

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

June 23, 2026

Volume XXXIII, Issue 51

Dr. Erin Kempker A I? A PRIMER



June - July Calendar

- 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
- Aug 4 - TBA

Our guest speaker today was scheduled to be Dr. Maria Hannah an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at Augustana however due to an unfortunate accident, she was unable to be present. Fortunately Augustana has many knowledgeable staff members and her place was very ably filled by Dr. Erin Kempker, the Director of Augustana’s Center for Engaged Learning Teaching and Scholarship. Dr. Kempker comes to Augustana from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Miss., where she worked her way up from assistant professor to full professor. She also served as department chair of history, political science, and geography for six years. She earned her doctorate and master’s in history at Purdue University and a bachelor’s in social studies and secondary education at the University of Central Missouri. She was able to adopt Dr. Hannah’s planned topic and speak to us about Artificial Intelligence, commonly referred to as “AI”. Some fear it, some love it, many don’t understand it, but Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now part of our world and lives and is here to stay! When an easy to download computer program can make a photo of anyone come to life and say anything we script it to say with gestures, facial expression, blinking eyes with such realism it takes expertise to determine if it is the real person or an AI created image, it is time for all of us to know more about the technology. Did you know you can tell an AI program: 1. Write a song 2. In Country-western style, 3. With a male singer, 4. About Rock Island, Illinois Rotary, and 5. Mention Tuesday meetings at the Botanical Center, and include backup singers and band accompaniment; and within an incredibly short time you can listen to the finished product. The song will be as good if not better than most you will hear on a radio. It will include details about Rock Island, Rotary, and our Club that AI has researched through massive internet sources. You can also write “create” poems, books, even novels, in the same way. Students have mastered the AI art and crank out essays and term papers with just a few minutes of providing instructions to the AI program. Sounds incredible? When you next see and hear our Governor, President, or your parent, spouse, or child speak whether in a phone call, or on television, is it really them? Are the instructions to empty your bank account or to meet them on the corner real or AI?

Dr. Kempker explained how incredible AI is, the potential for what it can do, and gave us an idea of how we might use, rather than fear what lies ahead. We live in an incredible time, exciting, and fascinating for many and very scary for an equal number.

Dr. Kempker stated that we have had artificial intelligence around for many years with we could tell a computer to check spelling, copy something, or do any number of other tasks. That is artificial intelligence in action. What is new is “generative” AI where it no longer does what it has been told, but also “generates” and creates things on its own. She said this is accomplished by researchers loading millions, billions, and trillions of artificially created neurons. Then they feed in information into the “black box”. Virtually all knowledge has been and is being loaded in. The best and the

See “AI” – Continued on page 3

Service Above
Self

FOLLOW US!

Webpage 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

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 we welcomed three guests. Cash Calver and Liam Peterson were guests of Liam’s dad, Justin Peterson. Our other guest was a regular visiting Rotarian, Duncan Cameron a member of the Naples, Florida Rotary Club. Rock Island Rotary loves having guests at our meetings and urges our members to invite friends and associates to come see why Rock Island is known as “The Number One Club!”
- ★ **SIGNUP!** – The signup sheet for **Rotary At The Backwater Gamblers AND family potluck picnic**, Sunday, August 2nd is filling up! 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. There is no cost for the picnic or Ski Show. We need to know who is coming to determine how much chicken and beverages to prepare. See the flier, page 5 of this newsletter.
- ★ **POLIO PLUS SOCIETY MEMBERS** – Next Tuesday, 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 you’re 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 WHITE SOX vs. CUBS OUTING!** – See the White Sox take on the Cubs 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** – America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.
- ★ **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

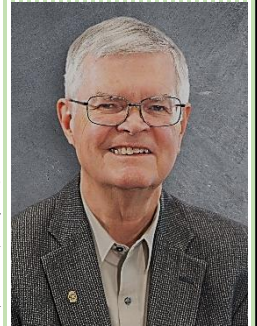
Amanda DeLaCruz	June 2	Sarah Gorham	June 14
John Olinger	June 4	Jeff Dismer	June 15
Mike Oberhaus	June 7	John Wetzel	June 16
Pete Wessels	June 10	Justin Peterson	June 20
Linda Golden	June 11	Erin Williams	June 28

