

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

July 14, 2026

Volume XXXIV, Issue 2

Noa Our 2025-26 Rotary Youth Exchange Daughter



July - August Calendar

- July 21 - Dr. Norm Moline - China
- July 28 - Don Hinton – From Prison to Properties
- Aug 4 - Lori Roderick of the new Otium Ceramics Studio
- Aug 11 - Ashleigh Johnston - Quad Cities International Airport “What’s New!”
- Aug 18 - Ashley Burroughs - Bev's Yarn Barn, Rock Island
- Aug 25 - Meet our new District Governor – Tina Curtis

Noa arrived at Quad City International Airport on Thursday, August 14, 2025, after the long trip from her home and parents Misaki & Lloyd Smith, in Saihaku District, Tottori, Japan. From her home Noa has a clear view of snowcapped Mt. Daisen and describes her home as, “A countryside community with only twenty-nine houses and most of the people in the village are elderly. Because it is a small community, we all know each other and sometimes share fruits and vegetables. It is a farming community about 25km from town.” The climate in Saihaku district, Tottori, Japan is humid subtropical, with abundant precipitation. The average yearly temperature is 58.35° Fahrenheit. Winter months are characterized by chilly conditions, with temperatures dipping to eight degrees Fahrenheit but their average is around forty-one degrees Fahrenheit. That is why she was “always cold” during our recent winter. Although the area is described as humid and subtropical, Japan’s only desert is also located in Tottori, known as the Tottori Sand Dunes. She lives in a subtropical area with abundant rain (48% of the days each year) and yet it is just a short drive from a desert and in the other direction, a beautiful snow-covered mountain. In Japan Noa travels about 20 minutes to school each day and sometimes takes the train. In a Japanese school she studies thirteen subjects including English communication, Logical expression, Physics, Biology, Modern Japanese, Japanese Language Culture, Public, History, Mathematics 1, Mathematics A, Health, and Physical Education. Noa likes to bake “sweets” and read books. She enjoys watching movies with her family. At school she is active in the English and Photo clubs. She also enjoys skiing, camping, and climbing. She studied ballet for many years and has performed in several local musicals. She says she loves nature and animals and hopes to attend a university with a strong program in environmental studies or biology. She began her program by thanking our Club for welcoming her and making her feel so at home. She praised her two host families, Tom & Sue Hammar and John & Julie Oliger and added Molly & Scott Shattuck and their kids Brady, Nora, and Trevor who all made her feel like a real daughter and member of their family. Using a slide presentation, she showed pictures of her home in Japan, her mother and father and her rabbit. She said that school here was quite different than in Japan. They go there for 11 months and have one month off. The school day is much longer, starting at 7:30am and ending around 5:00pm. She said going home at 2pm here was “great”. She spent two and one-half months with the Hammars, with much of that time spent with the Shattucks and their three kids (the Hammar’s grandchildren). Noa said the kids were great fun. She spent the rest of her year with the Oligers who have seven kids, but all are older than Noa and except for one, have all moved out of the home. Then Noa talked about the experiences that stood out in her memory. Her Alleman High School highlights included the Dance Marathon. They have nothing like that in Japan. She said they danced all night raising money for children with cancer. She noted that schools in Japan do not do fundraising for charities. She noted that they also do not hire custodians, and the students are required to clean the building on a regular basis. Another memorial event was a Halloween Party. She said there were sixty kids there all in costume. She thought it was tons of fun and a custom not celebrated in Japan.

Continued Page 3 – “Noa”

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

Amber Wood, President
Julie Gelaude, President Elect
Forrest Meyer, Pres. Designate
Angela Campbell, Secretary
Molly Shattuck, Treasurer
John Olinger, Past President
Frank Lambert, Sgt at Arms
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

Directors

Geno DelPreore, Director
Jeff Dismar, Director
Kate Mapes, Director
Robbie McIntyre, Director
Steve Morenz, Director
Jim Nordquist, Director
Sue Rector, Director
Katie Resig, Director

Program Chair 2026-27

Rebecca Arnold

Presenters

July:	Tom Hammar
August:	Erin Williams
September:	TBA
October:	TBA
November:	TBA
December:	TBA
January:	TBA
February:	TBA
March:	TAB
April:	TBA
May:	TBA
June:	TBA

