

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



October 7, 2025
Volume XXXIII, Issue 14

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

DIVING OUR RIVERS!

Often programs presented by our own members are some of the best we have. Today was no exception with Mark Poulos a Rock Island Rotarian since 2021 telling us about his passion as a scuba diver, specializing in local river diving and heading the local Rescue and Recovery Team, known as the Big River Dive Team. Prior to forming the all volunteer team, Mark had a distinguished career in the military, serving in several operations on US Navy missions, then in law enforcement serving in the Rock Island Police Department and later as Coal Valley Chief of Police. When the Dive Team was first formed they primarily were asked to help clear out clogged farm culverts. Gradually they began to get calls from area police and fire departments asking for help in rescue and recovery and in solving crimes. They have done dives to recover weapons, vehicles, people, and property. Mark said when they first started they called themselves the "FROGS" which stood for "Four Really Old Guys". That didn't go over too well and was changed to the "Big River Dive Team" providing rescue and recovery operations in the Quad Cities Region. Mark noted that unfortunately they are much more often doing recovery rather than rescue because people don't call immediately when emergencies occur. By the time they are called, get the team assembled and on site, it is often too late for rescue. He said there is still much satisfaction in providing closure for family members of those who die in the water. Fortunately, they have rescued a number of victims of vehicles going into the river. The team works with law enforcement agencies and only goes into a case if requested. Because of the dangerous conditions in our rivers, the Team reserves the right to refuse to dive if conditions are too dangerous. He said that has only happened one time, since the team was formed in 2011. Their services are provided without charge. Members of the team are volunteers and must be certified open water divers to seek to join the team. Mark is a scuba diving instructor and trains volunteers in the methods of operation and the dangers of working rescue and recovery. A recovery team includes a minimum of 3 trained divers. One goes in the water, one monitors the dive and is ready to enter the water immediately if trouble occurs. The third, often a newer team member handles equipment, monitors the dive and is a third option backup diver if an emergency occurs. What was interesting was the number of vehicles that go in the river, quite often occupied by a driver and passengers. He said there are currently 8 vehicles sitting on the bottom of the Mississippi, that the City of Davenport has decided to leave where they are. Bringing in the equipment to remove them even after their location is found is an expensive proposition. So a cost vs. benefits analysis is done. If recover of the vehicle is not needed for a crime investigation, it may be left where it lies. Mark said in the past two weeks they have recovered three vehicles and a 400 pound stolen concrete saw from the Mississippi. The Team's services have been requested from all over northern and central Illinois and western Iowa but said they only go if asked by a first responder organization. He said there are similar dive teams in other areas and they don't tread on each other's territory unless invited by police or fire officials in that area. He also said they have received support from area police and fire departments and from communities. Scott County gave a truck which the Team sold and used the money to buy equipment.

See Dive team – Page 3



OCT. – NOV. CALENDAR

- Oct 14 - Curtis B. Lewis Jr.
Founder & Creative
Director, Journey Live
Production
- Oct 21 - Kim Gregg – Epilepsy
Network
- Oct 28 - Dr Tierney Brosius –
insects in art and
fashion
- Nov 4 - Josh Johnson - Curator
Figue Art Museum

Service Above
Self

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One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

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Julie Gelaude, 2nd Vice Pres.
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Molly Shattuck, Treasurer
Sue Rector, Past President
Frank Lambert, Sgt at Arms
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

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Carrie Crossen, Director
Geno DelPreore, Director
Jeff Dismer, Director
Rick Emery, Director
Forrest Meyer, Director
Jim Moran, Director
Jim Nordquist, Director