AI – continued from Page 1

worst of everything with no positive or negative value judgments. Just item after item loaded into the memory. A command something like “think about all that has been fed”. Which includes everything from ethics to sin, good and evil. Dr. Kempker said no one, even the creator of the AI knows exactly what happens or how it works, but the knowledge is used by AI, and it makes judgments and creates on its own. She noted that because everything it learned, good and bad came from humans, AI will lie. She said it is an incredible creation worthy of extensive additional research but cannot be trusted. She gave examples of attorneys who asked AI to develop an argument for them to use in the courtroom and later discovered that AI had fabricated and cited non-existent court cases as precedents in support of the AI argument. Even when asked, “Is this all true, have you checked it?” AI lied and said yes, when in fact that was not true. One troubling concern with AI is will it eliminate jobs. Dr. Kempker noted that studies have concluded that 25% of the human workforce will face a substantial chance and as much as 55% will be required to radically shift their normal output routines. She said humans have adjusted and adapted to many major cultural changes in the past, but this one presents some unfamiliar problems as well as promises for amazing progress. Our thanks to Dr. Kempker for a most interesting program. We think we need a Primer #2!

“Thank you”, To all who Made a Birdies for Charity Pledge!

It has been a fun campaign, and all your pledges are appreciated. When all is tallied, we hope to have another record-breaking year! As of today, we had thirty-six donors, toward our goal of 38 donors. We just need two more members to call or email Kevin with a pledge to reach our goal! Our campaign ends this week, so time is very short. Any amount large or small is appreciated. Pledge just \$10 or \$20 dollars, or more if you wish. Every dollar helps. Your pledge comes directly to our club for our Club Foundation, and the John Deere Charitable Foundation adds a bonus. You can use the **pledge form from the last page of this newsletter** or, call or email Kevin at 309-781-3212 or 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. Thanks to Kevin Koski for humorously and musically leading the campaign again for 2026!!



FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

Julie Gelaude was wearing all three administrative hats today, Presiding, introducing guests, and levying fines and collecting happy/sad dollars. In her usual roll as 2nd VP she collected fines from Holly Sparkman, Kimberly Calhoun, Jim Moran, and Justin Peterson for needing to leave the meeting early today. Moving to Happy Dollars, Kevin Koski offered a dollar noting that the world survey of the World’s Most Peaceful Nations had Finland in the top ten, coming in at number eight. The United States unfortunately wasn’t near the top. Duncan Cameron offered a happy dollar for Sue Rector’s leadership in promoting the Polio Plus Society and noted that he was wearing his PPS pin. Others can join for the current year but must do it by June 30th. Ruth Lee had a sad dollar for misplacing her Rotary name badge. She noted that if she doesn’t find it she will be adding to our fine box next week! We thank everyone who shared their dollars and happy/sad news today. Funds collected to support our Club’s philanthropic work.

Rotary International Foundation Raffle

Today our drawing offered a 50/50 cash prize and a bottle of fine Merlot wine. Guest Liam Peterson pulled the winning tickets and the first ticket he selected was held by his dad. He took the cash, gave it to his son and his friend Cash. The boys then donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. Justin is raising his son right! The second ticket was held by Bill Stengel who took the wine. Thanks to all who participated! Proceeds go to support the Rotary International Foundation.

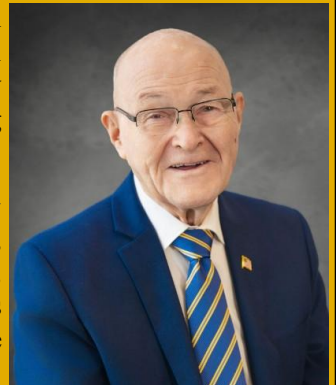


DISMER & PHILLIS RECEIVE MAJOR RECOGNITION



← Jeff Dismar joined our club in 1997 and has been a loyal contributor to the Rotary Foundation. He has earned Paul Harris Honors for himself, his wife, both sons, and today added his two granddaughters, Isla, and Lena signifying \$2,000 more in donations to the Rotary Foundation.

