

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

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

June 2, 2026
Volume XXXIII, Issue 48

R.I. Rotary COMMUNITY GRANTS! Second and Final Round of Grants for 2025-26 Announced

Our Club’s Community Grants Committee under the leadership of Frank Lambert administers Club Grants up to \$2,000 supporting area organizations and project that benefit those in need. An explanation of the program and a link to our application form is available on our Club website. The committee meets periodically to review grant requests and determines which of the many requests submitted will receive our funding. The current practice is to make grant presentations twice each year, once midway through the Rotary year and once near the end of each year. Recipients are invited to be our guest at a club meeting and are asked to tell us about their organization/project and how they intend to use our funds. Funds for Community Grants are established each year by our Board of Directors as part of our Club’s annual budget and come from our fundraising projects and sponsorships. Unfortunately the need is often greater than the funds available. We thank Chairman Lambert and our committee for their dedicated hard work. Community grants are different than our annual Club Foundation Grant that typically awards one or two larger grants and are limited to projects that benefit Rock Island and its citizens. Those funds are generated through the earnings of our endowed Rock Island Rotary Club. Community Grants allow us to assist an impact a larger number of worthy area projects and service organizations. Today Rotary present grants to five successful applicants.

June - July Calendar

- June 9 - Jeff Adamson – Little known R. I. History
- June 16 - World Relief – Jen Osing
- June 23 - Maria Hannah – Al 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



The first grant was presented to SAL Services and Lauren Gantt their Development Director was on hand to accept the check. Lauren said the funds will be used in the SAL Skip Along Daycare Center in Rock Island. She noted that Skip Along began 56 years ago in a church basement in East Moline. It has since grown and flourished into multiple sites throughout the area providing an array of services to families and children in need. Our grant will be specifically used to provide educational supplies for children attending the Rock Island Skip Along Daycare Center. This grant was for \$1,500.00. Lauren is pictured with Club President John Olinger and Grant’s Chairman, Frank Lambert.

Receiving our second grant was the New Kingdom Trail Riders based in Sherrard, Illinois. Representing the organization were Hannah Kress and Dan McNeil. Hanna, the horse and property lead for the organization spoke telling us that the riders provide therapeutic riding programs for persons with physical, mental, and/or social challenges.

See “Grants” – Continued on page 3

Service Above
Self

FOLLOW US!

Webpage www.rirotary.com

facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>
Follow R. I. High Interact at 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

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** – Many guests were named in our lead story, but others included Lillian and Leila Peterson, guests their dad, Justin Peterson. We had four visiting Rotarians including Duncan Cameron from Naples, Florida Rotary Club, and Gary Granque, Mark Carlson, and Peter Harrison from the Moline Rotary Club. We love to welcome guests each week!
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.
- ★ **HUGE THANKS** – To Wezz, owner of Wezz DeLaRosa Photography for bringing his lights, back drop, camera, and photography skills to our meeting today for the second and final session of complimentary photos for any member wanting a professional portrait for our 2026-27 Club Directory! Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!
- ★ **COMMITTEE SIGNUP FOR 2026-27** – Every member should have received an email on Sunday asking you to follow a link and open a committee preference questionnaire. Incoming President Amber Wood is asking everyone to select two committee options and return your preference to her no later than June 7th. That that do not return their preferences will be assigned where help is needed. We would prefer to honor your wishes and place you where your primary interests lie, but in lieu of knowing your wishes, you will be given a committee assignment. Preferences will be honored as best as possible. The size of committees varies depending on need.
- ★ **RIVER BANDITS GAME!** – Tickets for our Rotary Night at the Ball Park River Bandits this coming Friday were distributed to those who had ordered at today's meeting. If you ordered tickets and did not pick them up today, your tickets will be left at the "Will Call" ticket window at Modern Woodmen Stadium. Anyone who ordered tickets and has not yet paid, payment is now due. Please make payment to "Rock Island Rotary". Tickets are \$20 per seat. The game Friday night is a "Double Header"! Each game will be 7 innings. Gates open at 4:45 and the first game begins at 5:30. Arrive early to see our President Elect, Amber Wood, throw out the first pitch! Stay late for an incredible fireworks display!
- ★ **SAVE THE DATE!** – **Rotary At The Backwater Gamblers AND family potluck picnic**, Sunday, August 2nd. 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.

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

Grants – Continued from page 1

They are the Quad Cities only PATH accredited facility offering Therapeutic Horseback Riding lessons to riders as young as four years old. Founded in 1984, New Kingdom Trail Riders is a non-profit Therapeutic Horseback Riding Facility positively impacting the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of their riders. Their mission is to empower individuals of all ages and abilities to reach their full potential through equine assisted activities. Our grant will be used to construct a lean-to in their pasture, so horses have a place to get out of the weather when the need arises. Pictured are President Olinger, Hannah Kress, and Frank Lambert. This grant was in the amount of \$1,700.00.



