



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rock Island Rotary

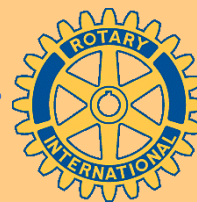
Rock Island, Illinois

WEEKLY REVIEW

July 18, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 2

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



Rand Westlund

**Executive Vice President and
Chief Investment Officer
Quad City Bank and Trust Co.**



Randall Westlund as Executive Vice President, Chief Investment Officer oversees the QCBT Investment Team. He participates in the portfolio management functions for each affiliate bank and its trust department, including investment strategy, asset and economic research, and client portfolio management. Prior to joining QCR Holdings, Inc. in 2000, he served in similar roles in Pennsylvania and Michigan. Rand's investment career began in the notorious year of 1987, and he earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 1991. A Midwesterner (for the most part), Rand received his undergraduate degree from Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota. As a regular speaker for community and bank-client gatherings, Rand seeks to bring a view of the economic and investment environment that informs either the knowledgeable or the neophyte listener. His presentation was fun and understandable and aided by a number of charts and graphs illustrating observations on various aspects of the American economy. Rand stressed don't worry about the numbers, look at the picture. Seeing the dips and rises tells the story of economic trends and comparisons. He called his presentation an "Economic Update", but for many of us it was a great learning opportunity. He noted that looking at numbers from February we see low unemployment and relatively low inflation. However he showed with other data that low unemployment is significantly impacted by a reduction in the percentage of people working and/or seeking work. He also said that upper eschelon earners are not changing much, but young employees are making the employment market highly dynamic. They are receiving substantial and fast pay increases and are frequently quitting and moving to other better paying positions. With the number of people working down, those seeing unemployment benefits is also down, giving the picture of low unemployment. The pandemic appears to be the major cause of the economic trends seen in the past several years. When everything shut down, employment, production of goods, and supply of products took a huge dive as did manufacturing, sales, and service income. The the economy was switched back on pent up demand and available savings drained the supply of goods driving prices up (inflation) for the limited supply of products that were available. Gradually production and supply have been catching up, but Westlund noted we are not back to pre-covid levels yet. With other data he showed that that for the past 20 years the U.S. economy has grown at an average of 2% per year. However since Covid, we have not achieved 2% growth in any year. Turning to the fears of recession, Rand said that none of the indicators show that as a likely near future event. He defined "recession" as a significant economic decline that lasts for a period of several months. He pointed out that incomes are increasing, and spending is keeping up with inflations. Sale of goods has been up and down, largely because after being shut in and prevented from doing things, people are now spending on doing things rather than buy goods. Travel is up as is dining out,. When we could not go out, savings grew. Even now with spending up, savings are still rising. Housing is still in short supply with a \$2.4 million shortage in available housing. Bottom line, Mr. Westlund said he hopes we feel better with his prediction of no recession, unemployment down, inflation down, and income increasing. Is all well? Not exactly. The number of people working or wanting to work is down, supplies and production are still lagging, The loss of some 3-4 million legal immigrants who could not come because of the pandemic cost the economy billions, and they are just beginning to get in. Are we back to our pre-pandemic economy? No. But is also appears that fear of going over a cliff is unwarranted. We thank Mr. Westlund for a data packed, informative, and extremely interesting presentation. And, we do feel better!

July - August Calendar

- July 25 - Kathy Trone - Human Trafficking
- Aug 1 - Katrina Kuenig – Digital Marketing Storyteller for Visit Quad Cities
- Aug 8 - Mike Petersen – Illiniwek and Amôwa Forest Preserves Ranger
- Aug 15 - Sheriff Darren Hart – RI County EMA director
- Aug 22 - Brian Baxter – QCSO Exec. Dir. – Pops Concert and 2023-24 season
- Aug 29 - Patrick Allie – Rock Island Arsenal Museum
- Aug 31-Sept 4 – Milan Harvest Festival Camden Park

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President
Sue Rector, 1st Vice Pres.
John Oliger, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Tom Hammar, Co-Treasurer
Frank Lambert, Past President
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director
Amber Brummit, Director
David Hodge, Director
Ruth Lee, Director
John Phillips, Director
Tracy Pugh, Director
Molly Shattuck, Director/Co-Treas.
Tyla Sherwin-Cole, Director

