



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rock Island Rotary

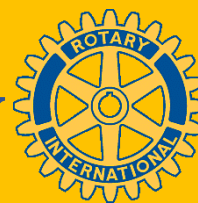
Rock Island, Illinois

WEEKLY REVIEW

November 14, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 20

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



Janessa Calderon

Janessa Calderon is the youngest Latina to lead the Hispanic Chamber. Ms. Calderon has

served in several leadership roles for the Hispanic Chamber since 2018 beginning as the Programs and Events Manager and growing into the Membership Engagement Coordinator. As Executive Director, one of her priorities is to be the hub of resources for any level of the chamber's business members. She strives to be the point of contact that members can trust with their business needs. Ms. Calderon helps member businesses market to the growing Latino community and beyond. One of her goals as Executive Director is to enhance the reach of the Hispanic Chamber in the community and begin different forms of partnerships that will aid in the Quad Cities efforts to work in unison. She aids small business owners by creating online events for the problems they need solved. Calderon serves as the point of contact for our corporate members and shows them how they can make a difference in the community and helps them build long lasting partnerships. Calderon leads the Membership Engagement Committee, Ambassador Committee, Marketing Committee, and annual Gala Committee. Ms. Calderon is a lifelong resident of the Midwest and graduated from the St. Ambrose University College of Business from their Master of Organizational Leadership program in 2019. Ms. Calderon said that after covid an entirely new Board of Directors took leadership of the Hispanic Chamber, which is one of just three in Illinois (Chicago and Peoria are the others). The new Board expanded the Chamber's vision to be more multicultural as opposed to strictly Hispanic. She noted that there are a significant number of immigrants that identify as Black-Hispanic and the Chamber wanted to include them along with other immigrants in the Chamber's services. She gave homage to Bob Ontiveros, founder of the Hispanic Chamber and the founder. Owner of Group O prior to his untimely death. She said he was very appreciative of the assistance he received from the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce that he decided to start a similar organization in the Quad Cities. She said the Chamber attempts to recognize the positive contributions made to our community by immigrant businesses and works for the retention and expansion of those businesses. They also seek to find and utilize the diversity of talents brought by immigrants. The Chamber helps immigrant business learn of and obtain grants from federal, state, and local governments. They also host a speaker series where small business owners can get timely information regarding business practices, marketing, funding, and ways to improved efficiency. Chamber "Mixers" help the business owners network and expand their influence and customer base. The Chamber also hosts "Small Business Roundtables" where owners can compare experiences, share successes, and seek solutions to problems. Annually the Chamber holds a Gala and presents business awards to members who have earned recognition for their achievements. The Chamber is an active organization that partners with numerous other non-profit organizations. Mercado on 5th is one of their more well-known projects. In addition to working "with" their members the Hispanic Chamber works "for" the members by marketing minority owned businesses through periodic appearances on the Living Local television program; posting stories in the Chamber newsletter and posting job opportunities and help needed information. The Chamber also is active in watching legislations and lobbying on matters affecting minority owned businesses and keeping their membership informed of proposed legislation and the explaining how it may impact their businesses. We appreciate and thank Janessa for a very informative presentation.

Nov - Dec Calendar

- Nov 14 - Janessa Calderon
QC Hispanic Chamber
of Commerce
- Nov 21 - Patrick Olson
Toastmasters
- Nov 28 - Dr Sharon Varallo
Augustana's Prison
Education Program
- Dec 5 - RIHS Chamber
Singers
- Dec 12 - Kevin Koski - "Your
Mother (and Lots of
Other People) Were
Wrong"
- Dec 19 - Rock Island Rotary's
Kenya Water Project
- Dec 26 - NO MEETING
- Jan 2 - NO MEETING

