



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

# Rock Island Rotary

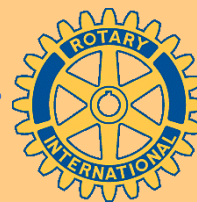
Rock Island, Illinois

## WEEKLY REVIEW

August 1, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 4

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



## KATRINA KEUNING

Digital Marketing  
Storyteller  
VISIT QUAD CITIES

As Digital Marketing Storyteller, Katrina is responsible for creating content for Visit Quad Cities and its social media profiles. Keuning graduated

from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Media Production and minor in journalism. She spent some of her college career running for the University's cross-country and track teams. After college Katrina was hired at WQAD-TV in Moline where she spent nearly a decade. Her first job was editing footage for broadcasts and ultimately moved up to manage their digital department. She has been with Visit Quad Cities since 2021. Visit Quad Cities is a bi-state organization considered the "Official Guide For Regional Quad Cities Experiences". They advertise and promote diverse, Quad City experiences including festivals, farmers' markets, parks, and busy bike paths and our Mississippi riverfront. Visitors and long-time Quad Citizens can find opportunities on both sides of the river for real fun and real experiences, Katrina said the Visit Quad Cities is a collaboration of large and small communities from all over the area. She said their purpose is promoting economic growth and quality of life through tourism. Data collected by Visit Quad Cities showed over 12 million visitors days spent in the Quad Cities last year with an economic impact on the area in excess of \$10 million. Follow up questionnaires with visitors find 70% have a "Very Good" perception of the Quad Cities. Ms. Keuning said that this past weekend the RAGBRAI bike ride brought 30,000 visitors including people from 18 nations .to the Quad Cities and the Bix 7 Race added an additional 20,000 visitors. Katrina's personal area of expertise is in digital marketing, and she highlighted several online Visit Quad Cities websites including the Quad City Ale Trail which provides a list of the many craft brewers in the area that visitors can tour. Another site is the Quad City Coffee Trail, that provides a similar listing of the many gourmet coffee houses in the Quad Cities. A third site is the Quad City Public Art Trail that lists art exhibits, statues, and monuments throughout the area that can be visited. Also available are Podcasts presented by Visit Quad Cities that provide interviews and updates on events happening in the area. She suggests that we all check out their Visit Quad Cities website, at [www.visitquadcities.com](http://www.visitquadcities.com). From there you can join "Quad Cities Insiders Blog" that provides an illustrated listing of what is happening in the entire area. You can also text "visitqc" to 28314 to automatically get a once-a-week text providing what's going on in the Quad Cities for the week. Ms. Keuning also told of Visit Quad Cities recent partnership with Quad City Arts that led to local high school students painting the final half mile of the RAGBRAI course with colorful and welcoming messages and illustrations. She also sadly reported that a severe storm the night before the RAGBRAI riders arrived washed away much of the artwork, but fortunately a video was made so that the riders could see the effort Quad City youth made to make the visiting riders feel welcomed. Katrina's presentation was very upbeat and made all present feel proud and excited to be a "Quad Citian". We checked out the Visit Quad Cities website and highly recommend that event those who feel well versed in our community do the same. You'll find where to go, where to eat, and what to do! Thanks Katrina for a great interesting and informative presentation!

### Aug – Sept Calendar

- Aug 8 - Mike Petersen – Illiniwek and Amôwa Forest Preserves Ranger
- Aug 15 - Sheriff Darren Hart - R. I. County EMA director
- Aug 22 - Brian Baxter – QCSO Exec. Dir. – Pops Concert and 2 023-24 season
- Aug 22 - Rotary Foundation Committee Meeting 1pm
- Aug 29 - Patrick Allie – Rock Island Arsenal Museum
- Aug 31-Sept 4 – Milan Harvest Festival mden Park

# Rotary

Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)

## Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President  
Sue Rector, 1st Vice Pres.  
John Olinger, 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 Wetzell  
February: Kai Swanson  
March: Angela Campbell  
April: Gary Rowe  
May: Gary Rowe  
June: Tom Hammar

# Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – We had just one guest today, but a very welcome one. Visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club joined as he does through much of each summer while back in his Bettendorf home. We know guests often can be a prospective Rotary member and urge all of us to invite a friend or colleague visit Rock Island Rotary for a complimentary lunch. When did you last bring a guest? Prospective members eat free!
- ★ **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 is needed to make committees successful is vital!
- ★ **KNOW YOUR CLUB TRADITIONS – District Governor Visit** – Each year a new District Governor is elected. One of the required duties of a Governor is to visit a meeting of every club in the District during their term. Tradition is that whenever a governor visits the Club shows respect for the Governor's commitment of time, travel, and dedication to Rotary by extending a standing ovation when the Governor is introduced and when he/she concludes their comments to the Club. We will have a visit sometime this year, so you'll have a chance to show that you read your newsletter!
- ★ **INTERESTED IN HISTORY?** – For many years Rock Island Rotary had a Club historian. The position was a blend of scrapbooking, recording, and gathering. And every couple of decades a History of Rock Island Rotary booklet would be printed. We have copies of the last printing, which is now more than a couple of decades old. Upon the passing of former Club president and District Governor Fred Luckenbill, his wife Nancy, gave us a box (or two) of Club memorabilia which needs to be looked through and preserved. Much has happened in our Club since the last history was published. We have had female presidents, created a Club Foundation, established a scholarship, had a ballpark named in our honor, and donated to dozens and dozens of worthy causes and projects. If the challenge of getting a handle on all this "lights your fire", please let Bob Swanson know that you "might" be interested in being our Club historian.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Send to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). The newsletter goes out 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?

## AUGUST MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Poulos	Aug 3	Tracy Pugh	Aug 17
Monta Ponsetto	Aug 4	Yolanda Pugh	Aug 18
Char Flickinger	Aug 7	John Daly	Aug 19
Dan McNeil	Aug 9	Duncan Cameron	Aug 19
Jennifer Hirsch	Aug 10	Jim Nordquist	Aug 21
Marcy Bell	Aug 11	Carrie Crossen	Aug 25
Mary Fislar	Aug 11	Julie Gelaude	Aug 29
Bud Phillis	Aug 12	Bruce Peterson	Aug 30
Amber Brummit	Aug 17		

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

## Welcome to Week 4 of RI's Month of Transition.

This week's Foundation Minute is from Pennsylvania, where a Rotary Foundation Grant, facilitated by the Downtown State College Rotary Club, has just been awarded to the Center Coalition for Ukraine. According to the report published in the July 13, 2023, edition of Center County Gazette, the humanitarian grant is worth \$25,000 (USD) and aims to provide vital financial support to refugees who have fled the war-torn regions of Ukraine and sought assistance in the Centre Region. Currently, the Centre Coalition for Ukraine supports two families who have sought refuge in the State College area. These families arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs, facing significant hardships as they attempt to rebuild their lives. The grant funding from the Downtown State College Rotary Club will facilitate critical services such as housing rental, clothing, food, bus transportation, groceries, and medical assistance. "We are incredibly grateful to the Downtown State College Rotary Club members for their compassionate support and generous contribution," said Philip Burlingame, representing the Centre Coalition for Ukraine. "This grant will make a profound difference in the lives of these families who have come to our community seeking safety and stability."

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash Drawing and a bottle of fine wine. The first ticket drawn was held by Frank Lambert who took the cash. The second lucky winner was Pete Wessels who will have some excellent Chardonnay with dinner tonight. Thanks to all who played!



## CONGRATULATIONS SUE, PAUL HARRIS +4



As our International Foundation Chair, Sue Rector often enjoys recognizing our members who achieve Paul Harris Fellow honors and those who P.H. Fellows who continue their donations and bestow honors on others. Today the roles were reversed as former Foundation Chairman, Bub Phillis had the pleasure of surprising Sue with her own **Paul Harris +4 Award**, signifying that Sue has now reached the \$5,000 plateau in donations to the Rotary International Foundation. With the honor comes a gold Paul Harris lapel pin adorned with four sapphires. Congratulations Sue, your dedication and generosity sets a great example for our entire club! Sue will be the first to tell you that donating to the Foundation is easiest by establishing an automatic withdrawal system. Just a \$10, \$20, or \$50 automatic donation adds up quickly. It is simple and easy to set up and makes philanthropy a regular part of your life. See Sue for details on how easy establishing your account can be.

## FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Olinger was again in great form today, filling the Club treasury with fines and volunteered dollars. Those sitting at the back of the room narrowly avoided a fine, when John had a brief fit of charity. But the warning was clear. Leaving the front tables vacant to sit in the back may cost you in the future! John did accept \$1 fines from "Kathy" (Lelonek, Ruggeberg, or Trone, John? Maybe that's a fine next week!, Bill Stengel, and Justin Peterson. Sue got a "Get of the Fine" chip this week for rattling on fellow members. Molly Shattuck, Tom Hammar, and Frank Lambert were fined for Centennial Accounting being lauded in the Q.C. Business Journal. Jeff Dismer was also fined for similar honors received by Studio 483 Architects. Monta Ponsetto was fined for the great publicity received by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation for presenting over \$205,000 in grants to teachers and schools in our District. Kai Swanson was pictured and mentioned in coverage of RAGBRAI as the official Quad City "Welcomer". Bud Phillis paid a fine for being pictured singing at the River Bandits game with the Friendship Manor group. Frank Lambert had 46 happy dollars (rounded to \$50) celebrating wife Joyce completing her 46<sup>th</sup> Bix 7 Road Race. Kathy Ruggeberg had a Happy Dollar for the start of Rock Island-Milan Schools today for teachers and staff and Thursday for kids. Gary Rowe a school board member added his happy dollar for that event. Justin Peterson paid a dollar (not sure if it was happy or sad) and showed off his new Buzz hair cut. He had bet his son that he would not hit an over the fence homerun during this summer's baseball season. His son hit said homerun in the last game of the season and his prize for winning the bet was getting to buzz his Dad's hair. Jim Nordquist was fined for not sitting at the August birthday table today even though he celebrates this month. Rick Devinney had a happy dollar celebrating Friendship Manor recently receiving a grant from the Rock Island Community Foundation. Bob Swanson and Cindi Gramenz followed suit with \$1 fines noting Christian Care also received a RI Community Foundation grant. Bud Phillis added a \$5 donation to the Foundation for his bet with Frank Lambert regarding the Cubs and Cardinals rivalry. Which ever team has the best record for the past month pays, since the other team is already in mourning. Cubs topped the Cardinals, so Bud paid.. Another great day for V.P. Olinger – we need to "boo" louder!



## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

The Quad City Botanical Center has applied for corporate membership in Rock Island Rotary. Executive Director Ryan Wille will be their Primary (active) member. Associate members will be Heather Ballou, Director of Education, Dave Searl, Head Gardner, and Kate Mapes, horticulture, and Exhibits Manager. Please direct comments to President Cindi Gramenz at [cgramenz15@gmail.com](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com).



Ryan Wille



Heather Ballou



Dave Searl



Kate Mapes

## GREETERS NEEDED

We have frequently been told by our own members that one of the reasons they selected our club over the other area service organizations was the friendly greeting they received as soon as they entered our meeting room. Feeling welcome and appreciated is a major factor in joining an organization and Rock Island Rotary has long been noted as an extremely friendly and welcoming organization. Our current schedule of greeters came to a close at the end of July and we now are looking for as many different members as possible to volunteer to greet at an upcoming meeting. The signup sheet will be out at our next meeting, and we hope many will volunteer. All that is required is to arrive 15 minutes or so earlier than normal for one meeting, grab a “Greeters” badge and be at the door to welcome everyone as they arrive. Please add your name to the signup list!.

## PAST PRESIDENT JOHN PHILLIPS, THE CONSUMATE ENTERTAINER!

Participating as a volunteer past-president presider, John Phillips who served as our Club president for the 2015-16 Rotary year led today’s meeting. In addition to being Rock Island’s outstanding former City Manager and a long-time member of Rock Island Rotary, John is a guitarist, song writer, and singer with performance credits stretching from Davenport’s Bucktown Revue to pubs in Ireland. Today he favored us with an original composition entitled, “The Smell Reminds Me of Home”. In the entertaining lyrics, John tells of being raised on an Iowa farm and all the duties he had the “privilege” of performing in that setting. The lyrics follow him through college and all the way to his City Manager position and service in the Council chambers. In the chorus he related how his experiences often led to “Smells that Reminded him of home”. Another great performance by John and a real treat for all in attendance! After putting down the guitar he also did a fine job as our presiding officer for today’s meeting. Can’t wait for the next concert!