Program Chair 2023-24

Rebecca Arnold
Presenters

July:	Tom Hammar
August:	Kai Swanson
September:	Rebecca Arnold
October:	Holly Sparkman
November:	Rebecca Arnold
December:	Bob Swanson
January:	John Wetzel
February:	Kai Swanson
March:	Angela Campbell
April:	Gary Rowe
May:	Gary Rowe
June:	Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – We had five guests today including visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. Julie Oliger was a guest of husband John Oliger. Carrie Crossen had two guests from Blackhawk Bank, John Peters, and Nicole David. Christine Murdock, Senior Trust Administrative Assistant at Quad City Bank was a guest of Doug Hultquist. We hope you enjoyed your visit and will come back to see or join us again!
- ★ **MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOME!** We are very fortunate to have gained several new members in the past few months. If you see a face you don't recognize, take a moment to say "Hello", shake hands, and become acquainted.
- ★ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE.** Each member is entitled to take one. If you didn't get yours be sure to stop at the Sergeant's table next week and get a copy. Be sure to check page 35-38 to see your committee assignments. Every member is on at least one Club committee and most are on two or more! Your help to make committees successful is vital!
- ★ **KNOW YOUR CLUB TRADITIONS – Birthdays** are celebrated during the first meeting of each month. Club members with birthdays in that month are seated at the Birthday Table located near the front of our meeting room. Those celebrating pay a \$1 fine for the notariety and if their birthday falls on a Club meeting day (a Tuesday in the month) the fine goes to \$2. In return the honorees are "treated" to a singing of "Happy Birthday Dear Rotarians!". It's all in fun and the fines support our service projects.
- ★ **SAVE THE DATES!** – For those that like planning ahead, here are some upcoming important Rotary dates: **August 11** – Rotary Night at the Ballpark. **August 31-September 4** – Milan Harvest Festival Food Tent. **September 4** – Labor Day Parade. **October 20** – Pumpkin Palooza. **October 24** – World Polio Day Gala. **November 10** – Rotary Trivia Night. Some are purely social fun events, others are important fundraisers and service projects. Every member can help in some way. Attend, promote, work, contribute.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net. The Weekly Review is distributed via email each Tuesday afternoon.

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test

(of the things we Think, Say or Do)

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ernest Beane	July 3	Toddhompson	July 15
Holly Sparkman	July 7	LindseyHonert	July 17
Kevin Koski	July 12	Doug Hultquist	July 28
Frank Lambert	July 15		

ROTARIANS ENJOY THE SUN, WIND, WATER, AND BACKWATER GAMBLERS!

Last Sunday Rock Island Rotarians along with fellow Rotarians from numerous Quad City area clubs were treated to a tremendous performance by the Backwater Gamblers in Rock Island Williamson Park on the shores of the Rock River. It was fun and thrilling to see the incredible 3 and 4 high skier pyramids, the amazing barefoot skiers, the high-flying ramp jumpers, and the ballet-like skiing pairs perform. Best of all it was great fellowship with Rotarians from all over the area including our District Governor David Emerick and his wife. Our club organized the event as one of several joint area wide Rotary activities scheduled for the coming year. We know those that attended had a magnificent time and urge all members to join our next joint Rotary event, Rotary Night at the Quad City River Bandits scheduled for August 11th.



The Backwater Gamblers "Goddesses", including our own Trista Foster, display no hands precision skiing!

THE FOUNDATION MINUTE RI's Month of Transition

Every month, Rotary publicizes the activities of Rotary Clubs that are doing good around the globe. Foundation Minute this week focuses on the recently concluded Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, where the Arch Klumph Society Preconvention Ceremony not only celebrated donors who have contributed to projects around the world, but honored new members and those being elevated to new recognition levels. At The Rotary Foundation Donor Summit, Rotary leaders spoke to more than 1,000 people about the impact they have by supporting Rotary's programs. According to an online report, many donors talked about why they give to the Foundation and support particular projects. André Hadley Marria, the governor of District 6900, said she was attracted to Rotary because of projects addressing the AIDS epidemic in Africa. After joining Rotary, she founded a program for entrepreneurs from underserved communities and led her club's first Black history program. "Rotary showed me the impact that I can have, not only in my own community, but also on the other side of the globe," said Marria, who was among the 2023 People of Action: Champions of Inclusion honorees. "That is why I first chose to contribute to The Rotary Foundation." Two other gala events honored dedicated Rotary donors: The Imagine Making a Difference Dinner, recognized substantial and active donors, while The Rotary Foundation Unity Ball, named for the building that hosted the very first Rotary club meeting in 1905, celebrated members of the Arch Klumph Society and the Legacy Society. The next recognition will take place at the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore.

JOHN OLIGER HONORS WIFE JULIE



2nd Vice Presisent John Oliger joined Rock Island Rotary in 2015 and subsequently was honored as a Paul Harris fellow in recognition of his contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Today he earned a 2nd Paul Harris Fellow honor and gave that honor to his wife, Julie Oliger. Julie is an Administrative Assistant in the Education Department of Augustana College and his partner in raising five great kids, 3 guys and 2 gals, all graduates of Augustana College! His youngest is now in Augie's Speech Pathology graduate program. Bet there will be more Oliger Paul Harris Fellows down the road!

FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

2nd VP is off to a great start! He began last week saying he hates fining and asking people for money and then proceeded to fill the coffers. Today he put a bounty on fining tips, offering to give anyone who "rats" on a fellow members a "chip", "get out of fine free card". Before he was done members were already turning in their friends to get the chip. Then he proceeded with fining Marcy Bell for leaving early today, He fined Bud Phillis for his son Tom winning the Augustana College Employee Excellence Award. He called on Tyla Sherwin-Cole noting that the organization she heads, The Day Foundation, recently announced their grants for this year to rat out all members who work for or are connected with organizations that received a grant. A procession of members to vast for me to catch the names proceeded to the fine box and dropped in their "contribution". Bill Stengel was fined for being the Mentor of the student Incubator team that won the "Best Business Model" award in Rocky's Entrepreneur Incubator program. John Phillips and John Daly were both fined for being noted as Judges for the Incubator program awards. Kathy Lelonek was fined for her husband, Bob, being pictured in the paper as the new President of the Rock Island Arts Guild. and also in the photo was Holly Sparkman who was also fined as the newly elected Treasurer of the Guild. Kathy Trone offered 12 happy dollars in honor of her granddaughter's 12th birthday. Amber Wood offered a Happy Dollar honor Bob Swanson for organizing our Rotary at the Backwater Gamblers Ski Show, which she called a great and fun event. So once again our "I hate asking for money" Vice President did a very nice job of packing the fine box! Great job John! You're well on your way to a very successful year!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash Drawing and a bottle of fine wine. Anne McGlynn sold the tickets and supervised the drawing. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Jim Moran who opted to take the cash and donated it all to the Club's Water Filter Project. The second lucky ticket was also held by Jim who add a bottle of wine to his winnings.

We thank and appreciate all those members who participate in our drawing. Proceeds all go to the Rotary International Foundation and support the many philanthropic projects funded by Rotary including providing vaccines and vaccinations worldwide to end Polio, teaching about sanitation and safe drinking/cooking water and providing equipment and facilities to make safe water available. Promoting peace, education, literacy and medical assistance to those in need. Thank You!



ROTARY NIGHT AT THE RIVER BANDITS!

Mark your calendar and dust off your ball glove for a fantastic evening at Modern Woodman Park. It's ROTARY NIGHT AT THE RIVER BANDITS! Our club along with all other Quad City area Rotary clubs will be packing the stand for fun, food, beverages, and cheering on the River Bandits as they take on the evil opponents from Cedar Rapids! The "Kernels" have become one of the Bandit's main rivals coming from just 79 miles away. Tickets are just \$10 per person for a reserved



box seat in a section blocked for Rotarians. There are plenty of food and drink choices available from vendors, some unique to Modern Woodman Park in both food choices and craft beers. There is a free play area for kids, amusement rides, and post-game fireworks!. The gates open at 5:45pm and the game starts at 6:30pm. Signup for tickets with John Oliger. Make checks payable to "Rock Island Rotary" and note in memo line "River Bandits". The gates open at 5:45pm and the game starts at 6:30pm. Questions - see John Oliger. Don't miss the fun! For those of us that need to consult with the "Boss" before committing, please have that conversation now. We have just 3 weeks to get everyone signed up so time is of the essence. Our deadline for getting tickets at our Rotary Group rate is August 8th. So get your ticket requests to John asap. You can email him at john.oliger@modern-woodmen.org.3

What's more American than Baseball, Summer, and ROTARY!



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!



Rock Island Rotary Makes Impact Grant to Martin Luther King Center

John Phillips Development Chairman of our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation had the pleasure today to present King Center Executive Director Jerry Jones and King Center Resource Development Coordinator Rebecca Arnold with a Club Foundation Grant of \$20,000 for the construction of an outdoor classroom planned for the east side of the Center where it will be highly visible from 7th Avenue, 9th Street, and from the beautiful Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Rock Island's newest park. We have been assured that appropriation signage noting that the Outdoor Classroom was funded by Rock Island Rotary will be included in the project. The grant, one of the largest single grants ever given by our Club Foundation was made possible by not awarding a grant in 2022. This grant represents 2 years of investment income from the funds in our local Club Foundation. We are thrilled to be able to assist the King Center and the hundreds of children the classroom will serve each year. Here, John presents the check to Rebecca and Jerry.



Bettendorf • Davenport • East Moline-Silvis • Geneseo • Ill Quad Cities • Iowa Quad Cities
Moline • Muscatine • North Scott • River Cities • Rock Island • Twin Rivers RAH

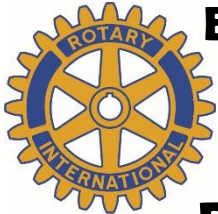


ROTARY NIGHT AT THE Q. C. RIVER BANDITS

A Joint Quad City Area Rotary Event

FRIDAY – AUGUST 11, 2023

Bring your family, friends, and prospective Rotarians!



Gates open at 5:45pm – Game time 6:30pm



RIVER BANDITS vs CEDAR RAPIDS KERNELS
SPECIAL ROTARY RESERVED BOX SEATS SECTION
TICKETS JUST \$10!

Stay in your seats for after game FIREWORKS!



See John Oliger for Tickets

**Must sign up and pay in advance to get the Special Rotary
Group Ticket Rate!**

You can email your ticket request to :

John.Oliger@modern-woodmen.org