

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary Club of Rock Island
Rock Island, Illinois
Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

March 17, 2026
Volume XXXIII, Issue 37

Resheda Jamison J&M Empire Financial Educator



MAR - APR PROGRAMS

- Mar 24 - Dylaan Bibbs - Wholly Grinds Coffee Shop
- Mar 31 - 5th Tuesday -Field trip to Royal Neighbors Hdqts.
- Apr 7 - Danielle Scott - Publishing a Children's Book
- Apr 14 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 21 - Jim Shearouse – National Library Week
- Apr 28 - Rotary Awards Banquet

J&M Empire is a financial empowerment and economic development ecosystem providing financial education, strategic guidance, and leadership programs designed to support financial clarity, economic mobility, and long-term wealth building. Ms. Jamison said J&M brings together Financial literacy & behavior-based coaching, Credit & foundation-building strategies, Business streamlining & strategic planning, Systems for budgeting & cash flow, and Workforce, youth, & community education. Each part of her “ecosystem” is designed to work together—so clients aren’t just learning, but implementing. She said that people first need clarity of what type of life they want to have. Living off assistance programs? Pay check to pay check? Do they have children? Do they want their children to have the same kind of life? One they clearly define what the type of life they want to have, then they can begin work toward achieving that life. She noted that often her clients spend without thought and some save without out intent. Spending is done just to be spending, saving is done just to save. But people need to ask themselves “Why” and “What for”. She noted that the entire process is behavior based. She works with clients to first determine their mindset. How are they spending? What is the reason?, Why are they spending on the things they buy? Once that is clarified and understood then Ms. Jamison works on educating her clients in goal setting and budgeting. Goals determine the life they want to live and budgeting sets the path for getting to those goals. She noted that money is not an end in and of itself, it is a tool to be used and that requires a plan. The clients must know what they want to build and use the “tools” to get it done. The final phase of her plan is to elevate the plan into action by setting strategies for financial growth and stability. She stated her approach is “The E³ Method”. E¹ = Empower Clients to understand their patterns, priorities, and goals. E² = Educate With practical, real-world frameworks that can be applied immediately. E³ = Elevate by building systems that support growth, consistency, and sustainability. Ms. Jamison said the goal of J&M is to bridge the gap between financial survival and sustainable wealth through infrastructure and education. They accomplish this by helping individuals structure money to work for their life; helping entrepreneurs streamline operations to reduce friction; creating repeatable processes for consistency and expansion; removing guesswork from financial and business decisions. She said growth should feel supported, not overwhelming. Ms. Jamison provides a 13 week program where she and the clients meet every week for 13 weeks with each week setting goals and progress toward those goals are reviewed the following week. She said she asks lots of questions that force the client to reflect, think, and verbalize what they want and what they are doing to achieve that want. She also tries to identify client’s habits that may be barriers to success. She hopes to get clients making informed financial decisions rather than reacting to unplanned circumstances. Her ultimate goal is to build a financially stable community. Whether dealing with low, moderate, or wealthy clientele, Her E³ plan is a road to stability, economic mobility, and wealth building. We thank Ms. Jamison for an informative and very interesting program.

Service Above
Self

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One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best

Rotary



Club of Rock Island

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www.rirotary.com

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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 had no guests today! Invite a friend next time!
- ★ **GREETERS NEEDED!** – Several relatively new members have told us that after visiting several clubs trying to decide which to join, they chose Rock Island Rotary because of the welcoming atmosphere. More than one said it began with having a greeter at the door making them feel welcome. Did you notice that we have not had a single greeter so far this March! Today Julie Gelaude made a special pitch and had Cindi take down names. We're now set through March and April. But May has open dates. Please, Sign up next week!
- ★ **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND AND WANT A BOXED LUNCH AT OUR FIFTH TUESDAY MEETING ON MARCH 31st** – **You must sign up in advance** and let us know you are coming. Lunches will be ordered only for those who sign up. Our regular meeting on March 31st will convene at the **Royal Neighbors Headquarters** in Rock Island. There is no charge for lunch for those members who include lunch payment with their quarterly dues. Those that pay for lunch on a weekly basis can request a boxed lunch in advance at a cost of \$10. Everyone planning to attend, be sure to sign up at the Sergeant's table if you plan to attend and want lunch. **Next Tuesday's meeting is your last chance!**
- ★ **SAVE THE DATES! -Rotary at the Ball Park** – Friday, June 5th 6:30 Game Time. Tickets will be \$20 each which includes \$10 in Bandit Bucks for concessions! You, your family, friends, and guests are welcome. Baseball & Fireworks! Watch for ticket signup coming in May! **Rotary At The Backwater Gamblers** with a possible potluck picnic, Sunday, August 2nd. Watch for further details.
- ★ **2026 ROTARY DISTRICT 6420 CONFERENCE** – April 10-11 at the Rockford Radisson Hotel & Convention Center. The early bird gets the worm! or the best price in this case. Registration is open and the early bird pricing expires at midnight on March 1st. Be sure to take advantage of the special pricing. This will be an event you do not want to miss. REGISTER [HERE!](#) You will find all the details on the registration page. If you want to stay overnight, be sure to mention Rockton-Roscoe Rotary when booking your hotel for the special rate of \$134 per night.
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon. Send to, bobdebswanson@att.net.