Our third grant was presented to the Nahant Marsh Education Center represented at our meeting by Liz Schramm and Brian Ritter. Brian spoke for the organization telling us that the Nahant Marsh Center was established in 2000 on seventy acres of formerly lead contaminated marsh land. Now the land has been scrubbed and the center expanded to a 382-acre preserve with the mission of protecting, enhancing, and restoring the Marsh through education, research, and conservation. With a grant from the National Science Foundation, vital research is conducted on site. Our grant of \$2,000 will be used to provide free education programs for children. Last year more than 1,000 kids were able to attend programs with no charge.

The fifth grant presented today went to the Earl Hanson Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), one of our fellow members Brooke Spauldins, is active in that organization and represented the group. Brooke told us that the Earl Hanson PTO previously hosted an annual Culture Night where students and their parents had an opportunity to display their native culture through clothing, items, and food, and had the opportunity to experience other cultures displayed by fellow students and their families. In the past food and supplies for the event were obtained free through the area food bank, however now there is a charge for the items. Many immigrant families lack the funds needed and the event was in jeopardy. Our grant of \$1,325 will be used to cover the costs and allow the event to again be held. Rotary is happy to help!



Our final grant for 2025-26 was presented to the Two Rivers Methodist Church of Rock Island for their weekly meal site. Church member and meal site organizer Dick Lee spoke for the Church. Their meal site was established 22 years ago with volunteers organizing, cooking, and serving a weekly noon hot meal available free to anyone in need. Every Saturday since meals been served. Each person who was given a bag to take home stocked with fresh vegetables, produce, and fruits. Those items previously were provided by the local food bank, but that program no longer exists. Now the church is faced with the costs of the meal PLUS the expense of providing the take-home nutritional items. The Church believes having healthful food at home is critical for the health and wellbeing of their food site patrons and their families. Our grant of \$1,500 will help ensure that the take home grocery program continues.

This second round of grants completes our Community Grants Committee's work for the current Rotary year. Today's grants bring the total giving of our club through the Community Grants program to over \$15,000 for the year! We thank chairman Frank Lambert and all who served on the committee for their diligent work screening and selecting the recipients of our grants. Our club and our community appreciate what you do!

Kevin Says, I'm Waiting For Your Pledge!

Birdies Chairman Kevin Koski struck again today with "Music for the Birds"! We heard "The Tennessee Bird Walk" an 1970's recording by Jack Blanchard and Misty Morgan. Amazingly the song hit the top of the country charts, did well on the pop charts, and even garnered a Grammy nomination! Kevin reported twenty-four pledges have been received on our way to a goal of 38. We have over 103 members. If your one of the 79 members who have not pledged, please consider doing so. It is quick and can be as inexpensive as you want it to be. Pledge \$10 or \$20 dollars. Every bit helps. Your pledge comes directly to our club plus a John Deere bonus.



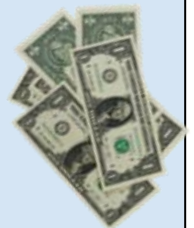
FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

The tradition welcome for our second vice-president got Julie off to a aggressive start today, open with a request for Happy/Sad Dollars. Member were happy to respond with =Kevin Koski leading the way with a happy dollar for his travelling to Indianapolis last weekend to witness his grandson and teammates win the Indiana State Championship in LaCrosse. John Phillips followed with a happy dollar for the White Sox having a brief advantage over the Cubs in major league baseball. Rick Devinney had a happy dollar for daughter recently passing her CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) exam. No doubt, she'll be a great one! Frank Lambert was happy to report that the Cardinals had a better winning percentage in May than the Cubs, which in his bet with Bud Phillis, meant Frank contributed \$5 to our charity fines. Monta Ponsetto pointed out that the Cubs played more games in May than the Cardinals and also fessed up to not having her club name badge. She paid \$5 into the fine box. Amber Wood had a happy dollor for a very successful Empowering Abilities Golf fundraiser this past weekend. She also had a sad dollar reporting that the father of her soon to be husband, Lucian Bradley, passed away last week. Our sympathy and best wishes to Lucian and his family. Mark Carlson, one of our Moline Rotary guests joined the fun with a happy dollar for adopting a new puppy this past weekend. Angela Campbell had a happy dollor for the kick of the Library's Summer Reading Program this weekend. Our Club will be participating in Thursday's kickoff event here at the Botanical Center. Gene DelPreore had a happy dollor for his son "Geno" being invited to participate in a scientific investigation attempting to identify some here to for unrecognized dinasour bones. He is the only freshmen invited to join this all "senior" project at Penn State. If he discovers the bones are from a previously unknown dinosaur he plans to name it "Genosauris"!

