



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



May 23, 2023 Volume XXX, Issue 49
MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

First Tee Quad Cities Sara Cross, Executive Director



In January of 2019 the Board of the First Tee of the Quad Cities announced the appointment of Sara McLaughlin-Cross as the new and first full time Executive Director. Sara, along with her husband Dylan, is a native to Moline. She graduated from Moline High School in 2008 where she accepted a full tennis scholarship to Northern Illinois University. Upon graduation in 2012, she accepted a graduate assistant position where she coached at Northern while perusing her Masters in Sport Management and went on to graduate in 2012. "Sara says she is thrilled to continue her work with youth development and was especially excited to become the first Executive Director of the First Tee. Today Sara along with Decker Ploehn, Bettendorf City Administrator, and Clair Peterson, recently retired Director of the John Deere Classic, both Board First Tee Board members joined us to talk about the new facilities and expanded First Tee programs at Highland Springs Golf Course. Ploehn Board Chairman at the time of Sara's appointment said her background in development with the Boy Scouts of America and her educational background in Sports Management from Northern Illinois University, made her the strongest candidate for the Executive Director position. The First Tee of the Quad Cities is a youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. Through after school and in school programs, The First Tee of the Quad Cities helps shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by reinforcing values like integrity, respect, and perseverance through the game of golf. The First Tee of the Quad Cities serves the community with Facilities at Red Hawk Golf Course in Davenport, Highland Springs Golf Course in Rock Island, Emeis Golf Course in Davenport, and in 2024 will open their first indoor year-around facility at Iron Tee in Bettendorf. Red Hawk was the first site for First Tee and currently serves 430 each year with 26 six-week sessions. Rock Island's Highland Springs was the second First Tee location which currently serves 208 kids. Emeis was the most recent addition and it is already serving 210 kids with 24 six-week sessions. Sara was most excited about the new Club House built as a joint project between the City of Rock Island and First Tee. That facility just opened and features a dedicated First Tee classroom. First Tee also has special programs with the M.L. King Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Moline YMCA, In total First Tee serves approximately 800 Quad City area kids. The six-week program costs \$85, however Sara said no child has ever been turned away because of inability to pay. Grants and scholarships are available. In addition to their regular teaching of golf skill along with important life lessons, First Tee also is the chief sponsor of the John Deere Classic Youth Day which annually attracts over 1,000 kids who enjoy numerous activities at the TPC Golf Course including learning from PGA professional, hitting balls, and having a great time on the golf course. First Tee also hosts a "Breakfast of Champions" where kids get close contact with some of the younger Corporate exemption players. First Tee also fields a PGA Jr. Team sponsored by TPC and those kids get to compete with others from all over the state and region. They also send one First Tee student each year to a 4-day PGA Jr. Academy for an experience of a lifetime working with pro coaches. This past week they also were able to take 10 girls to the NAIA Women's Collegiate National Championship Tournament held at Deere Run and those kids got to play with and learn from the Collegiate golf stars. Thanks to Sara for an exciting and informative program! Continued Success!

May Calendar

- May 30 - The I-74 Bridge Demolition - Image Consultants
- May 30 - 1pm. Fundraising Committee Meeting.
- June 6 - TBA
- June 12 - Board of Director Mtg.
- June 13 - TBA
- June 20 - TBA
- June 27 - TBA
- July 4 - NO MEETING – Think Patriotic - Enjoy family.



