



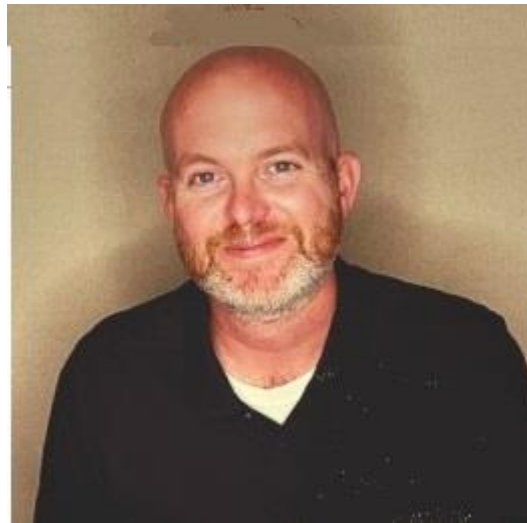
# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 20, 2022: Volume XXX, Issue 25

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## RYAN WILLE Quad City Botanical Center



### Dec. – Jan. Calendar

- Dec 27 - Willie Taylor Refined Touch Media
- Jan 3 - Common Chord - Wes Julian and Jesse Ricke
- 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

Ryan's love of the outdoors shaped his career path in landscaping, leading him to the Botanical Center, where he worked in both the marketing and education departments before becoming executive director. He is a native of Palatine, Illinois and studied English at Bradley University in Peoria. Prior to his current position, Mr. Willie served as Director Of Development for the Humane Society Of Scott County and from 2016-18 was Marketing Manager for the Quad City Botanical Center. He was excited to continue programs and experiences that make the gardens the asset they are today while developing new reasons to bring people and plants together in fun and meaningful ways. Mr. Wille gave a brief historical account of the Botanical Center noting that next year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center. He stated for 10 years prior to the building's creation a committee of dedicate citizens fundraised to bring the concept into reality culminating with the Atrium and indoor gardens opening in June of 1998. Since then the dining rooms, offices and storage areas have been added to the building. Outside the Children's Gardens were added in 2015, with the entry plaza funded with over a \$100,000 donation from Rock Island Rotary as our club's Centennial Project under the leadership of then president Anne McGlynn. With the children's gardens came the addition of the to scale Mississippi River and Headwaters display, all built to allow children and visitors in general to have hands-on, close up experiences with the gardens. From the headwaters to the Mississippi Delta in Louisiana, complete with alligator the river is displayed to scale with appropriate plantings along the way. More recently added were Camp Blue Bell and the Ability Garden designed with full ADA compliance to ensure disabled visitors can also have hands-on experiences at the Center. Ryan noted that the Botanical Center now attracts between 50—60,000 visitors annually. Between 10-12,000 local students are enrolled in formal programs offered by the Center. Over 7,100 patio palm trees were sent home with students this past year. Mr Wille then listed the many programs offered by the Botanical Center which include the Explorers Club, the Eco Kids Camp, the Eco Arts Camp, The Fall Home Plant Sale, the Terrarium Building Classes offered at three levels, and a new Mission to Mars Program that was highly successful in teaching kids the importance of plants in creating a sustainable living habitat. He also noted that the Winter Nights Winter Lights project is one of the largest fundraising events for the Center and attracts more than 15,000 visitors each year. He also let us in on future plans for the Center which include converting a bus into a mobile greenhouse which will allow them to greatly expand their impact at local schools and will also allow them to participate in activities such as the Farmer's Market, when plants can be sold out of the Mobile Greenhouse. There are also plans to expand the Childrens Garden in 2023 by adding a Story Book Garden, which will incorporate books with the gardens and make books available to children who visit. Another new and exciting project is "Plants of the World – People Behind the Plants" that will incorporate real life stories of immigrants from all parts of the world and the plants on exhibit from their home countries. Thank you Ryan for a informative and most interesting presentation!



