



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



May 30, 2023 Volume XXX, Issue 50
MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



The I-74 Bridge Demolition The Helm Group

May Calendar

- June 6 - Cathy Wine, Exec. Dir.
River Action
- June 12 - Board of Director Mtg.
- June 13 RYLA Returnees
- June 20 Nathaniel Kraft, Exec.
Dir. Bix Beiderbecke
Museum
- June 27 Rotary Year Wrap Up
Cindi Gramenz, Pres
- July 4 Holiday: No Meeting
- July 11 - Board Member, Dist.
Gov. Eave Emerick
- July 18 - Richard Hammar -
Amateur Astronomy
- July 25 - Kathy Trone - Human
Trafficking

In 1935 the Iowa-Illinois Memorial suspension bridge between Moline, Illinois and Bettendorf, Iowa was completed. It was 24.2 feet wide and carried one lane of traffic in each direction. A twin bridge was added in 1960 providing two more lanes of traffic. The original bridge became the west bound bridge and the 1960 twin the east bound. Officially still the Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge, it locally became known as the Twin Bridges. In 1974 the bridges became the I-74 Bridge. The bridges were built for a combined daily crossing of 48,000 vehicles. By 2013 over 80,000 vehicles were crossing each day. With no shoulder, an accident on the bridge brought traffic to a halt. The new I-74 bridge opened in 2021 copied the twin bridge concept with each span being 85 feet taller than the old bridges and each carry four lanes in each direction plus a bicycle and pedestrian lane. The new Bridge, still officially know as the Iowa-Illinois Memorial Bridge is able to accommodate more than 100,000 vehicles each day and is built to last 100 years. But what of the iconic original twin bridges? Piece by piece the bridges have been coming down and today we had three representatives speak with us. Mark Brandl, Resident Engineer is a consultant for the Iowa Department of Transportation, providing inspections oversight on the demolition project. Chris Snyder, Project Manager with the Helm Group manages the entire demolition project. He also led construction of the Iowa viaducts (the bridges over land) for the new I-74 River Bridge. Tom Schebler, Project Engineer with the Helm Group, provides construction oversight as part of the contractor's team. Mr. Brandl starting off stating that since the bridge crosses the Mississippi its removal is a bi-state effort which complicated the job. The Federal EPA, and Environmental authorities from both states were involved. Assurances had to be given that the endangered species mussels on the Illinois side were protected and that the river itself was also kept free of debris. Both states' fish and wildlife departments were involved to protect the fish. The federal DOT was involved along with the Coast Guard to protect river traffic and the adjacent interstate vehicle traffic. Public safety authorities in both states had to be consulted and included in the plans which also included developing an agreed detour route for traffic at the time the final towers and suspension cables are taken down. The speakers noted that the bridge demolition started in September of 2022. The concrete deck was the first to go. That was accomplished by sawing the deck into 4' x 8' slabs that could be handled by excavators. However, they could not just be removed. They had to be stacked equally on each side of the suspension towers to maintain balance and avoid an unplanned toppling of the towers. They were then carefully loaded by crane from the bridge floor to barges.

See

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



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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 Duncan Cameron a visiting Rotarian member of the Naples, Florida Club. He was our only guest today. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guests, particularly those that come as prospective members at the invitation of a current club members. How long has it been since you invited a friend or colleague to join you for lunch at Rotary? The lifeblood of our Club is in our members and that only continues as long as we reach out and welcome others into the fellowship and service of Rotary.

□ **NEARING AN END - NOTHING READS LIKE A BOOK CHALLENGE NEEDS YOUR HELP** – District Governor Laura Kann set a goal of 1 book for every Rotarian in every club. For us that means we need to collect or purchase just under 100 books. We had the discretion of determining where those books will go and the decision was made to put the majority of our efforts into providing a quality children's book collection at the new 30th Street public library branch. A smaller number of books were directed to the library collection at Friendship Manor. The campaign ends June 30th and we still need books to meet our 1 book per member goal. The donation box will be out the next few weeks. Please put a book or your donation in the box!