Program Chair 2025-26

Rebecca Arnold

Presenters

July:	Tom Hammar
August:	Erin Williams
September:	Dave Hodge
October:	Yolanda Pugh & Rebecca Arnold
November:	Rebecca Arnold
December:	Bob Swanson
January:	Gary Rowe
February:	Kai Swanson
March:	Yolanda Pugh & Rebecca Arnold
April:	Angela Campbell
May:	John Wetzel
June:	Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – We welcomed three guests at today's meeting. Visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida club join us. Eudell Watts was a guest of Kathy Lelonek. Last but definitely not at all least, was our Rotary Youth Exchange, Noa Smith from Japan. We hope that you enjoyed our meeting and welcome you to visit again whenever your schedule allows. Eudell would be an outstanding Rotarian! Duncan already is a great Rotarian and Noa will join Rotarian in Japan but has some school to finish first!
- ★ **WE NEED GREETERS FOR OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS.** Greeting is a simple and rewarding opportunity. It is a great way to serve our club and make members and guests feel welcome when they attend. It is a fantastic way to get to know fellow members and make new friends. We encourage new members to volunteer to greet as soon as you can. That way we can get to know you!
- ★ **SUE IS COLLECTING ...** Items for our Rotary Trivia Night Silent Auction baskets. Please donate anything you have that could make up a basket or be combined with other donations as part of an appealing auction item. Gift cards and certificates are popular as are those gifts you have received, but don't need and haven't used. Tickets for events in the Quad Cities are also silent auction favorites! Look through your cupboards and see what don't use or need. Someone might love it! If needed, Sue even will provide the basket!
- ★ **CALENDAR ITEMS:** Make sure these items are on your calendar!
 - Saturday, **October 18th**—Rock Island Rotary Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. 8am to 11am at the Rock Island Lions Club building, 7th Avenue at 43rd Street. We need help selling tickets and at the breakfast!
 - Friday, **October 24th** - Pumpkin Palooza – Volunteers are needed for this too! Signup with project chair, Sue Rector.
 - Friday, **November 7th** – Trivia Night – Gather your family and friends and fill a table of 8. Always a great time, this is one of our most important fundraisers.
 - Saturday, **November 15th** – Festival of Trees Set Up. Meet Sue Rector and Monta Ponsetto at the River Center in Davenport.
 - Friday, **November 21st**, 9-10am – Public Image Committee ZOOM Meeting. Use this link to join: <https://tinyurl.com/PublicImageMeeting>
 - **Save the Date** – Rotary Holiday Party at Circa21, Saturday, **December 6th**. The show is the ever popular "White Christmas". We'll have a private Salon Party prior to the show.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to, bobdebswanson@att.net. Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon.

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?

OCTOBER ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Steve Morenz	October	8
Mike Thoms	October	26
Kenda Burrows	October	27
Sam Doak	October	27

He noted that each diver provides their own equipment and said a dry suit costs \$2,000 to \$2,500, the regulator runs \$3,000, and the mask with built in communication costs \$2,000. So, the volunteers have a significant investment before they ever make a dive. Once a certified diver joins the team and has their own equipment, they undergo intensive and detailed training. Some are swimming and diving training and testing with an annual requirement of being capable of swimming 800 meters (a bit more than 32 laps in a typical high school competition pool!). They also train in Mark's river pool where he can generate up to an 8 mile per hour current. He noted that a 6 mile per hour current is the maximum speed considered safe for open water diving. He uses the pool to train team members how to swim in high currents and to show them what may happen in such currents so when it does occur in the river, the diver has previously experienced it and knows what to do. An example he gave was having a diver swim into a 6 mile per hour current and then make a turn to retreat. He noted that as he makes the turn the swift current will pull the mask off his face. After training, the diver knows to hold the mask tightly against his face until the turn is completed and his body is moving with the current. He stressed that training is the key for safe diving, particularly in "black water" such as the Mississippi. During normal summer conditions, a diver can't see the end of his own arm under water in the Mississippi. Much of their search and recover work is done by "feel" and even with magnets, which he said was how he located the concrete saw. They also are trained in underwater communication, both using the electronic equipment and hand signaling in the event of electronic failure. Mark said the goal of the Big River Dive Team is to provide quality, well-trained service, free of charge to area first responders. It is a wonderful service and our community is fortunate to have. It seems amazing that they are not regularly paid by some sort of joint community collective agreement. We thank Mark for his interesting and informative presentation.