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – We had four guests today. Visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron was with us from the Naples, Florida Club. Tom Hammar had two guests, his wife Sue Hammar and granddaughter Nora Shattuck. John Olinger had an important guest, his wife Julie Olinger. All were there to hear Noa's program. Tom & Sue and John & Julie were Noa's Exchange parents this year! Molly is our Youth Exchange counselor and Nora is Noa's buddy!
- ★ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORY BOOKS WERE DISTRIBUTED TODAY!** – If you missed the meeting, get yours at the Sergeant's table next week!
- ★ **CLUB SPONSORS NEEDED** – You see the big Sponsor banner at every meeting when you enter our dining room. You see the big banners in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade. You see sponsors listed on our Webpage, Facebook Page, at all our projects and events. You even see sponsors on tee shirts from the Reindeer Ramble and Pumpkin Palooza. Ask Kathy Trone or Sue Rector for details on being a Club sponsor.
- ★ **CLUB PICNIC SET FOR SUNDAY AUGUST 2nd** – Signup now for our summer potluck at Williamson Park in Rock Island. Yard games at 4:15, Picnic at 5:15, and Backwater Gamblers Ski Show at 6:30. Bring the family from grandma to grandkids. It is free and just for fun! Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Everything else is provided by Rotary! Check the flier on page 6!
- ★ **FORREST ASK319-S FOR HELP!** – Our new President-Designate, Forrest Meyer made a plea for help today. One of his tasks is to assess weekly fines and collect Happy/Sad Dollars from members. [Everything goes to support or charity work in the community.] He provided his phone number and email and asked all members to be on the look out for fellow members in the news, in business publications, or on radio or television. Don't forget if their place of employment is named that qualifies. Also don't forget the "Austin Rule" – if the last name is the same, that's close enough. I.e. A Swanson frozen food add could get both Kai and Bob! As they say, ***If you see something, say something!*** Forrest's cell phone is 319-530-1558 and his email is ftmeyer@me.com. You are not snitching on a friend, your just making sure that members who do good things are recognized for their accomplishments!
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – Why did the blonde want to go to an NFL football game? She thought the quarterback was a refund!
- ★ **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?

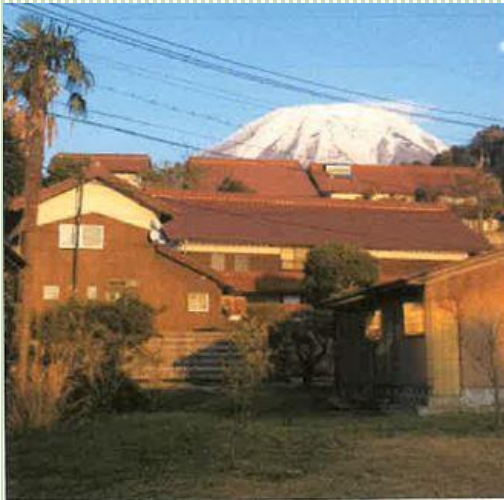
JULY ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Ron Lund	July 1	Kevin Koski	July 12
Dwight Ford	July 3	Sharon Williams	July 14
Ernest Beane	July 3	Frank Lambert	July 15
James Jones	July 4	Geno DelPreore	July 16
Holly Sparkman	July 7	Lindsey Honert	July 17
Noa Smith	July 11	Doug Hultquist	July 28