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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** – We were pleased to welcome three visiting Rotarians as guests today. Duncan Cameron a member of the Naples, Florida Club. Mark Zimmerman a member of the Davenport Club, and Decker Ploehn a member of the Bettendorf Club joined us. We also welcomed Clair Peterson former Director of the John Deere Q. C. Open PGA tournament. He, Decker, and Doug Hultquist are Board Members of First Tee. Doug handled introducing our speaker, Sara McLaughlin-Cross.
- ❑ **ROTARY RAFFLE OVER & WINNERS ANNOUNCED!** – TODAY was the Big day when the five winners were drawn! We thank all of the great supporters throughout our community and beyond who support the fundraiser and purchased tickets. We hope the winners enjoy their dining and wining experience and know that the students who will benefit with scholarships funded by the raffle will greatly appreciate the financial help in paying tuition, buying books and all the other expenses of a college education.
- ❑ **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 30th 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! The donation box will be out next week so come prepared!
- ❑ **NEW EMPHASIS ON FELLOWSHIP & FUN** – Last week’s newsletter showed several of our members attending a joint Rotary Club social gathering at the Crawford Brew Works sponsored by the combined Iowa side clubs. Next month our club will sponsor a Night at the Backwater Gamblers with all 12 area Rotary Clubs invited to join us. The Illinois side incoming Rotary presidents have been discussing several new joint social events. Together we can get more done and getting to know one another is a key to working together.
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to bobdebswanson@att.net
The Weekly Review is distributed each Tuesday afternoon.



FINAL JORDAN EARLYACT MEETING FOR 2022-23

President Cindi and club liaison Jim Moran visited the final meeting of the Jordan EarlyAct Club for this school year. (Can you find Cindi in the crowd of kids?) Each club member was given a Certificate for their participation in Earlyact, and they celebrated being one of the EarlyAct, Interact, Rotaract Clubs in our District who received a \$100 prize for submitting a report on all the activities and projects the Club completed during the year. A copy of their report appeared in last week’s newsletter. Special thanks to the Club sponsors, Jennifer Heckenkamp, and Katy Saucedo and to Jim Moran and Bud Phillis our liaisons to EarlyAct.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE POLIO PLUS SOCIETY?

Foundation chair Sue Rector reminded us that about a year ago 25 of our members were "charter members" of Rotary's Polio Plus Society. To join one must only agree to donate \$100 per year to Polio Plus for as long as it takes to eradicate the disease from planet earth. Hopefully that will be soon! If you didn't join last year, you can still be a part of the Society. Just see Sue and make your \$100 per year commitment.



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR BIRDIES PLEDGE FOR 2023?

YOUR PLEDGE IS NEEDED. Every dollar pledged by Club members is returned to Rock Island Rotary with an added bonus from the Deere Charitable Foundation, guaranteed to be at least 5%. Last year the bonus was 7%. All pledges will be invested in our local Club Foundation. The principal is never spent, and the income earned from the Foundation investments will fund major Club Grants for the betterment and benefit of Rock Island and its citizens. Our Foundation Directors are meeting today to discuss the many worthwhile projects that submitted requests for funding. Their criteria used by our Foundation in evaluating proposals is 1) it must be for the betterment of Rock Island and its citizens 2) it must provide visible and lasting recognition of Rotary; and 3) It should provide a major impact to our community. The Birdies program is one of the major sources of continuing growth of the Foundation and because of the Deere Foundation bonus, it is the best way for each of us to support our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. Chairman Kevin Koski reported today that pledges have unexpectedly slowed down. We are at 22 pledges toward our goal of 40 and \$2,873 toward our goal of \$4,000. Please get your pledge to Kevin or drop it off at the Sergeant at Arms table.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary's Youth Service Month

The news this week is culled from the latest message to Rotarians by the RI Trustee Chair 2022-23, Ian H.S. Riseley, published in the current edition of ROTARY (May 2023). His message is a reminder of what it takes to make lives better in communities around the world.

"Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as ever you can."

While we don't know its exact origin, this widely quoted saying summarizes what Rotary and The Rotary Foundation are all about: We do quite a lot of good, serving people around the world in myriad ways, and we are in it for the long haul.

How many other charities do so much good in so many ways for so many as The Rotary Foundation?