P.O. Box 4514  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
[www.rirotary.com](http://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 welcomed two prospective members as guests of our club. Charlotte Flickinger Vice President of the Economic Growth Corporation is a prospective member and a guest of Cindi Gramenz. Dr. Annette Clevenger or Narratives Quad Cities also is a prospective member and a guest of Frank Lambert. 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** were delivered to Earl Hanson Elementary for distribution to the children last Thursday. Thanks to Molly Shattuck and Amber Brummit for transporting everything to the school!.
- ❑ **GREETERS NEEDED** for January and February. New members have told us that one of the reasons they were attracted to our Club was the friendly welcome they received when arriving for a meeting. If you haven’t taken a shift recently, please sign up at the Sergeant’s table.
- ❑ **REINDEER RAMBLE SHIRTS AVAILABLE** a good supply of long sleeved Reindeer Ramble Tee Shirts in a variety of sizes are still available for purchase. They feature the attractive Rotary Reindeer Ramble logo designed by our own Kimberly Calhoun. See President Cindi to get yours. S,M,L at \$10, XL & XXL are \$12. It’s a great shirt and good way to promote Rotary and our dedicated sponsors!
- ❑ **END OF THE YEAR GIVING** – If you are looking to make a charitable donation before the end of the year, Rotary offers several opportunities. Gifts to our Rock Island Club Foundation and the Rotary International Foundation are both 501C3 charitable organizations and eligible as deductible contributions on your 2022 federal income tax returns. They also qualify as non-taxible donations if you must make an IRA Required Annual Distribution before the end of the year..
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto: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.

## BEST WISHES FROM ROTARY FOR A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON

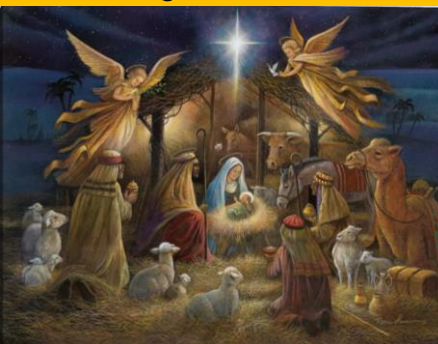
Happy Hanukkah

Merry Christmas

Joyous Kwanzaa



December 18 – 26



December 25



December 26 – January 1

## ROTARY SUPPORTS EARL HANSON PTO

Rock Island Rotary donated \$300 to help provide supplies for the Earl Hanson Elementary Holiday Craft Family Night held earlier this month. The evening was an enormous success and our support greatly appreciated.



## FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's Foundation Raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine, a Rotary Reindeer Ramble Shirt, and a basket full of holiday treats. The first lucky ticket holder was Bob Swanson who took the wine. Anne McGlynn had the second winner and took the Holiday Basket. Jeff Dismer held the 3rd lucky ticket and opted for the money and then donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Our final winner was Jeff Rose who took home the Reindeer Ramble shirt. Thanks to all who participated.



## FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

In the holiday spirit, V.P. Sue Rector announced there would be no fines today, but welcomed Happy/Sad Dollar donations. Justin Peterson and Tammy Weikert each paid a dollar for leaving early today. Then Justin added a happy dollar telling us that officials from the Village of Andalusia had called and notified him that he won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award for best holiday light display. He was happy to accept the award but lamented that he didn't have all of his display out yet and might have won 1<sup>st</sup> place had he completed the project prior to judging! Finally, President Cindi Gramenz contributed \$10 happy dollars in honor of the Rotarians who participated in Saturday's Christian Care "Frigid Feet" walk for the homeless and in particular for Holly Sparkman participated in the project but rather than walking the 1.5-mile routes, ran a 3.5 mile "Bridges" loop and finished in about the same time as the walkers! Thanks to Cindi and to Justin and Tammy who made a "no fine" Tuesday still a successful donation day for our Rotary Foundation fund!

