

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

June 16, 2026

Volume XXXIII, Issue 50



Jen Osing & Dave Hodge WORLD RELIEF QUAD CITIES

June - July Calendar	
June 23 -	Maria Hannah – AI Primer
June 30 -	John Olinger & Geno DelPreore
July 7 -	2026-27 Installation of Club officers and directors
July 14 -	Noa Smith Youth Exchange Daughter program
July 21 -	U. S. Corps of Engineers
July 28 -	Don Hinton – From Prison to Properties

Jen Osing joined Rock Island Rotary in 2023. She is Executive Director of World Relief, Quad Cities, a position she has held since August of 2023. She joined World Relief in 2016. In the past ten years she has served a Preferred Communities Case Manager, Program Director, and Director of Case Management prior to her appointment as Executive Director. Jen is a graduate of Augustana College with a BA in Biochemistry and French. She earned a Master’s Degree in Public Health-Epidemiology from UTHealth Houston School of Public Health. She is a native of Batavia, Illinois. Jen and husband Tanner, daughter Olivia, and son Theo live in Rock Island. Dave Hodge joined Rotary in 2020 and served on our Board of Directors. A change in jobs caused him to resign his membership in 2025. Dave had a long and successful career with YouthHope prior to joining the staff of World Relief as their Church Mobilizer. World Relief was founded in the aftermath of World War II. It is a global Christian humanitarian organization that partners with local churches and communities to develop sustainable, locally-driven solutions to some of our world's most urgent problems. World Relief have been doing this work for 80 years in more than 100 countries. They provide numerous services to refugees displaced by war, natural disasters, and persecution.

Dave led the discussion starting off by introducing Lewis Cornelio a former client of World Relief and now a member of their staff. Lewis Cornelio, son of Citegetse Ngabonziza and Kabahizi Gafanago, was born in Burundi in 1999. Civil War in Burundi broke out in 1993 and lasted to 2005. The civil war was the result of longstanding ethnic divisions between the Hutu and the Tutsi ethnic groups. Children were widely used by both sides in the war. The estimated death toll stands at 300,000. Millions including Lewis’ family fled the country. He grew up in a refugee camp in Kenya and came to Rockford, IL on July 12, 2017 with his mom, dad, brother and 4 sisters. The family subsequently moved to Rock Island to be closer to other family and friends. He graduated from Rock Island High School. He told us how instrumental World Relief was in making him and his family feel welcome to be in Rock Island. He said of particular help was their youth mentoring program that provided him with a friend who helped him adjust to the customs and culture of the United States. He noted that initially for an immigrant, everything is new. The mentor helped him adjust, feel welcome, and got him to set goals. Lewis’ goals were going to college and serving his new country. He joined the U.S. Army and is currently a Junior at Western Illinois University in addition to his position as a Resettlement Caseworker, Refugee Services Advocate and his commitment to Empowering New Arrivals. His story was truly inspiring.

Dave returned to the rostrum and stated that World Relief’s mission is to help immigrants transition from “Settling” to “Belonging”. The local World Relieve office was established in 1999 based in Moline. In 2024 they added an an office in Davenport and offer services in Illinois and Iowa. World Relieve Quad Cities has resettled over 4,000 refugees and has served 10,000 people total. Dave said that most of the immigrants they serve are coming from various countries in Africa. They are hard-working people, happy to be here, and many have become very successful. Their biggest challenges are learning the language and obtaining physical and mental health support when needed.

See “World Relief” – Continued on page 3

Service Above
Self

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One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



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

Officers

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

Carrie Crossen, Director
Geno DelPreore, Director
Jeff Dismer, Director
Rick Emery, Director
Sarah Gorham, 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 our guests were Scott Shattuck, a guest of wife Molly; and Duncan Cameron, a visiting Rotarian from the Naples, Florida Club. Also with us was Lewis Cornelio a staff member from World Relief who was invited to tell his story as an immigrant who received help from World Relief when as a high school student, he arrived along with his family as immigrants from Africa.
- ★ **SAVE THE DATE!** – The signup sheet made its debut today for **Rotary At The Backwater Gamblers AND family potluck picnic**, Sunday, August 2nd. Rotary will provide fried chicken and beverages for the picnic in the shelter prior to the ski show. Yard and table games will start at 4:15pm and we will eat at 5:15pm. At 6:30 those wanting to see some great entertainment will move to the bleachers on the beach for the 2026 Backwater Gamblers Competition Ski show. Signup next week if you missed it today. We need to know who is coming to determine how much chicken and beverages to prepare.
- ★ **POLIO PLUS SOCIETY MEMBERS** - June 30th is the final date to get your pledged \$100 payment to Sue Rector. If you are not sure if you have paid, contact Sue, srector3614@gmail.com. If your not a Polio Plus Society member, it is not too late! Sue has the forms and will be happy to welcome you into the Society. The commitment is \$100 per year to end polio!
- ★ **DON'T MISS OUR FUN CHICAGO OUTING!** – See the 1st Place White Sox take on the 3rd Place Cubs (as of today) at Wrigley Field. No parking to worry about, no walking miles before and after the game. We'll be dropped off at the door at Wrigley Field and picked up at the door after the game. We'll have \$100 dollar reserved box seats in what undoubtedly will be a "sell out" crowd eager to see America's number 1 crosstown major league baseball rivalry. Tickets are \$159 per person and include the round trip motor coach from the Q.C. Botanical Center to Wrigley Field, comfort stops both ways, and your game ticket. There are just 55 seats on the bus. When they're are gone, they're gone! Picture Perfect Travel is the provider and they are selling to their usual customers too, so sign up NOW at the Sergeant's Table if you want to go! See flier page 7.
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – My therapist said that my narcissism causes me to misread social situations. I'm pretty sure she was hitting on me.
- ★ **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?

