. Thanks to all who cheerfully paid!

ROTARIANS WORK THE SALVATION ARMY KETTLES!

Rock Island Rotarians rang the bells and staffed the kettles for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 10th. It was a moderately cold, drizzly day, but nothing dampened the spirits of our crew of volunteers! They greeted all with a smile and “Merry Christmas” and raised much needed funds for those less fortunate in our community. Here’s a look at your fellow members in action!



Kim & Mark Mayeski



Jim Moran, Bud Phillis, Gary Rowe



Molly Shattuck & daughter. Tom Hammar



Angela & Dan Campbell



Howard Beck & Avalon Thomas-Roebal



Kimberly Calhoun & Rick Devinney



Marcy Bell & Amber Wood



Sarah Gorham & John Phillips

We ran all the photos that were received. I know we missed some of our hearty volunteers and would be happy to include them in next week's newsletter if any more photos are received.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary International's Month of Disease Prevention & Treatment

The news this week is about a Rotary Foundation Global Grant aimed at improving sanitation in Ghana. This story was reported in an online source by Anita Serwaa Adzoga (myjoyonline.com). The Rotary Club of Kumasi is constructing 152 micro flush toilets and 29 boreholes (wells) for selected communities in three districts in the Ashanti Region.

The Kumasi Metropolis, Atwima Nwabiagya North and Tafo Municipality, are the communities to benefit from the project. The project, according to Nana Effah Mensah, the International Service chairman for the Rotary Club of Kumasi, is part of the Global Grants projects approved by The Rotary Foundation. He added that they are partnering with Rotary E-Club Premier 7040, in Montreal, Canada, to undertake the project estimated at \$160,000.

The Rotary Club of Kumasi, as a humanitarian institution, is committed to help improve sanitation and access to potable (drinkable) water which features prominently in the seven (7) areas of focus. According to Nana Effah Mensah, "the group will continue to help the less privileged in the society. That is why, we want to construct an additional 206 micro flush toilets and 30 boreholes by mid-April 2023 at Afram Plains and Bosomtwe district." Meanwhile, Dr Emmanuel Obeng, President of Rotary Club of Kumasi, said "the decision to construct a borehole for the Adventist SHS, Bantama stems from an appeal by some old students who were concerned about the difficulties the students face in accessing potable water."

The Rotary Club of Kumasi, in fulfilment of its vision to promote goodwill and prevent water borne diseases, has decided to construct toilets across the country.

The Rock Island Rotary Club provides clean water filtration units to children in Kenya.

ROTARY SUPPORTS STEAM ON WHEELS



Community Grants chairman, Frank Lambert presented a Rock Island Rotary Club Donation of \$2,000 to Samuel McCullum, Executive Director, and founder of Steam on Wheels. Mr. McCullum created STEAM on Wheels, a nonprofit that provides young learners with an exciting curriculum combining art with science, technology, engineering, and math. He said, "One of the reasons I'm so passionate about STEAM on Wheels is that I didn't have something like this growing up. I really want to encourage the next generation and let them know that it's okay to love science, engineering, and tech. It's okay to be a nerd!" The Rotary donation will be used to purchase materials and supplies to take the program to the Martin Luther King Center in Rock Island for two session each week for a thirty-two-week session. Students will be using 3-D printers and taking thousands of photograms that will be edited together into a complete video.

Paul Harris Fellows Honored



Foundation chair Sue Rector was pleased to recognize two of our members for advanced Paul Harris honors. Dr. Jim Nordquist received his Paul Harris +3 pin and named his deceased father-in-law, Veryl Olofson for the honor. Mr. Olofson passed just prior to his 95th birthday. Congratulations to Jim for honoring him as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Angela Campbell also was recognized for her multiple Paul Harris Fellow awards and in a unique gesture named her recently deceased family dog for the honor. It was quite obvious what an important family member the dog was and remembering him as a Paul Harris Fellow illustrates the love owners have for their beloved pets.



ROTARIANS CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT CIRCA 21

On Wednesday, December 7th Rock Island Rotarians gathered with friends and guests to celebrate the holiday season starting with a private party in the Circa 21 Salon. Trays of hors d'oeuvres provided delicious pre-dinner snacks along with beverages provided by the Circa 31 barkeep. President Cindi Gramenz welcomed all with brief comments prior to the group moving into the main theater for dinner. The food was excellent as was the pre-show entertainment provided by the Bootleggers. The main stage show "White Christmas" was flawlessly performed by the cast and crew! It was a fun and most enjoyable evening!

