



WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

April 16, 2024
Volume XXXI, Issue 35

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

Bert Blood Scholarships Presentation



Today was a very special day for Rock Island Rotary. In honor and memory of long

time club member Bert Blood we continued a 52-year tradition of presenting scholarships to area students who have excelled in the study of agriculture

and agricultural activities. We are joined in this effort by the University of Illinois Extension Service and the local chapters of 4-H. The extensions service shares the scholarship expense with us, and 4-H selects and submits the students, based on projects they have completed, for scholarship consideration. Then our Rock Island Rotary Bert Blood Committee hears presentations from each student and determines the three scholarship winners and their order of finish. Today representatives of the Extension and 4H joined us along with the three high school scholarship finalists and their families. Each student presented their project to the club prior to the Committee announcing the order of finish. In addition, two \$500 scholarships were presented to current college students who are alumni of local 4-H programs, based on the recommendation of our 4-H scholarship partners.

Prior to presenting awards, Bert Blood Scholarship Committee Chair provided some historical background information about Bert Blood. See “Who Was Bert Blood”, page 4. John then introduced Jenny Garner, Region 7 Director of the University of Illinois Extension Service. She noted that the Extension Service is the field operations of the University of Illinois, a land grant institution with the task of helping people improve their lives, businesses, and futures. She provided a brief rundown of the many Extension and 4-H activities occurring recently and in the remainder of this month. That included working with the federal Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program and the River Bend Food Bank to help insure and improve the nutritional value of food assistance to those in need. They also participated in a large food drive, involved their master gardeners in growing and donating produce. The extension and master gardeners were also major factors in the Quad City Flower & Garden Show, creating all the displays and providing workshops for produces, classes on food preservation, and activities and competitions for kids. The Extension also sponsored a fitness program and a Build-a-Bed Project. John & Jenny both mentioned the 4-H Annual Pork Chop & Hot Dog Dinner with great pies served and sold coming up at the Extension Office in Milan on April 25th.

Proceeding with the presentation of scholarships John introduced the student finalist selected from ten high school applicants for this year’s Bert Blood Scholarships.

See Scholarships, Page 3

*Service Above
Self*

Webpage
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www.rirotary.com

<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>

*One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best*

April - May Calendar

- Apr 23 - Rotary Awards Luncheon
- Apr 30 - RIHS INNcubator Program Students
- May 7 - Thurgood Brooks - West End Revitalization
- May 14 - Sarah Leonard – Earl Hanson Principal
- May 21 - Tyler Mitchell – The Project
- May 28 - Ryan Wille, Q.C. Botanical Center Plant Discovery Bus5

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-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 including visiting Rotarians, Duncan Cameron via ZOOM from Naples, Florida, and Ryan Whiteman president-elect of the East Moline-Silvis Club. We also welcomed Jr. Rotarian from Alleman High School Ella Praet, Emma Shrake, Danny Darrow, and Mark Schott. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guest and visiting Rotarians to our meetings. We are confident 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 26th & 27th**. 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. With our Club offering to reimburse the fees for any member attending, why not go, participate, and enjoy!
- **ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE** – Tickets are now available for our 2024 Wine & Dine Raffle with winners to be drawn, **May 28th**. 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..

★ **BRING YOUR FOOD DONATION!** During the month of April, we are 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 quickly. The challenge is fun, but the need is very serious and important.

★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to, 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?

