



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



January 31, 2023: Volume XXX, Issue 31
MEETING MONDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



John Lohman Quad City Regional Business Journal

John Lohman, the Founder, Co-owner and Group Publisher of the Corridor Media Group, Inc., a family-owned media company based in North Liberty, Iowa. They have been publishing the weekly Corridor Business Journal (CBJ) since 2004 in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City region. On November 30, 2021, they launched the Quad Cities Regional Business Journal (QCBJ) online and began publishing their first printed version of QCBJ on January 24, 2022. The print publication is mailed to paid subscribers. The journal covers

local and regional business news in the greater Quad Cities area, including the counties of Rock Island, Henry and Mercer in Illinois and Scott, Clinton and Muscatine counties in Iowa. They do their best to have a balance of news coverage from both states and cover the small start-ups to the large corporations and everything in between. All news content is original and locally or regionally based. In addition to the website and the bi-weekly print publication, QCBJ also publishes numerous podcasts and e-newsletters as well as host several events including Forty Under 40, Mid-Year Economic Review, 90 Ideas in 90 Minutes and others. Lohman is a Rotarian in the Iowa City Downtown Club and his daughter is a member of the Liberty High School Interact Club at Liberty High School in North Liberty, Iowa.

Lohman earned his bachelors and masters degrees in Journalism and Communication from the University of Iowa. He is definitely a diehard "Hawkeye" having served as student body president and in costume as "Herky the Hawk". His first job after college was with the Cedar Rapids Journal. He was hired to start a Iowa City branch of the Journal and subsequently fired when it was decided not to expand into Iowa City. He was so upset about being fired that he was determined to never again be in that position. The only way to ensure that was to start his own business. He did take a job working for the Duane Arnold Energy Center (DAEC), Iowa's only nuclear power plant located eight miles northwest of Cedar Rapids. In 2004 he gave birth to the weekly Corridor Business Journal in his basement. Providing local business news for the "corridor" the area running from Iowa City to Cedar Rapids with a population of approximately 500,000. In 2008 the Mayor of Bettendorf urged Lohman to do a



similar publication for the Quad Cities. Deeming it not the right time to expand, he held the idea in the back of his head. In 2020 he was again urged to create a Quad Cities Business Journal this time by the CEO of Shive Hattery, headquartered in Cedar Rapids. He felt the time was now right. Lohman developed a business plan, hired a team he considers the best business journalists in the midwest and the Quad Cities Business Journal was born in 2021. In addition to their print edition available by subscription, they also offer a free daily on-line economic update pod cast. They also host events including an upcoming midyear Economic Review Luncheon with nationally respected economists along with local business leaders. Currently there are 500 paid subscribers of the Journal with a goal of 1,500 which would put the Quad Cities Journal on an equal par with the Corridor Journal. We are very pleased that one of our members, Kenda Burrows, is senior editor of the venture. Thank you Mr. Lohman for an extremely interesting and informative program.

Jan. - Apr. Calendar

- Feb 7 - Club Assembly – President Cindi Gramenz Leading
- Feb 7 - Awards Luncheon Committee will meet at 11:15
- Feb 14 - Annette Clevenger Narratives
- Feb 21 - Tia-Farrah Edwards Thurgood Marshall Learning Center
- Feb 28 - Amy & Liam Haskill Closet 2 Closet
- Mar 7 - Laura Eberlin – Deere & Company
- Mar 14 - Jerry Jones - West End Revitalization
- Mar 21 - Juan Valtierra Youthhope CRE8 Studios
- Mar 28 - TBA
- Apr 4 - Laura Mann – NEST Cafe
- Apr 11 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 18 - Rotary Awards Luncheon