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 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!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – We welcomed three guests to today's meeting. Peter Galbraith was a guest of Ernie Beane and is now a prospective member! Drs. Ann McIntyre of Davenport and Thais Meredith of Alpha, IL were guests of Jim Nordquist. Prior to Jim's retirement the ladies, both dentists, had their office in the same building as Jim's Rock Island Optometric office. Ann and Thais are owners of Rock Island Dental Associates now located at 2334 31st Avenue, Rock Island. We welcome our guests and hope you will join us again, whether as guests or members!
- ★ **LAST 10 DAYS TO JOIN THE PARTY!!** - We are in the final stages of taking reservations for our Rotary Holiday Party December 9th at Circa 21 Dinner Theatre. See the full-page flier at the end of this newsletter for details. All Rotarians and your guests are welcome to attend, but you must reserve your seats in advance. Those that have reserved can bring your ticket payments to Bob Swanson on Tuesday. Tickets will be distributed at our Rotary meeting on December 5th.
- ★ **WAITING FOR OR NEEDING A NEW CLUB NAME BADGE?** – Email Cindi at cgramenz15@gmail.com. She requests a reminder from those who need badges. With much to do it's easy to lose track! We want every member to have an accurate name badge to wear at our meetings and Rotary events.
- ★ **THANKS TO FESTIVAL OF TREES COMMITTEE** – A big thank you to Club members who gave up their Saturday morning and met to erect and decorate our 2023 Festival of Trees entry. Sue Rector, John Olinger, Beth Kauzlarich, Lonnie Behnke, Monta Ponsetto, Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh, and Jen Osing did an incredible job of decorating! See Photo report, page 5.
- ★ **ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K** – Sign up to Run or Walk in Rotary's Annual 5K starting in Schwiebert Park on Sunday, December 3rd. All who sign up will enjoy comradery, post race refreshments, a Reindeer Ramble Shirt, and a chance at numerous awards given in multiple age and gender categories. See page 4 for details and registration or register by emailing Race Chair, Holly Sparkman at hksparkman@gmail.com. Many runners choose to dress in their finest holiday garb. In the past we've had running Santas, Reindeer, Elves, and even some infant strollers and pets who have run/walked the 3-mile course.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Send to bobdebswanson@att.net. The newsletter goes out each Tuesday afternoon so be sure to get your request to bobdebswanson@att.net by Tuesday noon. Photos are welcome!

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?

NOVEMBER ROCK ISLAND ROTARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carlos Jimenez November 4
Howard Beck November 16



FOUNDATION RAFFLE

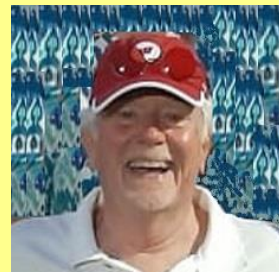
Today's Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash prize and a bottle of the outstanding Nimble Vineyards wine. Bud Phillis handled the ticket sales this week and Kathy Trone drew the winners. The first ticket drawn was again held by Alan Boucher, Interim Superintendent of the Rock Island-Milan Schools. He took the cash and donated it all back to Rock Island Rotary. Thank you Dr. Boucher two weeks in a row! The second lucky winner was John Oliger who took home the outstanding Nimble Hog wine! Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.



WELCOME OUR NEWEST ROCK ISLAND ROTARY MEMBERS!

We are extremely pleased to introduce two new Rock Island Rotarians!

Patrick Doherty was proposed for active membership by Anne McGlynn. Mr. Doherty is retired from the City of Rock Island where he served as Risk Manager. He was named City Employee of the Year in 2010. "Pat" resides in Rock Island on River Heights Road. He enjoys swimming, cooking, baking, listening to music and socializing with friends.



Christine Murdock was proposed for Quad City Bank & Trust associate membership by Amber Brummit. Christine's title is Executive Administrative Assistant. She joined Quad City Bank & Trust in 2010 with a degree in Business. She works with the Executive Vice President of the Wealth Management Division; she also assists with the Investment Team serving as the liaison with clients and producing reports used in connection with marketing and investment presentations. She has over 20 years of customer service experience. Christine is a volunteer with United Way, Junior Achievement, Orion Athletic Booster Club, The American Red Cross, and her church..



Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome Pat and Christine at an upcoming club meeting!

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week ONE of The Rotary Foundation Month

Since its formation in 1917, TRF has transformed a mere \$26.50 donation into a multi-billion-dollar global conglomerate, with a 4-Star Charity reputation. The Rotary Foundation has invested much in its mission to achieve world understanding and peace, largely through the following programs:

PolioPlus: Since 1988, Rotary and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, among other partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. As of June 2022, Rotary had committed more than \$2.3 billion to global polio eradication. In 2021-22, program awards, including PolioPlus Partners grants, totaled \$150.5 million.

Rotary Peace Centers: Each year, the Foundation supports the training of peace fellows at Rotary Peace Centers, where they earn master's degrees or professional development certificates. Since 2002-03, 1,600 fellows from more than 140 countries have participated. In 2021-22, 130 fellows from 57 countries began their studies at the Rotary Peace Centers, and program awards for the fellows and centers totaled \$3.9 million.