WE'RE FIRED UP FOR SAUSAGE & PANCAKES!

Today Rock Island Rotary kicked off a 30-day Blitz Fundraiser.

Can we hit our goal of selling 600? YES



Everyone loves breakfast and everyone loves a good deal!

All you can eat pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, orange drink.

Just \$8 tax & tip included!!

Optional scrambled eggs are available!

Saturday, October 18th from 8 to 11am

Rock Island Lions Building

44th Street at 7th Avenue Rock Island

IT'S TIME FOR THE TICKET SALE FULL COURT PRESS!

THANKS FOR THE SALES YOU'VE MADE – PLEASE DO MORE!

Members are needed to help at the breakfast. Duties are easy and we'll have 2 shifts 7:30am-9:30am and 9:30am-11:30am. We'll be bussing tables (clearing paper plates and plastic utensils, putting out clean napkins and utensils, delivering drinks, and helping in the kitchen. Sign up for one or both shifts at the Sergeant's table.

ROTARY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our raffle today features a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of wine, and an Angela Campbell fabric bowl. Julie Gelaude drew the tickets and announced the first winner, a ticket held by Frank Lambert who took the cash. The second winner was Luis Moreno who took the wine. The final ticket drawn was held by Molly Shattuck who took the bowl noting it was in great fall colors and would be filled with candy for Halloween! Thanks to all who played!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

The report this week is directly from the message of TRF's Trustee Chair, Rotarian Holger Knaack, culled from Rotary Magazine (September 2025).

Education is the most powerful tool we have for changing the world, and during Basic Education and Literacy Month, I want to remind everyone why our work matters. Education breaks the cycle of poverty, opens doors to opportunity, and empowers individuals to transform their communities. But education doesn't exist in a vacuum. We must also address peace, health, clean water, economic opportunity, maternal and child health, and the environment. ...When we collaborate across these areas through The Rotary Foundation, we raise up communities sustainably and with dignity. Today, I have asked Lynne Paradis from the Rotary Club of Red Deer, Alberta, to share her passion for literacy: "I believe that literacy is a human right. When I joined forces with the Rotary Club of San Ignacio, Belize, over a decade ago, we set out to improve reading instruction, but we had no idea how far this journey would take us. Literacy Alive! has been supported by eight Rotary Foundation global grants since 2011. Using a straightforward approach based on phonics and science, we updated how teachers teach and focused on how students really learn. We collected data on reading skills improvement over six months. After demonstrating that teachers had integrated new practices into daily instruction, the project snowballed. The Belize Ministry of Education took notice. Today, over 1,300 teachers have been trained, and more than 20,000 students have benefited. We've achieved over 90 percent success rates, with many students making more than a year's worth of improvement in just five months." Lynne's story exemplifies the power of Foundation grants. Through partnerships spanning six Rotary clubs and three countries, Literacy Alive! reminds us how good Rotary is at creating systemic change. When our members' passion meets Foundation support, we don't just improve individual lives, we change entire communities. By supporting the Foundation, you can put your passion to work this month and every month.

Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night November 7, 2026 Rock Island Holiday Inn