Noa– Continued from page 1

Her third school memory was the Prom. Japanese schools do not have dances or parties. She said she had seen fancy balls in the movies but said to experience it for real was incredible. She said it was “just like a movie!” She then turned her attention to her Rotary related trips. The first was the Festival of Trees. Exchange students from all over our District met in Moline and then went to the Festival Parade in Davenport followed by bowling and a party at the TPC Complex. She said it was “so much fun”. In December the Exchange Students from all over the Zone met in Chicago. She said it was so cold they could not stay outside very much. Over two hundred Rotary Youth Exchange students were there. It was her first trip to a big city in the United States. She said she could not stop looking up at the incredible skyscrapers. She said in Japan, Tokyo is a big city, but because of earthquakes they do not have tall buildings. She loved Chicago’s incredible buildings. She then told us of her trip to RYLA the weekend camp our District hosts and our club, paid for Noa and three Rocky Interact students to attend. She said that was an “unforgettable memory”. She did everything from sitting around a campfire to hearing great speakers, learning more about Rotary, and participated in numerous team-building activities. She made new friends and had a great experience. Her last trip was a Rotary sponsored East Coast trip. Among the principal sites visited were New York City, Philadelphia, Orlando, and Disney World. She had a great photo of the Statue of Liberty and said it was incredible to walk around in Times Square after seeing it on television and in movies. In Florida they got to experience the beach and visited Mickey Mouse at Disney World. She closed her program mentioning things we would never see in Japan. 1) The first was a school bus. Noa either goes by car or train to her school. 2) School students in jeans. In Japan all students wear uniforms. She loved the casual days at Alleman. Then Noa said what she would miss the most are her friends and her Rock Island Rotary families, fighting off tears she said she wants to come back and if she gets to the United States she wants to come to Rock Island. She concluded her program by again thanking us for hosting her and making it a wonderful year! We will miss Noa!

NOA’S PICTORAL RECORD



Noa’s home in Saihaku District Tottori, Japan. Her home is 416 miles west of Tokyo/
The distance between her home and Rock Island is 10,750 miles by the most direct air route!

Noa with mom Misaki & dad Lloyd Smith



Noa arrives at QC Airport and is greeted by Pres. John Oliger, Youth Exchange Chair Jeff Dismar and her first host family, Sue & Tom Hammar.

NOA'S PICTORAL RECORD



Our community greets Noa in the Labor Day Parade chauffeured by Jeff Dismer

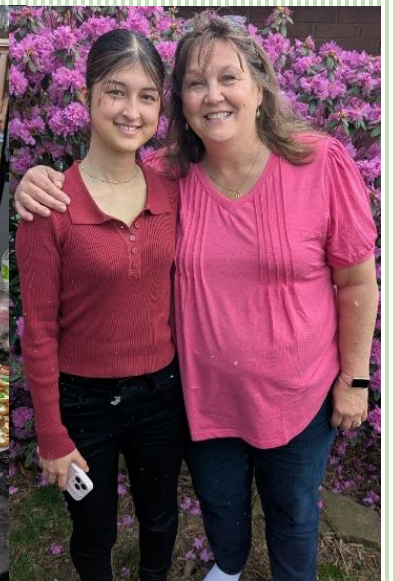
Noa meets the Mayor and thinks the Parade is "Thumbs up!"



Noa helps at our Pancake Breakfast

Noa leads the Flag Parade at Rotary District Conference

Bravely gets her ears pierced.



Admiring Christmas lights with Exchange mom & dad Oliger

Making Cookies for Rotary Exchange

Enjoying time with Julie Oliger

NOA'S PICTORAL RECORD



Visiting the Old Iowa State Capital with John Oliger and Herkey looking on!



Noa joins the Oliger Family Thanksgiving Football game



Ready for a School Dance



Noa meets "Elvis" on trip to Branson with Oligers



Sporting all the pins and buttons from her visits!



Noa with her Host Families, Molly & Nora Shattuck, the Hammars, and the Oligers

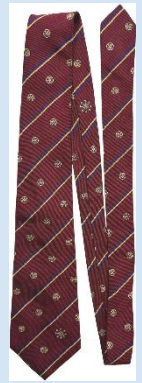


Noa gets to witness an American Wedding. "It was beautiful!"



Rotary International Foundation Raffle

Today's raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine, and a Rotary tie from the 2026 International Convention in Taipei. Guest Nora Shattuck was selected to pull the winning tickets and the first one pulled was her own! She took the cash, donated a portion back to Rotary's Polio Plus campaign, and took home some cash to show her older brother! The second ticket pulled was held by Jim Moran who took the "Cool Red Wine". Then the third ticket was drawn, and it was held by Bill Stengel who took the tie. As an attorney he is one of our members who actually wears ties! Thanks to everyone who participated by purchasing raffle tickets. Proceed to support the Rotary International Foundation.



