

# Rotary



# WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

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

May 5, 2026  
Volume XXXIII, Issue 44

## Rock Island High School INCubatoredu Entrepreneurship Students Build Real Businesses

### May – June Calendar

- May 5 - RIHS Entrepreneur Incubator Program
- May 12 - Fislar Scholarship & Club Foundation Grants Presentation
- May 19 - Houlton Scholarship & Jordan Earlyact Club
- May 26 - TBA
- June 2 - Community Grants Presentation – Frank Lambert

In 2015 Rock Island Rotary provided the lead gift of \$10,000 to sponsor the innovative Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class at Rock Island High School. In August of 2015 Rock Island High School unveiled its new INCubatoredu Entrepreneur and Enterprise Program and its state-of-the art business incubator classroom. The ribbon cutting was held with school officials, local political leaders, and Rock Island Rotarians in attendance. The program was the first of its kind in the Quad-Cities and has become a model for other school districts throughout the Midwest. Rocky teacher Trish Matson has led the program from its inception. INCubatoredu is a full-year course offering an authentic entrepreneurship experience as students develop career-ready skills as they build REAL businesses. Students launch real businesses solving real problems. Rock Island High School's INCubatoredu Entrepreneurship Class is truly a unique program where students learn what it is to be an entrepreneur, dig into all aspects of business and develop skills such as team building, problem-solving, public speaking, and creative and critical thinking. Students develop their own product or service start-up and pitch it in a "Shark Tank" style to potential investors at the end of the year at the Final Pitch Night event. INCubatoredu is a full-year course offering an authentic entrepreneurship experience as students develop their own product or service startup. Real entrepreneurs and industry experts including Rock Island Rotarians serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the process of idea validation. Mentors and coaches participate in teaching students all aspects of business from budgeting, advertising, manufacturing, material acquisition, promotion, and much more. Student teams explore, pivot, iterate and develop resilience as they work to solve problems they care about. Student teams pitch to gain investment funds in a final shark-tank style pitch event. Which is judged with cash prizes awarded. Each year teams with ideas judged as having great merit participate in a national competition pitching their "creations" against similar teams from throughout the nation. Rock Island High School teams have won numerous awards at the annual Chicago hosted competition, including a National Championship and three National cash awards. Program instructor, Trish Matson gave a brief intro as to what the Incubator Entrepreneur program in the eleven years since our club made the initial "seed money" grant of \$10,000 to help bring the idea to Rock Island High School. She stated that 90 products and services have been developed by participants in Rocky's program. Three student teams from Rocky have received National funding, and she noted that no other school has ever received more than one such grant. Rocky students won the National Championship in 2017 and have on two other occasions reached the national quarter finals. Mrs. Matson also said the program is expanding to a second classroom at Thurgood Marshall Learning Center for next year. This Year five different products and services were developed and students provided their preliminary "pitch" and answered questions at our meeting. They will be making their first formal pitches tomorrow at 9am at Rock Island High School. Several Rotarians coach and mentor teams and other Rotarians will be serving on the panel of judges evaluating the pitches.

*Continued on Page3 – "Entrepreneurs"*

*Service Above  
Self*

**FOLLOW US!**

Webpage [www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)

[facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/) <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** – Today Rotary welcomed three guests. Cara Banks was a guest of Holly Sparkman. Dick Fislar was a guest of the Club and sister-in-law Marcy Bell. He was here to attend a meeting of the Mary Fislar Scholarship committee. Last but certainly not least was our Youth Exchange daughter, Noa Smith, who not only attended, but took a few minutes to tell us about her Prom experience. In Japan schools do not have dances!
- ★ **DRIVERS FOUND** – Rotary thanks **Kevin Koski** who will be taking Noa and three other outstanding student leaders to RYLA Camp near Oregon, Illinois on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Which for the second year is being held at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center near Oregon, Illinois. **Rotary also thanks Tom Hammar** who will be driving the camp to pick up the students and return them to Rock Island High School for pick up by their parents on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Sunday is Mother’s Day and we appreciate Tom’s willingness to drive!
- ★ **PICTURES WERE TAKEN TODAY!** – Rotary thanks fellow member Wezz DeLaRosa for providing his professional photography service to Club members who wanted to have a new photo for our 2026-2027 Club Director booklet. Wezz donated his time, expertise, and photographic skills. He has indicated a willingness to do one more shoot in the next few weeks if there is a need. If you wanted a photo but could not attend today, please let Wezz or Bob Swanson know. Do not forget Wezz DeLaRosa Photography when you or family members need photograph services!
- ★ **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** AND **family potluck picnic**, Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rotary will provide chicken and beverages for the picnic in the shelter prior to the ski show. Yard and table games will start at 4:15pm and eat at 5:15pm. We will have a signup to attend coming in July for our chicken & beverage count.
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?
- ★ **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?