District Grants: District grants support small-scale, short-term projects related to the Foundation's mission. In 2021-22, the Foundation approved 478 district grants, and program awards totaled \$27.2 million.

Global Grants: Global grants fund large-scale international activities with sustainable, measurable results that support Rotary's areas of focus. Activities include humanitarian projects, scholarships, and vocational training teams. In 2021-22, the Foundation approved 1,199 global grants, and program awards totaled \$72.7 million.

Disaster Response Grants: Rotary's Disaster Response Grants support relief and recovery efforts in areas that have been affected by natural disasters within the past six months. In 2021-22, the Foundation approved 207 disaster response grants, and program awards totaled \$7.8 million.

Programs of Scale Grants: Programs of Scale grants empower Rotary members to work with experienced partners to implement large-scale, high-impact projects over three to five years to benefit a large number of people. Based on a model that has succeeded in reducing the maternal and neo-natal mortality rate in Nigeria, the member led Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria program was awarded the 2021-22 grant of \$2 million, which was matched by \$4 million in funding from our partners.

FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Olinger did well again today! He began with a \$1 fine levied on Jim Moran for his cell phone ringing during last week's meeting. He then noted that in a recent news article grants from the Moline Community Foundation were reported going to Christian Care, Heart of Home, Youth Hope, Spring Forward, and the Riverbend Food Bank. He then levied a fine on any members that are affiliated in anyway with those receiving grants. There were quite a few who paid! Gary Rowe had a happy dollar for the Illini football victory over Indiana. Gary attended the game and said it was one of the first home games he's seen with an Illinois win! Bud Phillis had a happy dollar for attending last Saturday's football game between No. 1 Georgia and No. 13 Mississippi. Georgia won 52-17 but Bud said watching 93,000 screaming, crazy fans was more fun than the game! Ruth Lee continued the football happy dollars celebrating the Minnesota Vikings win over the Saints. Ernie Beane had \$10 happy dollars for his first great-grand child who was born in July and just past 10lbs on the baby scale. Dr. Alan Beucher had a hand full of happy dollars celebrating All Conference honors earned by Rocky students: Abby Bomelyn in volleyball and Aiden Ntinyezegwa and Benjamin Goeh in soccer. He also honored a Rock Island 5th grade girls who recently won the Illinois wrestling championship and went on to place 4th in the Nation! Finally, he honored fellow member, Holly Sparkman who is being honored in the upcoming "Hero's Banquet". Congratulations Holly! Kathy Trone had a happy dollar for a very successful Trivia Night last Friday. Over \$4,000 in addition to sponsorships was raised. Great job! John Olinger then jumped in with a \$1 fine for all members who did not attend Trivia Night. Sue Rector had \$4 happy dollars for a successful Festival of Trees project that was completed Saturday morning. (See photos page 5). Dave Hodge has a happy dollar for the pending finalization of his and wife Leah's adoption of their 15-year-old daughter. Congratulation to the Hodge family! Guest Peter Galbraith had a happy dollar for the welcome he has received from our Club and from the community as he has begun his duties as pastor of the Grace Presbyterian Church in Rock Island. Thanks to everyone who contributed!



Rotary Reindeer Ramble *5K Run/Walk*

9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 3, 2023

START & FINISH Schwiebert Riverfront Park Bike Path.
Course is out and back; wheeled distance.

RUNNER'S AWARDS Overall male and female top 3 finishers. Age group awards 0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+

COMPETITIVE WALKER'S AWARDS Overall male and female top 3 finishers. Age group awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

REGISTRATION \$25 Pre-registered before Nov 19; \$30 after Nov 19.

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:45 to 8:45 AM RACE DAY Sunday, December 3 @ Holiday Inn, downtown Rock Island, 226 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

