



# WEEKLY REVIEW

# Rotary



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

March 26, 2024  
Volume XXXI, Issue 37

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

## Downtown Rock Island Renovation Valley Construction Co.



*Aaron Lubitz*

*Ken Harris*

Work is schedule to begin soon according to Aaron Lubitz and Ken Harris of Valley Construction, the Rock Island based contractor for the project. Harris was the chief estimator for the job and Lubitz will be the project manager.

The project includes Rock Island's first "roundabout" in the downtown area. Lubitz began the presentation stating that the city's concept of the project is to make the downtown area a more friendly and appealing area where people will want to be. The hope is that by renovating all the area's infrastructure, much unseen such as sewer and water lines, in addition to the highly visible aspects of paving, lighting, landscaping, and a grassy park area people will see the area as a welcoming and fun area and business owners will be attracted to locate and expand there. Where people gather, businesses tend to open and grow. There project area runs from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> street. It includes reopening 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue for traffic, but with parking not allowed and the ability to quickly close the area for pedestrian events. Curbs will be removed to eliminate tripping hazzards and the street will not be "crowned" to further accommodate pedestrian use. A welcoming arched entrance into the downtown area will be added. The roundabout will be at the intersection of 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Lubitz cited studies showing that roundabouts not only improve traffic flow, but also slow traffic at intersections and decrease the incidence and seriousness of accidents. An included part of the project is renovation and improvement of Arts Alley. That area will receive festive lighting, decorative pavement, and although not included in Valley's part of the project, will include colorful murals for the building walls. Second Avenue will also receive some mini-park areas for outdoor dining and relaxation. Harris presented a powerpoint slide show of concept renderings of how the completed project will look. Work will begin very shortly and will be extensive with streets, sewers, and watermains removed and replaced. Completion of the total project is anticipated to take about a year. The Rock Island City Council approved the project just last night and with the addition of alternatives approved will come in a bit over \$8 million, mostly paid by state and federal grants, plus city and downtown property owners and merchant funds. Rotary thanks Ken and Aaron for a very informative and interesting presentation.

### April - May Calendar

- Apr 2 - Aaron Shivers – Oak Street Health
- Apr 5 - Club Social – Pagala's
- Apr 9 - Laura Kann, Rotary District Foundation Chair
- Apr 16 - Bert Blood Scholarship presentation
- Apr 23 - Rotary Awards Luncheon
- Apr 30 - RIHS INNcubator Program Students
- May 7 - TBA
- May 14 - Sarah Leonard – Earl Hanson Principal
- May 21 - Tyler Mitchell – The Project
- May 28 - Ryan Wille, Q.C. Botanical Center Plant Discovery Bus

*Service Above  
Self*

Webpage  
 facebook

CHECK US OUT!  
[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>

*One Profits  
Most Who  
Serves Best*

# 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-Treasurer  
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** – Today we welcomed multiple guests. Mark Carlson, president of the Moline Rotary Club and Bruce Peterson of the River Cities Club were visiting Rotarians. Danny and his mother Julie Olinger were guests of dad and spouse, John Olinger. Kennedy Maombi and Simon Ndashuriya were also guests of John Olinger. Jr. Rotarian from Alleman High were K.J. Ohr and Mackenzie Burkett. Prospective member Forest Meyer sponsored by Ruth Lee was present. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guest and visiting Rotarians to our meetings. We are convinced that those that attend a “Number 1 Club” meeting will want to return!

## ★ IMPORTANT ROTARY EVENTS COMING UP!

- **DISTRICT CONFERENCE** – Our Rotary District Conference will be held in Moline at the Stoney Creek Hotel on **April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**. There will be great speakers, interesting discussions, club displays, entertainment, and District awards presented. Talk to any of our members that attended previous Conferences and they will tell you it is an experience well worth your time. If you’ve not been to the Stoney Creek Hotel, it is just east of the Vibrant Arena and near to Johnny’s Steak House.
- **ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE** – Tickets are now available for our 2024 Wine & Dine Raffle with winners to be drawn, **May 28<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20. There will be five winners, each receiving a \$200 gift certificate for food and beverage at one of five selected Rock Island and Milan establishments. See Ruth Lee to purchase tickets OR If you will help promote and/or sell tickets to your friends and colleagues, Ruth will provide returnable tickets on consignment to you and small posters for display..