## MAY ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Jen Osing	May 1	Wezz DeLaRosa	May 13
Brett Hitchcock	May 2	Christine Murdock	May 16
Beth Kauzlarich	May 5	Ann McIntyre	May 21
Ruth Lee	May 6	Cindi Gramenz	May 24
Angela Campbell	May 9	Eric Westphall	May 28
Kimberly Calhoun	May 11	Chuck Sorensen	May 30

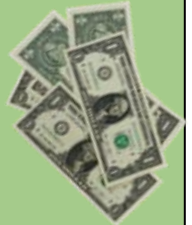
- The first team known as “SNS Rocky”. Came up with a clever idea. Rocky kids like to wear red and gold rocky gear, particularly on Fridays. This team noted that freshman and sophomores often don’t have credit cards and many students can afford the cost of Rocky shirt, sweatshirts, caps, and other swag. So their business advertised for donated Rocky Swag particularly targeting coaches and athletic programs. They received almost 200 donated items. Reconditioned them and offered them for sale on Fridays at lunch time for cash only sales. The business was a hit and continues to grow.
- The second team pitched was “The Insulators”, these innovative boys developed a way to use foal insulation and heat absorbing material to convert a standard soft zippered canvas rectangular container into a fully insulated heat retaining lunch box. They noted it will keep hot food hot for 4 to 5 hours and also will keep cold items cold. A net innovation for those working long hours or preferring to prepare their own meals for later consumption.
- The third team called their business CJB Print Company – These creative students purchased a 3D printer and started a business with the idea that “We can make anything”. Customers can bring their ideas for a unique or personalized item and this business will make it for them.
- The fourth pitch didn’t yet have a catchy name, but the idea has much merit. He spoke of the uncomfortable situation of entering a public restroom and finding it a bit disgusting. The solution, reach into your purse or pocket and pull out an individual pre-packaged, pleasantly scented, toilet bowl seat cover, made of biodegradable recycled paper. The creator envisions them being offered in stores, gas stations, and in vending machines in public restrooms.
- The fifth and final pitch also had no name yet, but spoke of the chores many face with heavy snow and ice in our midwest winters. This business envisions putting teams of crews together who can be called, will come to your home, shovel walks and drives, and treat ice with calcium chloride which they say is good for your grass and plants and will safely melt the ice. Sounds good! Who do I call?”

Overall it was a fun and interesting presentation by a group of creative young adults with ideas that might some day be a common item in our community and beyond! Thanks you Mrs. Madson and the 2026 Entrepreneur students!

## Rotary International Foundation Raffle



Today the raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine. Jeff Dismer a frequent winner pulled the tickets and the first one pulled was his own! He graciously refused the prize and pulled another ticket. Jim Moran was the winner, and he selected the money and donated it to our Club’s Kenya Water Project. The second winning ticket was held by Katie Resig who took home the wine. Rotary congratulates the winners and thanks all who participated in the raffle!



## FOUNDATION MINUTE

Several Rotary International districts are celebrating members who have dedicated their service to the betterment of fellow human beings. One such Rotarian is Dawn Rochelle.

A past district governor of District 7730, North Carolina and licensed clinical social worker, who is also the CEO of One Place, Rotarian Rochelle was awarded the Citation for Meritorious Service by the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. The award is one of Rotary’s highest honors for exceptional service and commitment to advancing its mission. Presented by District Governor Andi Young at the annual district conference, the award is presented to one Rotarian per district who exemplifies leadership, generosity and a sustained commitment to creating lasting change. “The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service honors those who truly embody the spirit of service,” Young said.

Dawn’s leadership, generosity and belief in Rotary’s ability to transform lives have made an extraordinary impact. A member of the Rotary Club of Safe Childhoods, Rochelle served as district governor from 2020 to 2021 and is an advocate for The Rotary Foundation and PolioPlus. She is also the co-founder of the Rotary Action Group for Girls’ Empowerment and serves as a Cadre technical adviser, in which she supports global efforts in health, peace and conflict resolution.