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?

MARCH ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Avery Pearl	Mar 2	Danielle Scott	Mar 18
Brooke Spaulding	Mar 7	Clarence Darrow	Mar 22
Lonnie Behnke	Mar 13	Jerry Jones	Mar 22
Kathy Trone	Mar 15	Robin VanKeuein	Mar 28
Gary Rowe	Mar 17	Avalon Thomas-Roebal	Mar 29
Patty Ulrich	Mar 17	Bill Stengel	Mar 31

Rotary Foundation Receives Highest Charity Navigator Rating For 17th Consecutive Year

For the 17th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating — four stars — from Charity Navigator, the largest and most utilized independent charity evaluator in the United States.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

“We are delighted to provide the Rotary Foundation with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence,” said Michael Thatcher, president and CEO of Charity Navigator. “The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that the Rotary Foundation can accomplish in the years ahead.”

Charity Navigator analyzes overall nonprofit health and performance based on four key areas: Leadership & Adaptability to help donors understand if a charity has clarity of purpose, Accountability & Finance to explain if they are transparent and fiscally capable, Culture & Community to show how they engage with their constituents, and Impact & Results to explain what they have accomplished.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The statistics are staggering: Approximately **2 billion people worldwide** lack access to safely managed drinking water, and **almost 4.4 billion** do not have access to safe, uncontaminated water at home. In sub-Saharan Africa, **over 770 million people lack basic water services**. Over **1,000 children under age 5 die daily** from diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. Basic health and hygiene are unattainable without the constant supply of clean and potable water. When people have access to clean water and sanitation, waterborne diseases decrease, children stay healthier and attend school more regularly, and mothers can spend less time carrying water and more time helping their families. Rotary International, through its foundation, mobilizes resources, forms partnerships, and invest in infrastructure and training that yield long-term change:

- ❖ Since 2013, TRF has invested in more **than \$130 million (USD) in over 2000** projects worldwide.
- ❖ Until recently, Rotary and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) assisted communities and governments to plan, finance and deliver safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services, while sustainably managing water resources.
- ❖ **\$24 is all it takes to provide one person with safe water.**
- ❖ **123 schools in Ghana** have gained access to basic sanitation and hygiene services due to the Rotary-USAID partnership.
- ❖ **\$148 million** has been invested by TRF in water, sanitation, hygiene, and water resource management interventions globally.

We are extremely proud that **Rock Island Rotary** entered the effort nine years ago when we **founded the Western Illinois – Eastern Iowa Rotary Water Project**. To date we have raised more than **\$87,000** and have purchased **250 water filters** that are serving more than **22,500 children** in rural villages of Kenya.

Due to the School’s Spring Break, our March Birthday Books at Earl Hanson Elementary will be postponed and celebrated on Thursday, April 2nd. Volunteers please arrive at 2:15, check in with the secretary and go up the stairs to the library which is the first door on the left at the top of the stairs.

HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS and CHARITY FINES

“Slim pickins” today!! Julie Gelaude, wearing multiple hats today from presiding officer to invocation giver, to guest introducer, to levier of fines and solicitor of happy/sad dollars, did a fantastic job filling in for President John Olinger and President Elect Amber Wood. When she finally got to her normal role as President Nominee and levied fines, we were so caught up in her hat switching that we totally forgot her traditional greeting! So “Boo” on us!!

She did collect fines from Steve Morenz and Justin Peterson for leaving early and then with some coaxing from the membership levied a fine all on present who failed to wear green for St. Patrick’s Day. Most found \$1 is less painful than a pinch!

