



**WEEKLY
REVIEW**

Rotary



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

**June 25, 2024
Volume XXXI, Issue 48**

**Rotary Club of Rock Island
Rock Island, Illinois**

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon - Quad City Botanical Center

July Calendar

July 2 - District Governor John Hurly & 2024-25 Installations

July 9 - Sue Rector-Incoming President

**July 16 - Angela Campbell
Children's Library & District
Grants**

July 23 - Jack Cullen, RI Downtown Pjt

July 30 - John Gripp - RI Park & Rec



SAL Community Services

-Amber Wood-

Today we heard from our very own incoming 2nd Vice President, Amber Wood who graciously stepped in last minute to fill in for our program. Amber began her non-profit journey in 2003 with Hunger Connection Food Bank, continuing with the American Red Cross where she served as the Executive Director for 10 years. At OSF Healthcare she served as the local marketing and communications lead and later as a Business Development Specialist in various Illinois communities.

Founded in 1970, SAL Community Services (SAL), provides **S**upport, **A**dvocacy, and **L**earning in our communities—from childhood to adulthood. Their mission is to strengthen children, families, and individuals to build and enhance thriving communities. The organization was initially created as Skip-a-Long Daycare by a group called "Concerned Citizens," who saw a need to establish quality care for children of families who could not afford the full cost of high-quality early care and education programs in the Quad Cities. Skip-a-Long became one of the first centers to offer care for infants in the region and partnered with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to offer care on a sliding fee scale so that high-quality care was accessible and affordable to all families, regardless of financial needs. They continue to offer high-quality care and education programs such as Skip-a-Long Childhood Centers, Home Child Care Network, Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships, Partner Initiatives along with Child Care Resource and Referral Programs and Stabilization Services. Their welcoming center has an on-site food pantry, clothing, and public-accessible computers and coordinators who work to connect individuals to community resources such as counseling, health services, employment, and safe homes to meet each person's immediate needs.

Today, SAL has a bi-state, 17-county regional footprint from the Quad Cities to the Peoria area. They advocate for the people they support, the communities they serve, and the solutions they champion and offer an inclusive, welcoming community for the people they serve and their employees.



Rotary Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514
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www.rirotary.com

Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President
Sue Rector, 1st Vice President
John Oliger, 2nd Vice President
Holly Sparkman, Secretary
Molly Shattuck, Treasurer
Frank Lambert, Past President

Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director
Amber Brummit, Director
David Hodge, Director
Ruth Lee, Director
John Phillips, Director
Tyla Serwin-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 NOTE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- **WELCOME GUESTS** - As always, Duncan Cameron with us for the summer from the Naples, FL Rotary Club. Mark Zimmerman from the Rotary Club of Davenport joined us via Zoom!
- **SAVE THE DATES!**
 - July 12 - Rotary Night at the Ballpark
 - August 17 - District 6420 Community Awareness Program on Human Trafficking will be held at the Holiday Inn Rock Island at 10:00 am. A survivor will speak. Coffee & pastries provided.
 - November 22 - Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night
 - December 8 - Rotary Reindeer Ramble! This years even will be at 1:00 pm.
 - March 25 (2025) - Rock n Roll Bingo at the Holiday Inn, RI
- **HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEWLETER?**
Send to bobdebswanson@att.net. Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon. Items received by 11am Tuesday can be included that day. Committee chairman send advance notice of your committee meetings so we can get the word to your members.

Congratulations

Rotarian James Jones, Housing Manager with Economic Growth Corporation was recognized with an award from the Rock Island/Milan School District 41 and its Family & Community Engagement Team!



The Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage the ideals 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 persona, 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 idea of service.

June Rotary Birthdays!

Amanda DeLaCruz	June 2
John Oliger	June 4
Mike Oberhaus.	June 7
Pete Wessels	June 10
Linda Golden	June 11
Sarah Gorham	June 14
Jeff Dismer	June 15
John Wetzel	June 16
Justin Peterson	June 20
Dave Hodge	June 27
Erin Williams	June 28
Anne McGlynn	June 29

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?

ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

In the current issue of rotarynewsonline, Rhasheeda Bhagat reports on the efforts of a Rotary District and TRF at saving the lives of premature babies. According to the report, the Rotary Club of Rourkela Royal, RI District 3261, implementing its first Global Grant, is making a dent in the abysmal numbers of infant mortality in the Eastern Indian state of Odisha. Odisha has one of the poorest records in India and is near the bottom of the pile when it comes to IMR (Infant Mortality Rate) at 37/1,000 live births, which is the third highest in India. The national average IMR in India at present is 22/1,000 live births. A pediatrician revealed that specialized centers that could care for such babies exist only in select cities and nearly 44% of the neonates who finally reach a well-equipped pediatric facility in ordinary vans or other vehicles, arrive either dead; or with severe complications resulting in long-term morbidity. Often times, the available ambulances were woefully inadequate to meet this need, both in terms of equipment and skilled manpower.

Responding to this heartbreaking situation, the Rotary Club of Rourkela Royal leaped into action and in September of 2023, applied for a Rotary Foundation Global Grant. Within a record time of just seven months, the sum of \$42,139 USD was approved by TRF. Rotarian Ajay Agarwal, project chair explained that Unmeed (Project Hope) is a specialized vehicle with over a dozen pieces of equipment that can ensure the safe transportation of the infant from birthplace to hospitals with modern facilities. With this essential and godsend project we hope to prevent as many deaths and disabilities as possible that result from improper transport of neonates in non-equipped vehicles. Thanking District 3261's international partner Rotary Club Pashupati, Kathmandu, which contributed to the grant, Agarwal expressed gratitude to Rotary for providing this first-of-its-kind facility in our city and a much needed service that will go a long way in saving lives of newborn babies. This is a feather in the cap of not only our club but also District 3261 and Rotary as a whole.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE




Today's raffle featured cash and a bottle of fine wine! Mark Mayeski won the money and donated it back to the foundation. Jeff Dismer took the wine (because he always wins the wine). Thanks so much for playing!