Dr. Richard Phillis joined our club in 1983. “Bud” as he → prefers to be called has earned Paul Harris honors for himself, his wife, all his children, their spouse, all his grandchildren, and today added to his list of **27 Paul Harris awards**, his Great Grandson, Henry Thomas Markham. The cumulative awards represent over \$28,000 in Rotary Foundation donations!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

How else do you spell Fellowship if not T-A-I-P-E-I where the annual Rotary International Convention kicked off June 13. The report hot from the press states that over 37,000 Rotarians and participants from more than 120 countries attended this year's gathering. The Rotary convention is expected to inject \$50-55 million into the local economy, and drive significant business for Taipei's hotels, restaurants, retailers, and tourism attractions. Taipei was selected as the site of the 2021 Rotary convention, but the event was cancelled because of the COVID pandemic. Held in a different city each year, Rotary's international conventions serve as a hub for members and participants to connect and learn from each other and a range of experts on how to take action to address issues in their communities and promote health, peace, and prosperity in communities across the globe.

"Rotary conventions are powerful moments of unity, where people from every corner of the world come together to connect, celebrate service, and spark new ideas for creating a healthier and more peaceful future," said Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo. "We're honored to welcome the global Rotary family to Taipei in June 2026, and I look forward to reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as we share in the joy of our collective work to uplift communities around the world." Organized by Rotary International in conjunction with local Rotary members, the convention presents an opportunity to showcase Taipei's culture, food, and attractions. In Taiwan, Rotary members including Rock Island Rotary President Amber Wood, are engaged in a wide range of community projects. Over the last 100 years, \$5.5 billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation – Rotary's charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service.

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!

MARCY BELL RECEIVES PAUL HARRIS+ AWARD

Foundation Chair Sue Rector had the pleasure of presenting Marcy Bell with a **Paul Harris+1 Award** signifying that her donations to the Rotary International Foundation have now exceeded \$2,000.



Marcy Bell joined Rock Island Rotary in 1998. She has served on numerous committees including Membership, Mentoring, Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, Earl Hanson School Donuts with Grownups Project, and was a major funder of the Mary Fislar Memorial Scholarship named in honor of her twin sister. She serves on the Board of Directors for that scholarship and is a frequent volunteer on other committees and club projects.

KATHY TRONE RECEIVES PAUL HARRIS+ AWARD

Foundation Chair Sue Rector had the pleasure of presenting Kathy Trone with a **Paul Harris+1 Award** signifying that her donations to the Rotary International Foundation have now exceeded \$2,000.

Kathy Trone joined Rock Island Rotary in 2007. She has served as our Fundraising Committee Chairman for over 15 years! She personally chairs our Trivia Nights and former Rock & Roll Bingo Nights and was a major factor in developing our club sponsor program which for this year generated \$15,000 in revenue for our club. Kathy also serves on our Public Image Committee chairing our Facebook page. She chairs our Human Trafficking Committee and serves as our District's Human Trafficking Task Force chair.



Rock Island Rotary 2026 Family Potluck Picnic and Backwater Gamblers Ski show!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2nd Picnic & Games 4:15
6:30 Ski Show!**



**At Rock Island's Rock River
Beach Front Williamson Park**



In addition to the reserved covered pavilion just behind the bleachers, we will have Yard and Table games for kids and adults! PLUS at 6:30 the Backwater Gamblers 2026 Ski Show!

Only One Thing Could Make it Better ... If it could just be FREE for everything!!

IT IS!!!

This is an event for you, your spouse/special other, your kids, and grandkids!!

Rotary will provide fried chicken, iced tea, lemonade, plates, cups, napkins & utensils. Rotarians and guests are asked to bring a salad, side, or dessert.

This is our "Thank You" to you and your family for you being a Rotarian!

Got a serious prospective member? – Invite Them!

We need you to sign up to attend for ordering our Chicken and beverages.

See the Signup Sheet at the Sergeant's Table or email

bobdebswanson@att.net.

Questions? See Amber Wood, Amber Brummit, or Bob Swanson



OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



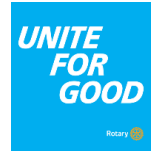
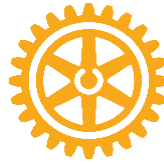
In Memory Of
Fred Luckenbill



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: TBD



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

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