Turning to happy/sad news, all was happy today. Jeff Dimer had a happy dollar for his son Marshall (a former outgoing Youth Exchange student from our club). Marshall recently accepted a position with Edward Jones and will be joining Mark Mayeski’s Rock Island office. Congratulations Marshall! Mark was present and added his own happy dollar saying that being hired by Edward Jones is not easy and he was told that Marshall was one of the best candidates they have found in quite some time!

ROTARY FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Our Foundation raffle today offered a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine. Julie Gelaude and Sue Rector sold the tickets. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Gary Rowe who took the wine. That next ticket pulled was just one digit different than the first but Gary didn’t have that one. The winner was Jeff Dimer who took the cash and donated it to the Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. Thanks to all who participated by buying tickets.

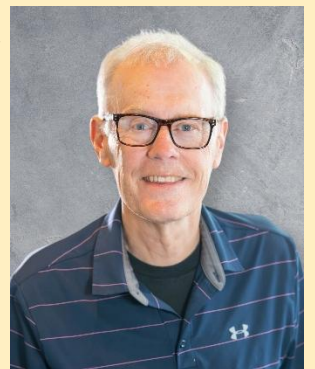


Rotary Awards Committee Needs Your Help!

Our Awards Luncheon is approaching quickly on April 28th. The Committee needs your nominations of fellow Club members for the Luckenbill-Wray and A.T. Peara Awards, and your nomination of club or community members for outstanding Community Service and Professional Excellence in the career or endeavor. Please see page 6 for additional details and who to call or email to make your nomination(s). There are many deserving people in our Club and community. Do not allow them to go unrecognized! Take the few minutes it takes to submit one or more nominations!

CLUB FOUNDATION - MILLION DOLLAR GOAL!

Three weeks ago, our Club Foundation Committee announced the **MILLION DOLLAR MILE-STONE CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE**. The Foundation Committee set a goal of reaching **One Million Dollars** in Foundation assets by the end of this Rotary Year. Our Club Foundation has steadily grown from an original generous bequest in 2008 of \$200,000 from the estate of long-time Rotarian, Stan Harris. The fund has now grown to about \$950,000! Pledge forms were distributed to members, with a request for donations “large and small”. Today, Tom Hammar spoke on behalf of the Foundation Committee. He first provided a brief report on how the campaign is going to date. He said pledges have been received from 17 club members and an anonymous donor had agreed to match the first \$5,000 in pledges \$2 for every \$1 pledged. That match along with the seventeen pledges totals \$23,600 raised. Previously other members of the Committee have told how our Club Foundation has benefited our community through funding the Children’s Garden at the Botanical Center, adding lights and scoreboard improvements to Rotary Field at the Girls Softball complex next to the Hauberg Estate, helping fund the new Rock Island Library branch on 30th Street, funding the purchase of a van for Spring Forward Learning Center, and just last year making a major donation to convert the former Rock Island YWCA building into a fully equipped and staffed youth homeless facility, the only such facility between Rockford and Des Moines, and the list goes on!



Tom spoke today about Estate Planning; another way club members can support our Club Foundation. He noted that he and his wife Sue revised their plan several years ago to include support for organizations that have meant a great deal to them for many years. He said they Chose the Rotary Club Foundation because it supports things they wholeheartedly support, has an established history, and has a record of careful and wise management of funds entrusted to them. He also stressed that the foundation structure, where the donated funds are invested, not spent, means that their gift will be a lasting benefit to our community continuing long after we are gone. Tom said adding the donation to their estate plan was simple and inexpensive and he urged fellow members to consider following his example.

If you did not get a pledge form at the meeting it is included on the next page. Let’s pass a million!!



Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation

Million Dollar Milestone Campaign

Supporting Rock Island-Based Service Projects
Together, we are building a stronger Rock Island through local service, leadership, and lasting impact.

YES! I/We proudly support the Million Dollar Milestone Campaign.

Name(s): _____

Business (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

My/Our Commitment

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- Other _____
- \$500
- \$1000
- \$2,500

Payment Method

- Check enclosed (payable to Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation)
- Please invoice me
- Credit Card

Card #: _____

Exp: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

One-Time Gift

Two-Year Pledge (Paid Quarterly)
Total Pledge Amount: \$ _____
Quarterly Payment: \$ _____
(8 payments over 2 years)

Donate through **Birdies for Charity** which qualifies for bonus dollars

Other Pledge Arrangement (including using an **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, ACH Bank authorized transfer, or transfer of Appreciated Stock**)

Total Commitment: \$ _____



Use this QR code to make a one-time gift by credit card.

