

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



November 11, 2025
Volume XXXIII, Issue 20

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

Dr. Nathan Windt St. Ambrose Univ. OPERA FOR BEGINNERS



NOV – DEC PROGRAMS

- Nov 18 - Anika O'Melia – Rock Island Line POD Cast
- Nov 25 - END POLIO NOW!
Sue Rector, Dr. Bud Phillis, Patrick Doherty
- Dec 2 - Rock Island High Chamber Choir
- Dec 9 - TBA
- Dec 16 - TBA

Dr. Nathan Windt is Director of Choral Activities at St. Ambrose University. He has teaching experience at the elementary, middle school, and collegiate levels and brings professional performance experience in choral and solo singing with leading professional choirs in the United States, including the Chicago Symphony Chorus and the Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble. Dr. Windt earned his bachelor's in music education from North Park University and his Master of Music and Dr. of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. An accomplished conductor of opera, Dr. Windt has conducted a variety of operatic styles and epochs, including Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Cavalli's *L'Egisto*, and Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, the latter receiving First Place in Class IV of the National Opera Association Competition for Best Production of the Year (2007). His operatic roles include Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dr. Falke in *Die Fledermaus*, Prince Yamadori in *Madame Butterfly*, the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, Grandpa in *The Tender Land*, Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and Sciarone in *Tosca*. He is also a frequent recitalist, with a particular interest in German and English art song, including a recent collaboration with Dr. Marian Lee in a multimedia presentation of Schubert's *Winterreise* in recital. He is a regular contributor to *The Choral Journal*, reviewing choral recordings and choral interest publications. Dr. Windt has taught general music courses, studio voice, and humanities courses in American Popular Music, and is in demand as a singer, conductor, and clinician throughout the United States. His choirs have toured domestically and internationally to critical acclaim. He is the recipient of two teaching awards, including most recently in 2016, when he received the Faculty Member of the Year Award, given by the St. Ambrose University Student-Alumni Association and nominated by students of St. Ambrose. He recently was awarded the 2022 North Scott Community Choral Arts award for his work with singers in the North Scott School District. Prior to his appointment at St. Ambrose, Dr. Windt taught at Xavier University, Central State University, and Tennessee Wesleyan College. His teaching responsibilities at St. Ambrose include applied voice lessons, conducting, choral methods, vocal methods courses, and conducting the University Chorale and Chamber Singers. Other professional activities include collaboration with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, preparing choirs for their live film score performances, serving on the Board of Opera Quad Cities, and conducting the St. Paul Lutheran Church Chorale in Davenport, Iowa. Dr. Windt started his program stating that his love of music includes orchestral music, choral music, piano, and vocal; however, his first choice is opera because it is the only musical presentation the brings combines all of the aspects together and touches all human senses. To illustrate he played a piano composition and noted that the performance stimulated emotion and senses, but with no words, left to the listener's imagination the story the composer hoped to tell. Then he played a choral composition and noted that he added words to the music so we could

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*Service Above
Self*

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*One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best*

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



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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** – Today we welcomed two guests at our meeting. Manny Smith, a visiting Rotarian and past president of the Nashville, Tennessee Sunset Rotary Club joined us as did Brooke Spaulding a guest of Kathy Lelonek. We hope you enjoyed our meeting and will join us again in the future!
- ★ **SECOND ANNUAL ROTARY COOKIE EXCHANGE** – Last year was the first and it was fun and tasty! The date will be **December 16th**. Bring your favorite holiday cookies for everyone to try. Grab a plate and make your way through the long table, lined with colorful and delicious snacks, and sample the favorites of others! Whether you bake them or buy them we want to know (and taste) your personal favorite! This year a slight change from last year. we are not requesting that recipes be provided with the cookies you bring to share. Just bring your favorites and be ready to do a taste test of all others.
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- ★ **CALENDAR ITEMS:** Make sure these items are on your calendar!
 - Wednesday, **November 12th** – 8:30am. Literacy/Nica Loves book and stuffies presentation at Hillcrest Elementary School, East Moline. Help Needed!
 - Thursday, **November 13th** – Stringing lights for Winter Nights Winter Lights at Botanical Center from 5:30 to 7:30. Cocoa, hot cider, cookies afterwards!
 - 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>
 - Monday, **November 24th** – 3:30pm. Literacy/Nica Loves book and stuffies presentation at Rock Island Center for Math & Science. HELP IS NEEDED!
 - Tuesday, **November 25th** Membership Growth Committee will meet briefly immediately after our Club Meeting. Look for Chair Sue Rector.
 - Saturday, **December 6th** - **Save the Date** – Rotary Holiday Party at Circa21. The show is the ever popular “White Christmas”. We will 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?