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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 we welcomed three guests. Two were visiting Rotarians. Duncan Cameron of the Naples, Florida Club joined us via ZOOM. And Beth Clark a member of the Bettendorf Rotary Club joined us in person. Our other “in person” guest was Jen Osing a guest of Dave Hodge. We encourage all members to invite a friend or colleague who might have interest in a particular speaker/program or be a potential Rotary member to visit at a future meeting of *The Number 1 Club*, Rock Island Rotary!
- ❑ **ANNUAL ROTARY RAFFLE COMING SOON!** – For the past several years our wine raffle has been a major club fundraiser, largely responsible for funding our “Service Above Self” scholarship for Rock Island High School students. The committee has come up with some new and exciting details for this year’s raffle. See information later in this edition of the Weekly Review.
- ❑ **ROTARY’S 2nd ANNUAL ROCK N ROLL BINGO** – is set for Friday, March 24th at the Rock Island Holiday Inn Ballroom. Details will be coming so SAVE THE DATE. It is a fun filled, fast paced evening that everyone can enjoy. You don’t have to be a music trivia buff to participate and compete for prizes! You just need to enjoy having fun and raising money for Rotary projects and grants!
- ❑ **ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE** – What better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day than to open your heart and share the gift of life. The folks from *ImpactLife* will be at our February 14th meeting! *ImpactLife* is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, independent, community blood center, founded in 1974 as Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center in Davenport, Iowa. Over the years, they have extended into Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and in 2021, united under one new name: *ImpactLife*. Sign up for a time slot to donate at an upcoming Rotary meeting. Email project chairman John Phillips to sign-up and provide your desired appointment time between 10am and 2pm. John will get you in as close to your preferred time as possible. You don’t have to be a Rotarian to donate so sign up your spouse, friends and associates that want to help out
- ❑ **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’s raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine and a selection of outstanding rubs for beef, pork, poultry, or fish made by a California Rotarian and donated by Ruth Lee. The first lucky winner was Tammy Weikert who took the cash and donated it back to the Foundation. The second ticket was held by Frank Lambert, who took the wine. Our final winner was Kathy Ruggeberg who took home the California rubs. Thanks to all who participated.



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

VP Sue Rector started her portion of the program fining Dr. Bud Phills for his recently published letter to the editor printed in the Dispatch/Argus. Sue then put in ten happy dollars in celebration of a recent article about CASI in the Quad City Business Journal and in the local daily newspapers, and for her son’s 32nd birthday, lamenting that he is her “baby”! Kevin Koski had a happy dollar for finally getting his payoff on a bet he made with John Phillips’ daughter on the football bowl game between Notre Dame and the South Carolina Gamecocks. Notre Dame (Kevin’s alma mater) came from 2 touchdowns behind to win. John Phillips delivered the \$2 bet payoff to Kevin today! Kai Swanson had a Happy Dollars donation for fliers of the table for “STEP AFRICA” a free exciting performance of African dance at Augustana’s Centennial Hall on February 11th at 6pm. All are invited. Gary Rowe had a happy dollar for a recent 5th Ward neighborhood meeting at which Angela Campbell presented a report, partly in Pig Latin! Kathy Ruggeberg made a donation and offered her thanks for the words of kindness from members on the passing of her parents last month. Angela Campbell had a happy dollar for the “Soft Opening” of the new 30th Street Library Branch scheduled for February 8th from 10am to 6pm.

A Message from our District Foundation Chair

The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees recently approved a special Disaster Response Grant fund specifically for Ukraine. Rotarians and clubs can start making donations on Monday, January 30. The fund will receive donations until December 31, 2023. The trustees seeded the new fund with \$250,000 from the World Fund. Districts can submit new Disaster Response Grant applications for 2023 starting January 30. Our district has been involved in some multi-district Grant projects benefiting Ukraine already and will be continuing to look for these opportunities. Please see our club Foundation Chair, Sue Rector if you would like further information or want to contribute..

In Rotary service,
Kathy Kwiat-Hess, District Foundation Chair

Time to Brush Up on Your Trivia Skills!



VP Sue Rector has come up with another fun game that will be kicked off at Next Week's meeting. Members will pay \$1 to enter. Each week Sue will provide those who enter a sheet with several multiple choice trivia questions. Players will complete the sheet and turn it in to Sue before the end of our meeting. Participants will be "on their honor" to do their own work and not seek or accept help from others, google, etc. Sue will keep a tally of correct responses for each player. There will be 6 weeks of play. Questions will be a mix of American and Rotary Trivia. The winner(s) will spin the prize wheel after the sixth week. All proceeds will go to the Rotary International Foundation. Be sure to ask Sue for your sheet.



**SAVE THE DATE! March
24th**

**RI Rotary Fundraiser-
Holiday Inn, Rock Island,
6pm start**

R & R BINGO 🥳🥳

ANNUAL ROTARY RAFFLE HAS A NEW TWIST!