★ **START COLLECTING FOOD!** During the month of April, we will be gathering food for World Relief. They are in need of vegetable oil, rice (jasmine or long-grain white), and flour (wheat, rice, or cornmeal). Please bring your donation to any meeting in April. This will be our final collection for this Rotary year. The goal for the year is 20 pounds of food per member. Cindi has been keeping the tally and we have a way to go! Although rice isn’t very heavy, flour and vegetable oil can get you caught up fairly quickly. The challenge is fun, but the need is very serious and important.

★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to, [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). Our newsletter goes via email every Tuesday afternoon. Items received by 11am Tuesday can be included that day. committee chairmen send advance notice of your committee meetings so we can get the word to your members.

## 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?

## MARCH ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Lonnie Behnke	13 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Jones	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Kathy Trone	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Lootens	28 <sup>th</sup>
Gary Rowe	17 <sup>th</sup>	Avalon Thomas-Roebal	29 <sup>th</sup>
Danielle Scott	18 <sup>th</sup>	Bill Stengel	31 <sup>st</sup>
Clarence Darrow	22 <sup>nd</sup>		

# We Are Depending on YOU!

Our Club Meeting on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> has been selected for our annual Awards Luncheon. For members there is no cost and nothing different than attending any other Tuesday Rotary meeting. However, for a half dozen students representing Alleman, Rock Island High School, and Augustana College; Fellow Club Members who will receive our highest honors; and two special local citizens who will be honored for Community Service and Professional Excellence, it will be very special.

You will find our Awards Nomination Form on the final two pages of our newsletter today and for the next several weeks will be. We need your suggestions for people to consider for our Club's A.T. Peara Award and Luckenbill-Wray Awards. We also need your suggestions of people to consider for Outstanding Community Service and Professional Excellence Awards. The more we have to consider the better our selections can be! We will invite and urge local media to be present at the luncheon and will also invite our community award winners to join our entourage in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade. The nomination form is self explanatory and easy to fill out, but the more detail you can provide the better for our selection committee. **So far the Response has been slow** - so please take a few minutes and submit your nominations to Sarah Gorham (email [sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law](mailto:sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law)) and plan to attend the Luncheon.

## PAGALO'S PIZZERIA

### IT'S PURELY SOCIAL!

Sign Up At the Sergeants Table Or  
Email Ruth Lee at [rotarianruth@gmail.com](mailto:rotarianruth@gmail.com)

Rotarian after work fun & food!  
**Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 7:00 Drop-in**  
Bring your spouse, prospective member,  
Colleague or Friend! It's all Dutch Treat!

## ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

UNESCO's Institute for Water Education recently announced information regarding a Rotary Foundation sponsored Global Scholarship. According to the report published online at <https://www.un-ihe.org/education/master-programmes/rotary-scholarships-water-and-sanitation-professionals>, the strategic partnership between The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education aims to tackle the world's water and sanitation crisis by increasing the number of trained professionals to devise, plan, and implement solutions in developing and emerging countries.

Through this partnership, scholarships are awarded annually for graduate students at IHE Delft's campus in the Netherlands. These scholarships are designed to promote long-term productive relationships between Rotarians and highly skilled water and sanitation professionals in their communities. Since the inception of the partnership in 2012, over 165 scholarships have been awarded. Recipients of this Rotary scholarship will benefit from the support they receive through regular contact with sponsor Rotarians from their home country and the opportunity to interact with Rotarians in the Netherlands/

Rotary alumni constitute an extensive network of Rotary scholarship recipients and Rotarians worldwide. Becoming involved with a local Rotary Club and the alumni association allows scholars to stay connected to Rotary's global community and resources. Students admitted to IHE Delft Institute for Water Education's Master of Science program in Water and Sustainable Development (68EC) can be nominated by a local Rotary Club in their home community by submitting the application form for a scholarship to the Rotary/IHE Delft committee in the Netherlands, together with the student's resume and the IHE Delft admission letter. Rotarian support for the Rotary Foundation makes this possible!