## HAVE YOU APPROVED OR UPDATED THE DIRECTORY

On April 24<sup>th</sup> All members should have received an email asking you to approve or update your Club Directory listing. If you did not get the request notify Bob Swanson immediately! We each have an opportunity every May to edit our own listing in the Directory and update employment, contact details, and your photo can be changed.

You received the listing as we currently have it. New members will see a mockup using the information we currently have. You were asked to confirm the listing to be printed as is, or to provide needed revisions. If we are missing information, you were asked to provide it. If you do not reply, we will print what we have. Please reply NOW!

**SIGN UP NOW!**

# ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK!

FRIDAY, JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 GAME TIME

Reserved Box Seats Just \$20 and each comes with a \$10 Bandits Bucks Card for use at concessions, carnival rides, or Bandit's Store Items. Family and Friends are invited to purchase tickets at this great group rate! Do not miss the action and fun of professional baseball, The Bandits vs. The South Bend **CUBS**.



## ~BE THINKING~

Soon president elect Amber Wood will be asking each of us to serve on one or more club committees. Be thinking about all we do, the many projects we undertake each year, fundraising events, and needed club logistics with things such as membership recruitment, new member mentoring, working with Interact and Earlyact, club public relations, social media, the Rotary Foundation, our Club Foundation, and much more. What are interested in? What skills have you not told us about? Be ready to volunteer your talents when Amber asks. Rotary is a Club of community leaders, are you ready to lead? **Get Active in Rotary!**



### Kevin Pitches Birdies for Charity

Feeling brave because he did not make a pitch last week, Kevin was in good form today and started us off with playing a song from the 1930s about Bird Boys, a organization that has been out of existence for at least 90 years! It got our attention and then Kevin made the serious pitch. So far just 9 pledges have been received. We have over 100 members. If your one of the more than 95 members who have not pledged, please consider doing so. It quick and can be as inexpensive as you want it to be. Pledge \$10 or \$20 dollars. Every bit helps. Your entire pledge comes directly to our club plus John Deere adds at least 5% to it and usually even more. The pledge form is page 7.

## QUICK QUIZ! – WHAT BESIDES ABBA, VOLVO, and IKEA COMES FROM SWEDEN?

The Answer: Sara Dackemyr from Norrköping, Sweden

You ask, “Who is Sara Dackemyr”? She is our Rock Island Rotary 2026-27 Rotary Youth Exchange DAUGHTER

It is already May and sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Noa, our current Exchange Daughter after the current school year comes to an end. She will be taking the East Coast Rotary Youth Exchange tour to see much of the heritage of our country. Noa has been a delightful young woman spending the past year with us. She will be greatly missed and hopefully will come back to visit us in the future. Do not pack her bags just yet, we still have a month or more to enjoy her visit with us.

However, it is great to know that her place will be filled later in the summer with the arrival of Sarah. Jeff Dismer is currently speaking with club members about the opportunity to be host parents for her. If you are interested in learning details, contact Jeff at [jdismer@studion483.com](mailto:jdismer@studion483.com).

## FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

After a week off, Julie was back in the saddle assessing fines and soliciting happy dollars to help fill our charitable funds coffers. The fines today were to Jim Moran and Justin Peterson for needing to leave our meeting early. Turning to Happy Dollars, Kathy Trone put in a happy two dollars. One celebrating her son's birthday, and the other for Cherie DeVaux, the first woman to train the winning horse in the history of the Kentucky Derby. Golden Tempo stormed from last place to win it all! Shannin Scott had a happy dollar for sister becoming a licensed Foster parent. That is an incredible service for children in need, and we add our congratulations to her! Julie put in her own happy dollar thanking Wezz DeLaRosa for being present today and taking photos for those who wanted a new one for our 2026-27 Club Directory. Thanks, WEZZ! Bud Phillis a long time "Die Hard" Cub fan explained that he has an ongoing bet with fellow member Frank Lambert, long time "Die Hard" Cardinal fan. The bet is each month during the baseball season, which ever team has the best month, will celebrate by making a \$5 contribution to the Rotary Foundation. The guy with the team with the losing record for the month, pays nothing, but suffers the humiliation of stomaching the loss to their dreaded archrival team! This month Bud paid \$5. Congratulations Cubs! Better luck next month Cardinals. Thanks to both for helping the Rotary Foundation as part of your monthly fun!

