



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



April 4 2023: Volume XXX, Issue 40  
MEETING MONDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Rev. Laura Mahn NEST CAFÉ

Rev. Laura Evans Mahn the founder of NEST Café which is an acronym for Nourish Everyone Sustainably Together, received her Bachelor's Degree in Speech Communications from the University of

North Carolina – Wilmington, and her Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University. She served five years as PRN Chaplain at Trinity Healthcare supervising volunteers, interns and auxiliary chaplains and providing spiritual care to patients from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. In 2010 Rev. Mahn joined the staff at Augustana College serving for four years as Vocation Counselor and Volunteer Coordinator. In 2015 she accepted the pastor position at First Christian Church, Princeton, Illinois, commuting from her home in Rock Island where she resides with her husband, 2 sons, and 2 dogs. She founded NEST CAFÉ and became Chairman of the Board in 2020 and has served as Executive Director since 2021. The pay-what-you-can establishment served healthy meals to those in need at monthly pop-up sites for the their first two years. In April 2022, the cafe opened its doors at a permanent location on 4th Avenue in Rock Island, where they provide affordable, nutrient-based meals to the community. Rev. Mahn's hope is that NEST CAFÉ will help break the cycle of food insecurity and create more volunteer opportunities in the Quad Cities area. NEST isn't a soup kitchen. It's a real restaurant, just with a different payment system. Nutritious food is served buffet-style, and its menu will change daily to highlight seasonal foods and produce from local vendors. Laura stated, "When people are food insecure they try to make their money stretch as far as possible. They get food that is high in calories and high in sugar and highly processed. We want to be a place to help break that cycle." Guests are encouraged to pay a suggested donation for either a half plate or full plate, but any amount is welcome. Guests can donate less or donate more, whatever their situation allows them to donate. They also believe that everyone has something of value to give. So, if a guest doesn't have money, and is willing, they may become part of NEST Cafe in other ways such as donating time volunteering at the restaurant. Opening in Rock Island was an intentional choice. "We're the most diverse city in the Quad Cities. We also have the highest rate of food insecure people," Laura stressed the different approach taken by NEST Café from typical soup kitchens and food pantries. She said the traditional settings do good work in providing a quantity of food to those in need, but the food is often highly processed and the quality in terms of healthful nourishment is limited. Plus, she noted those behind the counters in traditional settings may get a great deal of satisfaction from helping others, but those on the receiving side of the line often feel shame and a loss of dignity. Some in need may not come because they don't want to admit they need help. NEST treats everyone as a restaurant customer. They order what they want and "donate" what they can. NEST provides a "suggested donation" for meals, but encourage those that can pay more to do so and those who can pay less or nothing to do that as well. No one knows what other customers are paying. They have found that 50-70% donate the suggested amounts or more and 30-40% donate less or nothing. She said the suggested donation does not cover the cost of the meal because it is purposely kept low to not intimate anyone from eating. The difference is made up by those that donate more than the suggested donation, grants, and private donations. After 1 year in their permanent site which will be completed this week, she says NEST Café is doing fine. They are expanding to two entrees, two side dishes, and two desserts each day. The menu changes daily and the restaurant is open for lunch from 11am to 2pm Tuesday through Saturday and for dinner from 5pm to 8pm Thursdays. They post each week's menu on their website, [www.nestcafeqc.org](http://www.nestcafeqc.org). NEST accepts donations of fresh produce, cash, and volunteer time. Ms. Mahn said they need 3-4 volunteers each day they are open. NEST Café serves an average of 50 customers daily, but daily customers vary widely. In two days, last week they had 130 one day and 27 the next. Their goal for 2023 is 10,000 meals and Laura said she is very confident they will achieve and pass that number. We thank Laura for a great presentation!

