



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



March 7, 2023: Volume XXX, Issue 36  
MEETING MONDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

## Laura Eberlin Deere & Company



In 2022, Laura Eberlin was appointed Global Corporate Social Responsibility Lead - Community Engagement & Enrichment for Deere & Company. In this role, Eberlin manages the John Deere Foundation's global food bank strategy, which delivers nearly \$3 million in grants annually to ensure equitable access to food for marginalized families and youth in John Deere home communities. In her role, Eberlin also counsels John Deere leaders around the globe and manages another \$2 million to create innovative community engagement strategies that enrich both its employees' experiences as well as John Deere's reputation. Laura brings to her role in John Deere's Corporate Social Responsibility team over 22 years of diverse experiences within the company, including 5 years of experience in designing and implementing award-winning corporate social responsibility programs. Ms. Eberlin holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Public Relations from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Business Administration from St. Ambrose University. Laura began her comments noting the similarities between Rotary and the John Deere Company. Both have great impacts on our communities, and both feel a responsibility of giving back and making the community a better place for all.

She mentions something that many of us didn't know. In addition to being an inventor and pioneer business industrialist, he also was dedicated to community service and served as Moline Mayor and as a member of the Moline Library Board. She also was proud to point out Deere is incredibly innovative and how progressive the company is as evidenced by the world's first autonomous tractor (no driver required) introduced by John Deere in 2022. It will work the fields per GPS and programming entered by the farmer from his smart phone. She then turned to her topic for the day, Corporate Responsibility. She began with historical background saying that in 1948 the Deere Foundation was founded. Their approach at the time was to provide "little bits of money to multiple projects and causes". In 1972 Deere commitment to social responsibility developed into Deere's Social Contract. With a commitment of "Business to Community" and establishing the tenant that Deere must give back to the people and communities in which they work and to those that their business serves. She said Deere had an expectation of \$8 billion in revenue. They established three commitments: 1) to Provide jobs and economic growth; 2) To be a fair and honestly run company; and 3) To improve conditions in the community and environment. In the 1982 the great recession caused a farm crisis. The Deere Foundation became heavily involved with food banks through out the country including those in the Quad Cities and Waterloo and all other communities where Deere has facilities and employees. The Deere foundation was given a \$20 million budget and instituted "Project Backpack" which provided food to school children. That was then expanded in to funding school food pantries so that not only children, but entire families could be helped. Funding of food pantries was later expanded to unrestricted grants. In 2012 a new strategy was developed with a commitment to serve all people who are "on the fringe" or "marginalized". They adopted many of the United Nations sustainable development goals committing to "No Poverty" and "No Hunger". They recognized education as the key for ending poverty and in 2016 committed 1% of Deere's net income for investment in civic institutions.

See EBERLIN page 3

### Mar. – May Calendar

- Mar 14 - Jerry Jones - West End Revitalization
- Mar 21 - Juan Valtierra Youthhope CRE8 Studios
- Mar 28 - Haley DeGreve - The Gray Matters Collective
- Apr 4 - Laura Mahn – NEST Cafe
- Apr 11 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 18 - Rotary Awards Luncheon
- Apr 25 - Dr. James Patterson "Getting to Yes or No" — negotiating skills
- May 2 - Mary Ann McLeod - "Living in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter with No Regrets"
- May 9 - Sara Leonard - Earl Hanson School
- May 16 - Ed Tibbetts – Community Journalism
- May 23 - Sara Cross - First Tee Quad Cities update.
- May 30 - The I-74 Bridge Demolition - Image Consultants



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[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

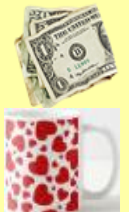
# Club Notes & Announcements!

- WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we were pleased to welcome three visiting Rotarians. Duncan Cameron of the Naples Florida, Club; Paul Plagenz from the Moline Club; and Mary Egger from the Iowa Quad Cities Club. Mary was also a guest of Rebecca Arnold. Kristen Norvell from Mechanicsburg, Illinois was a guest of Char Flickinger. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guests to meetings of the **Number 1 Club!** We hope you enjoyed our meeting and will join us again soon!
- MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** - The next Membership/Mentoring Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 21 at 1pm immediately after our Club meeting. We will be discussing updates to the New Member packet as well as planning a Mentor packet. Committee members are Howard Beck, Marcy Bell, John Daly, Tom Hammar, Anne McGlynn, Gary Rowe, and Bob Swanson. All club members are welcome to attend. Please come and share your ideas. Mary Fislar is our Membership Committee Chair.
- ROTARY AWARD NOMINATION FORM** – Is included on the last page of today's newsletter. Please copy as many as you need and **NOMINATE!** You can return them to Bob Swanson or Sarah Gorham or, if you prefer, return the form via email to Sarah Gorham, [sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law](mailto:sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law). We will also have copies available at the Sergeant's table.
- ANNUAL ROTARY RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE!** – Get your raffle tickets from Gary Rowe. Proceeds fund our "Service Above Self" scholarship for Rock Island High School students. Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. There are FIVE prizes, each for a \$200 gift card for a local Wine & Dine establishment!
- ROTARY'S 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ROCK N ROLL BINGO** – is set for Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Rock Island Holiday Inn Ballroom. **SAVE THE DATE and SIGN UP NOW.** 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!
- HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)  
The Weekly Review is distributed each Tuesday afternoon.



## FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today our raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of "expensive wine", and a romantic coffee cup filled with "kisses"! Tracy Pugh had the first lucky ticket and took the wine. Next up was Ruth Lee who selected the cash and donated her winnings to our Club Foundation. The third and final winner taking home the cup and chocolate kisses was Frank Lambert. Thanks to everyone who participated. Proceeds go to the Rotary international Foundation account.



## FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Duncan Cameron our good friend from the Naples Club was fined \$5 before our official finer ever took the stand! But Sue confirmed the fine as soon as Eric turned over the mic. Duncan was fined for just being Duncan! We miss having him with us in person!! Tracy Pugh was fined for his wife announcing her candidacy for Rock Island City Council. Yolanda is also a member of our club but can't when school is in session. She works in one of our elementary schools. Amber Wood paid a fine for promoting the S-A-L Golf Outing coming up on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Oakwood Country Club. Rick Devinney paid \$40 in happy dollars for the Moline Boys winning the 4A Basketball Super Sectional. Rick promised another \$60 if they win the State Championship this Saturday. Justin Peterson paid a happy dollar for the Rockridge boys winning the 2A State Super Sectional. Holly Sparkman had a happy dollar for learning she will become a grandma in July. Sue Rector had \$5 happy dollars for the Iowa Women's basketball team's Big 10 Conference Tournament Championship, she also lamented that the Iowa men had a lousy week! Erin Williams had a happy dollar for Augustana's Day of Giving on March 1 which raised over \$500,000! Char Flickinger had a happy dollar for the folks at Rock Island County who administer the workforce development programs. Kudos to them! My guest, Kristen Norvell, was here from the Office of Employment and Training at DCEO (Dpt. of Commerce and Comm. Affairs). She oversees employment and training programs for most of western IL and RI County is one of if not the highest performer for developing their local workforce. Thanks to all for your generosity!

#### **EBERLIN Continued -**

The new commitment moved Deere in the direction of fewer but larger grants targeting specific areas of need. Grants are given to education projects, to United Way, and to food banks. Census data is used to identify communities and even areas within communities that are struggling with poverty and/or education. Om 2021 each grant given was measured against its impact toward zero hunger and no poverty. For the 10-year period of 2021-2030 Deere has promised a minimum of \$20 million per year toward those goals and community service. They have committed \$5 million to their employee service match program. Deere employees can turn in any hours they devote or dollars they donate to community service and Deere will match it with a foundation donation to the service project or entity. Deere has also set aside \$15 million for farmers. They are providing education and training to farmers worldwide on land usage and best practices. Ms. Eberlin noted that these are not potential John Deere customers. They may be men and women toiling in the field with hand hoes or oxen pulled plows. Deere helps them improve how they do whatever they do and at whatever level they be. Deere & Company programs are currently in place in Mexico, India, and Africa. In the United States Deere is working with "Inspire Schools" (some in Rock Island and Davenport) to help struggling children in areas of poverty and lagging education. Deere is also a partner in Feeding America and supports 25 Food Banks across the country. They also partner with Habitat for Humanity and with providers of STEM and Math programs such as Spring Forward Learning Center. Amazingly all of this is directed by Laura and her team of 5 dedicated individuals. We appreciate Laura's highly informative presentation and also appreciate Deere & Company for their commitment to be much more than just a business that makes agricultural equipment. They are truly an outstanding neighbor and citizen of our community and the world.

