



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rock Island Rotary

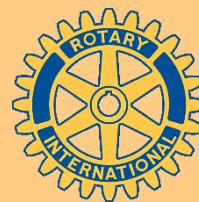
Rock Island, Illinois

WEEKLY REVIEW

September 5, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 9

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



STATE OF THE SCHOOLS

Dr. Alan Boucher, retired Sherrard School District Superintendent came out of retirement for a short stint to serve as the Interim Rock Island-Milan Superintendent, leading the district through the first semester of 2023-24. Rules of the Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS) limits the time a retired Superintendent can work

without voiding their retirement to no more than 120 days or 600 hours. Today he reported on the State of the Rock Island-Milan Schools after taking over July 1st for Cal Lee, former Moline Superintendent who led the district through the early summer. Another former Moline Superintendent, Lanty McGuire will follow Lee to finish the school year. The district is currently in the process of seeking applicants for their new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Boucher stated that he has learned three major things about our community and School District 41L 1) There is unbelievable community pride in our community and school system. He said he was overwhelmed by the huge crowds he saw as he travelled the entire 2 mile Labor Day Parade route with our school district groups. 2) The Board members and district staff dearly love the students and believe that every student has the right and ability to learn and be prepared for a productive adult life. 3) The District is on the move. He stressed that our schools are not resting or coasting on their past achievements. They are innovating and bringing online new programs and projects. Boucher then turned to the District's 5-year Strategic Plan and said unlike many organizations, our district takes the plan seriously and has monthly reports to the Board on what progress has been made toward achieving the objects set forth four years ago. He said there is definite follow through and said that the District has made strides toward their three priorities: 1) Establishing Respectful Relationships. 2) Increasing Equity and Inclusion throughout the District. 3) Enhancing and improving overall District operations. Boucher said steps have been taken and programs established in each area and improvement is evident and measurable. He said the District submitted to an Equity Audit by an outside organization and the results will be available in November. The hope is that the root causes of "gaps" can be identified, and specific remedies put in place to eliminate those gaps. Boucher then noted that last year the District had 6060 students. That number increased this year to 6,161. The student to teacher ratio is 19-1 and the average class size is 21. He said that last year there were 780 students in our district whose primary language was not English. This year the number has climbed to 800 with students using 30 different languages. The district has a growing staff teaching English and also teaching in the student's native language. He noted that the Rock Island District is the most diverse school district in the Quad Cities and is the 2nd most Diverse in the entire state of Illinois. Turning to the many District success stories Dr. Boucher said that 357 students graduated last spring. He was proud that the District has a 95.8% retention level of faculty. For students the District has greatly expanded apprentice programs placing students in paid internship programs at various businesses in the area. They also have established internship programs with the Quad City Metro Youth Arts Council and intern programs for students interested in becoming teachers. To ensure the best help for students, the District established an "Instructional Coach" program in many of our buildings. The Coach goes into classrooms and demonstrates model lessons and techniques to teachers, providing an "in house" teach the teacher resource. Boucher also stated that last summer 600 District teachers attended workshops or seminars to improve their skills and learn the best techniques for teaching.

Sept – Oct Calendar

- Sep 12 - Dave Emerick Rotary DG District 6420
- Sep 19 - Dr Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh - How to improve students' academic performance
- Sep 26 - 100 Things to do in the Quad Cities Before You Die
- Oct 3 - Julie Larson, New Rock Island YWCA
- Oct 10 - Club Assembly – Led by President Cindi Gramenz
- Oct 17 - Edwin Salazar, The Place2Be
- Oct 24 - WORLD POLIO DAY Joint Evening Meeting
- Oct 31 - TBA
- Nov 7 - Laura Kann, District Rotary Foundation Chair

Continued – See "SCHOOLS" page 3

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514
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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 Wetzel
February:	Kai Swanson
March:	Angela Campbell
April:	Gary Rowe
May:	Gary Rowe
June:	Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