NOVEMBER ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Linda Barnes	November 3
Shaniece Payne	November 7
Kate Mapes	November 25

Opera – continued from page 1

better understand the composer's message. Third he played a video cut of Mozart's 1787 opera, "Don Giovanni". Here Dr. Windt pointed out all of the senses were stimulated by sound with an orchestra and singers,, words telling the story, and added sight with performers, costumes, and setting bringing the composers entire vision to the viewer/listener. He then spoke more generally about opera stating that the stories told in opera are expressions of life. They contain love, sorrow, death, joy, destruction, and humor. All of the listeners senses are engaged. He noted that people sometimes shy away from opera because it is often in a foreign language. Many of the operas considered masterpieces were written in Italian. However he said the composers contemplated and expected that the works would be translated into the native language of the listeners. Asked if something is lost in translation, Windt said that for the most part the works are still effective in their translated version. The accompanied symphony is unchanged and that vocal pieces musically are the same, only the working is changed which at times can result in minor adjustments, but the overall impact of the work still comes through. Asked if the vocal training of an opera singer is different from the training of singers in other forms of music, Dr. Windt said the training is different. In most vocal performances whether solo, musical theater, or chorus, amplification is used. Opera rarely uses amplification and relies on the power and strength of the performer to project and fill an entire theater. He said that vocal strength is an involuntary muscle action. Training for opera concentrates on building the strength of the muscles in the performer's throat. He also said that vocal quality is dependent not only on the muscles but also the skeletal structure of the performer. Physiology affects the timbre of the voice and some singers are born with vocal apparatus that naturally makes their voice sound good. Some people seem to have natural singing ability and others do not. Undoubtedly many other variables go into vocal development including a sense of pitch, hearing, and sense of timing/rhythm. Dr. Windt made opera interesting for "us beginners" and he left us with an invitation to give opera a chance. They will be performing opera in Davenport in June. We thank him for his very instruction presentation.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Club of Palm Valley is stepping into a new chapter of service, one that stretches far beyond Ponte Vedra Beach and reaches across the Atlantic to the villages of Ghana. There, in communities where clean water is scarce, the club is helping fund a life-changing project: eight new wells that will serve six schools and two clinics. The \$50,000 initiative addresses one of the world's most basic human needs — access to safe drinking water. For the children and families of rural Ghana, these wells will mean fewer waterborne illnesses, shorter walks to collect water and more time for education and community life.

Funding for the project is a true Rotary collaboration, combining resources from Rotary Global Grants, the North Florida Rotary District, the Rotary Club of Accra-Osu RE Ghana and three U.S. clubs — Jacksonville-Oceanside, Palm Valley, and SEV Golf New Smyrna. Notably, no Palm Valley members will be assessed for this effort. Instead, it's a testament to Rotary's belief in teamwork: when clubs around the world come together, local impact grows into global change. For Palm Valley Rotarians, this project is about more than just pipes and pumps. It's about dignity, health, and hope. "Every drop of clean water changes a life," said one club member. "It means children can stay in school, mothers can spend less time searching for water, and families can dream bigger dreams."