### **PETE WESSELS HONORS TWO WITH PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARDS**



Not long ago, Pete Wessels was recognized with a "Paul Harris +3" pin indicating he had personally donated over \$4,000 to the Rotary International Foundation. Today he was recognizing for adding two more Paul Harris Fellow Awards this time in honor of his granddaughters, Tinley, and Willa, aged 2 and 4. Congratulations to the girls and to a very proud grandpa! Your generosity is an inspiration to all Rotary Club members. Pete joined Rock Island Rotary in 1982 and this year is celebrating 31 years of dedicated service to Rock Island Rotary! Please join Pete in supporting the Rotary International Foundation. Rotary only works if we provided the funds to fuel the engine. Pete, you have given your grand daughters an early start on their college and future career resumes!

### **A PRIMER FOR ROCK 'N ROLL ROOKIES**

Last year our Club's first Rock "N Roll Bingo event became the first Club fundraiser ever that had to turn people away at the door. Unfortunately, I was out of town and missed it, so when other Rookies as me how it works, I had no idea. So, I went to the source, Bingo Chair Kathy Trone and gleaned some great information ...

1. **Yes**, you bring food, but not drink just like a Trivia Night.
2. **No**, there are not teams, everyone plays on their own.
3. **Yes**, you can invite friends and if you want to sit together you can "purchase" a table for 8.
4. **Yes**, there is a cost (after all it is a "fundraiser") It is \$20 per person and each gets two Bingo Cards.
5. **No**, there are no "reserved seats" unless you purchase a table. Otherwise, it is first come seating.
6. **Yes**, beverages of all types will be available at the Rock Island Holiday Inn (location of the event).
7. **No**, the cards are not "normal" Bingo cards. The cards have Song Titles listed rather than numbers.
8. **No**, You don't have to be a music trivia buff. You are told what you need to know about the music.
9. **Yes**, You can and should reserve a table in advance. The cost is \$125 for 8 seats with each getting 2 cards.
10. **Yes**, it is fun! You hear lots of your favorite music, socialize with friends, and there are fun side contests thrown in throughout the evening.
11. **Yes**, there are prizes!
12. **Yes**, you can sign up by scanning one of the Codes →
13. **No**, we are not excluding anyone who is not "scanning" literate, Just email Kathy Trone to sign up: [Kathy@wesselspc.ocm](mailto:Kathy@wesselspc.ocm)

Table of 8-two cards each



Single Player-two cards







## FOUNDATION MINUTE

### RI's Month of Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

Mike Hebel, a retired police officer and his real-estate mogul wife, Gityjoon have been part of Rotary in San Francisco for over 30 years, during which they have donated **\$1million** to **TRF**. The Hebels have included **TRF** in their charitable giving and, in a *Rotary* magazine report, the couple explains why they feel happy to give to **TRF**. They are proud of the fact that Charity Navigator has given the Foundation a four-star rating, for 14 years in a row. Not only that, 89% of the money given to **TRF** went to programs and Mike emphasizes that, "...the standard is Rotary's standard." Mike avows that **TRF's "financial reporting is done very well" and the money donated by Rotarians is "being guarded well, used well, protected well, invested well."** Gityjoon Hebel adds that they believe in the Foundation "...and the whole of Rotary. The money goes to good use, and we have seen it. That trust for me is the most important part." That same trust, consistent with her spiritual philosophy of "love all, serve all, help ever, hurt never" and embedded in Rotary's motto of Service Above Self, is Gityjoon Hebel's religion, and "That's what I live by."

The Hebels have **included a bequest for \$10 million** in their wills and **encourage other Rotarians to join the Legacy Society, which recognizes those who promise a gift of \$1million or more to TRF in their estate plans.** Mike agrees with his wife, saying "You will never see a hearse with a luggage rack on it... You can't take it with you."

### Quick Response to Suggestion That Visits to Other Clubs be Memorialized!

Last week Kathy Trone shared a photo of her visit to the Coronado, California Rotary Club. We thought that was so neat that we invited others to share photos of their visits to other clubs. We got quick reply from Jim Nordquist who sent us two photos, one of Jim with the Gulf Shores Rotary Club banner in Orange Beach, Alabama; and a photo of the beach! Thanks Jim!



