

# Rotary



# WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

March 24, 2026

Volume XXXIII, Issue 38



**DYLAAN BIBBS**

### MAR - APR PROGRAMS

- 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
- May 5 - TBA
- May 12 - TBA

It's safe to say that the goodies at Wholly Grinds Coffee Shop are heavenly. Brewed with love, determination and selflessness, the business was co-founded by Rev. Darryl Thompson and his wife Kimberly Callaway-Thompson, and born out of a shared vision to create economic opportunity in a historically underserved area. The Thompsons, leaders of the neighboring church, House of Fire Ministries, saw potential in a strip mall that had been vacant for years. The property, comprised of a strip mall and nearby building, which now houses Wholly Grinds Coffee Shop, at 2409 11th St., Suite B, in Rock Island. Since acquiring the property, the Thompsons have been determined to bring new life to the 11th Street corridor on the west side of the city. Rev. Thompson and his wife came with a vision, creating jobs. There was nothing on this specific corridor that provided healthy smoothies, made-to-order specialty coffee, and delicious food, and the Thompsons wanted to create economic development and jobs. It became a family venture when Thompson's son and daughter Darryl and Dylaan Bibbs, gave up promising corporate careers to take over the day to day operation of the business. Darryl was employed by John Deere and Dylaan was working in the hospitality and sales industry in Colorado. Both are graduates of Southern Illinois University, Dylaan in hospitality and tourism management and Darryl in business management and entrepreneurship. Dylaan also has her own podcast call "Deep Dive With Dylaan" which she describes as a space for deeper, more empathetic conversations. Ms. Bibbs says that the Wholly Grinds business came from the vision of her father who was dedicated to the idea that people should always leave more for the future generation than what they started with. He also felt that he should lead by example and felt the place to begin was in "Below the hill" Rock Island where stereotypes need to be broken. She noted that the word "wholly" is defined as to make one whole and the business is a reflection of the family's deep belief and trust in God. They saw opening the business in a below the hill Rock Island location as an opportunity to create a warm, inclusive space where people could gather, relax, enjoy food and drink, and have events. She noted that their staff are all high school or college students and that the business tries to assist and guide staff members toward making good decisions and self improvement. Dylaan said, "I am a human first, and a business owner second. They don't turn away anyone who is hungry or in need of a warm beverage. To encourage those they feel are critical to improving the community, they provide discounts to students, seniors, teachers, mental health professionals, fire fighters and law officers. She said they offer their dining room and patio for special events and cater off site as well. Wholly Grinds hopes to expand and are eager to partner with other organizations and groups with similar values and goals. Ms. Bibbs said they welcome students into their facility and try to ensure a safe, fun environment. Asked about the menu, she highly recommends the Wholly Waffle Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Sandwich or Wholly Bread described as soft, flaky bread drizzled with a rich chocolate glaze. They also have a full line of coffee, energy drinks, and other beverages and she noted to avoid watered down coffee, they only use coffee ice cubes in their iced coffee! We thank Dylaan for filling us in on this unique 11<sup>th</sup> Street venue for tasty food, delicious beverages, and a great place to visit.

*Service Above  
Self*

Webpage [www.rirotary.org](http://www.rirotary.org) FOLLOW US!  
 facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>  
 Follow R. I. High Interact at [https://linktr.ee/rocky\\_rotaryclub](https://linktr.ee/rocky_rotaryclub)

*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

John Olinger, President  
Amber Wood, 1st Vice Pres.  
Julie Gelaude, 2nd Vice Pres.  
Holly Sparkman, Secretary  
Molly Shattuck, Treasurer  
Sue Rector, Past President  
Frank Lambert, Sgt at Arms  
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

## Directors

Kenda Burrows, Director  
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** – A second week with no guests. Next week school will be back in session so maybe things will pick up. There must be some work associates or friends that would be interested in a complimentary lunch and an opportunity to learn a bit about Rock Island Rotary!
- ★ **MILLION DOLLAR MILESTONE NEWS!** – Today it was announced that a second generous anonymous donor has come forward and offered to match every dollar donated with two more dollars. So, the impact of your donation is triple, give a dollar and it becomes three! Give \$100 and it turns into \$300! The impact of your dollars is sustaining because donations to our Club Foundation aren't spent, they are invested! Every year they grow with interest and the interest is what fund our grants!
- ★ **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND AND WANT A BOXED LUNCH AT OUR FIFTH TUESDAY MEETING ON MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>** – **You missed the final live sign up at today's meeting! If you really want to go and want lunch, send a reply email to this newsletter NOW!** Next Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> we will meet at the **Royal Neighbors Headquarters** in Rock Island. Please arrive between 11:45 and 12 noon and go to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor dining area.
- ★ **SAVE THE DATES!** -**Rotary at the Ball Park** – Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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** – Velcro - what a rip off!
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon. Send to, [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto: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

# FOUNDATION MINUTE

This week's FM is culled from "It Starts with Water," the TRF Trustee Chair's message published in the current edition of Rotary Magazine (March, 2026).

"Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$230 million to support thousands of water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives. Behind these numbers is Rotary's unique approach. Rather than offering one-time fixes, we train communities to manage systems for generations, moving beyond charity to lasting change...Indeed, water projects improve health, foster economic opportunity, and amplify education through increased school attendance, especially for girls who no longer spend hours fetching water. And they fight poverty.