Guiding the project is longtime Rotarian Rosemary Takacs of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Oceanside. With years of experience in international Rotary work and the Peace Corps, Takacs brings both technical expertise and a deep understanding of sustainable community development. "We're fortunate to have someone like Rosemary leading the way," said a club spokesperson. "She knows how to get projects done the right way — with local involvement, accountability and a big heart."

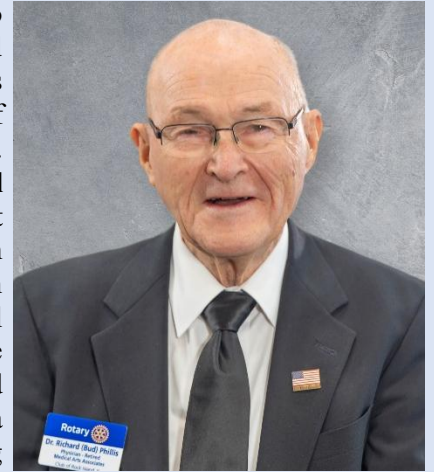
TIME FOR ONE OF OUR MOST FUN SERVICE PROJECTS

The Botanical Center's Winter Nights Winter Lights display has become one of the favorite Quad City Holiday traditions. The annual display features over 225,000 glowing lights displaying the largest light display yet for 2025! To hang and place all those lights takes lots of work by many volunteers. Rock Island Rotary has participated many times and again will be stringing lights on Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 on November 13th. Dress appropriately for working outdoors. Family members are welcome to assist so bring your spouse, parents, grandparents, and children old enough to help, You do not have to climb or lift anything heavy (unless you want to) or have any special talent. Botanical Center staff will be on the job to provide the lights and point out exactly where they need to be placed. Best of all, we'll cap off the evening with hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and cookies for all who help!

TWO OF OUR FINESTS HONORED

Today, our Rotary Foundation Chair, Sue Rector had a rare opportunity to present two prestigious awards to fellow members.

She first called forward Dr. Richard “Bud” Phillis. Bud began making donations to the Rotary Foundation in 1988. Over the past 36 years through his donations Bud has honored his spouse, all of his children, and today completed honoring all of his grandchildren with six more Paul Harris Fellow designations. That in and of itself is an incredible achievement and an amazing statement of dedication and generosity. But Sue wasn’t done, She then announced that Bud is now a **Major Donor Level III** signifying that Bud has passed \$50,000 in Rotary Foundation donations. For that Bud received a plaque from Rotary International. Bud is also a Rotary Foundation Benefactor having included Rotary in his estate plan or having already made an outright donation in excess of \$1,000 to the Endowment fund. He is also a Paul Harris Society member, having pledged to contribute \$1,000 or more annually to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an Approved Foundation grant. Bud is just the third member of our club to achieve Level 3 Major Donor status joining Fred & Virginia Houlton and Ruth & Daniel Lee. Congratulation Bud, you truly are an outstanding Rotarian!



Sue then surprised club president John Olinger, calling him forward to receive recognition as a **Paul Harris +5** contributor indicating that John has passed the \$6,000 mark in contributions to the Rotary Foundation, an outstanding accomplishment for a member who didn’t join Rotary until 2015. John has honored his wife and children with Paul Harris Awards. Like Bud, John is a Paul Harris Society member indicating a commitment to contribute \$1,000 or more annually toward the Annual fund, Polio Plus, or an approved Foundation grant. John is not only a generous donor and dedicated leader of our Club; he also now and then provides unintentionally some of the great fun moment our club enjoys. We all recall him going off script explaining to a guest speaker that we donate in the name of our guest speakers, funds for the purchase of water filters for children in Kenya. John said, “Drinking is very important to our club!” Today he opened our meeting wishing everyone a happy Valentines Day, and then after a good chuckle corrected himself to Happy Veteran’s Day! His good-natured ability to laugh at himself and enjoy being with fellow members is just a small part of why he is an outstanding and highly respected president! Congratulations John for your generosity to Rotary!