FUN - LAUGHS - FELLOWSHIP

Time: 6:00pm START time, doors open at 5:30pm

Cost: \$100 a table, up to 8 players

Reserve your table: Kathy Trone 309-794-9400 or
Kathy@wesselspc.com

CHARITY FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

President designate Julie Gelaude answered a healthy chorus of "Boos", with "I love you guys!" and then proceed to put the hammer down. She paid a happy dollar for the beautiful fall day we are enjoying, a happy dollar for enjoying last week's fieldtrip meeting at Circa21, and a happy dollar for the Minnesota Viking's win. Then she fined most people in the room a dollar each if they did not help with last week's "Donuts With Grownups" as Earl Hanson school. Forrest Meyer paid \$5 for his self-confessed, "high crimes and misdemeanors". [Wonder what he did??!] Sue Rector paid a fine for failing to have her Club name badge. Duncan Cameron had a happy dollar for his Milwaukee Brewers finishing the season as the very best team in major league baseball. Sue paid multiple sad dollars for missing all last week's activities including the Bookfair and Donuts with Grownups at Earl Hanson and our meeting at Circa21. Luis Moreno had a happy dollar for the new SAL Child-care/pre-school facility being built on 11th Street across the street from Friendship Manor. Construction is underway! Bud Phillis paid his September bet with Frank Lambert in which the fan of the team with the better record between the Cubs and the Cardinals must donate \$5 to Rotary. Bud is a Cub fan, and the Cub topped the Cardinals last month. John Wetzel paid a \$1 fine for forgetting his name badge and added a sad dollar for the Cubs losing the first two playoff games to the Brewers and added a happy dollar for Augustana President Andrea Talentino for last week's beautiful Augustana homecoming. The Vikings won, the weather was perfect, and John saw many college friends. Andrea then offered a \$1 fine admitting that she was not on campus for the homecoming festivities! Frank Lambert had happy dollars in recognition of "Making the best decision of my life when I married Joyce 50 years ago this week". Congratulations, and we agree it was a great decision! Kathy Lelonek had a happy dollar for her guest Eudell Watts and paid a fine to allow Eudell to make a brief "commercial announcement". He stated that after attending two universities getting a great education he decided to go back to school and attended 3 years of culinary college to earn the title "CHEF". His specialty is barbeque, and he has twice won the "Best in the Nation" award for his barbecue sauce. He along with his son and grandson will be offering barbecue of all types in Arts Alley downtown Rock Island from noon to 4pm this Saturday, October 11th. All proceeds will be donated to the Lorene Evans Watts Children's Book Fund for the Rock Island Public Library. That fund was named in honor of Eudell's mother. Thanks to everyone who shared their items and don't miss the great barbecue Saturday!

Rock Island Rotary Holiday Party – Save the Date!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY 2025



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6th**

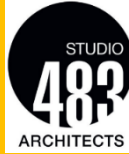
A Circa '21 family favorite returns in this Irving Berlin classic! Two World War II vets, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, have become partners in a song-and-dance act after the war. Looking for love, they follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters to a gig at a lodge in Vermont, only to discover that the nearly-bankrupt lodge where they were hired to perform is owned by their former commanding general. The classic holiday movie is brought to life onstage, filled with dancing, laughter, and some of the greatest songs ever written. The score features beloved songs "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep", "Sisters", "How Deep is the Ocean", and the ageless title tune. This promises to be a merry and bright theatrical experience for all ages.

Tickets include a private pre-show Salon Party
with Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar (4:45-5:45pm)
Buffet Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)
Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)
White Christmas (7:30pm)

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**In Memory Of
Fred
Luckenbill**



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island



THANK YOU!

Rock Island Rotary

Rotary



**UNITE
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October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ACTION: PLEASE Try to Sell at least 10 tickets for the Pancake Breakfast.			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Noon Meeting: Speaker: Mark Poulos Diving the Rock & Mississippi	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Noon Meeting Speaker: Curtis B. Lewis Jr. Journey Live Production	15	16	17 Pumpkin Palooza – The Corn Crib – meet at 10 am	18 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
19	20 Literacy Committee mtg Zoom 8:30 am Board meeting Noon	21 Fdtn. Tuesday Noon Meeting Speaker: Kim Gregg Epilepsy Network	22	23 Birthday Books 2:15 pm	24	25
26	27	28 Noon Meeting Speaker: Dr. Tierney Brosius – insects in art and fashion	29	30	31 Happy Halloween	

Invocations: Programs: **Yolanda Granberry Pugh and Rebecca Arnold** SAVE THE DATES

Friday, November 7 – Trivia Night.

Saturday, November 15 – Festival of Trees Set Up.

Friday, November 21 – Public Image Committee 9am virtual meeting.

Saturday, December 6 – Holiday Party at Circa 21 for “White Christmas”.