



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



February 7, 2023: Volume XXX, Issue 32
MEETING MONDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

PRESIDENT CINDI SAYS “LISTEN UP IT’S ASSEMBLY TIME”

Club Assemblies give us an opportunity to assess what we have done, what our goals are, and what lies ahead. They can be anything from very interesting, to a bit boring. President Cindi Gramenz has now held two Club Assemblies and both have been interesting and fun. In addition to lots of great information, Cindi included entertainment with John Phillips and his guitar brightening the spirits and causing



toes to tap! The program began with Cindi calling on Gary Rowe to report on the upcoming “Wine & Dine” fundraiser. Gary said rather than just a wine raffle, this year we will be having a “Wine & Dine” event. There will be five prizes, each a \$200 gift certificate for a Rock Island business. The businesses selected are The Rock Island Ale House, Circa 21 Dinner Theatre, Riverfront Grille, Bayside Bistro, and the Skyline Luxury Lounge. Winners can purchase food, wine or other spirits and attend at their leisure. Tickets are \$5 per chance or five for \$20. The drawing will be at our June 27th meeting.

Next Mary Fislar gave an update on our Club’s **Membership Committee** and Mary said our Club Committee has focused on Retention and Recruitment of members. For retention, committee members have been making calls to members who have not been attending regularly. The call is simply to let them know that they are missed and we hope they will be joining us soon. She stated the reception to the calls and results from them has been very good. For recruiting, Mary reminded us that whether or not we are listed on the membership committee, we are all responsible for spreading the word and inviting friends and colleagues to join us. She noted that our International President coined the slogan “Each One – Bring One” and urged each of us to take the responsibility of bringing a guest to Rotary. She also said that the committee is following up with our guest speakers to encourage them to consider joining Rotary and the great work we do for our community, nation, and the world. Turning to the District Committee, Mary said a District level Membership Committee is something new this year. Mary was asked to serve on that committee and agreed to do just that. She said there are currently 43 Clubs in the District (down from 48 a few years ago) and 1, 441 Rotarian members in District 6420. They also are promoting efforts for retention and recruitment. They are urging all clubs to have a Rotary Orientation Program, which our club formerly had, but no longer offers; and a Mentoring Program, which I club does have and have had very good outcomes since creating it. Finally she noted that the District has urged all clubs to be more welcoming and to establish an environment of friendliness and inclusion. We feel our club does a pretty good job of that and have been told by those who have visited various clubs, that Rock Island Rotary is the friendliest and most welcoming they have visited. Mary said the District Committee is eager to help any clubs that want assistance in membership matters.



Jan. - Apr. Calendar

- Feb 14 - Annette Clevenger Narratives
- Feb 21 - Tia-Farah 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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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 numerous guests. Keith Collier, Thomas White, Sr., James Turner, and prospective member Jen Osing were all guests of Dave Hodge. James Jones, also a prospective member was a guest of Char Flickinger. Hannah Carr another prospective member from Youth Hope was a guest of the Club, as was Tia Steele, the Assistant Director of Student Life at Augustana College and our new Rotaract Club sponsor. Also visiting today was Lindsey Honert, faculty sponsor and Marketing Director for Alleman High School. Lindsey brought two new Alleman Jr. Rotarians today, Gunner Jacks and Deangelo Ferrari. We were delighted to have Alleman students joining us again and look forward to students from Rocky and Rotaract students from Augustana joining us at future meetings. We love hosting guests at our meetings, particularly when many of them are prospective club members!

❑ **ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE NEXT TUESDAY** – 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.

❑ **ANGELA CAMPBELL** will author next week's newsletter as Bob gets a week of vacation. If you have something that needs to be published to the club, email Angela at campbell.angela@rigove.org. Thanks to Angela for covering!

❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – After next week, 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 and a bottle of fine red wine. The first ticket drawn was held by Ruth Lee who took the money and donated it all to our Kenya Water Filter project. The second lucky winner was Frank Lambert who took home the wine. We thank everyone who participated in today's drawing! Proceeds go to our Rotary Foundation Account and in addition to doing great philanthropic work, help our members achieve Paul Harris Fellow Status.



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

In the absence of our 2nd V.P. and Chief "Finer", President Cindi called on members for Happy/Sad Dollars. Several members were quick to respond. John Wetzel offered a sad and a happy dollar. The sad dollar for the pending demolition of the former Central Jr. High building in Rock Island. Now Rock Island High School is the only building remaining from John's 12 years in Rock Island schools. We're pretty sure you're safe with that one, John! His happy dollar was for news just released that Iowa will play Northwestern in football next fall at Wrigley Field, John's home away from home! Stan Coin had a happy dollar for being back home in good health after spending much of the winter in Arizona. Reginald Lawrence offered two Happy Dollars, one for the Ribbon Cutting yesterday opening the new entry addition and cafeteria renovation at Rock Island High School and the other for today's ribbon cutting at the new Rock Island 30th Street Library/YMCA building. Gary Rowe was at the same Ribbon Cutting and added his two happy dollars to the coffer. Finally, Howard Beck offered a major Happy/Sad contribution announcing a \$3,500 donation for the purchase of 10 Water Filters for our Kenya Water project in honor and memory of his wife, Joni. Thank you Howard, we share your loss and appreciate your generosity. Thanks to all who donated today.