## ROTARY MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

We wish a very happy birthday to our fellow members!

Lonnie Behnke	March 13	Clarence Darrow	March 22
Kathy Trone	March 15	Avalon Thomas-Roebal	March 29
Gary Rowe	March 17	Bill Stengel	March 31
Jerry Jones	March 22		



### JOHN WETZEL WINS ROTARY TRIVIA GAME

Over the past six weeks our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sue Rector, who in addition to her many other duties serves as our Rotary Foundation Chairman created and offered to all members a weekly Trivia Contest promising the person scoring the highest score over the six weeks would spin the dial for a prize. [Do they also get the title Rotary's Most Trivial Member?] At any rate it appears Bob Swanson was 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tom Hammar came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the WINNER WAS **JOHN WETZEL**. So, John was called to the head table, and he "spun the spinner" and took home a nifty Target Gift Card! Thanks Sue for a fun fundraising game! Congratulations John! Your wisdom is truly awesome! Did you actually know how many fingers Mickey Mouse has on each hand?



### 2023 RI CONVENTION

## 7 REASONS TO GO TO THE MELBOURNE CONVENTION



Viewable Image - the Melbourne convention and exhibition centre

See the 7 Reasons - Next Page

## **1 You'll (re)connect with the Rotary family.**

The last Rotary International Convention, in Houston, was proof there's nothing like connecting face to face. But for many Rotary members in the Asia-Pacific region, where COVID-19 restrictions complicated travel plans, Melbourne will be their first in-person convention in four years. With five districts (representing more than 250 Rotary and Rotaract clubs) across the state of Victoria hosting the event, it's sure to be a big reunion.

## **2 You'll explore the world — all in one place.**

The convention is the best way to appreciate Rotary's global scale and reach, says Rebecca Fry, founding chair of RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) Oceania and charter president of the Rotary Club of Social Impact Network, New South Wales. "The House of Friendship is a true festival of Rotary, showcasing our organization's fellowships, action groups, and community projects from around the world."

## **3 You'll discover cities within a city.**

The coastal metropolis is known as the Australian capital of culture, food, sports, architecture, and theater. It's also a shopping mecca.

Mary Barry, chair of the Host Organization Committee, proudly notes Melbourne's regular recognition as one of the world's most livable cities. It is a family friendly place where visitors will feel instantly welcomed and at ease. "The city looks after its tourists with excellent public transport to unique attractions," says Roslyn Teirney, an assistant Rotary public image coordinator for Zone 8 and a member of the Rotary Club of North Hobart, Tasmania.

## **4 You'll be inspired.**

Rotary conventions are all about an exchange of ideas. And each year's gathering brings you big name speakers to inspire, connect, and spur solutions to the world's toughest challenges. Just look at the list of some past speakers: Bill Gates, Justin Trudeau, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Princess Anne of the United Kingdom. "While still early to announce 2023 program highlights, be assured only outstanding international speakers will take part," says HOC Chair Barry.

## **5 You'll get your kangaroo fix.**

Experience quintessential Australia with a visit to the Melbourne Zoo for a close-up and safe encounter with some of the world's most unusual, cute, and dangerous species — kangaroos, koalas, snakes, spiders, crocodiles, wombats, and platypuses. Just 13 miles northeast of Melbourne's central business district, the Gresswell Forest nature reserve provides spectacular sightings of eastern gray kangaroos, says Jennifer Scott, a past district governor and member of the Rotary Club of Central Blue Mountains.

Need more cuteness? Head to Phillip Island, 75 miles southeast of Melbourne, and check out the largest colony of little penguins in the world.

## **6 You'll feel energized.**

Looking for a place to hang out with all your new Rotary friends once the day is over? Melbourne has endless options. Laura Telford, chair of the Rotaract Australia multidistrict information organization and member of the Rotaract Club of Canberra, describes Melbourne as another of the famous cities that "never sleep."

"Visitors will enjoy jumping on one of more than 475 trams that cover 250 kilometers [155 miles] of track to take you to every corner of this exciting city."