## THANK YOU FROM THE SALVATION ARMY



Dear Mark Mayeski (Rock Island Rotary),

On 12/10/2022, your kettle shift raised \$1791.90 for The Salvation Army programs and services.

Every dollar you helped collect will fuel critical services for individuals and families in need through assistance programs, disaster relief efforts and so much more. Visit [salvationarmy.org](http://salvationarmy.org) to read about the help available in your community.

We hope you'll consider signing up for another shift and share the joy of bell ringing with family and friends who are looking for ways to serve their communities!

Thank you for Doing the Most Good.

Merry Christmas and God bless you,  
John and Kristi Dalberg, Lieutenants  
Corps Officers  
Heritage Temple Corps and Community Center  
Moline, Illinois  
309-764-2811

## NEW MEMBER APPLICANT



Charlotte Flickinger of the Economic Development Corporation has applied for membership in Rock Island Rotary. Charlotte resides in Rock Island and has visited at several recent meetings. Please direct any comments to President Cindi Gramenz [cgramenz15@gmail.com](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com) or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Eric Westphall [eric.westphall@midamerican.com](mailto:eric.westphall@midamerican.com).



# ROTARY SUPPORTS NARRATIVES QUAD CITIES

Dr. Annette Sundfor Clevenger is the Founder, Executive Director, and Life Coach of Narratives Quad Cities. Annette is a native of Rock Island and graduated from Rock Island High School. She studied at Illinois State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology. She went on to earn her Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College. She returned to the Quad Cities and established her own private practice. For seventeen years Dr. Clevenger has strived to provide quality counseling services to adults, children, couples, and families in our community. She founded Narratives to work with Quad City youth. She believes the transition from adolescence to adulthood can be difficult - especially when you don't have a high school degree, can't find a good paying job or don't have any supportive role models in your life. Narratives works to empower Quad City young adults (ages 17-24) to find their purpose and path in life. Today Rotary Community Grants Chairman Frank Lambert presented a donation of \$2,000 to Dr. Clevenger for general supplies needed to help the young adults. We are very pleased that Annette also is applying to be a member of Rock Island Rotary!



## FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary International's Month of Disease Prevention & Treatment.

While Polio eradication has been one of Rotary's top goals, the disease has yet to be completely eradicated from the face of the earth. To this end, the Church of Latter-Day Saints is heading a major initiative with Rotary International and UNICEF in this report by Mary Richards.

Areas of the world that had made progress against polio are now seeing outbreaks again, and children are becoming paralyzed. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the delivery and use of immunization services, and multiple countries lost ground where the disease was once eradicated.

Under-immunizations for tetanus also affect women and children in many countries as well.

To raise immunization efforts, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced Friday \$10 million in donations to organizations working in Afghanistan, Pakistan and several African countries, said the announcement on [www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)

Half of the \$10 million total — \$5 million — is going to Rotary International to fight polio. This portion of the Church's grant will help African countries regain progress lost to COVID-19 in countries such as Malawi, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria. And any donation to Rotary International is matched two to one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Michael K. McGovern, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, said, "Rotary is grateful for this very generous contribution from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The funding comes at a critical time for polio eradication efforts and will help protect children from lifelong paralysis due to the poliovirus."

## ROTARIANS APPRECIATE OUR BRIDGES CATERER

Although our usual Bridges waitress was handling duties at another location today, Evelyn Healy, co-owner of Bridges Catering filled in and accepted a Rotary Club gratuity holiday gift for Gayle. The \$300 gratuity was authorized by our board of directors. Gayle has been with us for approximately half of the calendar year. Previously the Board presented a \$300 gratuity to our prior caterer, Michelle, who served us for the first six month of 2022. President Cindi expressed our appreciation for the food and friendly service provided by Bridges each week.