Quick Summary of the Week

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – We were pleased to welcome many guests to today's meeting. Visiting Rotarians were Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport club and Duncan Cameron from the Naples, FL Club. Jen Barton, Chief Financial Officer, Jenna Panicucci the District's Web Content Specialist, and Charles Butler District Safety Manager for School District 41 accompanied our guest speaker. We hope you enjoyed our meeting and will visit us again.
- ★ **SAVE THE DATES – TWO IMPORTANT AND FUN UPCOMING ROTARY EVENTS! – *TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24th, WORLD POLIO DAY GALA CELEBRATION.** No regular meeting that day. Evening banquet, and guests welcome. – ***SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 9th, ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY AT CIRCA 21.** Salon Party, Dinner, and Mainstage Show, "*A Christmas Story*" Guests welcome.
- ★ **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONCESSION EXTRAS** – Rotary was able to purchase popular soft drinks and fresh apples at very favorable prices. We have some unsold items and we are happy to pass the savings on to our members. Twelve packs of 12oz cans of Coke, Diet Coke, Dr. Pepper, Diet Dr. Pepper, Mt. Dew, Diet Mt. Dew, and Sprite are available for \$6 each while supplies last. ~~Fresh Red Delicious apples are \$5 for a dozen, also just while supplies last.~~ Email bobdebswanson@att.net to order, pick up at next week's meeting. First Come!
- ★ **THANK YOU TO FESTIVAL WORKERS!** A HUGE and sincere thank you to those members who worked one or more shifts at the Milan Festival Tent. It was hot, sometimes a bit boring, and at times a lot of fun, but necessary to pull off a five-day project raising money for Rotary projects and causes. Special thanks to Ruth Lee, Bud Phillis, Sue Rector, Cindi Gramenz, and Bob Swanson who worked 3 or more shifts! Frank Lambert did double duties hauling tables and working a full shift. Steve Morenz loaned us his trailer, delivered it on Thursday, came and retrieved it on Monday, and he and wife Dawn worked a 4-hour shift on Thursday. Rick Rector, Marcy Bell, Anne McGlynn, Kevin and Jane Koski, Amber and Mike Brummit, and Jim Nordquist all worked two shifts! Thank you for seeing the project got done!
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Send to 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?

SEPTEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Weikert	September	2
Molly Shattuck	September	4
Kai Swanson	September	13
Rebecca Arnold	September	20
Arron Southerland	September	21
Father Dan Mirabelli	September	24
Bill Groh	September	26
John Slover	September	28
Hannah Carr	September	30

The Superintendent then spoke of School Security noting that times have changed and as a result of numerous school tragedies, the security of students is now a critical responsibility. He said that Rock Island-Milan School has now completed the conversion of every school building to a controlled entrance system. He introduced Charles Butler the District's chief security officer and noted that the district now has 103 security cameras in operation and has plans to add many more. A staff person monitors the cameras on a fulltime basis. Dr. Boucher declared that the District's schools are secure. They also have converted from keys to fob entry so no longer is it necessary to replace the locks each time a key is lost or taken. They just deactivate that fob and replace it with a new one. The fob also provides a record of who entered the building and the time of entry. The school building intercom systems have also been upgraded to ensure consistent and clear communication is available between classrooms and offices. He also said that coming in from the outside as a new set of eyes on things, he identified some needed revision in the District's Crisis Plan and said those areas have all been reviewed and revised. Physically the District has also replaced 50,000 square feet of roofing, upgraded, or replaced aging heating and air conditioning systems, and recently completed construction and opened a new District Administrative Center, District Kitchen which prepares the daily food for all our school buildings, and a new District supply warehouse so bulk purchases can be made and delivered to schools when supplies are needed. He said many of the district's parking lots were resurfaced during the past year. He noted that Covid has a very negative impact on kids and re-establishing regular attendance habits has been challenging. District wide, attendance was 87.9% last year. He anticipates that will continue upwards this year. He also noted that much of the programs and improvements mentioned were funded through special Covid funds, which are now gone. He said the Rock Island-Milan District was frugal and spent very wisely, getting much out of the Covid resources that were provided. Along with his comments, Dr. Boucher had an informative slide presentation which added much to his presentation. Thank you Dr. Alan Boucher! .

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION FOR DISTRICT SERVICE PROJECT IS FRUIT FOR CHRISTIAN CARE

For September, we are collecting **CANNED FRUIT ONLY** for Christian Care! Bring in a large can of fruit (approx. 5 lbs.) or small cans if that is easier to any Tuesday meeting in September and Cindi will help manage the delivery of those items. Larger cans are preferred due to their can opener. You can also drop off at Christian Care, but please email Cindi so she can weigh it! We want to make sure we reach the goal of 20lbs per member. With nearly 100 members, that will put us just short of ONE TON OF DONATEED FOOD.

If you missed this week's collection, be sure to get your cans in a row for next week! Danielle Scott is coordinating the project. Direct any questions to Daniell or Cindi Gramenz.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash Drawing a fabric bowl made by Angela Campbell and a bottle of fine wine. The first ticket drawn was held by Doug Hultquist who took the cash and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. The next winning ticket belonged to Jeff Rose who took the bowl and gave it to Tammy Weikert who let it be very well known that she wanted to win the bowl! The final winner was Frank Lambert, who happily took the wine home for tonight's dinner! Thanks to everyone that participated. The funds raised go toward the matching portion of the Paul Harris Fellow award provided by our club.



FINE\$ & HAPPY/SAD DOLLAR\$

None today in the interest of time. Be prepared for next week! John will be catching up!