Holiday Cookie Exchange – December 16th

Time to dust off grandma’s cookbook and make a platter of your all-time favorited Holiday Treats. We’ll be exchanging and taste testing all that are brought to our Rock Island Rotary Club meeting on December 16! Let’s all show the holiday spirit and join the fun. If you aren’t able to bring cookies, you’re welcome to try the treats brought by others! It’s a fun tradition started just last year by then President, Sue Rector. It was a real favorite last year and we’re hoping it will be even bigger and better this year!



ROTARY FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle offered a bottle of Merlot wine, a 50/50 cash drawing, and a fabric "bowl picker upper" for safely handling hot bowls in and out of the microwave! This is an Angela Campbell creation. The first ticket drawn we held by Jeff Dismar who took the cash and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. The second winner was John Oliger who took the bowl. The final ticket drawn was held by Bud Phillis, but he said, "draw again" and another ticket held by John Oliger was pulled. He took the wine and gave it to our guest Brooke Spaulding. Thanks to everyone who purchase tickets.



FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Amber Wood filled in for Julie Gelaude today and began paying a fine for misreading Manny Smith's guest card. Glad she paid the fine because I couldn't read Manny's writing either!! Jeff Dismar had a happy dollar for his son's wedding this past weekend and welcoming a new daughter-in-law into the family. John Oliger followed with his happy dollar he also had a son's wedding this past weekend and also has a new daughter-in-law. Angela Campbell had happy dollars for the Bears win and the Packers loss. Molly Shattuck had a "Sort of Happy and Sort of Sad" dollar announcing the closing of the Centennial Tax Rock Island Office. The move makes business sense for the Company, but the office being closed was her father's Hammar & Associates office for many years and where she cut her teeth in the accounting business. Monta Ponsetto paid "Some Money" just because she has not been able to attend for several meetings. It's good to have you back!! Amber then called on anyone not having their Rotary name badge put in a fine. We either all had them today, or some won't be able to sleep tonight feeling the guilt of fine avoidance! Jim Nordquist had happy dollars for his daughter and grandson. His grandson Colson Grahn's Lutheran School of Crystal Lake boys' volleyball team just won the 2nd Place Illinois State Trophy. Jim's daughter, Jamie Norquist Grahn, a former Rocky volleyball stat was the team's coach! Congratulations Jamie and Colson. Grandpa says he has no fingernails after watching the games! Geno DelPreore announced the final two Rotary Literacy/Nika Loves Charity book and stuffed toy presentations will be tomorrow at Hillcrest Elementary in East Moline and November 24th at the R.I. Center for Math and Science. Rotarians are invited to help at both locations. The time is 8:30am on the 12th and 3:30pm on the 24th.

Rotary  Club of Rock Island presents...

ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K RUN/WALK

1:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
Schwiebert Park, Rock Island
Entry \$30; Shirt guaranteed if registered by 11/21/25

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES!

Enjoy the 2nd Ave. Holiday Market, featuring a reindeer exhibit, train rides, live music and more!



TIME TO SIGN UP! DO IT NOW!

COAT DRIVE ON GOING!



Clear out that crowded closet and donate your cold weather gear to those that really need it. Rock Island rotary is gathering coats, gloves, hats, scarves, hoodies and other cold weather gear for men, women, and children who need help. Temperatures are falling and before long snow will fly. You'll be warm inside and out knowing that someone is enjoying warmth through your generosity. Project Chairman Steve Morenz and past president Cindi Gramenz will sort and see that all donated items are delivered to Heart of Hope Ministries, Christian Care, and Earl Hanson Elementary school, who is seeking cold weather gear for their students, with a special need for the older 5th and 6th grade students. Drop off items at any weekly Rotary meeting from now through December 16th.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS!