Save the Date! Rock Island Rotary Family-Friendly Potluck Social

 **When: Sunday, August 25**

 **Time: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. (3:00 - 5:00 p.m. social / dinner from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.)**

 **Where: TO BE CONFIRMED**

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with your fellow Rotarians, spouses/significant others, children, grandchildren, and potential new members! It's a fantastic opportunity to relax, enjoy delicious food, and connect with our wonderful Rotary family.

Next Planning Committee Meeting:

 **Date: Tuesday, June 25**

 **Time: Immediately following the regular club meeting**

 **Where: Quad City Botanical Center**

Request to Club Members:

Yard Games Needed!

Do you have any outdoor yard games that we could borrow for the event? We're looking for:

- Bags / Cornhole
- Spike Ball
- Lawn Darts
- Life-size Jenga
- Or others

If you have any games and are willing to lend them, please contact Amber B. or Amber W.

Rotary Night at the Ball Park

Is Friday, July 12th. See the River Bandits in action at Modern Woodman Park in Davenport. PLUS, a fantastic fireworks display after the game. It's a ton of fun and Rotarians from all over the Quad City area will be there. Tickets are \$13 for prime reserved box seats! This is a social outing and you won't want to miss! Mark Your Calendar and sign up for tickets at the Sergeant's Table!



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A HOST FAMILY?

Jeff Dismer, our Youth Exchange Chair announced that we will have an Inbound Rotary Exchange student. a female high school student from france named Chloe' Bourron, is 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.' We need three host families, each hosting Chloe' for approximately 3 months. Interested? Contact Jeff at jdismere@studio483.com.



BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

Still time to get your pledge in! Make your donation go even farther and make Kevin Koski even happier!





President Cindi Gramenz

Year end thoughts....

First off, let me apologize for missing the meeting last week but it was just unavoidable for me. However, let me just tell you what a ROCKSTAR incoming leadership team you have. My absence presented some challenges, not with the program necessarily but with tech and set-up. As you all know Bob Swanson is currently in Alaska sliding down glaciers in a dog sled (seriously) and our two backup newsletter Rotarians were out as well. I wasn't there, but it appears they pulled it off magically. Tech is kind of fun once you get the hang of it - right Sue, John, and Amber? No. It really isn't. Thank you also to past President Justin Peterson for stepping up last minute and covering the meeting.

It is so hard to believe it has been two years. Everyone told me they would just fly by and they certainly did. I hope to have an opportunity to speak very briefly at an upcoming meeting, however, let me share some thoughts and lessons learned during my presidency. Two years ago, around this time as a President-Elect, I was sitting on my couch putting my goals into My Rotary for my first year. I randomly received a text from a member of this club that simply said, "Just remember, you are never alone." Almost as if this individual was reading my mind. As a PE, the months leading up to your presidency can certainly be a bit hectic and overwhelming as there is a lot to do to prepare for a new year. I said thank you and continued on with my goals that were due the following day. I never really appreciated the impact of that text as much as I do right now. For two reasons - one being that it came from Anne McGlynn who I never ever imagined wouldn't be here right now and second, because there is so much truth in it. There has not been a single time in the last two years that someone has not stepped up to the plate for me, taken my phone call, or sent a text with encouraging words. Not only on a club level but the District as well. This speaks volumes about us and let's just be honest, I'm confident I was incredibly annoying to some at times.

Several months ago I was having coffee with a friend who is very well versed with Christian Care, my employer. We talked for a bit and I was sharing some of my challenges with working in homeless services. One of my ongoing challenges is impact. I've been in homeless services here in the Quad Cities for almost 14 years. Sometimes, after you have been doing something for a really long time, the success and great things that happen feel a bit dull over time. I struggle with this as a development professional because being able to communicate impact is essential. Impact is how non-profits showcase to the community the great work they do. My friend suggested I shift my perspective and think about impact, not in the sense of how I impact others, but to think about the impact others have had on me as a result of working at Christian Care and to identify people who would never have crossed my path, if not for Christian Care. That struck me hard. If not for my work at Christian Care, I wouldn't be a Rotarian and I wouldn't know all of you. Seven years ago when I was sitting at Table 8 (pretty sure Duncan Cameron was at that table) as a brand new Rotarian, I remember very clearly watching the handshakes, hugs, and warm greetings and saying to myself, "What is my ability to form these kinds of friendships with people I have nothing in common with?" Rotary has shown me how to do that and you are some of the greatest friends anybody could ask for. Being a President has offered me leadership qualities that I'm just not sure I could have achieved anywhere else. You have taught me what it means to give grace, not only to others but to myself as well. You have taught me what it means to truly serve others and exemplify Service Above Self, among many other things. I could ramble on forever folks.

Let me just end with THANK YOU. Thank for allowing me the privilege of being your President for the last two years. Saying yes to being a president that first year was tough and a bit scary. Saying yes the second year was easy.

I knew without a doubt you would help in whatever manner needed and you did. I knew I wouldn't be alone for even a minute. You have all had a huge impact on me personally and professionally. As some know, I am a huge fan of the 10 lessons former Navy SEAL Admiral William H. McRaven offered in a commencement speech at the University of Texas in 2014. One of those lessons is, "If you want to change the world, find someone to help you paddle." Thank you for helping me paddle.