Rotary Plans To Host Informal After Hours Socials At All Five Prize Locations Over The Next Few Months. The First At The Skylight Luxury Lounge On Thursday, February 9th. Come preview the prizes!

This year's raffle has a new look. The committee determined that proceeds will be earmarked to augment the Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship at Rocky so that we can, over time, increase the scholarship amount. We're excited that the raffle will showcase Rock Island businesses. The five prizes are gift certificates worth \$200 at the Ale House, the Bayside Bistro, Circa 21, Riverfront Grille, and Skylight Luxury Lounge. This is a nice mix of newer and more established Rock Island businesses. It likely will be mid to late February when tickets are available to buy/sell. We are returning to the 1 ticket for \$5.00 and 5 tickets for \$20.00 pricing. The drawing will be held at our last meeting in June. The club and board voted to retain this fundraiser, and the committee responded positively to various concerns expressed by club members by altering the format. In response to an anticipated question, assuming continuation of this raffle, the list of featured businesses can change from year-to-year. More details to come. Thanks in advance for your support.

GREET OUR NEWEST MEMBER



Today President Cindi performed the favorite duty of any Rotary President, officially inducting a new member into Rotary International and our Rock Island Club. Today Charlotte “Char” Flickinger was inducted as our most recent new Club member. Char is Vice-President of Development of the Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation, a national 501(c)3 community-based development organization dedicated to enhancing the overall image and economic vitality of underserved communities. Char started her position at GROWTH in January 2022, and is also responsible for the planning, development, and coordination of all multifamily and mixed-use development activity throughout GROWTH's national footprint. Char has extensive experience and is a highly skilled, mission driven housing professional with comprehensive knowledge and experience administering various programs including the HOME Investment Partnership, national Housing Trust Fund, Low Income

Housing Tax Credits, New Market Tax Credits, and other affordable rental housing programs. Previously, she worked for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs where she was responsible for all functions of the State's Direct Loan Program and deployed over \$107 million throughout the entire state of Texas during her time there. She also has worked with developers and community organizations as a funding consultant and project manager for affordable housing and economic development projects throughout Illinois. Char earned her Baccalaureate from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI and received her Juris Doctorate from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She works in the corporation's home office at 100 - 19th street, #109, Rock Island. Please be sure to say “Hello” and welcome her to our Club. We are delighted to have her as a member!

HAVE SOME FUN AFTER WORK – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th 5pm or After



At Skylight Luxury Lounge, 1325 30th St., Rock Island's newest wine bar and lounge, guests have the chance to enjoy a relaxing and chill environment away from the seriousness of the corporate world and rowdiness of the traditional bar scene. Management wants everyone who stops in, to feel comfortable, to just let their hair down and let their full personality fully come out! Wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and spirits are available. Join us for a Rotarian afterwork social get together! Visit our communities newest social establishment!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 1 of February World Understanding Month and
RI's Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month.

In order to fulfill their mission, since 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1600 fellows from different corners of the world. They are now working on peace and development initiatives in more than 140 countries. With the motto “Doing Good in the World”, the Rotary Foundation has planted seeds for an era that is the basis of the world's leading humanitarian organization, The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation Fellowship Awards are divided into two categories in order to accommodate the most deserving and eligible candidates without any ambiguities. The First is the Rotary Scholarships for master's students. The Second is The Rotary Fellowships for the professional development certificate program. In both programs, the focus remains on peace and development issues. This innovative program merges a strong, academic understanding of the roots of conflict with practical tactics for solving real-world problems.

A 2019 graduate of San Diego State University, Honors College, Nancy Nguyen is one of 50 young leaders from around the world who have been awarded a fellowship by the Rotary Foundation. She will be attending the University of Queensland in Australia for the Masters of Peace and Conflict Studies, an 18-month fully-funded program. According to an online Rotary report, Nguyen will be one of 12 Rotary Peace Fellows studying there. Her present role is as a Civic Engagement Community Organizer at the Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans (PANA) in San Diego. She was recognized as a 2021 Women of Distinction in Youth Empowerment by the San Diego Mayor's Office. Nancy's longstanding commitment to peace and international development is reflected in her years of international and local policy, advocacy, civic engagement, and direct-service work.