## TIME TO STOP WALKING BY – WE NEED YOUR NAME!

For the past two weeks we have had signup sheets at the Sergeants Table for the MLK Fun Day Parade and The Milan Harvest Festival. Thanks so much to those who signed up to help. We probably have enough for the Parade, but the Harvest Festival sheet is desperately in need of names. This is potentially one of the largest fundraisers of the year and is also the event that allows us to spend the most time working together and getting to know each other in a more relaxed and personal setting than the few minutes we spend together at lunch. We need lots of help at the festival, preparing sliced apples, applying caramel, taking money, selling drinks, and making sure our supplies of utensils, bowls, ready to slice apples and warmed caramel are ready to go. So next week, please don’t walk by, stop, and look at the time slots needed and add your name to our Rotary volunteers. Each session is no more than a few hours and you can pick afternoon or evening shifts. We can use the help of spouses and other family members old enough to help.

## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY GRANT APPRECIATED!

A few weeks ago our club presented a Community Grant to Quad City Arts. Recently Community Grant Committee Chair, Frank Lambert received the letter below and we thought you would enjoy seeing it.



July 25, 2023

Dear Members of the Rotary Club of Rock Island,

Hello! My name is Margot Day, and I'm the performing arts director for Quad City Arts and the Visiting Artist Series, our performing arts residency program that just wrapped its 49th season. I am writing to report on the outcomes from Quad City Arts' 2022-2023 Visiting Artist Series.

From August 2022 through May 2023, we hosted ten professional performing artists and ensembles and two special guests, ranging from hip-hop duo The Reminders to award-winning Black and Native American singer/songwriter Martha Redbone.

We have a lot of participation throughout the Rock Island-Milan School District, with higher engagement by two specific artists. Modern Italian folk music band Alla Boara reached 350 students at Earl Hansen Elementary, 280 students at Longfellow Elementary, and 425 students at Rock Island Center for Math and Science during their Feb. 27 through March 3 residency. Singer Martha Redbone shared her cultural stories and traditions during her May 8-12 residency, visiting 425 students at Edison Junior High, 275 students at Thomas Jefferson Elementary, as well as RICMS.

For just those two artists, more than 2,100 students had exposure to a high-quality performing arts experience from artists who would otherwise not be presented in the Quad Cities.

The \$750 grant award from the Rotary Club of Rock Island was used to help offset the sizeable residency fees for our artists. Because of support like this, we are able to coordinate residencies of distinguished, professional artists to provide educational outreaches to public schools and community colleges students, as well as affordable, public presentations of diverse art forms to area audiences.

Quad City Arts promotes its programs and recognizes supporting funders of the Visiting Artist Series in print and online publications. We post event information, photos, and videos on our social media accounts. Quad City residents receive information about our events through our newsletter, website, and emailed eNews. Each press release for a visiting artist includes a list of our program funders as well.

Thank you again for your generous support of the Visiting Artist Series and its audiences!

Sincerely,

*Margot Day*

Margot Day  
Performing Arts Director  
Quad City Arts

[quadcityarts.com](http://quadcityarts.com)

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



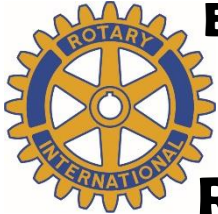
## **ROTARY NIGHT AT THE Q. C. RIVER BANDITS**

*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!**



**Last Chance to Sign Up! Call or email John Oliger for Tickets  
You must sign up THIS WEEK to get the  
Special Rotary Group Ticket Rate!  
You can email your ticket request to:  
[John.Oliger@modern-woodmen.org](mailto:John.Oliger@modern-woodmen.org)**



# *CARAMEL APPLES*

*Nuts Optional 50¢*

**\$4**

**\$4**



**Fresh and Delicious**

**MAJOR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY FUNDRAISER - SIGN UP  
TO HELP STAFF THE MILAN HARVEST FESTIVAL TENT**