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. The signup schedule to be a greeter is at the Sergeant's Table. We are looking for as many different members as possible to volunteer to greet at an upcoming meeting. 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!.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to the final Week of RI's Membership & Extension Month!

It's the beginning of a new academic year for all categories of students; from kindergarten through graduate programs. In the Rotary Foundation world, it is also that time when prospective candidates for The Rotary Foundation Peace Fellowship are being screened, culminating in the selection of finalists and notification notices by email in November.

The Rotary Foundation offers scholarships worth more than \$7.5 million annually to develop leaders of the next generation and assist their philanthropic objectives. The Rotary Peace Fellowship develops the capacity of peace and development professionals to become effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, internship and between two and three-month field-study expenses. It is awarded to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and up to 40 for certificate studies at selected universities across the continents.

The grant is offered to professionals and graduates studying abroad in one of Rotary's seven areas of focus - the promotion of peace, providing sanitation, hygiene, and clean water, saving children and mothers, fighting disease, growing local economies, and supporting education and protecting the environment.

In his message published in the current issue of *Rotary Magazine* (September 2023), RI President, Gordon R. McNally, cautions that it is not enough, "as people of action, to simply avoid making war. If we are to create Hope in the World, we must aggressively wage peace." Graduates of the Rotary Foundation Fellowship work in diverse institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with fighting for peace.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED



November may seem far in the future, but our Trivia Night Committee is working hard to ensure the 2023 event has the best Silent Auction ever! If you have items to donate for the Auction, please contact Sue Rector and she will arrange to get or pick up anything you have and store it until auction time. Baskets need to be created, items photographed, and descriptions prepared for advertising. That all takes time and "time flies". So, it is not too early to take inventory of those gifts you received and done need or use, and purchased you made and never put to use. Contact Sue at srector@gmail.com or 563-343-7985 and she will gladly arrange to take it off your

OCTOBER 14
2023 —

WALK FOR FREEDOM

JOIN US AS WE WALK FOR THE
MILLIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
VICTIMS ACROSS THE GLOBE.

A21.ORG/WALK

Click to Register

What: Rotary District 6420 Task Force Against Human Trafficking is hosting an A21 Walk for Freedom. This is a WORLDWIDE event, single file, silent walk. We encourage walkers to wear black. We will have signage and posters available to take on the walk. T-shirts are available to purchase online when you register for this FREE walk.

When: Saturday, October 14th at 10:00am

Where: Start at the base of pedestrian walkway in Moline OR Bettendorf and walk across the new 74 bridge. You can go one way or both, your choice. Each way across is 1-mile.

Why: Awareness is key for eradication of this heinous crime. Please join us to help spread awareness throughout the Quad Cities and surrounding areas. Your attendance is all that is needed—no fees to walk!

Please register today for this FREE walk

RAISING MONEY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY SELLS FRESH APPLES & CARAMEL

Over a five-day span last week Rock Island Rotarians erected a 20x20 foot tent, borrowed 10 tables from Rotarian Mark Zimmerman, a lockable storage trailer from Rotarian Steve Morenz, and equipment for slicing and serving apples borrowed from Rotarian Mary Fislar. Sue Rector and Bob Swanson co-chaired the project and many Rock Island Club members signed up to staff the tent. The Milan Harvest Festival opened Thursday, August 31st with a rather small crowd and temperatures dropping into the low 60s. Sales were slow Thursday and Friday but took a nice jump Saturday, particularly as early evening temperatures turned cooler. Sunday was our best day and Monday's shortened session was our least productive time. Overall sales were near \$1,500 will offer excess soda and apples to Rotarians at Club cost. **SORRY, THE APPLES ARE ALL GONE! SOME POP STILL AVAILABLE!**



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY AGAIN HAS A PRESENCE IN THE LABOR DAY PARADE!

Rock Island Rotary spread the name and Service Above Self story to thousands of Quad City Residents in the annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade yesterday. With one of the few floats in the parade, our huge blow-up Rotary Wheel, display of Club projects and donations, and invitation to others interested in community service to “check us out, led the way! That was followed by a convertible with our President, Cindi Gramenz and District Governor, Dave Emerick. A second convertible with our attending officers, Tom Hammar, Sue Rector, and John Olinger was next. Following them were convertibles with our 2023 Professional Excellence Award Winner, Frank Nowinski and our 2023 Community Service Award Winner, Lynda Sargent. Thanks to Steve Morenz, Bob Swanson, Jeff Dismer, and Rick DeVinney for providing and driving convertibles and to Molly and Scott Shattuck for providing the truck, trailer, and assembling the float. We also had two Rocky Interact students riding on the float and another interactor walking to hand out candy. Other candy walkers were Molly and the three Shattuck kids, Tom Hammer who traded off walking and riding with the officers, and Jim Moran. Seems like I’m forgetting someone, and for that I apologize. All who helped were greatly appreciated!