APRIL ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Frank Perez	April 17
Mark Zimmerman	April 17
Rick Devinney	April 18
Kathy Ruggeberg	April 20
Kristia LeShoure	April 23
Rick Emery	April 26

Scholarships – Continued from Page 1

Alaina Heim is a senior at Riverdale High School and a member of the Buccaneers 4-H, a club in which she has served as president for the past four years. She was accompanied today by her parents Dan and Brianna Heim. Alaina joined 4-H as an 8-year old “eager beaver”. The first year in 4-H she completed 6 separate projects! She found a love for woodworking and welding, interests she inherited from her grandfather and father. She displayed on a slide multiple items she designed and created in both wood and metal. Among her favorites were a loft bed made of wood and a boat rack made from welded metal. She stated that she loves designing and then creating and has become incredibly talented in both aspects. She applied for and was accepted into the regional program that allowed her to study and work part-time at the John Deere Harvester plant which heightened her interest in engineering and manufacturing. Her plans are to attend a 4-year university to study Agricultural Engineering with the goal of returning to work for John Deere. Alaina was awarded our top scholarship of \$1,500.



Cassandra Bohnert is a senior at United Township High school and has a member of both the Buccaneers and the Rockridge 4-H Clubs. She too joined 4-H as a very young child, but actually began showing dairy cattle before she was old enough to be in 4-H. She stated that she grew up on the family dairy farm and mentioned that her father’s 4-H project many years ago was dairy farming. She provided an interesting and entertaining slide showing her from early childhood grooming, feeding, milking, vaccinating, and showing her prize dairy cattle. She stressed that the project was a family activity and had photos with her brother, sister, and dad working with the cattle. Cassandra noted that although she enjoyed working cattle, it is hard work and required commitment and perseverance. She mentioned having been stepped on, knocked down, and struggling to move stubborn cattle. She was accompanied today by her mother, Karen Bohnert.. Cassandra was awarded our \$1,250 scholarship.



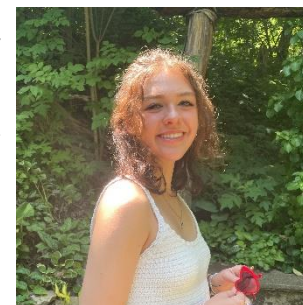
Keegan Bohnsack is a Senior at Rockridge High School and a member of the Rockridge Royals 4-H Club. He was accompanied by his parents Sarah and Jay Bohnsack. Keegan spent his youth raising and showing cattle and then became involved in cattle judging. In his high school year he has honed his skills and is frequently called on to judge cattle competitions. As a teaser he put up a slide showing 5 cattle each looking essentially the same and asked the audience to rank the order they would place in competition. Some confessed thinking it was five pictures of the same animal. Keegan then revealed they were each different and placed them in the proper order explaining what he looked for in each and what distinguished one from another. Keegan intends to attend Black Hawk College East to earn his associates degree and then plans to transfer to Oklahoma State for a degree in Agricultural Science.. Keegan was awarded our \$1,000 scholarship.



Emma Hogren

In addition to our high school winners, two 4-H alumni now studying in college were awarded \$500 scholarships to help continue their education. **Emma Hogren** is now a junior at Augustana College earning a double major in Biology and Art History with a minor in Art History. Emma is planning to continue her education after graduation in mortuary science and looks for a career in the funeral business.

Katelyn Oleson is a junior at the University of Kansas. She is majoring in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and plans to continue her education after graduation in medical school with the goal of becoming a physician.



Katelyn Oleson

Prior to adjourning, Chair Wetzel introduced Illinois Extension and 4-H Foundation representatives that were present for the program. They were Becky Buchrop Marketing and Local Fund Development Program Coordinator; John Flaherty, Joyce, and Jim Bohnsack from the 4-H Foundation Board, and Jennifer Peterson and Elaine Kaple, Youth Development Educators. We greatly appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the Extension Service and 4-H Foundation to make today’s program possible. Finally, a big shoutout and “well done” to our Bert Blood Scholarship Committee: Angela Campbell, Kevin Koski, Ruth Lee, Kathy Lelonek, John Oliger, and John Wetzel, Chair. Pictured are John Wetzel, the winners, John Flaherty, and Jim Bohnsack. *More photos page 9*



