



# WEEKLY REVIEW

# Rotary



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

April 30, 2024  
Volume XXXI, Issue 39

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

## Rock Island High School

# incubatoredu

The INCubatoredu Entrepreneur and Enterprise Program is a full-year course, and offers an authentic entrepreneurship experience as students build a business. Students make mistakes, take risks and learn to pivot. They develop their own product or service startup to gain investment funds in a final shark-tank style pitch event. Real entrepreneurs and industry experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the processes of developing hypotheses about a business concept, testing those hypotheses, adapting, and continually learning and improving. Students leave the course having completed a Business Model Canvas, competitive analysis, financial model, minimum viable product, pitch deck, future communications plan, and future funding plan. In 2015 Rock Island High School was the first school in the Quad City area that, with the help of a \$10,000 Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation grant, established an Incubatoredu program as part of their elective curricula. From the beginning, Rocky teacher Trish Matson has directed the program whose students have won a National Championship in competition against students from INCubatoredu programs from more than 200 schools from 20 states plus Mexico and Spain. Today Ms. Matson, shown addressing our club, and students representing seven of the ten Rocky Incubator teams gave short 1 minute descriptions of the products their teams created and are development for the class and in competition for \$10,000 in scholarships or business development grants. The top five teams will participate in the "Final Pitch Night" at 6pm on May 15<sup>th</sup> in the Rock Island High School Auditorium hoping to win the grants and perhaps sell their idea to business investors for further development and marketing.

### April - May Calendar

- 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 Bus



This year's product ideas included a product to displace water in toilet tanks to reduce water consumption by 25%; a computer/phone app that warns of inappropriate postings and allows parents to filter items that might later be harmful for their student; a plan to develop, make available, and sell a line of current trend clothing at affordable prices for athletes and others that don't have time to shop; an app that installs on a cell phone that automatically operates automobile turn signals and will reduce accidents by an estimated 1/3; a new style of prescription safety glasses that can be worn in welding and other jobs where eye protection is critical and glasses wearers have difficulty with the current helmet & shields in use; a recyclable shoe insert to ease foot pain for those working on their feet for extended periods of time; and a "smart" school id app that will register attendance, convert to a hall pass and provide GPS location of students having the smart app card. Sounds like some million-dollar ideas! All are welcome at Final Pitch Night. Our thanks to Trish Matson and the creative innovators of the Rock Island Incubator Entrepreneur program.

*Service Above  
Self*

Webpage  
 facebook

FOLLOW US!  
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.  
Holly Sparkman, Secretary  
Molly Shattuck, 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  
Tyla Sherwin-Cole, Director  
Amber Wood, 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 numerous guests to our meeting including visiting Rotarians Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club and Bruce Peterson from Moline Rotary. Students participating in our program today from Rock Island High were Madjid Gunaslev, Manuel Marceleno, Payton Bunch, Hohn Holland, Ja’Unique Morgan, Lucette Feigley, Ruby Plasencia, and Shaylea Childress. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guests and visiting Rotarians to meetings of Rock Island Rotary, the “Number 1 Club”!
- ★ **BIRDIES FOR CHARITY CAMPAIGN BEGINS** – Project chairman, Kevin Koski distributed the new 2024 Birdies for charity form to members today urging all to please make a small pledge which can be as little as a penny per birdie made by the PGA pros in this year’s John Deere Classic which begins on July 4<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the pledge form is included in this newsletter. Just fill it out and give it or email a copy to Kevin. **NO PAYMENT IS REQUIRED** to pledge. You will receive an invoice after the tournament. If you prefer just let Kevin know what you want to pledge, and he will fill out the form for you. This year’s goal is 42 pledges for a total of \$5,500. Let’s meet and pass that target!
- ★ **ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE** – Tickets are available for purchase and sale for our 2024 Wine & Dine Raffle. Winners will 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 including Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse, Huckelberry’s Italian Restaurant, Pagalos Pizzeria & Gelato Café, The Old Oaks Winery, and Rock Island Ale House. See Ruth Lee to purchase tickets and ask for a few tickets to sell to your friends and colleagues. All proceeds will go to fund our Fred Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship. The drawing is just four weeks away!
- ★ **FINAL CLUB STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING SET FOR MAY 4<sup>th</sup>**. All members who were unable to attend are urged to mark your calendar now and make the commitment to be there on the 4<sup>th</sup>. If you absolutely cannot attend, please contact Sue Rector at [srector3614@gmail.com](mailto:srector3614@gmail.com) for a PowerPoint that you can view at home or office. Strategic Planning will set the course for our Club for the next five years. Your opinions, suggestions, and concerns are needed and wanted!
- ★ **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?