## ROTARY NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK!!

**Our first forty tickets are gone!**

**We think we can get more, but if you want tickets, you need to make the decision and sign up soon! The seats are reserved box seats. The cost is \$20 per seat BUT with each seat you get a \$10 Bandits' Card to use for concessions, carnival rides, or game souvenirs. Sign up next week at Rotary or send a return email today! The game is Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

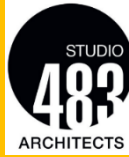
**Save the Date: Installation of our 2026-27 Officers & Directors is scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>**

We will again be doing a Passing the Gavel Ceremony and will have many past presidents of our club going back as far as 1982 planning to attend (that's 44 years ago)! If you are an incoming officer or board member you too need to plan to attend. Mark your calendar. We only do this once each year, so don't miss it.

## OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



In Memory Of  
Fred  
Luckenbill



**THANK YOU!**

# Rock Island Rotary



# MAY

# CALENDAR

# COMING

# NEXT

# WEEK!

Rock Island Rotary

CHARITY SOLICITED FOR

937

BIRD NUMBER



**I PLEDGE TO DONATE:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the charity noted above.  
*(one time, flat donation amount) All pledges due by July 1, 2026.*

**GUESS THE BIRDIES TO WIN A TWO YEAR LEASE ON A 2026 LEXUS!**

I guess that \_\_\_\_\_ birdies will be made.

*Only one grand prize will be awarded.  
Void where prohibited by law. Guesses due to BFC office by July 1.*

BIRDIES SCORED BY YEAR	1,918 (2017)	N/A (2020)	1,929 (2023)
	2,355 (2018)	1,905 (2021)	2,315 (2024)
	2,091 (2019)	2,041 (2022)	2,102 (2025)

**MAKE MORE MAGIC with the BONUS FUND**

YES, I would like to make an additional donation to the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, to help provide the minimum 5% match to all participating charities.

**PLEDGE & DONOR INFORMATION (please print)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE AND/OR EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*By providing an email, you are opting in to email updates from Birdies for Charity.*

Please include payment & make checks payable to:  
**BIRDIES FOR CHARITY**

**WHY BIRDIES FOR CHARITY?**

- Every cent you donate goes directly to your chosen charity!
- We will match your contribution by at least 5%, and up to 10% from our Bonus Fund!
- For your tax records, we are recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization!
- By participating in the contest, YOU have the opportunity to win!

Simply make a one-time flat donation and mail with payment to the Birdies for Charity office at:

**15623 Coaltown Road, East Moline, IL 61244**

OR



BIRDIESFORCHARITY.COM/DONATE

**KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**

I pledged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ one-time donation.

I guessed \_\_\_\_\_ birdies would be made.

Payment was included with pledge

YES \$ \_\_\_\_\_  NO

CASH  CHECK NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**BIRDIES FOR CHARITY**

15623 COALTOWN ROAD

EAST MOLINE, IL 61244

*Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, EIN #93-1332421, doing business as John Deere Classic & Birdies for Charity.*

**Chip in for your chance to win!**

When you chip in to support local charities, you could win big! But the real champs? Your beloved charities! They score 100% of every donation you make through this program, plus a sweet bonus from the Birdies for Charity Bonus Fund, which guarantees a 5% match. Talk about a win-win!

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS**

To enter the contest, guess the number of birdies that will actually be made by PGA TOUR Pros during the tournament, Wednesday through Sunday.



**GRAND PRIZE: 2 YEAR LEASE ON A 2026 LEXUS!**

One lucky supporter of the **SMART LEXUS OF QUAD CITIES** John Deere Classic's Birdies

for Charity program will win a 2 year lease on a 2026 Lexus, courtesy of Smart Lexus of Quad Cities.

**CONTEST RULES**

- Only 1 grand prize awarded. Ties determined by random drawing
- Open to all participants 21 years or older & a U.S. licensed driver
- The grand prize shall only be delivered within or around the Quad Cities metropolitan area
- All guesses must be on an official pledge card & received at the tournament office by July 1.
- No pledge or purchase required. Need not be present to win.
- Winner responsible for all sales taxes, registration fees, license plate fees, & income taxes on all prizes, including local, state, & federal taxes.
- Full list of official rules & details found at [birdiesforcharity.com/about/contest](http://birdiesforcharity.com/about/contest)