Celebrating Excellence in Public Image

We are thrilled to announce and celebrate that Rock Island Rotary was among just 10 of the 43 clubs in District 6420 to be recognized for outstanding achievements in our commitment to public image and promoting Rotary's core values. At the recent District Training Assembly, Melissa McCormick, District Public Image Chair from Rockton-Roscoe Rotary said, "These clubs have gone above and beyond in demonstrating "Service Above Self" and embodying the spirit of "People of Action" throughout the Rotary year 2023-2024. In addition to Rock Island, clubs from Princeton, Walnut, Toluca, Morrison, Rock Falls, Kishwaukee Sunrise, Putnam County, Rochelle, and Belvidere were recognized. We were the only Club in the Quad City area to receive recognition. Congratulations to Cindi Gramenz our PR Chair for 2023-24.

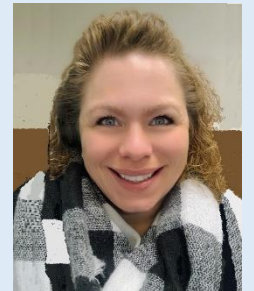


MEMBERS STEP UP TO FILL VACANCIES

Previously we reported the resignation of club secretary Anne McGlynn and asked for a volunteer to fill that important position. We were thrilled when Holly Sparkman offered to take the job which involves keeping member and attendance records and reporting that information to Rotary International, taking minutes at Board meetings, ordering club supplies, and serving on our Executive Committee. Holly joined our club in 2005 and was named A.T. Peara Award winner in 2012. More recently she served as chair of our Reindeer Ramble 5K. The Board approved her appointment to fill the secretary vacancy for the remainder of this year and the coming 2024-25 Rotary year.



The Board also acted on a request from Board Member Mariah Johnson to be relieved of her duties as a member of the Board due to increased obligations at job. Mariah's term was slated to end June 30th. Her resignation was accepted with regret, and we thanked her for her previous dedicated service and look forward to a time when she can again serve in a club leadership position. The Board then accepted the nomination and approved the appointment of Amber Wood to fill the board position for the remainder of the 2023-24 Rotary Year. As of July 1st, Amber will assume her position as our 2nd Vice-President and the Board position was filled as part of our election last December. The new Board members will be seated at the first meeting in July.



Thank you Holly and Amber!

Who Was Rotarian Bert Blood?

Bert Blood was born in 1870 on a farm near Cambridge, Illinois, graduated from Iowa's Cornell college and then the University of Chicago. Professionally, Bert was Superintendent of Schools in Tiskilwa and Park Ridge, Illinois for 17 years, and served as President of the Cook County Teachers Association and as Secretary of the Educational Council of Cook County. In 1917, he opened the A.M. Blood Co., a school supply business in Rock Island.

Bert was a prolific writer, publishing several articles on education and business and many poems. At age 97, he authored an extensive monograph, "Know Your Rock Island" published by the Rock Island Argus in 1968.

He became a Rock Island Rotary Club member in 1920 and served as our club's honorary president during 1969 – 70. Bert chaired the agricultural committee of the Rock Island Chamber of Commerce and Retail Bureau; and served as an Elder of Broadway Presbyterian Church for many years. He was also very active in the Life Line Institute and the Community Chest, forerunner to today's United Way.

Although an urban businessman, Bert never lost touch with his rural roots. He organized our club's annual Rural/Urban program up to his death, at age 101 in 1972. Bert not only challenging 4-H students to academic excellence, but also worked to ensure that Rock Island Rotary stayed connected with our dependence on rural production and supply.

To honor his 101 years of life and preserve his rural legacy, our Club established a \$101 memorial scholarship in 1973. This scholarship was awarded annually to a college bound high school student who, in the eyes of our club's judges, presented the best 4-H project. As tuition costs increased and with the help of Rock Island County Extension & 4-H Education Foundation, the program was expanded, and funding gradually increased to currently \$4,750..

ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

Nobody takes water for granted in Zimbabwe, least of all the residents of Musekiwa and Mushaki. Located about 160 kilometers (99 miles) from the capital of Harare, the two villages have been drastically affected by the country's water shortage. Until recently, many residents walked five kilometers (three miles) or more to find water every day. "They were getting some water from open wells, some from rivers," says Trymore Tafadzwa Kabanda, a counselor for Mushaki. That changed when two Rotary clubs thousands of miles apart decided to collaborate on a grant-funded project. Members of the Rotary Club of Saint Helena, California, USA, learned about the villages' situation in 2020 from a guest speaker whose wife had grown up in the area. They found out about the devastating effects climate change has had on rainfall in rural Zimbabwe, where more than 90% of households depend on agriculture for their main livelihood. "They had a horrendous water problem," says John Muhlner, a past president of the Saint Helena club. "Women, for the most part, were walking miles every day to bring water back to their homes. Often, they would go and wouldn't find water, or maybe the water they found would be contaminated."

The Saint Helena Rotarians contacted the Rotary Club of Harare CBD, Harare, Zimbabwe, which conducted a community assessment. After that, the clubs raised funds and applied for a Rotary Foundation Global Grant. The US \$82,000 project plan was to dig two wells, install solar-powered pumps and a water piping system, train residents to maintain the equipment, and conduct an educational campaign about the importance of hygiene.... "Water touches on all of Rotary's areas of focus," says Mary Beth Growney Selene, chair of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group. "Children are not being pulled away from school to go fetch water in a local river. Parents don't have to spend time fetching water, so they can be more productive economically. People aren't as susceptible to waterborne diseases. 'It all starts with water,' is what we say." That was certainly the case in Mushaki and Musekiwa. "Now, most of the villagers don't have to go more than a few meters to fetch water," Kabanda says. "Also, diseases like cholera are prevented."

Support of the Rotary Foundation makes grants such as this one possible! Please donate to the Rotary Foundation!.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine sauvignon blanc wine. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by guest John Flaherty who took the money and then generously donated it back to Rotary.. Winner number two was John Oliger who was happy to accept the wine. Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. The proceeds go to the Rotary Foundation which was the topic of our program today.



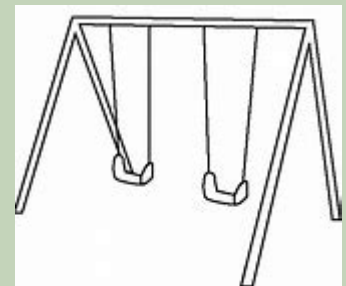
NO FINES or HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS TODAY!

ONE OF OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS NEEDS HELP



Ruth Lee brought to our Board's attention on Monday a recent plea she had seen from Christian Care. They are in need of help for two upcoming projects. On Saturday, May 4th at 9am they are asking for a few volunteers to help spread mulch in the area in front of the men's shelter at 2209 3rd Avenue, Rock Island. It will just take 3 or 4 people and an hour or two to do the job. Gardening skills are not required. It's not hard, just requires some hands to help.

Then on Wednesday, May 15th at 9am help is needed at the Women's Shelter located at 901 20th Street, Rock Island. There they have an old swing set that they want to take apart and set out for junk pickup. Then some raking the area where the swings were and putting down some rubber mulch in preparation for a new swing set. Again, not hard, but some hands are needed to help.



If you can help either day, please contact Cindi Gramenz at cgramenz14@gmail.com.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We have two upcoming **Strategic Planning** sessions, both to be held at the Modern Woodman of American National Headquarters. We urge every member of Rock Island Rotary to attend one or the other of those sessions. If you absolutely cannot make either date, contact Sue Rector at srector3614@gmail.com and she will provide a email PowerPoint you can view at home or your office. These sessions will lay the groundwork for the direction our club will take over the coming five years. All opinions are important!~

The sessions are:

Saturday, April 20 Start time: 9 am and will finish by noon if not before.