FOUNDATION MINUTE

The report this week is from Felix Omo Asun in Benin, Nigeria, where Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer of Rotary International and Rotary Foundation, John Hewko, revealed that Rotary had spent over \$3 billion towards the global eradication of polio since 1985. Hewko said the money was raised from donors, individuals, and corporate groups from all over the world. He disclosed this on Wednesday in Benin, saying 2029 has been set for the global eradication of the viral disease. Speaking on why the disease was still prevalent in some parts of the world, Hewko listed religious and cultural issues, as well as misinformation and insecurity as major hindrances to the eradication of the virus. He stated, "This issue of misinformation is a big problem. And not just in the north here, but in Pakistan and Afghanistan and some of the other places where you have some of these challenges. Our Rotarians continue to raise money. They continue to advocate. They continue to vaccinate children. We are in this until we finish the job. We will stay in the fight until we eradicate polio. We are currently projecting that we hope to be able to eradicate polio in **2029**. That is the current plan."

According to Hewko, Rotary is committed to be in the fight until total eradication. "There is a whole series of techniques that we have used over the years in different countries to try to get to every child. But again, it is all about getting to the children. And it is about, very often, the security situation on the ground. The challenge with polio is, we have now eradicated polio in every place but two countries. But until we eradicate it everywhere, you need to vaccinate children all over the world. We need to vaccinate everybody around the world until there are no more cases."

FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

New President Designate got off to a rousing start today, being "Booed" twice! Once when he first rose to take the rostrum and again when he returned to his seat to get his notebook! He took it in good stride thanking the Club for the "vote of confidence". He first fined Kevin Koski for being an early leaver. Then fined Katie Resig noting that her employer, Project Now, received a HyVee \$1,000 grant. Geno DelPreore was fined for being at the Bettendorf 4th of July Fireworks display with his huge inflatable Princess Elena Unicorn. Kai Swanson was fined in absentia for being pictured in his red, white, and blue suit while participating in the Rock Island Library's reading of the Declaration of Independence. Andrea Talentino covered Kia's fine and Library Director Angela Campbell also joined and paid the fine. Jane Courtright had a happy dollar for her special needs son, Joe, who recently relocated to a new group home much closer to Jane and the rest of Joe's family. Forrest offered \$5 happy dollars for a recent road trip with wife Jennifer. They traveled to Chicago, Indianapolis, and Cleveland and had a wonderful time visiting family. Amber had a sad and a happy dollar. She volunteered to dog sit and the first day the dog escaped and was gone. That was the sad dollar. After much worry and enlisting the help of the local Missing Pets organization the 7lb Dachshund came back on Sunday. That was the happy dollar!! Kimberly Calhoun had a happy dollar for Circa21 announcing their 50th season the same week as they opened The Wizard of Oz". As marketing director for Circa21 that was a huge and wild week for Kimberly. The happy dollar was for both being marketed with great success – and over! Guest Nora Shattuck had a happy dollar for recently reading a story about polio in her book club and knows how important ending polio is to Rotary she wanted to contribute being happy that she now knows all about the disease. Holly Sparkman fessed up and paid a \$1 fine for being at Kiwanis yesterday. I'm sure she represented Rotary well! Geno DelPreore had a second happy dollar honoring his son Geno, whose research internship at Penn State on the Northern Triops dinosaur has turned into a research paper that may soon be published nationally. Congratulations to all who were recognized and to all who contributed fines and happy/sad dollars!

IMPORTANT MEETING THIS THURSDAY MORNING!!

President Amber Wood is leading the local multi-club committee to plan and orchestrate the Quad Cities Area Rotary End Polio Now Walk a multi-club cooperative plan in conjunction with Rotary Zones 25B & 29 effort to organize the “World’s Largest Polio Walk” as a major step toward eradicating polio. This event is part of Rotary’s decades-long mission to end polio, which has reduced cases worldwide by over 99.9% since 1988. The walk will take place on World Polio Day — Saturday, June 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The Quad city Area Walk will be one of many taking place in Rotary Zones covering 11 states and 2 countries. The meeting will be via Microsoft Teams (similar to ZOOM) at 7 a.m. this Thursday, July 16th.