### April – May Calendar

- 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 welcomed three guests. Visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron joined us on ZOOM from Naples, Florida. Danielle Scott a prospective member was a guest of Angela Campbell. Dick Fislar was a guest of wife Mary. Jeremy Crafton was a guest of Char Flickinger. Thanks for visiting the “Number 1 Club”. We hope you will join us again!
- ❑ **BERT BLOOD SCHOLARSHIPS** – Will be presented at our Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. We anticipate a number of guests that day including the students competing for scholarships, their families, and representatives from the Illinois Extensions Service and 4H. Typically, members of the local 4H Foundation attend. Please make all guests feel welcome and if needed relocate your luncheon seat so that guest families can sit together.
- ❑ **ROTARY AWARDS LUNCHEON** – Will be held at our Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. As with the Blood Scholarship meeting we anticipate many guests. Parents of our six students who will be honored are planning to attend as are the winners and immediate family members of the Community Service, Professional Excellence, Luckenbill-Wray, and A.T. recipients. Please be welcoming to all guests and if needed, please help ensure that family members are able to sit together.
- ❑ **NOTHING READS LIKE A BOOK CHALLENGE** – President Cindi “Walked the Walk and Talked the Talk” today making a personal donation toward our District Project to provide 1 book per Club member to help stock the new Rock Island 30<sup>th</sup> Street Branch Library with quality children’s books; AND she challenged all to match her! We currently have 93 members (5 Honorary, 24 corporate, and 64 individual) so we need a minimum of 93 books!
- ❑ **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. See page 4 for details.
- ❑ **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’s raffle featured a bottle of fine wine and a 50/50 cash drawing. John Olinger held the first ticket drawn and opted to take the wine. Marcy Bell (who won the wine last week had the second lucky ticket and this week took home the cash! Congratulations to our winners and thanks to everyone who participated in the weekly Foundation Raffle!



## FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Sue Rector started the day offering her own fine for being tied up at work and missing last week’s meeting. Kevin Koski was fined in absentia in celebration of Finland joining NATO. Another absentia fine was levied on Clarence Darrow, for a really nice article appearing in the recently published South Rock Island Township Newsletter chronicling his career as a lawyer, politician, Judge, and family man. Congratulations Clarence! Eric Westphall was fined for leaving early after eating (duty called with multiple power outages caused by today’s storms.) We thank Eric and his fellow MidAmerican Energy colleagues for their hard work in crisis situations. Bud Phillis offered a happy dollar for Anne McGlynn’s excellent work in putting together the recently distributed Club report on our long standing commitment to Literacy. Sue Rector then offered a sad dollar for the cracked windshield she received this morning courtesy of large hail hitting Davenport. John Olinger closed out today’s Fines and Happy/Sad Dollars with a \$2 Happy celebration of the Iowa Women’s Basketball Team finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Nation. First would have been nice, but back to back Big 10 Championship and making it all the way to the final Championship game is an incredible accomplishment.

# FOUNDATION MINUTE

## RI's Month of Water & Sanitation.

Nothing says confidence like a strong feeling of self-worth; and in this month celebrating women, Foundation Minute picks up the story of young girls in poverty-stricken parts of the world whose sense of dignity and self-pride is often hurt by very poor hygiene and sanitation.

The District Stewardship Subcommittee of the Rotary Club of Rajapalayam Kings City (RID 3212, India) recently boosted the morale of female students at a government school by donating a girls toilet block, along with other facilities with a Global Grant aided by TRF. In an online publication in the latest edition of Rotary, the N A Annappa Raja Memorial High School is the beneficiary of a modern toilet block for girls, a Reverse Osmosis plant, two interactive boards with touch screen, a wi-fi link, a gym and a range of sports equipment and musical instruments; all set up at the cost of R48.57 lakh (USD 59,987.59). The GG project was initiated during the tenure of PDG PNB –Murugadoss (2020–21) “when our charter president John Selvaraj got a request from school headmaster A Ramesh for a new sanitation block to replace the dilapidated toilet which the girls found embarrassing to use,” he says.

Every three months, the club's grants committee will be visit N A Annappa Raja Memorial HS School to inspect the Rotary facilities. A student expresses gratitude for the new toilet block because it is “posh and neat; and the washbasins help us clean our hands easily during lunch. Now I enjoy attending school.” Headmaster Ramesh is confident of enrolling more girls with the new toilets. There are 820 boys, 630 girls in this school. Club president B Kumar Raja is happy that “we have done a GG project at a deserving school with students whose parents are mostly working in textile mills and factories.”

Rotary Club Fargo Moorhead (RID5586) is the global partner for this Water and Sanitation project. Foundation Minute wishes TRF's newest awardee bon voyage and much success in her studies!