By giving to our Foundation and volunteering in water projects, you are part of this success. Everything we do opens an opportunity for someone, somewhere." Echoing Trustee Knaack, RI President, Francesco Arezzo calls on all Rotarians to "reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them..." because, "when we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, we truly Unite for Good." (Rotary Magazine, March 2026:1)

## HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS and CHARITY FINES

After triple duty last week. Presiding, AND introducing guests, AND levying fines, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Julie Gelaude tool this week off and President John Olinger had triple duty with 1<sup>st</sup> VP Amber Wood also unable to attend. We thought he got off with just two duties, because there were no guests to introduce, but it turned out we also had no one prepared to do our invocation, so John filled that duty too! He levied fines and accepted happy/sad dollars with no "Boos" at all! Guess we felt sorry for his being overworked! He did do a fantastic job!

Kevin Koski started it off with a \$9 happy dollar donation quiz. He asked why 9? Gary Rowe knew the answer, For the ninth consecutive year, Finland was voted the happiest country on earth. It that because Wonder if that because in the winter the sun sets in Finland in November and doesn't rise until mid-January? Or is it because alcohol is openly sold in grocery stores without requiring liquor licenses? Whatever, Jim Nordquist retorted with his happy dollar saying today is celebrated as the Nordic Happiness Day. Noting that 23 March, marks the signing of the Helsinki Treaty in 1962, which established the framework for cooperation between Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland who reluctantly agreed to let Finland join the treaty. Pete Wessels had several happy dollars celebrating Northern Iowa getting into the NCAA basketball tournament and Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska all advancing into the "Sweet 16" and in the hunt for a Men's Basketball National Championship. Jim Moran had happy dollars celebrating the Jordan Earlyact Club. The 35-member 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Club is currently doing two service projects. They are reading to and mentoring 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and raising money to plant baby trees throughout the community. The fundraiser is collecting cans and pop tops. Jim will have a big box at our April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Bring all the cans and pop tops you can gather and help the kids! Just dump them in the box! Jane Cartright had a happy dollar saying she signed up to attend our District |Conference feeling that as a new member she should learn as much as possible about Rotary! Great move Jane. We will see you in Rockford! Eric Westphall had a happy dollar announcing that he had a \$1,000 check from MidAmerica Energy to present to Rebecca Arnold representing the Martin Luther King Center continuing MidAmerica's longtime support of the free Thanksgiving Dinners served by the King Center. The donation will help fund the dinners this November. Rebecca gratefully accepted the check and made her own Happy Dollar donation to Rotary. John Wetzel was very happy to be with us in person today and offered twenty happy dollars which he said in addition to being happy to be with us was to pay for his past absences, and his happiness for Illinois and Iowa both being in the NCAA Sweet 16, and a sad dollar for Gonzaga being knock out of the tournament, and a happy dollar for his grandson scoring 32 on his ACT test and receiving multiple offers of acceptance from prestigious universities all over the nation. However, Grandpa John has an in and think he will follow the footsteps of his mother, and both grandparents and choose Augustana right here in Rock Island! Lastly, John celebrated the continued recovery of his granddaughter who suffered very serious heart issues and ultimately received a heart transplant. She has recovered sufficiently to enter college and will be attending school in the Chicago area. Great to see you again John!

## ROTARY FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Our Foundation raffle today offered a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine. Bud Phillis sold the the tickets and Hannah Carr drew the winners. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Mark Mayeski who took the cash and donated it to Rotary's Polio Plus campaign. That next ticket pulled was by Jeff Dismar who took home a beautiful bottleily of White Zinfandel wine. Thanks to all who participated by buying tickets.



## Rotary Awards Committee Needs Your Help!

Our Awards Luncheon is approaching quickly on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Committee needs your nominations of fellow Club members for the Luckenbill-Wray and A.T. Peera 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!

## AWARD WINNING ROCK ISLAND ROTARY

Rock Island Rotary has been around now for 112 years and over the decades have won hundreds of awards and honors. Most are boxed up and stored on top of our Club cabinet at the Botanical Center. Others have found homes with past officers and members, Unfortunately many have been lost or discarded. Today president John brought out a beautiful Silver Trophy Cup which he ran across in our cabinet. He thought it looked neat but was so tarnished and dark that whatever engraving might have been on it could not be read. John decided to take it to one of our recent guest speaker and Mindy Diaz at Inspire Design Jewelry did her magic and restored the cup to lustrous silver. Engraving can now be read identifying the award as having been presented to our club **105 Years Ago!** We're not sure what we did to earn it, but it clearly says Rock Island Rotary and 1921. John doesn't want to just put it back in the cabinet to collect tarnish for another one hundred years, so he asked all members for ideas of what we could and should do with it. Can you think of an appropriate use? Send your suggestions to John, [johnkoliger@gmail.com](mailto:johnkoliger@gmail.com).



## CLUB FOUNDATION - MILLION DOLLAR GOAL!



Four 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, no representative of the Foundation Committee stepped up to speak. But Sergeant at Arms, Bob Swanson spoke up reminding us that when the campaign started an anonymous donor had agreed to match the first \$5,000 in pledges \$2 for every \$1 pledged. The \$5,000 goal was reached and with the match became \$15,000. Additional pledges have moved the campaign forward which at last report has now reached \$23,600 in total...Bob announced that today a second anonymous donor has come forward with the same pledge, donate a dollar and the donor will match it with two dollars. The time to make your pledge is now when your efforts are tripled! Your twenty-five dollars becomes seventy-five. Whether you donate much or little, your generosity will have three times the impact! Bob said the amount of the donation is not as important as club member participation in the campaign. So far fewer than twenty percent of our members have pledged. It is doubtful we could ever get 100% but we would sure hope to hit seventy-five or eighty percent! You can help by making your pledge now!

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

**Programs: Yolanda Pugh and Rebecca Arnold    Invocations: Carrie Crossen**