Rotary International Foundation Raffle



Today's raffle featured a bottle of fine Merlot wine and a 50/50 cash drawing. The Peterson girls pulled the winning tickets. Taking home the cash was Dr. Bud Phillis. The second winner taking home the dark red wine was Geno DelPreore. Congratulations to our winners. Thanks to all who purchased chances! Proceeds from the Foundation Raffle go to support the work of the Rotary International Foundation!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Foundation and Memorial Day share a foundational connection through their commitment to service, with local clubs across the country actively honoring fallen veterans. Throughout the holiday weekend, Rotarians lead and participate in community tribute events, flag-placement ceremonies, and memorial services to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Quick Facts on Memorial Day.

- Originally called "Decoration Day" from the directive to decorate the graves of soldiers with flowers, wreaths and American flags.
- First widely observed May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, By proclamation of General John A Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic.
- First state to designate Memorial Day as a legal holiday was New York in 1873.
- After WWI it became an occasion for honoring those who died in all America's wars.
- At the first national commemoration, former Union General and sitting Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.
- In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that the day be observed on the last Monday of May.
- You can make a commemorative gift to The Rotary Foundation in the name of a fallen soldier, veteran, or loved one. These funds support Rotary's global service projects, providing a lasting legacy of peace and humanitarian aid.

WE ARE AN “EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR” AWARD WINNING CLUB!



EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

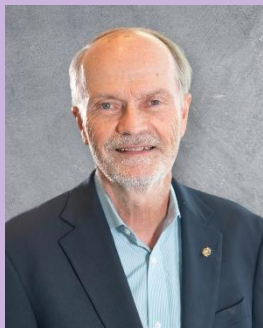
DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD



The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and around the globe. By giving to the Annual Fund, you make these life-changing projects possible so that together, we can remain dedicated to doing good for years to come.

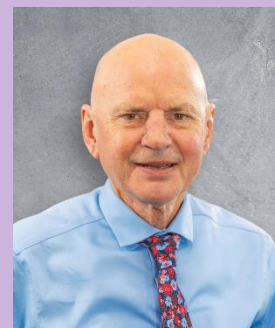
GIVE TODAY: rotary.org/donate

TWO MEMBERS HONORED TODAY



John Phillips

Long time International Foundation Committee Chairman and a current member of the committee present Paul Harris Awards to John Phillips and Pete Wessels. John was recognized a Paul Harris +1 Donor and presented with a Paul Harris lapel Pin with one blue sapphire stone. John received the honor for passing the \$2,000 mark in donations to the Rotary International Foundation. Pete was recognized as a Paul Harris +4 Donor he received a Paul Harris lapel Pin with four sapphires indicating he has now passed the \$5,000 level in donations to the Rotary International Foundation. Rock Island Rotary is proud of John and Pete for their strong, generous, and long-time dedication to the Rotary International Foundation!



Pete Wessels

HELP A SISTER CLUB!

Today we welcomed three fellow Rotarians from the Moline Rotary Club. Did you know our club and the Moline Club were both established in 1914 and both were sponsored by the Davenport Club which at the time was the only Rotary Club in the area. We received our charter a few months prior to Moline, making us "The Number One Club" in the Illinois Quad Cities and also makes the Moline Club a fully grown up, vibrant, little sister! So, let's help them out with their **Bourbon Gift Basket Raffle!** Here is the information needed to participate:

FUNDRAISER

BOURBON

GIFT BASKET

RAFFLE

Moline
Rotary
Club

Red Ticket

- Kentucky Owl Takumi Edition
- Weller Special Reserve
- Basil Hayden Dark Rye
- Cody Road (Custom Rotary Label)
- Yellowstone Select

White Ticket

- Blanton's Single Barrel
- E.H. Taylor Small Batch
- Buffalo Trace
- Redwood Empire Emerald Giant
- Cody Road (Custom Rotary Label)

Blue Ticket

- Blanton's Single Barrel
- WhistlePig PiggyBack
- Angel's Envy
- Isaac Bowman Port Barrel Finished
- Eagle Rare 10 Year

\$10 each or 3 for \$25 | 3 chances to win

Drawing to be held
June 15, 2026
during our regular
lunch meeting.

Moline Rotary meets every Monday at
Trinity Lutheran Church
1330 13th Street | Moline, IL 61265

*Must be 21 or older. Only 1000 tickets available. Winners Need Not Be Present
All proceeds will go to the Moline Rotary Foundation 501(c)(3)

For tickets – Email Gary Franque g.franque@mchsi.com

OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



**In Memory Of
Fred
Luckenbill**



Edward Jones
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 Oliger'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: Peter Galbraith

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



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