## WE'RE ON THE "GROW"

According to a Rotary International report as of March 26, 2023, thirteen Rotary clubs in District 6420 have gained 63 members resulting in a net increase in membership in each of these clubs since the 2021-22 Rotary year. In other words, to date, these clubs have gained enough new members this year to make up for any losses in membership last year. The District recently sent a message to our President Cindi Gramenz recognizing and celebrating the good work of these clubs. Dixon, Geneseo, Illinois Valley Sunrise and Loves Park all have a net gain of one member. Belvidere, Kishwaukee Sunrise, Oregon, and the Quad Cities Club all have a net gain of two members. The Ottawa Noon club has gained six new members this year for a net gain of four. Toluca and **Rock Island** each have a net gain of six members with Toluca gaining seven new members, and **Rock Island** gaining nine new members this year. To date Rockford has gained eleven new members this year for a net gain of seven. Sixteen of our District's clubs have maintained their net membership over the last two years. That is no small task considering that last year was still a pandemic year.

There are still three months left in this Rotary year. We know there are still many great men and women in our community that we know, work with, and are friends of, that would be outstanding Rotarians. Let's surge forward and take top honors in the district! Bring a guest, introduce someone or several someone(s) to the great work and fellowship available in Rock Island Rotary!

## Nothing Reads Like a Book!

### 2022-2023 District-Wide Service Project

For the 2022-2023 Rotary year, our District-wide service project extends the good work of our District and Club's Literacy Committees by asking each Rotarian in our District to donate one new book to a local library. Rock Island Rotary decided to donate our books to the children's book section at the new 30th Street Rock Island Public Library Branch, By purchasing the needed books through the Library we get the best price per book, so cash donations go farther than book donations. We will have a donation box out periodically at our upcoming meetings to accept your donations. You can donate via check payable to Rock Island Rotary noting "Library" on the memo line. Those can be given to Treasurer Carrie Crossen anytime.



President Cindi made her donation of \$50 and Challenged each of us to match it (or donate something!)



# Wine & Dine Raffle

**5 Prizes!** \$200 gift certificates will be awarded to one of the following:



Bayside  
Bistro



Skylight  
LUXURY LOUNGE

**Tickets: 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20**

**Drawings will be held May 23, 2023**

*Proceeds go to the Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship*

**Rotary**



**Rock Island**



1 ticket: \$5



5 tickets: \$20

**Purchase tickets by scanning the QR Code of your choice,  
OR Email us at [rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com), OR  
control/click the link of your choice below.**

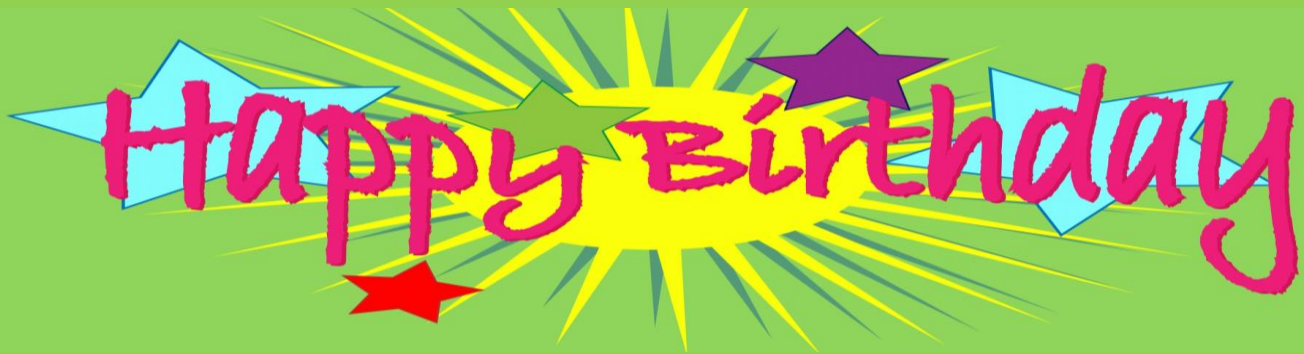
**1 Ticket for \$5.00**

**<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/PEB6ZBFH2TVTE/checkout/FXUGYO74Y25BCKJBBX7EWDVK>**

**5 Tickets for \$20**

**<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/PEB6ZBFH2TVTE/checkout/FT7I5FEJZUD2OHZNADQHZM2P>**

# April Rotarians



Rick Devinney - April 18  
Rick Emery - April 26

Kristia LeShoure - April 23  
Mark Zimmerman - April 17

## Donuts with Grown-ups at Earl Hanson

Six Rotarians are needed to help with "Donuts with Grown-ups" at the Earl Hanson Elementary School Gym on **Thursday, April 20**. We need you there by 7:30am and you'll be all done by 8:15 a.m.