JUNE ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Amanda DeLaCruz	June 2	Sarah Gorham	June 14
John Olinger	June 4	Jeff Dismer	June 15
Mike Oberhaus	June 7	John Wetzel	June 16
Pete Wessels	June 10	Justin Peterson	June 20
Linda Golden	June 11	Erin Williams	June 28

World Relief – continued from Page 1

A newly established World Relief program called the “Good Neighbor Program” has had remarkable success by getting churches to “adopt” a refugee or refugee family. Members of the church volunteer to help their adopted refugee in whatever way is needed including obtaining driver’s licenses and other essential services needed to survive in our society.

Jen was on hand as the principal resource for answering questions. She noted that federal funding has been cut back and they now rely primarily on donations, grants, and State funding. Asked if they are seeing racial discrimination in which immigrants are allowed to come to the United States, both Jen and Dave said they are not. Jen said most of the immigrants they serve came from Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. Asked what other resettlement services are available nearby, Jen said World Relief has an office in Chicago and two in suburbs of Chicago. She said the only other relatively close office serving immigrants is in Iowa City where The Iowa City Catholic Worker, and the IRC (International Refugee Committee) have offices. Asked how it is decided where immigrants will be placed, Jen said there are nine resettlement offices across the country that make those decisions. If the immigrant has family or friends in the United States their case is referred to the settlement office service that is serving that area and they are placed as close as possible to family and friends. For those that have no family or friend in the United States their cases are apportioned among the nine offices for placement.

What Must I Do to Get Your Pledge?

I have put on a chicken suit, dressed as a Leprechaun, put my face on a golf ball, wore a suit and tie, play you music every week, and now wear a pumpkin hat! What more can I do? We set a goal of thirty-eight donors out of our 103 members. As of today, we are well on our way with thirty-one donors, but there is JUST ONE WEEK TO GO! If you are one of the seventy-two members who have not pledged, please consider doing so. It is quick and as inexpensive as you want! Pledge \$10 or \$20 dollars. Every bit helps. Your pledge comes directly to our club for our Club Foundation, and the John Deere Charitable Foundation adds a bonus.

As further encouragement Kevin continued his march through the greatest hits of “Bird Songs”, today yielding to club member request, he played “The Bird Is The Word” as it is commonly called, although Kevin’s research revealed the actual title of the 1963 hit by the Trashmen was “Surfin’ Bird”. He indicated today might be the final playing of these immortal bird musical compositions. That was met with scattered applause!

You can use the **pledge form on page six** or, if you are pressed for time, just email Kevin, Kevinkoski3@gmail.com and tell him what you want to pledge. He will do the paperwork! You pay later when you receive an invoice for your pledged amount.



FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

There were no fines levied today! That could mean watch out next week!! Gary Rowe had two happy dollars, one for recalling that fellow member John Phillips was a previous “Give Thanks”. Rock Island Community Foundation winner. His second dollar was for this year’s Mary Fislar Scholarship winner, LaRayah Carroll, who also was announced as winner of the NAACP Scholarship. Ruth Lee and John Oliger both had happy dollars for the New York Knicks who won the 2026 NBA championship, ending their 53-year drought. Geno DelPreore had a happy dollar noting that his oldest daughter was hired as Assistant Director of Shakespear In the Park for Central Park this summer, a rare honor for a junior in college! Congratulations!! Kathy Trone had a happy dollar celebrating her 14 year old granddaughter landing and starting her first ever job. Holly Sparkman had a happy dollar for Kai Swanson who handled her introduction on a very recent Sunday Morning Conversation program aired on WVIK radio. Kai reported that it was replayed today! If Holly was being interviewed, we are sure it was an outstanding program! Finally Kai had his own happy dollar celebrating his recent return from The Presidents Alumni Tour of Scandinavia. The group toured various locations in Sweden and Norway. Kai reported that one of locations visited was Rättvik, Norway. As he registered in the hotel he saw a banner reading “Rättvik Rotary Club Meets Here”. Like Chickenman, Rotary, “Is Everywhere”, “Is Everywhere”! Thanks to everyone who shared their news!