Ms. Nguyen plans to research peacekeeping effort efforts in Asia as the focus of her Master's Degree dissertation.

ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 14TH



Rock Island Rotary WILL hold our annual Club Blood Drive Tuesday, February 14th here at the Botanical starting at 10:30 am. Donations may be made before, during and after our meeting. Under the leadership of chairman John Phillips, we have set a goal of 14 units. Prior to the pandemic we set a record with 23 units. So let's get back on track with "the gift of life" and make sure we meet and exceed this year's goal! We sponsor the drive, but donors need not be Rotarians. Ask your spouse, special friend, and work colleagues to join us. You can sign them up! Just email John Phillips with the donor's name and the time they would prefer between 10:30am and 1pm. John's email is phillipsjohn99@gmail.com



Donating is simple and painless, and you even get a free cookie! We will have a sign-up sheet at next week's meeting if you are not a fan of emailing. But be sure to sign up, one way or the other! And RECRUIT – Treat your spouse, friend, or associate to lunch on Valentine's day if they will come with you and join the blood drive! There are even some special prizes for donating and even bigger awards for first time donors!

Give and get \$10 gift card or t-shirt.
First time donor with ImpactLife?
Choose \$25 gift card or t-shirt.



District 6420 Task Force Against Human Trafficking Facebook Page is Up and Looking for Visitors!

If you haven't checked it out, just Control/Click here: <https://www.facebook.com/District-6420-Task-Force-Against-Human-Trafficking-117144647937295/>

While on the page, be sure to "Like" and "Share" the page with family, friends, and colleagues. Awareness is key and the more likes/shares that we have, the more aware others will become.

If you see this:

Someone Needs Help



Note where you are, what you see, and

Notify Authorities

LAST WEEK INCLUDED IN OUR NEWSLETTER WAS A LETTER FROM OUR DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR KATHY KWIAT-HESS. WE JUST RECEIVED THIS FOLLOW-UP LETTER AND WANT TO MAKE SURE ALL MEMBERS ARE MADE AWARE OF THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

Rotary - New Disaster Response Funds to contribute to



Kathy Kwiat-Hess <kathykwiathess.gmail.com@clubrunner.email>

Dear Rotarians,

I wanted to make everyone in our district aware of 2 new funds to contribute to in your giving to The Rotary Foundation. The first of these I emailed you about a week ago. That is the Ukraine Response Fund which is being used to help the people of Ukraine in their ongoing recovery efforts.

A second new Disaster Response Fund called the Pakistan Flood Response Fund has also been established. The floods have been devastating by displacing people and destroying crops. Both of these funds are specially earmarked Disaster Response Funds and contributions will be accepted through December 21, 2023. All districts are eligible to apply for Disaster Response Grants to assist in these efforts.

You can make a donation to either of these funds as well as the Annual Fund, Polio Plus, Disaster Response Fund (general), and the World Fund by going to My Rotary and click on Donate. It will immediately take you to the page that allows you to select your fund.

Thank you for donating to The Rotary Foundation! We continue to make a difference in all parts of the world.

In Rotary service,

Kathy Kwiat-Hess, District Foundation Chair

INFORMATION FROM Mark Mayeski, District 6420 Paul Harris Society Chairman

The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who elect to contribute \$1,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved global grants. The purpose of the Paul Harris Society is to honor and thank individuals for their generous, ongoing support of The Rotary Foundation. Rotary districts often honor new members of the Paul Harris Society by presenting them with a certificate and chevron at a district or club event. HOWEVER, IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL ARE AWARE THAT CONTRIBUTING+ \$1,000 IN A YEAR DOESN'T AUTOMATICLY MAKE YOU A SOCIETY MEMBER. YOU MUST SUBMIT A FORM TO RECEIVE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP. I will be happy to provide the form to you or it can be completed online.

Your contributions demonstrate your commitment to serve others. You deserve the recognition and you will receive it, if we fill out the form and request that you be a Society member. Call or email me if you are interested or want additional information.

When you join you are making a commitment to donate \$1,000 a year, but we understand "life" happens and there may be years you can't make the \$1,000 commitment. There is no penalty if the situation arises. By giving from your heart each and every year, you'll support families and change lives.

Call or email now! Mark E. Mayeski, Phone 309-788-0399 Email mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com