□ **JOIN THE RAFFLE TEAM** – We need some Rotary International Foundation Raffle assistance. Please consider volunteering to join Bud Phillis or Sue Rector to sell raffle tickets one week each month. The third Tuesday is covered by Anne McGlynn and Tammy Weikert. Please let Sue know if you can help the 1st, 2nd, or 4th Tuesdays -or if you could be a sub if needed. It is an easy job and a fun way to meet and greet fellow members!

□ **MAKE YOUR COMMITTEE CHOICES** – President Cindi is requested that each member serve on two Club committees, more if you want. Please select the committees that interest you and turn in your choices to Cindi. Your choice will be honored unless the committee is already at capacity, so don't dawdle! Get your preferences to Cindi for the best chance of serving where you request.

□ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to bobdebswanson@att.net
The Weekly Review is distributed each Tuesday afternoon.

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.



MAKE 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 club's Foundation Directors meet to discuss the many worthwhile projects that submit requests for funding. The 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 reports that pledges have unexpectedly slowed and with just two weeks to go we are far from toward our goal of 40 member pledges and \$4,000 in total monetary pledges.. Please get your pledge to Kevin or drop it off at the Sergeant at Arms table. Just two meetings left and the campaign ends.

Continued from page 1 – Bridge

They said the towers, rising 165 feet above the water actually sway as much as one foot each way under the normal bridge load. Maintaining a balance of weight on either side of each tower is essential to avoid a catastrophic tower collapse. After removal of the concrete deck, sections of the steel super structure are being removed, again taking care to maintain a weight balance around the towers. To date approximately 6,000 cubic yards of concrete has been removed and sent for recycling and removal and recycling of the rebar. Eight Million pounds of steel has been removed which accounts for about 50% of the bridge steel. More will be removed until what is left will be just the suspension towers and the suspension cables. To do the job the Helm Group has on site 5 cranes, 11 excavators, 3 end loaders, 4 crew boats, and numerous barges. With the super structure gone, the final task will be removing the suspension cables and towers. The public will be interested in this “final phase” of the job which will be accomplished by explosion or technically “implosion.” Our speakers stated that the date of that event has not been officially set but said it would be relatively soon. The date was previously set however was cancelled because of the recent Mississippi flooding. They said the depth of the water is not the primary concern, the velocity of the current is the critical factor and to ensure what is dropped into the river is swiftly carried downstream and potentially cause damage to bridges, dams, and barge traffic, they had to wait for the river to “calm down.” After all the removable steel has been loaded onto barges and take away, Helm Group welders will partially cut through the suspension cables and sections of the towers. A licensed explosive expert will place charges in strategically identified locations and once set the explosions will take of the top of section of the towers and the section down to the base of the former bridge deck. All debris must be cleared from the main channel with 24 hours and from the rest of the river within 72 hours. Traffic will be disrupted and detoured away from the bridge during the blast. They stated that the traffic over the new I-74 bridge would be halted for about 20 minutes. Water traffic on the river will be closed for 24 hours. If you miss the “big blast” there will be additional blasts though much less dramatic when Helm removes the lower sections of the towers with underwater blasts. The men stated that all there might be to see at those blasts is a big wave. Once again all debris will be removed from the channel within 24 hours of those blasts. They did say that before the big explosion removing the above water portion of the towers, smaller explosions will be set off under water to scare the fish away from the bridge to ensure none of our finned friends are hurt when the towers are dropped. The presentation was very informative and interesting, and we hope for a successful conclusion to the bridge removal project, which for those involved poses significant danger. We appreciate hearing what has happened and what is yet to come in the ongoing saga of the I-74 Bridges.