## **7 You'll want to see more of Australia.**

While the distance can be a challenge in traveling to Melbourne, visitors may fly in to Sydney, Brisbane, Darwin, or Perth to make the most of a unique travel opportunity by seeing other parts of Australia. "The Great Barrier Reef, Uluru and the Red Centre, our tropical north, and the rugged coast of Western Australia all present memorable sightseeing experiences," Scott says.





SELLING IN THE LOBBY MARCH 14, & 21 AS YOU ENTER FOR OUR MEETINGS

## Kiwanis Club of Rock Island, IL

QUAD CITIES KIWANIS CLUBS  
ANNUAL ROSE DAY • APRIL 26, 2023

PLEASE PRINT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PICKUP LOCATIONS (circle one)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

SELLING MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_

### **Kiwanis** Rose Day

IN HONOR OF  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S DAY**

PLEASE BRING THIS RECEIPT when you pick up  
your roses. Your purchase supports Quad-Cities  
area youth programs.

**Our Kiwanis Club Sincerely Thanks You!**

TO BE PICKED UP ONLY ON  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023**  
AT LOCATION MARKED  
BETWEEN 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM

- 1) ☐ COLMAN FLORISTS, 1203 Jersey Ridge Rd, Davenport IA
- 2) ☐ FLOWERS BY JERRI, 616 W Kimberly Rd, Davenport, IA
- 3) ☐ MEL FOSTER, 2300 Cumberland Square Dr, Bettendorf, IA
- 4) ☐ HIGHLIGHT'S FLORISTS, 367 Avenue of the Cities, East Moline, IL
- 5) ☐ WHARTON FIELD HOUSE, 1800 20th Ave, Moline, IL
- 6) ☐ COLMAN FLORISTS, 1623 2nd Ave, Rock Island, IL
- 7) ☐ STECKER GRAPHICS, 2215 4th Ave, Rock Island, IL

**FAILURE to pick up Roses on the pickup date  
will result in the flowers being given to a  
local nursing home.**

ALL LOCATIONS WILL FOLLOW COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES

**\$20.00 Per Dozen**

**Help us to Serve the Children of the World, One Child, and One Community at a Time!**

# ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB 2023 AWARDS NOMINATION



Rock Island Rotary's annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. The Awards Committee seeks nomination for the following awards:

1. **Excellence:** Recognizes distinction or superiority in a field of endeavor. This can be for a single accomplishment or for achieving high standards of achievement or performance over a sustained period of time.
2. **Community Service:** Recognizes individuals or organizations who have worked effectively for the betterment of our community.
3. **The Luckenbill-Wray Award:** Recognizes a current Rock Island Rotarian for outstanding service and dedication to our club over the past year.
4. **A. T. Peara Award for Service Above Self:** Recognized the Rock Island Rotary member who has exhibited the dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were personified by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named.

The first two awards are **open to any individual or organization** that has demonstrated excellence or worked for the betterment of the Rock Island community. The Excellence Award applies to all lines of work and to all ages.

The **Luckenbill-Wray** and **A.T. Peara** awards are **limited to current members** of Rock Island Rotary. The A.T. Peara Award is a one time, life-time recognition, previous winners are not eligible for that award. See list on back of this form.

To ensure that our committee has adequate time to evaluate, consider, make the selections, and have awards prepared, the deadline for nominations is Noon, Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Please consider making one or more nominations using the lower portion of this form. Additional copies are available if you need them, or feel free to print your own. We greatly appreciate your participation and assistance.

Submit nominations to Sarah Gorham: [sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law](mailto:sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law)

**NOMINEE NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ EXCELLENCE AWARD    \_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY SERVICE    \_\_\_\_ LUCKENBILL-WRAY    \_\_\_\_ A.T. PEARA AWARD

Reasons in support of your Nomination:

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The following Club Members are Previous A. T. Peara Award Recipients and are not eligible for that award.

Dr. Tricia Barron 2015	Tom Hammar 2004	Anne McGlynn 2013	Gary N. Rowe 2000
Stan Coin 1998	Fred Houlton 1984	Jim Moran 2022	Molly Shattuck 2021
Carrie Crossen 2020	Frank Lambert 2002	Steve Morenz 2018	Holly Sparkman 2012
Jeff Dismer 2010	Ruth Lee 2009	John Phillips 2019Dr.	Bob Swanson 2014
Mary Fislar 2006	Mark Mayeski 2020	Richard (Bud) Phillis 1991	John Wetzel 2011