Not only do we, the volunteers, fund most of our projects, but we often contribute significant volunteer hours in organizing and executing them. The "regional offices" of our charity — also known as Rotary and Rotaract clubs — are our reliable go-to partners in the more than 200 countries and geographical areas in which we operate. And when we lack expertise in an area, we partner with outside organizations whose trust we have earned, such as the World Health Organization, to deliver results on the ground that truly change lives....We in Rotary are excellent stewards of our grants, with most of the funds going toward humanitarian support itself and relatively little going to grant administration costs. This is why Charity Navigator has consistently given its highest rating to The Rotary Foundation, year after year....Unlike some charitable organizations, we don't take the "parachute approach" to humanitarian work. Before we lift a shovel to start any Foundation project, we conduct community needs assessments and work closely with members of the community. The Foundation also acts quickly when needed, such as through our disaster response grants, as we did with the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria."

FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of refreshing fine wine! Molly Shattuck pulled the tickets as Bud Phillis supervised. The first lucky winner was Jeff Dismer who took the cash and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. The second lucky ticket was held by Pete Wessels who took some excellent wine along back to his office today! All proceeds from our weekly raffle go to support the Rotary Foundation. We appreciate all who play!



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.

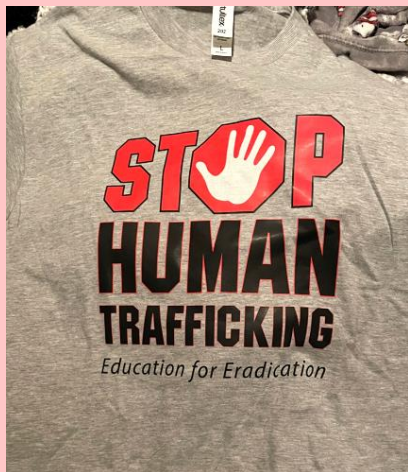


President Cindi made her donation and Challenges each of us to match it (or at least donate something, more or less!

FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Fill-in president Justin Peterson made sure that V.P. Sue received the traditional greeting for our "levier of fines" leading the chorus of "Boos". Then she announced that she had no fines and asked for Happy/Sad dollars. Club members responded first with Carrie Crossen offering her Happy Dollar for her stepdaughter's wedding this past Saturday. She said, "Beautiful day for a beautiful couple." Mark Zimmerman had a Happy Dollar for his daughter, the current president of the Davenport Rotary Club. She has a new baby and is thrilled that the Rotary year is almost over! Jeff Dismer had a Happy Dollar welcoming Richard Gallens as a new partner in Studio 483 Architects. Kai Swanson offered a Happy Dollar in celebration of "Ride Your Bike to Work Week". (He also rode his bike to Rotary!) Jim Moran had Happy Dollars for the Jordan Earlyact and Rocky Interact Clubs for both being \$100 winners of the Rotary District Showcase of Rotaract, Interact, and Earlyact clubs. Then prior to ending the session Sue announced that she did have one fine, Tracy Pugh paid a dollar for needing to leave early today. Thanks to everyone who joined the celebrations and threw in a donation.

HELP STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Kathy Trone, our District Human Trafficking Task Force chair is taking orders for the new "STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING" tee shirt. In addition to the message on the front, there is a District Rotary Logo on the sleeve. Rotarians may purchase shirts for \$25 with proceeds going to the Anti-Trafficking Task Force. The funds raised will be used to provide education on recognizing human trafficking and what to do when it is identified. The influx of immigrants and the ruthless involvement of cartels and gangs has brought about a nationwide increase in the prevalence of trafficking. Our help is needed to free many from a life of misery and enslavement. It is a great cause, and we hope many members will support the effort and purchase a shirt. Kathy is taking orders. You can email Kathy at kathy@wesselspc.com and she'll order one (or more) for you. Be sure to indicate the size needed. Kathy will also take orders in person at upcoming

**HAVE YOU INVITED A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE TO BE YOUR GUEST AT ROTARY
– PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS EAT FREE? HELP GROW THE CLUB!**

IMPORTANT MEETING APPROACHING NEXT TUESDAY!

**Tuesday, May 30th – THE NEW FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE will meet with President Cindi at 1:00pm
Club members who chair any fundraising are on this committee and should
attend along with any other club members who may have interest.**

SIGN UP IS UNDERWAY!