NEXT WEEK WILL BE OUR FINAL COLLECTION FOR NOTHING READS LIKE A BOOK

When District Governor Laura Kann visited us last July she announced her District Project Goal was in support of Rotary’s major emphasis on literacy. She asked that every Rotarian in District 6420 donate a book to be given to an area library, school, or other facility as may be chosen by each Rotary Club. We were very fortunate to have a brand-new Public Library branch opening in Rock Island during the past year. After consultation with or fellow member Angela Campbell who is the Head Librarian for the Rock Island Public Library, President Cindi and our board decided to concentrate our book donations on stocking the children’s library section at the new 30th Street branch library. For the past eleven months we have been collecting books and donations. The campaign will end next Tuesday. If you’ve brought a book or made your donation, pat yourself on the back and accept the thanks of the hundreds of kids that will enjoy and benefit from your generosity. If you have not yet donated a book or made a cash donation please do so next Tuesday. We want to be a 100% club in answering the Governor’s request.

YOUR ROTARY “TO DO” LIST:

- 1. Make your donation to “Nothing Reads Like a Book” – Maybe 10 bucks**
- 2. Sign up for Rotary Night at the Backwater Gamblers – Free**
- 3. Make your pledge for Birdies for Charity – Any amount you choose**
- 4. Fill out and hand in your Committee Preferences for 2023-24 – Free**
- 5. Consider being host family for Rotary Exchange Student – Priceless**

FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary's Youth Service Month

The Rotary Club of Abuja (Nigeria) is embarking on a signature project in the nation's capital city as part of its efforts to reduce the level of conflicts in Nigeria. Goddy Nnadi, DG, RID 9125, made the announcement on Saturday, May 20 at the 14th Rotary District Conference in Abuja. According to a report published in *The Vanguard*, the center, which will be sited in Jos, Plateau State, is the second Rotary Foundation funded Peace project in Africa. The first center is in Uganda. The Abuja Center, Rotarian Nnadi explained, would serve as a training ground for peace and conflict resolution. "It is going to be a training ground. Rotary has the peace arm.

Peace and conflict resolution is a major focus of Rotary events and we have working groups with so many organizations. In the last elections, we participated, and we helped to observe what happened in the election and we reported back. We train people to avoid conflicts and maintain peace in our community, neighborhood, and country." DG Nnadi said the body was able to make significant impacts on humanitarian projects during his tenure because, "despite the poor economic turn in Nigeria, Rotarians pulled their weight, and we made \$560,000 donations to The Rotary Foundation. We transformed the toilets and bathrooms of Government Girls Secondary School, Dutsen Alhaji in Abuja. Having girls bathe outside was not the best, so we needed to protect their dignities which cost us almost N9m (USD\$20,552). In Akure, about 14 people with hernia were operated on for free of charge. We helped people carry out eye surgeries in Kaduna and we are happy."

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of refreshing Chardonnay wine! Bud Phillis supervised pulling the tickets. The first lucky winner was former member and frequent visitor, Dr. Tricia Barron. She took the wine. Our second winner was Sue Rector who took the cash and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. All proceeds from our weekly raffle go to support the Rotary Foundation. We appreciate all who play! Please check the announcements on page two for information about the Raffle needing help!



FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Sue received the traditional greeting of "Boos" as she stepped to the microphone and levied fines. Tyla Sherwin—Cole and Bill Stengel were each tapped a dollar for leaving early. Bill Stengel would probably have escaped had he not been announced as a raffle prize winner. Not only did he get fined for leaving, but also forfeited his raffle prize! That's "tough love." Sue then fined herself \$15 in five-dollar increments. \$5 for a successful Augustana graduation on Saturday; \$5 for her grandson Elijah's baseball team being undefeated with just a week left in their season; and, \$5 for her employer, CASI, stepping up as the emergency shelter for victims of the weekend building collapse in downtown Davenport. John Oliger had five happy dollars honoring his fifth and final son's graduation from Augustana College this past Saturday. Monta Ponsetto put in five happy dollars for her grand daughter's graduation from pre-school! Our final contributor was Dave Hodge who paid a happy dollar for completing his first 100 miles of swimming in his goal to swim 200 miles this year. We really appreciate those who share their Happy and occasional a Sad dollar with us. Proceeds go to support our Rotary projects.

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 meetings.

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