## ROTARIANS JOIN “FRIGID FEET” WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> was a chilly 20-degree morning when Rotarians joined other caring citizens for an 8:30am walk for the homeless. The group started at the Christian Care Shelter on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and followed a mile and a half route through downtown Rock Island and returned to the shelter in an effort to bring attention to the homeless that try to survive in winter conditions 24/7. Upon completing the walk the walkers, joined by television crews from WQAD and WHBF were greeted by volunteers from the Rock Island HyVee who provided hot chicken soup and sandwiches to all who participated. Rotarians joining the walk were Cindi Gramenz, Bruce Peterson, and wife Sue. Bob Swanson and wife Debbi, Bill Stengel, Sarah Gorham, Tricia Barron, and Holly Sparkman who ran the route and also ran the bridges, crossing into Iowa on Centennial Bridge and returning to Illinois via Arsenal bridge. Other Rotarians, Mark Mayeski., Kathy Trone and Pete Wessels were unable to do the walk



## WHAT DO THE HOLIDAYS MEAN FOR ALL OF US?

Rotarians all over the world and even in our own Rock Island Club come from all different nationalities, cultures, and religions. Yet, we all get along, respect one another, and work toward common goals of world peace, better health, quality education, economic improvement, and equal opportunities for all. Thinking about the holidays, we may celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or any number of other days of celebration recognized by the widely diverse cultures of the world. The one thing those of us in America can celebrate together is that we live in one of a relatively few places in the world where no matter what our beliefs we have the freedom to celebrate our own way and in our own set of beliefs and customs. There are parts of the world where Christians cannot openly celebrate Christmas. The same is true of those of the Jewish faith, the Hindu faith, Buddhists, and the Islamic faith. We are so fortunate, and yet religious freedom and freedom of expression are so engrained in our American upbringing that such treasured freedoms are often taken for granted. Some feel we are just lucky to be here, but a closer inspection of history tells us that luck had very little to do with it. The early settlers of the New World were more often than not trying to escape persecution in one form or another. Whether religious persecution, taxation without representation, racial and national origin prejudices, America seemed to be the place where all could live, worship, read, and speak what they wished. That freedom didn't come easy. Thousands died in the Revolutionary War to establish a country where freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of thought, and freedom to have and hold property are considered God given rights. Thousands more died in the Civil war to extend those rights to all men and women in the land. More were persecuted and wrongfully treated, and many died in fighting for integration, voting rights, and equal justice. That's not to say everything is fine and all issues are resolved, but it is a testament to our country and system of governing and living together that has allowed for the tremendous incredible progress that been made while much of the world still fails to recognize the basic human rights of individuals. In America there are still those with prejudices and biases, but no longer can they impose those prejudices and biases on others. When they try, they fail and the system that our early patriots created has evolved and ensured that the causes of justice and freedom are protected under the law. Unfortunately, we are now hearing such phrases as "cancel culture" and speakers being forced off platforms of public discourse. These are true threats to democracy. We all should be thankful for our freedoms and our country, and we all need to understand that what we have, resulted from people giving their lives to ensure that all could be heard, that all could then decide what they believe is right and all could have the right and freedom to profess their beliefs without fear of persecution or ridicule. So, in this holiday season, whatever your particular religion, culture, or beliefs might be, let's come together in celebrating our freedom to each be exactly what we want to be and not what others tell us we should be. And let's also celebrate democracy and the system of self-government that gives us the right to express ourselves as we please. Let's hope that our efforts through Rotary can make the world a better place for all and that all can celebrate as they choose. For all of us the Holidays should mean a time to be thankful. May you have a joyous Holiday Season!

*Did you know* -, the iconic phrase "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." frequently attributed to the French philosopher Voltaire, wasn't actually said by Voltaire. It was in truth written by a very wise woman, who wrote the phrase as a summary of Voltaire's beliefs. The phrase was in her 1906 biography called *The Friends of Voltaire* by English writer Beatrice Evelyn Hall.