Saturday, May 4th . Start time: 9 am and will finish by noon if not before.

No pre-registration required. Drive in to the Modern Woodman main building, park in guest parking and look for 2nd V.P. John Olinger. He will escort you to our meeting room.

world relief® 

QUAD CITIES

Specific needs: Vegetable oil, Rice (jasmine or long-grain white), and Flour (wheat, rice, or cornmeal). Please bring your donation to any meeting in April

World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization whose mission is to empower the local church to serve the most vulnerable. They aim to tackle the world's greatest problems with holistic, locally-driven solutions that lead to lasting change — whether in response to disasters, extreme poverty, violence, oppression or mass displacement and immigration. World Relief's work in the United States, specifically, focuses on helping refugees and other immigrants in vulnerable situations rebuild their lives in a new country.

The 2023-24 Rotary District 6420 project is working to end hunger. Our District Governor set a goal asking each Club in the district to donate 20lbs of food (or more) for each member of the Club. Donations could be made to any food pantry or meal site our club selected. After seeking input from all members our club agreed to donate food last September to Christian Care; October: to Heart of Hope; January to Project Now / Head Start; February to SAL Community Services; and now in April: to World Relief. This is our final collecting food. If you suspect you have not reached the 20lb goal, please do your best to hit that mark during this month!

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

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.**

S·A·L COMMUNITY SERVICES

28TH ANNUAL
**LITTLE BOGEY'S
Golf Classic**

By investing in SAL Community Services, you are ensuring that our most under-resourced community members have the supports they need to thrive.

**JOIN US MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
AT OAKWOOD COUNTRY CLUB**

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

\$175 PER PERSON / \$700 PER FOURSOME

**SHOTGUN START AT NOON
REGISTRATION OPENS AT 10:30 A.M.**



Each Golfer Package Includes:

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Boxed lunch
- 2 drink tickets
- Goodie bag
- 1 individual mulligan
- 1 special tee
- Entry into the long putt contest
- Chance to win team and individual prizes
- Awards banquet dinner with a silent auction, raffle, mystery prize game, and more!

Register Here:



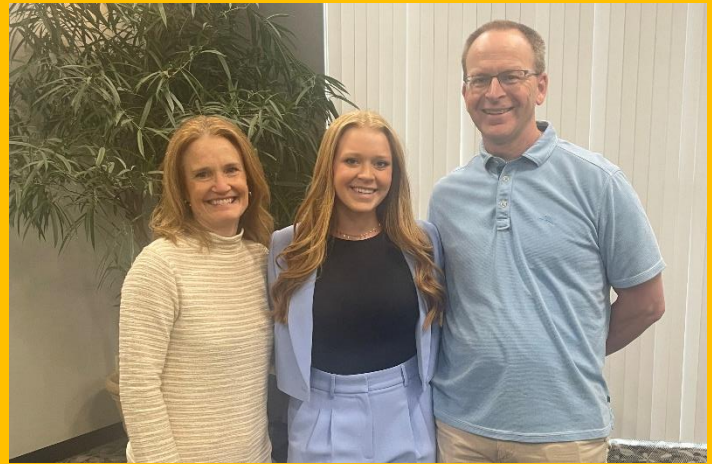
Proceeds benefit SAL Community Services | Register and learn about sponsorship opportunities here: www.givebutter.com/LittleBogeys2024

MORE VIEWS OF OUR BERT BLOOD SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Thank you Cindi Gramenz for our photographs!



The High School Scholarship Winners



\$1,500 Winner Alaina Heim and her parents



\$1,000 Winner Keegan Bohnsack and parents



\$1,250 Winner Cassandra Bohnert and mother



The winners present their 4-H Projects to Rock Island Rotary. They were selected from ten who initially competed for a chance at a Bert Blood Scholarship. We congratulate these three finalists who rose above all others and won scholarships to assist with their college educations.