**Proceeds benefit Rock Island
Rotary Youth Programs!**

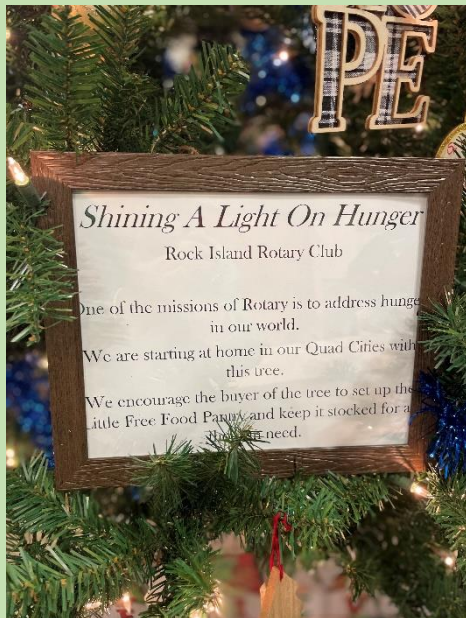


< Register

www.GetMeRegistered.com/RotaryReindeerRamble

ROTARIANS CREATE IMPRESSIVE FESTIVAL OF TREES ENTRY

Keeping with Rotary's commitment to fight hunger and see that all have food, our Festival of Trees entry for 2023 is titled "Shining a Light On Hunger". Ornaments made by Interact members from Rocky and Earl Hanson elementary children depicted food items or something about food, and the many area Food Pantries and Meal Sites. One of our little Libraries was converted into a food supply station as part of the display. Great job Festival Committee! Donated can goods provided a decorative cover of the cardboard tree base. The buyer of the tree in addition to the decorated tree, will also get the Little Food Supply Station and all the can goods.



It appears decorating the tree wasn't all hard work. At least it appears Lonnie Behnke had a great time!



The Festival of Trees is a fundraiser for Quad City Arts that premiered in 1986.. Quad City Arts, a local non-profit arts organization dedicated to the growth and vitality of the Quad City region through the presentation, development, and celebration of the arts. The event features 100 designer trees, 14 special events, the largest helium balloon parade in the Midwest, 3,500 volunteers and more than 100,000 visitors each year. Special events begin November 16 & 17th. The Festival opens to the public with the Balloon Parade and Santa's arrival on Saturday November 18th and runs through November 26th.

ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT A FUN – FUNDRAISER

Thanks to a flurry of entries in the last few days, our Rotary Trivia Night had a great crowd with 22 tables of competitors. Sue Rector and numerous generous donors combined for three tables with more than thirty silent auction baskets. “Mr. Trivia” was on hand to present ten rounds of clever trivia questions with each round containing ten questions. Steve Morenz did his usual incredible job of selling 50/50 tickets and put together a pot of over \$800! The lucky ticket holder took home in excess of \$400. The Silent Auction netted our Club Auction \$1,720 and fees for the tables and the purchase of mulligans and doublers brought in another \$1,767. With the Club share of the 50.50 drawing, total proceeds exceeded \$4,000. Add to that a proportion of the funds provided by our great sponsors, Mark Mayeski/Edward Jones, Lee Family, P Troop, Nancy Luckenbill in memory of Rotarian Fred Luckenbill, Holiday Inn-Rock Island, American Bank, TBK Bank, Illinois Casualty Co., and Studio 483 Architects - Jeff Dimer, and you have a very successful fundraiser. Thanks to Chair Kathy Trone, Sue Rector, and the entire Trivia Night Committee for a wonderful evening!



Heart of Hope Needs Our Help!

Marcy Bell, one of our members who regularly volunteers at the Heart of Hope reports that they are desperately in need of help. The Food Pantry distributes food each Thursday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Rotarians are needed to help people select and bag food. IN ADDITION, Heart of Hope needs help any time between 9am and 2pm Monday through Wednesday, Thursdays from 9am to 5:30pm on Thursdays and they need delivery drivers on Fridays from 8:30am to 12:30pm to take food to elderly and disabled (using your own car. A small mileage reimbursement is paid). If you can help just show up a Heart of Hope, tell them you are from Rotary and let them know what you can do. It is a great Service opportunity and provides vital assistance to those in desperate need of help.

PRESIDING OFFICER WETZEL INDUCTS NEW MEMBER



Past president John Wetzel enjoyed the opportunity of inducting a new Rotarian today for the first time since his term as our President 41 years ago. John asked Pam Jones along with her club sponsor Sue Rector to step to the rostrum where he administered the induction ceremony. Pam was presented with her Rotary pin and new member packet. She briefly spoke reminding us that she is a nurse and views Rotary as another way to serve. Pam is a Nurse liaison with Allure of the Quad Cities, Moline & Geneseo. Pam lives in Milan with husband Dale. She is a Licensed Practical Nurse educated at Black Hawk College. She previously served as a Telemetry Monitor Technician for Select Medical, then as an LPN for HCR Manor Care, then as an LPN at Friendship Manor. She was Director of Admissions at ProMedica Senior Care. She joined



Allure in March of this year. We are please she selected our Club and look forward to working with her in the coming months and years. Please make Pam feel welcome by introducing yourself and saying "Hello" when you see her at upcoming meetings.. With a tall rostrum and not-so-tall Pam, I thought you might like this better view so you will recognize and greet her at future Rotary meetings. We will ask Pam what Club committees interest her and work to see that she has opportunities to become involved as quickly as possible.