## APRIL ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

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

## ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

No country has greater instances of maternal death than Nigeria. In 2020, 82,000 pregnant women and new mothers died there, nearly four times the maternal fatalities in India, where the second-most deaths occur. One contributing factor? Sixty percent of births in Nigeria take place outside of a health center or hospital, meaning mothers and expectant mothers are far more vulnerable if complications arise. And they so often do:

The top causes of maternal deaths include postpartum hemorrhage, obstructed labor, and eclampsia, when seizures develop from a complication that can cause high blood pressure and organ damage. “Most people view [the deaths] as a punishment from the gods or some kind of witchcraft,” says midwife Ashezi David Alu. “But it’s just a pure act of negligence because of poor management of those complications.”

Now a \$2 million Programs of Scale grant from The Rotary Foundation is addressing this problem head on. Its goal is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by 25 percent in target areas at the end of the three-year program. Known as Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, the initiative is sponsored by Rotary District 1860 (Germany) in partnership with Districts 9110, 9125, 9141, and 9142 (Nigeria), as well as the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal, and Child Health.

Unfolding in targeted areas within three Nigerian states and the Federal Capital Territory, the initiative builds on previous work by Rotary members in the country. It’s hoped that, once the program demonstrates its effectiveness, it will be replicated across Nigeria and elsewhere. Critically, Rotary members are partnering with federal and state agencies in implementing the program to ensure the intervention and its benefits last far longer than the three years of the grant cycle. “This project is going to birth more projects,” insists Toyosi Adebambo, the program’s manager.

### FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today’s raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine, and a children’s book autographed by the author, Gary Metivier. The first lucky ticket holder was John Oligier who took the money and donated it to our student guests. The second ticket drawn was held by Bill Stengel who took the wine. Bud Phillis had the third winning ticket and took the book. Proceeds from the Foundation raffle goes to support the Rotary Foundation. We appreciate those who donate wine and other prizes and those who purchase tickets!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We have ONE more opportunity for you to attend a Club **Strategic Planning** session. It will be held at the Modern Woodman of American National Headquarters. If you did not attend this past Saturday, we urge you to attend this final session. If you cannot make it and did not attend Saturday, contact Sue Rector at [srector3614@gmail.com](mailto:srector3614@gmail.com) to receive by email a PowerPoint to view at home or office. Strategic Planning will lay the groundwork for the direction our club will take over the coming five years. All opinions are important!

**The FINAL SESSION is:**

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Start time: 9 am  
Will conclude by noon**

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

### HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Last week Jeff Dismer, our Youth Exchange Chair announced that we will have an Inbound Rotary Exchange student, a young female high school student from France named Chloe’ Bourron, coming to stay with us for the 2024-25 school year. Jeff is now working to make the housing arrangements, so we are ready to welcome Chloe.’ Ideally Jeff would like three host families, each hosting Chloe’ for approximately 3 months. Interested? Want more information? Contact Jeff. [jdismet@studio483.com](mailto:jdismet@studio483.com).

# ROCK ISLAND ROTARIANS SHOW UP STRONG FOR DISTRICT CONFERENCE!

Many of our District's 43 Rotary Clubs along with numerous District Committees had tables in the "Friendship Hall" at this past weekend's District 6420 Conference at the Stoney Creek Inn in Moline. Rock Island Rotary had a 20' long line of 3 tables plus 10 Club members to share staffing duties! To say the least, it was impressive.

As visitors entered they first saw our Water Filter (barely able to fit on the narrow tables) along with the filter were a selection of 8x10 color photos of Kenya showing our filters in action providing safe water to children. Along with the photo was a supply of "free to take" colorful tri-fold brochures explaining our International Water Project and inviting other clubs to join. Finally, the display included a constantly running 2½ minute video demonstrating the filter in operation from mud puddle water and cattle dung going in to perfectly safe, crystal-clear water coming out.

Going past the water display, visitors saw our Club promo display with a large stand-up display collection of color photos showing a selection of our service projects and Club activities, from the Labor Day Parade float to bell ringing during the Holiday Season, Birthday Books to Pumpkin Palooza, and Trivia Night to food and book collections. We also had a supply of our new "free to take" Club brochure that shows Rock Island Rotary in action filled with photos and descriptions of what we do.

Just past the Club Promo display was our Wine & Dine Raffle / Houlton Service Above Self Scholarship display. That area featured 8X10 framed (thanks to Ruth Lee) color photos of our 2022 and 2023 scholarship recipients along with a free "Sign up to Win" raffle for bottles of wine. The dinner program each day concluded with a drawing of three winners of Rock Island Rotary wine. Next to that sign up was information about our Wine & Dine Raffle and Rock Island Rotarian "super salespeople" selling tickets. Ruth made several appearances in her "Wine Bottle" Costume! That's dedication!! Many Rotarians attending the conference purchased tickets!