“Assembly” Continued from page 1



Next up was Justin Peterson with a report from our **Club Foundation**. Justin said the main project recently has been to formalize the application process by creating a written form that all interested in applying for a Foundation Grant will be asked to use. That form has now been authored and tweaked and will be distributed shortly. Last year we did not make a Club Foundation grant so those unused funds added to this year's funds will make over \$25,000 available.

Next up to report was John Wetzel from the **Bert Blood Scholarship Committee**. John announced that we will present our Bert Blood Scholarships at our April 11th luncheon meeting. He reminded us that the scholarship was created in honor of former member Bert Blood who was a strong advocate of education and agriculture. The scholarship has grown over the years from the original scholarship of \$99 dollars given to a Rock Island County Student interested in agriculture. We now partner with the University of Illinois Extension Service and the Rock Island County 4H Foundation and give five scholarships. Three are presented to current high school students judged on their current 4H projects. Scholarships are \$1,500 for first place; \$1,200 for second; and \$1,000 for third. To additional scholarship of \$500 each are presented to 4H alumni attending college. John said that the committee is looking for one or two club members to volunteer to help judge the 4H projects. Students vying for the awards make an oral presentation, often augmented by photos, charts, and videos to the judges. If interested in judging, please contact John at wetzeljh@sbcglobal.net.



Next up was Monta Ponsetto with a report on the Rock Island High School **Incubator Entrepreneur Program**. Rock Island Rotary donated \$10,000 to help get this program started. Monta reported that during the pandemic participation in the program dropped to one class. She was very happy to report that we again have two classes and are striving to reach a goal of four classes of students in the program. The two classes have produced 10 teams of students that each have come up with a business idea and a plan for bringing the plan into reality. She indicate that they have just completed their first pitch after which the teams can apply for funding to develop a prototype of the item or items they hope to produce. On May 10th from 9 to 11am the teams will each make a pitch to judges and an live audience in the Rock Island High School Auditorium. The judges will narrow the field to just the very best business plans and those will be invited to make a final pitch on the evening of May 17th in the Auditorium at 6pm. Judges that night will be awarding a \$5,000 prize to the winning team which can be used to develop their business or can be split among team members and used as a scholarships to further their education. The public and particularly all Rotarians as ones who help create the program are invited to one or both of the “pitch” sessions. Monta also said they will be in need of team coaches and mentors for next year. If interested in more details, contact Monta at mponsetto@live.com.

With time running short, President Cindi called on our talented minstrel, John Phillips who treated us to two selections. First a Willie Nelson 1980 hit, “My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys”. John and his guitar performed Willie, better than Willie! John then sang an original song he composed shortly after retiring as our Rock Island City Manager. He titled the clever and humorous song, “Remember Not to Forget”. So sorry that time precluded John from doing more selections for us, however we can hear a more complete performance by John in May when he will be performing in Davenport at The Bucktown Revue. Maybe that would be a fun Rotary Club social outing?



Wrapping things up for this Assembly, Cindi noted that our Club has a very strong involvement at the District level of Rotary with Mark Mayeski chairing the Paul Harris Society District Committee; Kathy Trone soon becoming chair of the District Task Force Against Human Trafficking; Mary Fislar serving on the District Membership Committee; and Bob Swanson and Cindi Gramenz serving on the District Conference Planning Committee. She also thanked our members for building a reputation as the most welcoming and friendly club in the area. And although it took a prod from former District Governor Ruth Lee to get it out of her, Chidi also announced that she had been named our Assistant District Governor for the coming Rotary year. Congratulations Cindi! You will be a fantastic District leader.

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 🥳🥳

HAVE SOME FUN AFTER WORK – THIS THURS

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 informal afterwork social get together! Bring your spouse/friends and a cool beverage and conversation. Visit our communities' newest social establishment and one of our up coming Rotary Raffle prize locations!



ANNUAL ROTARY RAFFLE COMING SOON!



This year's raffle has PRIZES everyone can enjoy! With proceeds earmarked for the Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship at Rocky, the raffle will showcase Rock Island businesses. There will be five prizes, each a \$200 gift certificates at a Rock Island business, including the Ale House, the Bayside Bistro, Circa 21, Riverfront Grille, and the Skylight Luxury Lounge. Treat your self to dinner, wine, beer, spirits or anything on the establishment's menu. Tickets will be available to buy/sell later this month. 1 ticket for \$5.00 and 5 tickets for \$20.00! The drawing will be held at our last meeting in June. 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 this Thursday, February 9th. Come preview the prize!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 2 of RI's Month of Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution.
Programs of Scale

Programs of Scale is the newest grantmaking mechanism started by The Rotary Foundation. It's an annual competition where Rotary members submit proposals for a \$2,000,000 (USD) Grant from the World Fund. The grant proposal must fit into one of the Areas of Focus.