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)

GROUP RATE

ONE ADMISSION \$65.90 – STUDENTS 18 AND UNDER \$47.65
TWO ADULT ADMISSIONS \$131.80

*Tax & Tip included (not including deserts & bar)

Circa Subscriber? Pay Just \$3.85 per person for gratuity

GLOBAL GRANT FOR SIERRA LEONE WELLS APPROVED!

Last year Rock Island Rotary joined with Moline and other area Rotary clubs in seeking a Rotary International Global Grant for a project to construct six water wells in Sierra Leone. Our club made a relatively small contribution of \$500 in support of the project. Word was recently received by Vicky Miller, Past President of Moline Rotary who spearheaded the project that the grant application was approved!! This was a multiple years long project led by our Rotary friends in Moline. We received confirmation of the approval and a letter of appreciation for our assistance from Ms. Miller who said in part, "I want to applaud you for helping me with this, as it will touch the lives of thousands of people in the Bombali District that has no clean water for the families of these areas and the sickness and death rates are unimaginable for these people!" This grant includes hygiene training, accountability, transparency, and sustainability with each region to ensure these wells will serve these people for many generations to come. Ms. Miller further stated, "I am humbled and thankful that you at the Rock Island Rotary are truly all about Service Above Self!"



Here is the actual notice from Rotary International:

Dear Rotary members:

Congratulations! Your global grant application for funding to improve health outcomes in rural Bombali, Sierra Leone, by installing six water points at Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) that currently lack safe water. The project will strengthen infection prevention and control, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and ensure access to safe drinking water., submitted by the Rotary Club of Freetown-Sunset and the Rotary Club of Naperville Sunrise, has been approved by The Rotary Foundation. The award is in the amount of US\$85,600.00.

We thank Past-President Miller for her leadership and dedication and congratulate Moline Rotary for their efforts in bringing this to a successful fruition and are pleased that we could be a part of the project.

**MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVING PROPOSED
CHANGES TO OUR CLUB BYLAWS
THERE AREN'T A LOT AND MOST ARE
COSMETIC, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT YOU READ
THE CHANGES SO YOU CAN VOTE
INTELLIGENTLY NEXT WEEK OR
DEPENDING ON CONFIRMATION RECEIVED
THAT ALL HAVE RECEIVED THEM, THE
FOLLOWING WEEK!**

OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



In Memory Of
Fred
Luckenbill



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island



THANK YOU!

Rock Island Rotary



UNITE
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November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DECEMBER Happenings For your calendar	December 6 Holiday Party at Circa 21 4:45 Salon Party 7:30 Show White Christmas	December 7 Rotary Reindeer Ramble Downtown Rock Island	December Salvation Army Bell Ringing Service Project	December 16 Cookie Exchange Start Planning to bring some of your favorites to share	Nov. and Dec. Action Winter Gear Collection for Heart of Hope, Christian Care & Earl Hanson	1
2	3	4 Election Day Noon Meeting Program: Josh Johnson Figgie Art Museum Festival of Trees mtg after	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Noon Meeting Program: Nathan Windt Saint Ambrose University	12	13 Botanical Center – Winter Lights decorating Service Project 5:30 – 7:30 pm	14	15 Festival of Trees set up at the River Center Service Project 9:00 AM
16	17 Rotary Board Meeting 11:45 am Studio 483 Conference Room	18 Noon Meeting Program: Anika O'Melia Rock Island Lines Member Growth Committee mtg. after	19 District 6420 Foundation Dinner	20 Birthday Books at EH at 2:15 pm	21 Public Image Committee mtg online 9:00 am	22
23/30	24	25 Noon Meeting Program: End Polio Now Sue Rector, Bud Phillis, and Patrick Dorherty	26	27  Happy Thanksgiving	28	29

Programs: **Rebecca Arnold** Invocations: **Kathy Trone**