



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



June 13, 2023 Volume XXX, Issue 50
MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

RYLA 2023



June = July Calendar

- 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 & officer
Instillation - Dist.
Gov. Eave Emerick
- July 18 - Richard Hammar -
Amateur Astronomy
- July 25 - Kathy Trone - Human
Trafficking
- Aug 1 - TBA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where teens develop skills as a leader while having fun and making connections. Local students get the benefit of connecting with leaders in our community and around the world to: Build communication and problem-solving skills; Discover strategies for becoming a dynamic leader in your school or community; Learn from community leaders, inspirational speakers, and peer mentors' Unlock your potential to turn motivation into action; Have fun and form lasting friendships; RYLA events in our District 6420 are organized by the districts for participants ages 14-18. It is held at the Northern Illinois University Lorado-Taft Campus at Lowden State Park near Oregon, Illinois is a three-day camp. Typically, RYLA includes presentations, activities, and workshops covering a variety of topics. RYLA hones the students' leadership potential and develops creative problem-solving strategies, and to learn ethical practices. which will benefit their Interact Club when they return and provided lifelong skills they can draw on in their future careers and community activities This Year Rock Island Rotary sponsored four members of the Rocky Interact Club to attend RYLA. Twin sisters, Lyric and Layla Rice, along with Miles Davis, and Jacob Perez represented Rock Island Interact. Jacob just completed his freshman year and Layla, Lyric, and Miles their junior year at Rocky. All four are outstanding students, leaders in their class, and very involved in school activities. They were selected by Interact sponsor and Rock Island High School administrator, Lonnie Behnke. Presenting our program today, the students told us about their RYLA experience. .Today Layla, Lyric, Jacob, and Interact sponsor Lonnie Behnke presented our program. Miles unfortunately was not available today but sent word through Lonnie that RYLA was a "Life changing experience". Layla, lyric, and Jacob took turns telling of the various aspects of their 3 days at RYLA. Lonnie began by give a bit of history of RYLA He noted that the very first RYLA camp was held in 1959 in Queensland, Australia. It was a huge success and was attended by Queen Elizabeth's cousin, Princess Alexandra. The following year two other Australian Districts established RYLA programs, again with huge success.. RYLA quickly expand to all Rotary districts in Australia and led to its approval as a Rotary International program by the RI Board in 1971. Currently RYLA has 25,000 students and young adults participating globally. Lonnie said that part of the registration process required the student to sign a Code of Conduct, stating, this is not just play, "it is serious leadership training. As the students made their presentations, a slide show of photos from their RYLA experience was displayed. Lyric began by talking about the speakers. She said they spoke on topics such as a teen's day to day life, setting goals, solving problems, making good decision, consequences of bad decisions, and said every speaker was very good and their information was helpful. Layla spoke about the social activities. She said she was surprised at how RYLA created fun ways that forced the attendees to leave their own school friends and meet and work with students from other school from all over the state. She said they did hikes, evening bond fires, and did fun team building activities. Lyla said even though she didn't know the new friends well, in the activities you felt a great sense of not wanting to let your teammates down. Jacob then spoke of the leadership building activities. He said he benefited

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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** – Today we were pleased to welcome Tyson Danner from Common Chord Quad Cities and Duncan Cameron a visiting Rotarian from the Naples, Florida Rotary club. Welcoming guests, potential members, and new members is one of our favorite tasks. Have you invited a friend or colleague to join you at Rotary recently? Prospective members are guests of the Club for lunch.

❑ **INTERESTED IN LINING UP PROGRAMS** – We are doing it a bit different this year. Rather than 2 months, you can volunteer to be program organizer for just one month. Keep in mind that in some months there are traditional programs that are scheduled annually such as the State of the Schools, State of the City, Bert Blood Scholarship, Awards Banquet, and others. One month might involve getting five programs or as few as two programs. If interested in taking a month, email President Cindi at cgramenz15@gmail.com. Also, if you see or hear an outstanding program at something other than Rotary, please let Program Chair Rebecca Arnold know. We love to track down great programs to entertain, educate, and inform you!

❑ **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** – Was held yesterday a week prior to normal because of Juneteenth being celebrated next Monday. The Board approved allowing Sue Rector and John Olinger to “Trade years” for attending the Rotary International Convention if that better fits both of their schedules. The Board discussed the importance of having a Club representative(s) attend the International event as well as District Conferences and training programs. The Board also approved appointing Frank Lambert to fill the “Past-Presidents” seat on the Board since Cindi will be serving a second year as president.