## Swanson to Continue as Club Sergeant at Arms

Today by vote of the members present, Bob Swanson, the Board of Directors nominee for Sergeant at Arms for the 2024-25 Rotary year was elected. Swanson who has served in the position for many years had agreed to step aside and supported Tracy Pugh who has served as a Sergeant at Arms Aide for the past several years. Tracy was nominated and elected last December to serve as Sergeant at Arms for the 2024-25 Rotary year. Unfortunately, increased duties and travel requirements for work forced Tracy to withdraw. Bob Swanson was asked to remain in the position for the coming Rotary year and agreed.

## CLUB WILL PROVIDE AUCTION BASKET FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE



A popular fundraising aspect of the upcoming District Conference is a silent auction basket event with Clubs in the districted asked to create and donate a basket. Rock Island Rotary has participated each year and will continue that effort at this year's Conference in April. Sue Rector has volunteered to spearhead creating the basket and came up with the idea of highlighting Rock Island with a basket loaded with "Made in Rock Island" and Rock Island related items. Sue has Boetje's Mustard, but we know there is much more out there. Anyone who can provide an appropriate item for the basket, please get it to Sue as soon as possible. Anything from a product, to an Augustana item, to a toy Rock Island Lines locomotive, (just to give a few ideas) will be great! Time is of the essence so please get your item to Sue or let her know it is coming in the next two weeks.

## WELCOME OUR MOST RECENT FELLOWS!



Danny Oliger

Today 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Sue Rector had the pleasure of presenting two Paul Harris Fellow Awards. One was planned the other a surprise! First, Danny Oliger was called forward and his Dad, our 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. honored him by presenting Danny as a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of \$1000 in donations made in Danny's name to the Rotary International Foundation. John previously earned his own Paul Harris Fellow honors. Danny received his Paul Harris Fellow pin and certificate signed by Rotary International president R. Gordon McNally.



Rick Devinney

Then Sue surprised fellow club member Rick Devinney by announcing that he has now exceeded \$1,000 in contributions to the Rotary International Foundation and has earned his Paul Harris Fellow award. He too received his pin and certificate. A surprised Rick said he thought he was close to the required contribution level but didn't realize he had achieved it.

**Congratulations to Danny and Rick, our most recent Paul Harris Fellow recipients! Congratulations also to John Oliger whose generous contributions made Danny's recognition possible!**

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle offered a 50.50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine chardonnay wine. President Cindi Gramenz supervised the drawing and announced the first ticket drawn. It was held by Howard Beck who took the cash and promptly donated it to the Rotary International Foundation. The second lucky winner was Jeff Dismer who took home wine for the dinner table!

We thank everyone who participated in the raffle. Funds raised go to support the great work of the Rotary International Foundation..



## FRANK AND BUD RENEW THE "FEUD" AND INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN THE FUN.

Frank Lambert asked for a few moments prior to the program today to announce that he (a diehard St. Louis Cardinal fan) and Bud Phillis (an equally diehard Chicago Cubs fan) have agreed to wager a \$5 monthly contribution to Rock Island Rotary based on whichever team has the best record each month. It is an interesting wager because the winner, the team with the best record for the month, is the one who pays. I guess the idea is that having the poorest record is punishment enough and at least the loser gets the satisfaction of seeing the other guy having to pay for his teams' success.

Frank then opened the monthly bragging rights event to all Club members. If you want to join the fun just let Bud or Frank know that you are "in" and which team you support. It promises to be a lot of friendly fun, but unfortunately will potentially cost Cub fans a lot of money! (Oops, I let my biases slip in!). I guess the price for that is to say, "Okay Frank, I'm 'in'." That makes two diehard Cub fans. If there are any other Cardinal fans in the crowd, show your faith in the "Red Birds". I'm guessing when Duncan Cameron returns from Naples he might offer to throw the Brewers into the mix!

# ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

See Ruth Lee or Gary Rowe to purchase tickets and/or to obtain tickets to sell.  
You may return unsold tickets. Small window posters are also available for your place of business.  
Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20.

Five lucky winners will receive a \$200 Gift Certificate to one of five outstanding local food and beverage establishments including: The Rock Island Ale House, Circa21 Dinner Playhouse, Huckleberry's Italian Restaurant, The Old Oaks Winery, and Pagalo's Pizzeria & Gelato Café.