Recognition

- Please recognize this gift as: _____
- I/We prefer to remain anonymous

Thank you. Please return your form to Carrie Crossen or to the Sergeant at Arms or raffle table.

Your gift directly supports Rock Island-based service projects that will improve lives and strengthen our community for generations to come.

It's Rotary Awards Time!

A highlight of our Rotary Year is the annual Rotary Awards Luncheon. At that event we honor Rock Island's top senior students from Augustana, Alleman, and Rock Island High School. We also honor local citizens for Excellence and Community Service and invite those honorees to join our Rotary contingent in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade! We also honor outstanding members of our Club. All of this is possible in large part because of your help in nominating prospective recipients of the various awards.

Today, Sarah Gorham, chair of our Awards Committee distributed the below notice to all present at our meeting:

2026 AWARDS

The 2026 Rock Island Rotary's Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28th. In order to help our Committee choose awardees, please email nominations to Sarah Gorham at sgorham@sbirlawfirm.law or tell Sarah or another member of our Committee your ideas by March 25, 2026.

As in past years, the following will be awarded:

1. **Excellence Award**: Recognizes distinction or superiority in a field of endeavor. This can be for a single accomplishment or for achieving a high standards of achievement or performance over a sustained period.
2. **Community Service Award**: Recognizes individuals or organizations who have worked effectively for the betterment of our community.
3. **The Luckenbill-Wray Award**: Recognizes a current Rock Island Rotarian for outstanding service and dedication to our club over the past year.
4. **A. T. Peara Award for Service Above Self**: Recognized the Rock Island Rotary member who has exhibited the dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were personified by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named. This is a "life-time" award and can only be won once by a club member.

Here are the members who have won this award previously and are ineligible to be considered again.

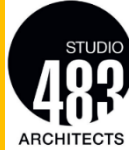
Previous A.T. Peara Recipients

2025	Kevin Koski	2010	Jeff Dismer	1995	Keith E. Pfundstein
2024	Cindi Gramenz	2009	Ruth Lee	1994	Victor Pearson
2023	Kathy Trone	2008	Jay Stanley	1993	Dr. Conrad Bergendoff
2022	Jim Moran	2007	George Johnson	1992	Robert E. Frank
2021	Molly Shattuck	2006	Mary Fislar	1991	Dr. Richard Phillis
2020	Carrie Crossen	2005	W.J. "Bing" Bingaman	1990	Carl Larson
2020	Mark Mayeski	2004	Thomas Hammar	1989	Dr. Bennett Litherland
2019	John Phillips	2003	Bruce Anderson	1988	Donn Iogha
2018	Steve Morenz	2002	Jan Christensen	1987	Fred Luckenbill
2017	Sam Wray	2002	Frank Lambert	1986	Clarence "Mel" Park
2016	Mike Locander	2001	Suzanne Golden	1985	Charles O. Austin, Jr.
2015	Dr. Tricia Barron	2000	Gary N. Rowe	1984	Frederick R. Houlton
2014	Bob Swanson	1999	Donald W. Peterson	1983	Raymond P. Botch
2013	Anne McGlynn	1998	Stanley H. Coin	1982	Dr. Larry O. Tadlock
2012	Holly Sparkman	1997	Alfred J. Kukla	1981	A.T. Peara
2011	John Wetzell	1996	Harry B. Nelson		

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



Rotary

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Noon Meeting Speaker: Mgcini Mpofo Rock Island YMCA	4	5	6 District PETS conference	7 District PETS conference
8 District PETS conference	9	10 Noon Meeting Speaker: Thurgood Brooks and Avery Pearl West End Revitalization	11	12	13	14
15	16 Rotary Board Meeting Noon Studio 483 Conference Room	17 Noon Meeting Speaker: Resheda Jamison J&M Financial Educator Foundation Tuesday	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Noon Meeting Speaker: Dylaan Bibbs Wholly Grinds Coffee Shop	25	26 Birthday Books Earl Hanson 2:15 pm	27	28
29	30	31 Noon Meeting REMOTE Meeting Royal Neighbors of America World Headquarters	Consider a pledge to the Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation for the Million Dollar Challenge Campaign	Submit your nominations for our Rotary Club Awards to Sarah Gorham	Register for the District 6420 Conference in Rockford on April 10-11	

Programs: Yolanda Pugh and Rebecca Arnold Invocations: Carrie Crossen