Rotary International Foundation Raffle

Today our drawing offered three prizes; cash, a fabric bowl, and a bottle of fine Merlot. Liz Aguilar pulled the winning tickets. The first number called was held by Bill Stengel who took the cash and donated it to the Polio Plus campaign. The second ticket was held by Pete Wessels who took the bowl. For the final winner, Liz made her mother, Ruth Lee, happy and she took home the Merlot wine! Thanks to all who participated! Proceeds go to support the Rotary International



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary International District 9112 has raised \$13,000 through its PolioPlus program under the “World’s Greatest Meal” initiative to support the eradication of polio in Nigeria and across the world. Speaking during the handover of the funds yesterday in Lagos, the District Governor, Lanre Adedoyin, said the fundraising campaign was driven by Rotary’s long-standing mission to eliminate polio, which remains the organization’s foremost external priority. He noted that although Nigeria was declared free of wild poliovirus on August 20, 2020, the disease remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan, making sustained global vigilance necessary. Adedoyin stressed that no country is completely insulated from the threat of polio in an increasingly interconnected world, adding that international travel could aid the spread of infectious diseases. The district governor explained that proceeds from the initiative would be channeled directly to the PolioPlus Fund of the Rotary Foundation to support vaccine procurement, public awareness campaigns and the acquisition of medical equipment needed to combat the disease. He added that Rotary’s PolioPlus program has played a leading role in the global fight against polio, helping to reduce cases worldwide by more than 99 percent through immunization campaigns and strategic partnerships. Adedoyin urged Rotarians and partners to continue supporting the Rotary Foundation through donations and advocacy, expressing confidence that the world is closer than ever to achieving a polio-free future. “It is one of the highest donations that we have seen so far in District 9112. The \$13,000 contribution was generated through the World’s Greatest Meal initiative for the Rotary Foundation,” he said.

GREETERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS.

Greeting is a simple and rewarding opportunity. It is a terrific way to serve our club and make members and guests feel welcome when they attend. It is a fantastic way to get to know fellow members and make new friends. New members are strongly encouraged to volunteer to greet as soon as you can. It is the easiest way for you to meet fellow members, and we can get to know you! Volunteer at the Sergeant’s table.



Why Not You!

Our Incoming President is in Taipei, Taiwan at the 2026 Rotary International Convention

Did you know that there are 37,000 fellow Rotarian Conventioneers with her? She is seeing sights and attending meetings that previously she could not even comprehend! The Convention will be in Chicago in 2030 to celebrate Rotary’s 125th year where it started. Mark your calendar and be a part of the Greatest Service Show on Earth!



OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



In Memory Of
Fred Luckenbill



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island



Rock Island Rotary Rock Island Rotary



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Great Program Frank Lambert and committee! What an honor to support great organizations doing great work.	3	4 4-6 pm RI Library Summer Reading Program kick-off at the Botanical Center	5 Rotary Night at the River Bandits. Come watch Amber Wood throw out the 1 st pitch!	6
7	8	9 Noon Meeting Jeff Adamson – Little known RI history	10	11	12	13
14	15 Rotary Board Meeting Noon Studio 483 Conference Room	16 Noon Meeting Jen Osing World Relief	17	18	19	20
21 Happy Father's Day	22	23 Noon Meeting Maria Hannah Al Primer	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Noon Meeting President John Olinger's final mtg as President	Save the date July 7 Installation of Club Officers and Directors & kick-off President Amber Wood's year And July 14 Exchange daughter, Noa Smith	Save the Date – August 2 – Backwater Gamblers and Family Potluck Picnic	Support the RI Rotary Club Foundation through Birdies for Charity	Save the date for the End Polio Now District Walk on Oct. 24

Programs: **Tom Hammar** Invocations: TBD

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 **LEXUS 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



VS



AT



DELUXE MOTOR COACH OUTING Presented by
PICTURE PERFECT TRAVEL and **ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB**



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19th 1:20 Game Time

Leaving from the Quad City Botanical Center

7:30am Departure

Reserved Box Seats

Full view of Score and Video Boards!



DON'T MISS THE FUN! - CROSS TOWN RIVARLY!

**\$159* PER PERSON INCLUDES MOTORCOACH TO WRIGLEY FIELD,
RESERVED BOX SEAT AND RETURN TO ROCK ISLAND**

***\$100 Payable to Picture Perfect Travel due upon reservation
Balance of \$59 due on or before, August 1st. 50 Seats – First Come!**

SIGN UP AT SERGEANT AT ARMS TABLE