HOW MANY ROTARIANS DOES IT TAKE TO SWITCH "ON" A MICROPHONE

To begin our meeting today, John Wetzel our presiding officer, approached the rostrum and boldly said "Is this on? Can you hear me?" To which the members replied "NO". John then began the ardent task of switching on the mic. No luck ... then Sue Rector stepped up to help ...No luck ... then Cindi Gramenz came from the Sergeant's Table and John Oliger approached from his Vice-Presidential seat. With all eight "hands of deck" and fumbling with the microphone ... success. The mic was on, and John could be heard! And after successfully winning the "battle of the mic" our four audio experts didn't even need to rest prior to continuing our meeting. Sorry to poke fun at fellow members and hope it is taken in the humorous sprit it was offered. The incident did bring a good round of laughter from those in attendance. The photo shows the pesky mic and the infamous "ON"/"OFF" switch.



*Headline for this story suggested by Holly Sparkman – Must give credit when credit is due!

MESSAGE FROM PROJECT CHAIR DANIELLE SCOTT

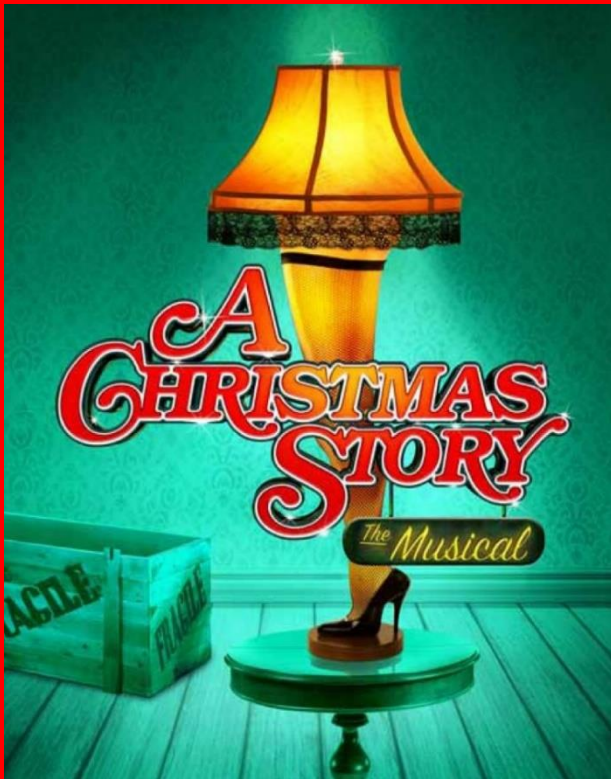


So far, we are off to a great start for the District Wide Service Project of ending hunger! We have collected almost 200 pounds of food items! Here is a photo of a staff member and a board member at Christian Care with some of the donated items. We will not be collecting any items in November or December. But stock up, we'll be going at it again in January collecting for Project Now / Head Start, in February for SAL, and in April for World Relief

Thank you for your support!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY

HOLIDAY PARTY 2023



Circa 21 Presents the classic holiday movie is brought to life in this delightful Tony-nominated musical Set in the 1940s in the fictional town of Hohman, Indiana, the musical follows 9-year-old Ralphie and his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts — an Official Red Ryder carbine-action 200-shot Range Model air rifle. Rebuffed at every turn with a similar echoing response, Ralphie plots numerous schemes to achieve his desperate desire for the coveted BB gun. All the iconic scenes from the movie are here: from the leg lamp to the bunny suit!

**Tickets include a private pre-show Party
with Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar (5:00-6pm)
Plated Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)
Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)
Mainstage Show – *A Christmas Story* (7:30pm)**

GROUP RATE

ONE ADMISSION	\$58.90
TWO ADULT ADMISSIONS	\$117.80
CHILDREN (4 to 18)	\$40.65

***Tax & Tip included (not including deserts & bar)**

Circa Subscriber? Pay Just \$3.50 per person for gratuity!

Reserve Seats at Rotary Sergeant's Table!