Amber is excited to bring together leaders from across our Illinois and Iowa Rotary clubs, along with district leadership, to begin planning what she hopes will become an impactful regional event in support of Rotary's promise to eradicate polio. Participation by members of our Club is important both in support of Amber and the End Polio Now campaign.

The meeting will be a collaborative brainstorming and planning session. We are in the early stages, so your ideas, expertise, and connections will be invaluable as we shape this event together.

Here is the informaton for joining.

Date: Thursday, July 16, Time: 7 a.m. Location: Microsoft Teams - Control/ Click this link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26993017160326?p=JavdvIMljEssVPIHoo>

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions

Vision for End Polio Now Walk

Event Goals

Initial Event Discussion

Date & Time: Saturday, October 24 at 10 a.m.

Potential locations

Rock Island

Centennial Bridge (to Davenport - German American Heritage Center & Museum?)

Schwiebert Park

Other

Moline

Bike Path

I-74 Bridge (to Bettendorf)

Walk format and activities

Committee Structure

District & Club Engagement

Next Steps

Immediate action items

Future meeting schedule

Open Discussion & New Ideas



My hope is that this event becomes more than a walk. Together, we have an opportunity to create a visible regional celebration of Rotary's impact, educate our communities about the incredible progress toward eradicating polio, inspire new partnerships, and unite Rotarians across state lines around one of our organization's greatest causes.

Please come ready to share ideas, ask questions, and think creatively. No idea is too big or too small at this stage.

Yes, 7AM is early in the morning! Yes, you might have to get up a few minutes earlier than normal to be a part of it. We hope your answer is “YES” to whether saving the lives and crippling of children is worth a few minutes of your time. Help Amber make this one of the greatest projects in the history of our Zone and District!

OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!

american
bank & trust

TOGETHER
WE CAN.



Illinois
Casualty
Company

TBK  **BANK**

**In Memory Of
Fred
Luckenbill**



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island

THANK YOU!



Rock Island Rotary



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sign up for the – August 2 – Backwater Gamblers and Family Potluck Picnic	Save the date for the End Polio Now District Walk on Oct. 24	Sign up for the August 19 White Sox vs Cubs outing!	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Noon Meeting Installation of Officers and Directors plus Pass the gavel	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Noon Meeting Noa Smith, Youth Exchange Daughter	15	16	17	18
19	20 Rotary Board Meeting Noon Studio 483 Conference Room	21 Noon Meeting US Corp of Engineers	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Noon Meeting Don Hinton – From Prison to Properties	29	30	31	Save the date for the Labor Day Parade September 7

Programs: Tom Hammar Invocations: TBA

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





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

7:30 am 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

~ Sequel ~

Attached is this week's edition of the Rock Island Rotary Club newsletter. Our program today was presented by Noa Smith, our 2025-26 Rotary Youth Exchange Daughter. Noa recounted many of her favorite memories from her time with us this past year. We also learned about her home in Japan, her family, and her school. Noa has been a delightful addition to our club, and we will greatly miss her when she heads home. **NEXT TUESDAY WILL BE HER FINAL MEETING WITH US!!**

Since this edition is largely dedicated to Noa and her year here, we wanted to highlight one very special photo here in the introduction.

For many years, our Youth Exchange Chairman doing all the behind-the-scenes work (and there is a ton of paperwork, applications, commitments, and arrangements) has been Jeff Dismar. Besides being a prominent and busy architect, Jeff finds time to do an incredible job for the Rotary Youth Exchange Program. He recruits, arranges, and presents orientation meetings for prospective outgoing students. He meets with parents, recruits host families for our inbound students coming from all over the world, collaborates with the schools they will be attending (or leaving) and in general is the motor that keeps the program going. Along the way he and Martha have also hosted several inbound students and both of their sons were outbound Rotary Exchange students representing our country and community. Youth Exchange officers from other clubs call Jeff, the District expert on Youth Exchange, for help, advice, and encouragement. For all this we wanted to feature this simple photo with Jeff getting a well-deserved hug from Noa, his most recent inbound success story. In just a matter of weeks he will be welcoming our 2026-27 inbound Exchange Daughter coming to us from Sweden.



Thank you, Jeff, for all you do! Young adults now scattered all over the world owe much to your dedication and hard work. We want you to know that you are greatly appreciated!