❑ **LAST CHANGE TO SIGN UP FOR BACKWATER GAMBLERS** – Our final count is due Monday so if you missed signing up you must email Bob at bobdebswanson@att.net this week. Say how many FREE seats you want.

❑ **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.

TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY FOR BIRDIES PLEDGES



With “Birdie & Chief” Kevin out of town, Bob Swanson filled in with the final pitch for 2023 Birdies Pledges. Our pledges must be turned in to the Deere Charitable Foundation by Thursday so if you missed turning in your pledge and want to support our effort, your last chance is to email Bob at bobdebswanson@att.net and tell him how much you will pledge and how many birdies you guess the pros will score at this year’s John Deere Classic. He will fill out the form for you and send it in, He must have your email by Thursday noon!

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.



Silent Auction on our minds!

As you do your late spring cleaning - or find things that are just don't seem right for that summer garage sale - or just have some gift cards that you can't seem to remember to use - or have that bottle of wine or spirits that you really don't care for and will never use - PLEASE think about your Rotary Club and the fall Trivia Night Silent Auction instead of parting ways with them elsewhere. I've cleared a spot in our spare bedroom to take items off your hands anytime you want. I will even pick things up if you need me to do that. So, the message is, if you have items you don't need or won't use that would be great silent auction items for our fall fundraiser, please let me know - or bring them to Rotary. We hope to have a better than ever silent auction and Trivia night this fall - with your help! Contact Sue Rector at srector3614@gmail.com or 563.3437985. Thank you!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

It's Week 2 of RI's Month of Rotary Fellowships

Welcome back home to all Rotarians who attended the International Convention in Melbourne, Australia. While the main event of the year was happening down under, Rotary clubs in other parts of the globe were busy advancing world understanding by providing quality education, one of the primary mission goals of TRF.

This week's FM is on three Rotary Clubs that have provided scholarships to needy students. The Vancouver Rotary Foundation awarded \$120,000 in college scholarships ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$4,000 to 32 southwest Washington high school and college students. In 50 years, the foundation, which is the charitable arm of the Rotary Club of Vancouver, has awarded more than \$2 million in scholarships to local students. In another report, the foundation of the Casa Grande Rotary Club (AZ) has awarded \$80,500 to students and three nonprofit organizations. On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, during a club meeting at Eva's Fine Mexican Food, the foundation awarded \$11,500 each to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor, Pinal Council for CASA/Foster Inc., and the AARP Reading Literacy Program. The foundation also recently awarded college scholarships totaling \$46,000 to seniors at Casa Grande high schools. Over the years, the club has awarded more than \$1.5 million in scholarships and been a longtime contributor to the Boys & Girls Clubs and other nonprofits.

On Friday June 10, Dr. Michael Hart of Rotary Club of Westfield (NJ) reports that his club has awarded \$94,450 in scholarships to 16 students. Since 1967 the Rotary Club of Westfield has awarded over \$3.4 million dollars in scholarships to approximately 1,800 students.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of refreshing wine. The first lucky winner was Bill Stengel who took the cash, and had it delivered to our three student program speakers, saying "they can now say the were paid speakers". The second winner was Pete Wessels who took home the "Vino"! All proceeds from our weekly raffle go to support the Rotary Foundation. We appreciate all who play!



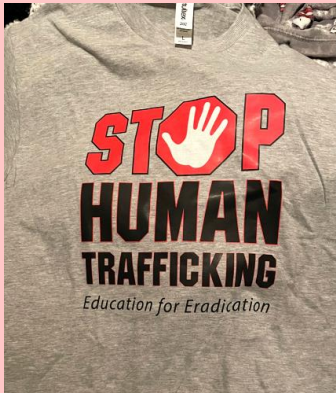
HOW ABOUT JOINING THE RAFFLE TEAM?

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 staff the raffle table the 1st, 2nd, or 4th Tuesdays of each month, or if you could be a sub if needed. It is an easy job and a fun way to meet and greet fellow members! Sue is waiting for your email at srector@gmail.com!

FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

First an admission. Mary Fislar had an important happy dollar item last week and I missed putting in the report so in addition to the FINE I'll owe for the oversight, here is her news: Mary's grandson, Alex Milton, graduated from Assumption High School on May 28. The in the weekend June 2-3 Assumption played in the Iowa High School State Soccer Championship Game! In 2A, Assumption won second in the State! Alex was the Knight's Goalie! Congratulations Alex and Grandma Mary, sorry for the week delay in publishing the good news! Two members admitted taking their name badge home last week and were fined. I missed the names but appreciate the honesty! Duncan Cameron paid in advance for having to leave early today. All members not wearing their Rotary Pins were fined, which helped greatly in building the fine fund! We then turned to happy/sad dollars. Monta had one of each. Happy for traveling to Seattle to visit her son John who is in port off the largest American nuclear aircraft carrier. She added a sad dollar for the visit being relatively short and having to wish him "calm seas". Kai Swanson had a happy dollar in honor of Common Chord who provided a great performance at Augustana College recently. Sue Rector added her own happy dollar for Common Chord providing a piano for CASI and said it is being played by many of the seniors being served by CASI. Kathy Trone had a happy dollar for making a recent visit to the Moline Rotary Club where she and Julie Gelaude spoke about human trafficking. They've been invited back for an encore performance! Lastly, Pete Wessels had a happy and said dollar for finding a \$20 bill on a nearby bike path and then discovering it was counterfeit. It was suggested we donate it to Kiwanis! Thanks to everyone who participated!

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.

ROUND TWO OF THE SPINNER GAME GOES TO JIM MORAN!

Each week In June Sue offers 16 chances to win a Gift Card valued no less than \$15 up to \$25. You buy a chance for \$2. As said, just 16 chances will be sold, so as soon as you enter the room see Sue to get a chance before they are gone. Sue will then spin the wheel and one of the 16 players will WIN. The person who WINS the spin then picks from envelopes each containing a gift card. Today there were five envelopes. Jim Moran won the spin and selected envelope #4. He was rewarded with a gift card worth many times his \$2 investment. Next week the first 16 to buy their \$2 chance will witness Sue spinning the wheel and one of the players will have the chance to select a prize from the remaining envelopes. Good luck! Beware, week 1 winner Bob Swanson and week 2 winner Jim Moran plan to play again! All proceeds go toward our fine fund used to continue our Club's charitable projects and activities.



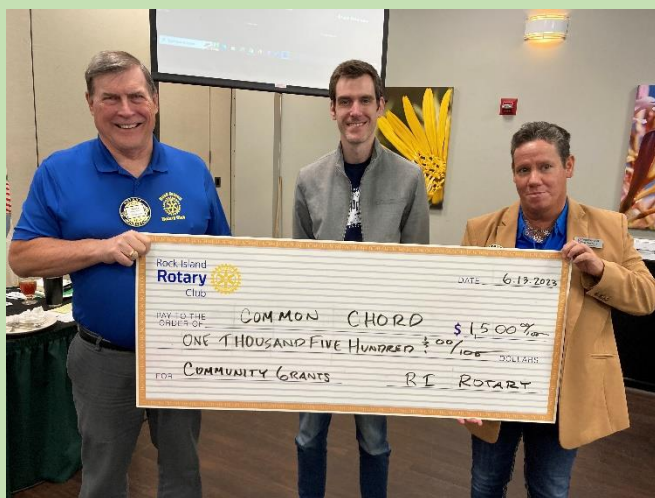
KATHY TRONE ANNOUNCES NEW SPONSORSHIP PERKS

To eliminate constant contacts to our members and area business in support of each individual Rotary Club project and event, we adopted a "Bundled Sponsorship" plan a little over a year ago. Kathy has been or primary "seller" of sponsorships. Today she announced that new this year is a level of sponsorships that includes the sponsor's name and logo on tee shirts given to participants at both our Reindeer Ramble and Pumpkin Palooza events. That is in addition to social media and pre-event and day of event acknowledgement. See Kathy for details or contact her at 309-794-9400 or kathy@wesselspc.com.

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greatly from being forced out of his comfort zone to meet new friends and participate in team events. He said making new friends in such a short time really surprised him. Many of the activities forced teams of kids to problem solve together. People had to step up and make decisions, everyone had leadership roles. Even to attending the different speaker presentations. Every speaker was in a different location, so students had a time schedule and had to locate where the speakers were. Layla also said the facilities were really good. They were housed in a dorm setting and she said it was very nice. The dining hall was very scenic with windows overlooking the river. She noted that each day there was an activity involved in finding where in the dining hall each person was to sit and who you sat with changed. As an example, she said one day they were given a cutout shape. They had to find the table with that shape on it and sat with others who had the same shape. The kids agreed that the “improv” activity was among their favorites. They were given different items or concepts and had to talk on the spot about the item or concept. They said it was funny, challenging, and great as an exercise in poise and confidence. One concept that came through from all three speakers was the new connections they made with RYLA participants. They don’t know if they would be long lasting connections, but they learned that they could meet new people who are friendly, intelligent, and fun to be with. They also agreed that the camp in general was very welcoming, open, and friendly. I’m sure our members felt our sponsorship of the students was money well spent!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY HELPS COMMON CHORD