## ROTARY AND TOASTMASTER TEAM UP FOR WEBINAR

“Connect and Inspire Through Storytelling”

is the title of the program **scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024, starting at 9am.** A panel of experts moderated by **Mary Shackleton** - Rotary leader, change advocate, Past Toastmasters Area Governor, will provide great information and stirring discussion. The panel will feature:

**Mike Carr** - 2020 World Champion of Public Speaking, economist, speaker, financial firm partner

**Verity Price** - 2021 World Champion of Public Speaking, Accredited Speaker/Coach

**Nikita Williams** - Toastmasters Evaluation Champion, inclusive community builder, Rotary program alumna, learning and development professional.

Too busy to signup? You can sign up to receive the webinar recording!

But you must Register in advance and Registration is limited. More details? Control/Click [here](#)

Register now at <https://emails.toastmasters.org/c/1n6VP14ov3HCd667kcxXDYiNUv5IGu>

To get recording sign up at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vOurqugyV0vyjiFtSHgPytcQZil3iiRJRgVjZGBjMjNUQklaVkMxUVNZNUYzOzMyS1IwSVMvTUFKNSQIQCN0PWcu>

## FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

With his wife and son in attendance to witness the “Boos” that greet our weekly assessor or fines, V.P. John Olinger noted that he thought even his wife joined in the fun! He began by fining Angela Campbell and Kathy Lelonek for the recent newspaper article stating the Library was prepared for a soon to be seen solar eclipse and are making viewing boxes available. He had several other fines in mind, but the payees were into in attendance. (He will get you later!) Rebecca Arnold offered a fined for the recent newspaper report on the Rock Island West End Revitalization project which prominently mentioned the King Center. Bill Stengel and Gary Rowe paid happy dollars welcoming one of today's guests, Kennedy Maombi, a former participant in the Rotary sponsored Rock Island High School Incubator Entrepreneur program. Gary is on the school Board and Bill is a mentor for the program. Bob Swanson paid to announce a free Easter Egg Hunt this coming Saturday at 11am sponsored by Christian care. All children ages 2-11 are welcome. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required by emailing Cindi Gramenz at [cgramenz15@gmail.com](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com). All they need is the number of children and adults that will be attending. Candy and toy filled eggs will be “hidden” and all participants will take home an Easter basket filled with goodies. The event will be held at Ilam Covenant Church, 5201 18th Ave, Moline, IL. Then the basketball happy fans came forward, Mark Mayeski a Gonzaga alum paid to celebrate the Zags 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive Sweet 16 appearance. Gary Rowe had a happy dollar for the Illini men also being in the Sweet 16. Bud had 3 happy dollars, 1 for the Illinois men, 1 for the Iowa men losing, and 1 for the Iowa women winning! Amber Wood paid for a short promotion of the upcoming SAL fundraising Golf outing. Guest “Simon” offered a happy dollar for his first visit to Rotary. There was another happy dollar for the Iowa women winning and Caitlin Clark's setting the NCAA single season scoring record last night, but I didn't catch who offered it. Sorry, but congratulations to Caitlin! Thanks to all our contributors!

***DID YOU MISS ROTARY ROCK & ROLL BINGO?***

*If so you missed a lot of fun!*

*Preliminary report - this fundraiser brought in \$2,700!*



**EVEN THE KIDS HAD FUN!**

## **NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR ROTARY AWARDS**

Please take a few minutes and carefully examine the final two pages of today's newsletter. Those pages contain the nomination form for the 2024 Rotary Awards to be presented on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to a local citizen for Outstanding Community Service, and to a citizen for Excellence in their chosen Profession or Endeavor. We also will be honoring two of our club members through the Luckenbill-Wray Award and the A.T. Peara Service Above Self Award. The first award recognizes outstanding contributions to Rock Island Rotary during the past Rotary year. The Second is a one-time award recognizing a member for a lifetime of faithfully exhibiting the Ideals and Principles of Rotary.

We can only make the best selections if we get your help by nominating those that you believe are deserving of the awards. Please, take a few minutes, fill out the form and submit your nominations.