Duties will be handing out coffee, juice and donuts to Earl Hanson parents, faculty and staff. As you can see from the photo our members who helped last year had a great time (and a few donuts!)

Please volunteer by contacting Sue Rector at [srector@gmail.com](mailto:srector@gmail.com) or call 563-343-7985

## OUR CLUB FOUNDATION GRANTS

Each year our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation provides a major funding grant or grants to a local project that will benefit the Rock Island Community and Citizens. During covid the grant was not made therefore this year we have 2-years of funds available making our available grant almost \$25,000. Our Club Foundation Committee has worked hard developing a new grant application which is available online through our website, [www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com) and is also being disseminated via various local not-for-profit organization mailing lists. Funds for our grants come from the income earned from donations made to our Club Foundations which are invested. The actual donated funds are not spent and are held as an endowment earning interest and dividends which annually provide the funds used for our grants. Club members are encouraged to donate to the Club Foundation. Grants are restricted to projects benefiting Rock Island and its citizens. Please help disseminate information about our grants to community projects you are aware of. We thank the Club Foundation Grants Committee for their work. Chair Justin Peterson, Doug Hultquist, Kathy Lelonek, Dan McNeil, Sue Rector, Molly Shattuck, John Wetzel. And the foundation Development Committee: Chair John Phillips, Stan Coin, Clarence Darrow, Tom Hammar, Mike Oberhaus, John Slover, Bill Stengel, and Eric Westphall.



ENJOY PLAYING EUCHRE? HELP A SISTER CLUB AND HAVE FUN TOO!



## **EUCHRE TOURNNEY**

**EAST MOLINE-SLVIS ROTARY CLUB**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY  
PROJECTS IN EAST MOLINE & SILVIS**

\$40 per person-Entry fee, heavy hors d'oeuvres and  
1 drink ticket. (Team entry is \$70)  
Cash bar available

**THURSDAY APRIL 20TH,. 2023**

**5:30-9:00 PM**

**RUST BELT, EAST MOLINE IL 61244**

**FINAL DEADLINE IS APRIL 11th - NO ENTRIES AT THE DOOR**

**Ask about sponsorship opportunities as well!!**

For more information or to register: Email  
Jaclyn Mayse [almosthome4u@gmail.com](mailto:almosthome4u@gmail.com)  
Amanda Thompson [jmhomesassistant@gmail.com](mailto:jmhomesassistant@gmail.com)

**EAST MOLINE - SILVIS ROTARY CLUB**  
**EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN  
EAST MOLINE & SILVIS**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH | 5:30PM-9:00PM  
RUST BELT, EAST MOLINE, IL 61244**

**Tournament consists of 4 rounds of 12 hands each.  
Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Cash bar available.**

**Prizes: Determined by number of entrants and will be awarded at the end of the  
night. Top 3 teams will receive a cash prize.**

**Registration is due by or before April 17th. No entries at the door.**

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**ENTRY FEES:**

**\$40 per person or \$70 per team (2 people)**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM MEMBERS NAME IF APPLICABLE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**5:00-5:30PM Registration. Please meet at the Rust Belt, 533 12th Ave, East Moline, IL. Plan to  
arrive early and enjoy food and drinks before the tournament begins.**

**5:45PM Tournament Guidelines. We will review rules once everyone finds their seats for the  
first game.**

**6:00PM Tournament Starts. We will play 4 rounds of 12 hands each. A 40-minute maximum  
will be allowed for each round.**

**9:00PM Tournament Ends. The scores will be tabulated and winners will be announced once  
all players have completed their fourth game and returned their scorecards.**

**Dress Code: Casual Attire**

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**Make checks payable to East Moline-Silvis Rotary**

**Payments will be accepted via the following (check one) : Mail registration form & check to  
3801 7th Street, East Moline, IL 61244**

**Pay at the door on the night of the event Venmo East Moline Silvis Rotary**

**Email registration forms to Jaclyn Mayse almosthome4u@gmail.com or Madison Miller  
madisonmiller0@gmail.com (if not mailed in) by or before April 17th**