Today Community Grants Chairman Frank Lambert was pleased to join President Cindi Gramenz in presenting a Rock Island Rotary Donation of \$1,500 to Tyson Danner, Executive Director of Common Chord. The Common Chord is a community music organization that creates opportunities for visitors and residents to listen to, learn about, and play music. The nonprofit provides educational music programming to youth and adults through schools, community partners, classes, lessons, and camps. From drum circles, songwriters’ roundtables, special needs music clubs, and summer rock camps, there’s something for everyone who wants to learn about music. The Common Chord’s live music venue, the Redstone Room, features the best in local, regional, and national artists of all genres. Frequent free outdoor summer concerts in the Common Chord Courtyard bring life to downtown Davenport.

No matter when you visit, you’ll be able to catch a great show. Known as the River Music Experience for 18 years, the organizers changing the name last September to the Common Chord. Mr. Danner stated that our contribution will be used for the “In tune Musical Mentoring” program. That program began as a result of surveying needs and learning that as much as music education, what young people needed was mentoring and relationships. Through the program staff mentors and professional musicians meet weekly with youngsters at the M.L. King Center, the Boys and Girls clubs in Moline and Davenport, and at Edison Jr. High in Rock Island. Our donation will be targeted to mentoring at The King Center in Rock Island. Mr. Danner expressed his appreciation for Rotary’s support.

OUR NEWEST PAUL HARRIS FELLOW IS RELATIVELY NEW TO THE WORLD!

Rotarian Pete Wessels had the pleasure of bestowing Paul Harris Fellow honors on his granddaughter, Ann Mary Wessels. Pete noted that he has four grandchildren so he will be adding more Paul Harris Fellow honors in the future. Pete also noted that since Rotary authorized bestowing Paul Harris Fellow recognition on persons other than Rotarians, \$1.5 billion has been contributed in the name of non-Rotarians. He added we all know Rotary spends our money well (alluding to Rotary continually being recognized as one of the very few charities where at least 96% of funds collected go to charitable services with 4% or less going to administration and fund collection.) Pete urged all members to get involved with the Paul Harris Fellow effort which can be done in small contributions over time or for those who are able, by pledging an annual \$1,000 contribution for inclusion in the Paul Harris Society.



Rotarian Pete Wessels

THIS IS THE FINAL WEEK TO SIGNUP VIA EMAIL ONLY!

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.

There will be PA recognition that Rotary is in the crowd! All we need from each club is an approximate count of 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 by email to Bob Swanson bobdebswanson@att.net. State the number of seats you want.** Reservation will be turned in Monday. 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"!

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CLUB?

Since our last Member Directory Book was Distributed in July 2022 Rock Island Rotary has welcomed 13 New Members. We also have 27 Corporate Members (including 5 of our new members) who often attend on a rotation basis, so we don't see them as often as others. Just for fun see how many of our new and corporate members you can identify. A few will be quite easy; others may be quite challenging! Match the number with the face!

- 1 Rebecca Arnold
- 2 Bryant Beal
- 3 Howard Beck
- 4 Lonnie Behnke
- 5 Andrea Brummit
- 6 Kenda Burrows
- 7 Kim Calhoun
- 8 Hannah Carr
- 9 Amanda De La Cruz
- 10 Charlotte Flickinger
- 11 Trista Foster
- 12 Bett Hitchcock
- 13 Lindsey Honert
- 14 Randy Hurt
- 15 Marian Johnson
- 16 Carlos Jiménez
- 17 Jerry Jones
- 18 Beth Kauzlarich
- 19 Kristia LeShoure
- 20 Mike Lootens
- 21 Miranda Marshall
- 22 Jen Osing
- 23 Mark Poulos
- 24 Yolanda Pugh
- 25 Emily Roach
- 26 Avalon Thomas-Roebal
- 27 Jeff Rose
- 28 Danielle Scott
- 29 Arron Sutherland
- 30 Kai Swanson
- 31 Andrea Talentino
- 32 Todd Thompson
- 33 Mike Thoms
- 34 Erin Williams
- 35 Amber Wood



Hint – 4 have been “published” and approved, but not yet “inducted”.

Answer: 18,12,26,14,3 - 27,2,9,25,21 - 33,35,29,5,15 - 13,17,4,11,24 - 30,16,7,32,28 - 22,19,1,10,6 - 34,20,31,23,8