# 2024 Rotary District Conference In Our Own BACKYARD

**\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\***

**District 6420 Conference**

**“Rotarians: People of Action”**



Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
Moline, Illinois

Friday, April 26th, 4:30pm through  
Saturday, April 27th, 9:00pm

**ROCK ISLAND ROTARY WILL REIMBURSE  
YOUR REGISTRATION FEE!\***

Registration Online Now. Control/Click on this link:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f00ba3a4/Sgxv4JQn3kGvN5\\_pfsy-1Q?u=https://bit.ly/6420DistrictConference](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/f00ba3a4/Sgxv4JQn3kGvN5_pfsy-1Q?u=https://bit.ly/6420DistrictConference)

**Rotary**  
District 6420



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

**\*Our Club will reimburse \$95 to members who register and attend:  
Early bird registration: \$95 until April 12, 2024.  
Standard registration: \$125 from April 13 – 19, 2024.  
There will be no registrations onsite.**

**Do You Enjoy Euchre? Help a Sister Club!**



## **EAST MOLINE-SILVIS ROTARY CLUB**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY  
PROJECTS IN EAST MOLINE & SILVIS**

\$40 per person-Entry fee, pizza, cookies, and  
1 drink ticket. (Team entry is \$70)

Cash bar available 50/50 Cash Prizes

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 17, 2024**

**5:30-9:00 PM**

**RUST BELT, EAST MOLINE IL 61244**

**TOURNEY STARTS 6PM**

**FINAL DEADLINE IS APRIL 15TH-NO ENTRIES AT THE DOOR**

For more information or to register:

Jaclyn Mayse

almosthome4u@gmail.com

Madison Miller

madisonmiller0@gmail.com





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROTARY AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSION

1. All current members may be considered for the Luckenbill-Wray Award

2. The following Club members are previous A.T. Peara Award Recipients and are not eligible for that award.

Tricia Barron 2015	Mark Mayeski 2020	Gary Rowe 2000
Carrie Crossen 2020	Anne McGlynn 2013	Molly Shattuck 2021
Jeff Dismer 2010	Jim Moran 2022	Holly Sparkman 2012
Tom Hammar 2004	Steve Morenz 2018	Bob Swanson 2014
Frank Lambert 2002	John Phillips 2019	Kathy Trone 2023
Ruth Lee 2009	Bud Phillis 1991	John Wetzel 2011

3. Current members who can be considered for the A.T. Peara Award:

Rebecca Arnold	Doug Hultquist	Mark Poulos
Heather Ballou	Randy Hurt	Tracy Pugh
Howard Beck	Carlos Jimenez	Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh
Lonnie Behnke	Mariah Johnson	Sue Rector
Marcy Bell	James Jones	Jeremy Richard
Amber Brummit	Jerry Jones	Jeff Rose
Kenda Burrows	Pam Jones	Kathy Rugeberg
Kimberly Calhoun	Beth Kauzlarich	Danielle Scott
Angela Campbell	Kevin Koski	Tyla Sherwin-Cole
Hannah Carr	Kristia LeShoure	John Slover
Clarence Darrow	Kathy Lelonek	Tia Steele
Amanda De La Cruz	Kate Mapes	Bill Stengel
Rick Devinney	Miranda Marshall	Arron Sutherland
Patrick Doherty	Ann McIntyre	Kai Swanson
Rick Emery	Dan McNeil	Andrea Talentino
Trista Foster	Thais Meredith	Avalon Thomas-Roebal
Peter Galbraith	Christine Murdock	Todd Thompson
Julie Gelaude	Jim Nordquist	Mike Thoms
Linda Golden	Mike Oberhaus	Tammy Weikert
Sarah Gorham	John Olinger	Pete Wessels
Cindi Gramenz	Jen Osing	Eric Westphall
Bill Groh	David Parker	Jeff Whitaker
Jennifer Hirsch	Frank Perez	Ryan Wille
Brett Hitchcock	Bruce Peterson	Erin Williams
Dave Hodge	Justin Peterson	Amber Wood
Lindsey Honert	Monta Ponsetto	

4. **Copy and fill out the nomination form on the previous page. Feel free to nominate more than one person for an award if you feel they are worthy. Also please consider submitting nominees for each of the awards. As Rotarians we seek to honor those who serve and can only do that if all of us participate in providing quality nominees.**

**Give your completed nomination forms to Sarah Gorham in person at a meeting, by email at [sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law](mailto:sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law), or mail or drop them off at her office: Stengel, Bailey & Robertson 1617 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 200, Rock Island, IL 61201.**