Rock Island Rotary has arranged a totally FREE event for All Rotarians in the Quad City Area.

ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BACKWATER GAMBLERS! Sunday, June 25th

Inclement Weather Date Sunday, July 15th

THIS IS PURELY A ROTARY SOCIAL EVENT TO LET OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHARE IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARY. THERE WILL BE NO FUNDRAISING OR PLEAS. JUST FUN IN THE SUN!. NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION OR PARKING!

Performing on the scenic waters of the Rock River the Backwater Gamblers are a Nationally Recognized, Award-Winning Ski Team. If you've seen or heard of the Tommy Bartlett Water Ski Show at Wisconsin Dells, or the Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show at Winter Haven, Florida, the Backwater Gamblers are equivalent in talent and thrills! Bleacher seating will be provided, and ROTARY will have center seating right up front! There is NO COST for the show, or parking. Concessions will be available, and they do "pass the hat" for support. The fun in the late afternoon sun is outstanding! There is a mixture of thrills, beauty, comedy, costumes, and speed from high pyramid skiing to barefoot racers, and high in the sky ski jumpers! There is also on shore comedy skit entertainment that everyone will enjoy! Everyone loves the Backwater Gamblers! Multiple times National Ski Champions -- year after year in the National Finals! Rotary seating will be a large section, seats by "first come." **The show begins at 6:30pm.** Parking opens at 5:30.



The BACKWATER GAMBLERS perform on the Rock River at beautiful Ben Williamson Park in Rock Island, 5000 44th Street. Go south off John Deere Road on 44th Street and you will come directly into the parking area. The ski show grandstand seats over 1,300 on the sandy beach of the river.

This event is open to all club members, our families, and our friends. Invite anyone you think might enjoy the show and Rotary fellowship. Prospective members would be outstanding guests to invite! All we need from you is the number of seats you wish to have held for you and your guests. Sign up at the Sergeant's table or email Bob Swanson bobdebswanson@att.net. We have invited all area Rotary Clubs, so wear your Rock Island Rotary shirt, cap, or whatever you have and let's make a "SPLASH"!

Rock Island Rotary Club

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

937

BIRD NUMBER

I PLEDGE TO DONATE:

\$ _____ to the charity noted above.
(one time, flat donation amount)

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY BONUS FUND

- ☐ Yes, I would like to make an additional donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund in the amount of \$ _____, to help provide the minimum 5% match to all participating charities.

GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2023 LEXUS!

I guess that _____ birdies will be made.
Only one grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law.

BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR

2,040 (2014)	1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)
1,990 (2015)	2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)
1,982 (2016)	2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)

PLEDGE & DONOR INFORMATION (please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL _____

Please include payment & make checks payable to:
BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Chip in for your chance to win

When you chip in to help area charities, you could win! But your favorite charity will be the real winner. That's because participating charities receive 100% of the donations pledged to them in this program, plus a bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund, which is a guaranteed 5% match.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at
15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA TOUR Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winners will be randomly selected.

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS AS YOUR RECEIPT

I pledged \$ _____ one-time donation.

I guessed _____ birdies would be made.

Payment was included with pledge

☐ YES \$ _____ ☐ NO

☐ CASH ☐ CHECK NO. _____

Please make checks payable to:

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY
15623 COALTOWN ROAD
EAST MOLINE, IL 61244



Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN #93-1332421, doing business as John Deere Classic & Birdies for Charity.



GRAND PRIZE:
2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2023 LEXUS NX!

One lucky supporter of the
John Deere Classic's Birdies



SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES

for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2023 Lexus NX, courtesy of Smart Lexus of Quad Cities.

CONTEST RULES

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties determined by random drawing.
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card and received at the tournament office by June 16.
- Rules are available at www.birdiesforcharity.com
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Pledges submitted after the JDC (after July 9, 2023) may be applied the following year.



JOHN DEERE
CLASSIC

JULY 5-9, 2023