Adding just a bit more to our visibility at the Conference, immediately next to our tables was the District Human Trafficking Committee Display, Rock Island Rotarian Kathy Trone, who is the District Human Trafficking chair was out of town and unavailable to attend, had arranged for Rock Island Rotarians to help staff the Human Trafficking table which Ruth and Sue covered for blocks of time along with Toni Lucas from the Human Trafficking E-Club. AND when the District Governor and District Literacy Chairman passed out Awards for Club achievements in Literacy, Rock Island received two, one for Literacy Achievement and the other for Sustained Excellence in Literacy.

Bottom line, thanks to Kimberly Calhoun, Sue Rector, Cindi Gramenz, Ruth Lee, Anber Wood, Rick Emery, Bud Phillis, John Oliger, Gary Rowe, and Bob Swanson, Rock Island Rotary was present, active, and noticed by fellow Rotarians from all over northwestern Illinois.



Ten Rock Island Rotarians attended the 2024 District Conference



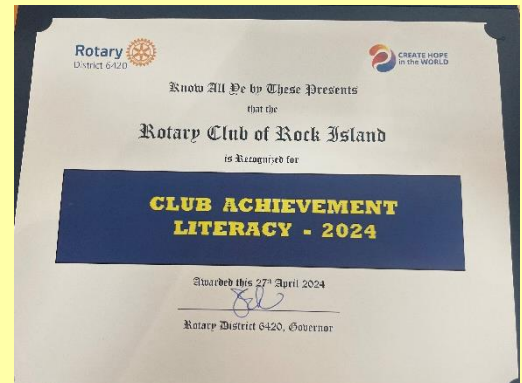
Dist. Gov. Dave Emerick & Ruth Lee

# LITERACY CHAIR SUE RECTOR ACCEPTS DISTRICT AWARDS ON BEHALF OF CLUB

District 6420 presented 2024 Literacy Awards at a special Literacy Luncheon at this past weekend at the District Conference. Our Literacy Chair, Sue Rector stepped forward twice to receive Awards for our Club. The first Award was for Literacy Achievement which is designed to recognize Literacy Activities during the current Rotary Year. The second is for Sustained Excellence in Literacy which recognized an ongoing commitment to literacy over many years. Rock Island was recognized for dedication in excess of 20 years! We are confident that commitment extends back at least 40 years beginning with donation and distribution of dictionaries to Rock Island school children.

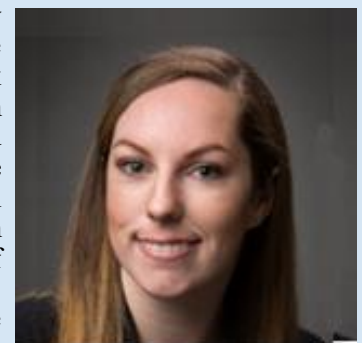


Rock Island Literacy Chair, Sue Rector receives two District Literacy Awards from District Literacy Committee Chairman, Andrew Axup



## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!


Presiding Officer Kevin Koski once again had the great pleasure of inducting a new Rock Island Rotary Club member. Corbyn Beck is the new Corporate Active member for the Illinois Casualty Company. She replaces her father, Howard Beck who recently announced his retirement from ICC. Corbyn's title with ICC is Human Resource Generalist. She lives in Rock Island and enjoys reading, hiking, and crafting. She is a graduate of Geneseo High School and earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Illinois Wesleyan University. She holds Associate Professional in Human Resources certification from the HR Certification Institute. She has been with Illinois Casualty Company for 7 years. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Gas & Electric Credit Union and currently serves as Board Chair. We are delighted to welcome her as a member of Rock Island Rotary. Please take time to greet Corbyn and introduce yourself.



## HELP NEEDED IN MAY

Our next meeting will be the first meeting in May. Unfortunately, we do not have a volunteer to present invocations in May. If you would be willing to prepare and present our invocation for some (or all) of our May meetings, please email president Cindi Gramenz at [cgramenz15@gmail.com](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com). Rotary does not promote one religion or denomination over others. We have had excellent Christian, Jewish, non-denominational, and non-religious invocations. You are welcome to express your personal thoughts or can simply ask each in attendance to take a moment of silence to reflect, meditate, or give thanks to whomever, whatever, or wherever their beliefs lead them.

## FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

After a two-week reprieve, members were again singled out by Vice President John Olinger for being “In & Out of the News.” He began by levying a fine on President Cindi Gramenz for forgetting to bring the name badge for new member Corbyn Beck. He then fined Angela Campbell for needing to leave our meeting early today. Then he fined Cindi again for “requiring” presiding officer Kevin Koski to wear a tie last week for our Awards Luncheon, and also failing to know that the “things” depicted on the tie were Moomins, cartoon beings  in Finland! Seems like Kevin should have been fined for wearing that tie!! Bob Swanson and Ruth Lee both paid a \$1 fine for forgetting to bring our raffle fishbowl home from last weekend’s District Conference. (It will be back next week!) Bud Phillis paid a \$5 wager payment for his bet with Frank Lambert as to which team, the Cubs or the Cardinals will have the best record for the past month. The fan of the team with the best record pays. Not surprisingly, Bud had to pay for the Cubs very productive April and current leaders of the National League Central Division. Better luck in May, Frank! Even though Bud paid his \$5, Frank also offered a Sad Dollar for his last place Cardinals. Dave Hodge had several Happy Dollars after first paying a fine for advertising the Narratives Creative Arts Showcase scheduled for tomorrow night at 6pm at the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Rock Island Library Branch. The Narratives Poetry & Spoken Word Class will be performing. Dave also had Happy Dollars for his daughter who was selected Girl of the Year by Love Girls Magazine and is pictured on an 11<sup>th</sup> Street billboard. She also was inducted into the National Honor Society at Rock Island High School. Congratulations!

# Volunteers Needed

CHRISTIAN CARE has two one-time opportunities to volunteer and help us make a difference!

SATURDAY  
MAY 4 AT 9:00 AM

We need help putting down mulch in the

**CANCELLED**



WEDNESDAY  
MAY 15 AT 9:00AM

We need assistance tearing down an old playground set to make room for a new one at Martha’s House!

If interested in helping, please call Cindi at  
(309) 786-5734 or email at  
[cgramenz@christiancareqc.org](mailto:cgramenz@christiancareqc.org)

## The Bonus Fund promise.

By participating in Birdies for Charity, all charities are guaranteed a 5% bonus on the pledges they receive.\* This means that your donation has the potential to go even further and make a greater impact.

The John Deere Classic, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, created the Bonus Fund to support the ongoing efforts of participating charities. This fund is fueled by tournament revenues, direct donations, special events, and a generous matching grant from John Deere.

## A trusted & proven option.

In 2023, Birdies for Charity achieved its highest charitable contribution to date, raising an impressive \$14.1 million for more than 470 charities. All charities received a 7.5% bonus on what they raised through the program.

2023's record-breaking campaign brings the tournament's overall charitable giving since 1971 to over \$173 million.

## The fine print.

To participate, charities must be publicly supported and recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. All charitable contributions must come from a designated donor, and must not be part of a capital campaign. The Birdies for Charity program is intended to support charitable organizations, services, operations and programs. It is not intended to be used for endowment or brick and mortar charitable purposes.

\*All charities will be guaranteed a 5% bonus on amounts up to their prior year pledge total, or \$100,000, whichever is greater.



JOHN DEERE  
CLASSIC

JULY 1-7, 2024

Sponsored by:



JOHN DEERE

Grand Prize Sponsor:



SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES

Media Sponsor:



Birdies for Charity  
15623 Coaltown Road  
East Moline, IL 61244

[www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com)



JOHN DEERE

CHIP IN  
for charity!

OFFICIAL PLEDGE CARD 2024



Rock Island Rotary Club

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

937

BIRD NUMBER

### I PLEDGE TO DONATE:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the charity noted above.

(one time, flat donation amount)

### BIRDIES FOR CHARITY BONUS FUND

Yes, I would like to make an additional donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, to help provide the minimum 5% match to all participating charities.

### GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2024 LEXUS!

I guess that \_\_\_\_\_ birdies will be made.

Only one grand prize will be awarded. Void where prohibited by law. Guesses due by June 26.

### BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR

1,990 (2015)	2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)
1,982 (2016)	2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)
1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)	1,929 (2023)

### PLEDGE & DONOR INFORMATION (please print)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL

Please include payment & make checks payable to:  
BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

## Chip in for your chance to win

When you chip in to help area charities, you could win! But your favorite charity will be the real winner. That's because participating charities receive 100% of the donations pledged to them in this program, plus a bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund, which is a guaranteed 5% match.

### HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

Simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at 15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA TOUR Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday. A grand prize will be given to one person who guesses the correct number. In case of ties, winners will be randomly selected.



GRAND PRIZE:  
2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2024 LEXUS NX!

One lucky supporter of the John Deere Classic's Birdies



for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2024 Lexus, courtesy of Smart Lexus of Quad Cities.

### CONTEST RULES

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties determined by random drawing.
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card and received at the tournament office by June 26.
- Rules are available at [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com)
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Pledges submitted after the JDC may be applied the following year.

### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS AS YOUR RECEIPT

I pledged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ one-time donation.

I guessed \_\_\_\_\_ birdies would be made.

Payment was included with pledge

YES \$ \_\_\_\_\_  NO

CASH  CHECK NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
BIRDIES FOR CHARITY  
15623 COALTOWN ROAD  
EAST MOLINE, IL 61244

Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN #93-1332421, doing business as John Deere Classic & Birdies for Charity.