The Rotary Foundation's Area of Focus Manager for Disease Prevention and Treatment and Maternal and Child Health, (DPT/MCH), Dr. Nyreese Castro, was in Nigeria recently to launch RI's Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria (THFN). This is a three-year project, under the auspices of this year's winner of the Program of Scales, The Rotary Action Group for Maternal and Child Health of District 9125 (Nigeria). The THFN program seeks to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in targeted areas of Nigeria by no less than 25%. This will impact a million people.

According to Dr. Castro, more than 70 proposals were submitted for this year's Program of Scale award. This is the second \$2,000,000 Rotary Foundation-sponsored award; the first one, in 2022, was for the elimination of Malaria in Zambia.

ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 14TH



Rock Island Rotary will hold our annual Club Blood Drive **Next 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 25 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 11:50am and 12:50pm. Sign up NOW! 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!

EVERY DONOR GETS A \$10 GIFT CARD OR T-SHIRT. FIRST TIME DONORS GET \$25 GIFT CARD OR T-SHIRT!

NEWER MEMBERS WON'T REMEMBER THIS ... but our Club used to have Rotary songbooks and every week we would pass out the books and sing at least one song. This was a Club favorite ***R-O-T-A-R-Y That spells Rotary. R-O-T-A-R-Y Is known on land and sea. From north to south, From east to west, One profits most who serves the best, R-O-T-A-R-Y That spells Rotary!***

Not suggesting we sing again (we're not exactly the Tabernacle Choir!) But fun to reminisce!

APPLICATIONS FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

First time ever! 3 Applications this week!

These were all in the works prior to Mary Fislar's great report on the work of our Membership Committee presented as part of today's program. So maybe we'll see even more next week!



An application for membership in Rock Island Rotary has been received from **Jennifer Osing**. "Jen" as she prefers to be called is Program Director for World Relief. Her office is in Moline. She and her husband Tanner reside in Rock Island. Her sponsor is Dave Hodge. Jen's hobbies are baking, reading, and yoga. Members please direct any comments to President Cindi Gramenz at cgramenz14@gmail.com or Membership Chair, Mary Fislar at mlfrlf1315@yahoo.com.

It is always great to see new people interested and excited about joining Rotary International and Rock Island Rotary!

An application for City of Rock Island Associate Corporate membership has been received from **Todd Thompson**. Todd is the Rock Island City Manager. He was named City Manager in May 2022 and brings more than 27 years of local government experience to Rock Island. He previously served as Galesburg City Manager from Jan. 2011 until joining the City of Rock Island. Prior to that, he was City Manager of Mexico, Missouri and Assistant City Administrator of Raymore, Missouri. He served four years in the U.S. Navy. Todd graduated from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in Public Administration. Todd lives in Rock Island with his wife of 29 years, Leslie. They have two sons, one of whom is a student at Augustana College. In his free time, Todd enjoys golfing.



An application for membership in Rock Island Rotary has been received from **Hannah Carr**. Hannah is Development Director at Youthhope. Hannah lives in Moline with her husband Blake and three little kids. She enjoys gardening, dancing, music, swimming, art, hiking, rock climbing, comedy, painting, and youth mentoring. She loves being part of bringing youth HOPE. Prior to her work as Development Director Hannah served as a summer counselor at Camp Summit. Fun Fact: Hannah spent a blissful summer as a whale watch guide off the coast of Montauk, New York while working as a Mad Scientist in Long Island, NY. Regarding her position at Youthhope, Hannah says, "I love sharing how amazing GOD is and giving people the opportunity to be part of this amazing ministry!"

Members should direct comments to President Cindi Gramenz cgramenz15@gmail.com or to Membership Chair Mary Fislar mlfrlf1315@yahoo.com.

Happy Birthday!

FEBRUARY ROTARIANS

Ardo Holmgrain

Sue Rector

Tyla Sherwin-Cole

Steven Nowinski

Tom Hammar

February 4th

February 8th

February 13th

February 15th

February 27th.



Dr. "Bud" Again Shares Humor!

**CURES FOR EVERY SICKNESS
I HAD AS A KID**



**I pretended to be
asleep and then
I fell asleep. Now
I'm going to pretend
I'm skinny.**

Apparently you can reheat pizza by turning
your toaster on its side... your welcome



I will ignore him all day



So he knows I am mad

What a nice quiet day.



*My Teacher pointed a ruler at me and said:
"At the end of this ruler there's an idiot!" I
got a detention after asking, "Which End?"*