

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

July 7, 2026

Volume XXXIV, Issue 1

AMBER WOOD 112th President, Rock Island Rotary Club



July - August Calendar

- 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
- Aug 11 - TBA
- Aug 18 - TBA
- Aug 25 - Meet our new District Governor – Tina Curtis

A job relocation almost five years ago brought Amber to employment in Moline was our good fortune. She was a dedicated Rotarian having first joined Rotary in the Clinton, Iowa Club in 2008 while serving as the Executive Director of the American Red Cross. She was actively involved in youth engagement initiatives, including RYLA and student guest programs. She participated in community service efforts, coordinating volunteer opportunities and Rotary-supported meal programs, organizing projects such as park cleanups, and supporting club fundraisers and special events. She served on their board and quickly discovered the value of Rotary fellowship and service above self. In 2014, her role with the Red Cross expanded to the Quad Cities, and Amber transferred her membership to the Davenport Rotary Club. There, she became involved in a variety of club activities and leadership opportunities. One of her favorite roles was serving as co-chair of the Social Committee, helping organize events such as the annual Corn Boil, holiday celebrations, and other fellowship activities that strengthened relationships among members. Two of the youngest members of the clubs chaired this – and Amber said they had some fun! In 2018, Amber transferred to the Monmouth Rotary Club after accepting a leadership role with OSF HealthCare. She quickly became active in the club, serving on the Board of Directors and entering the presidential leadership track. I participated in numerous service projects, community initiatives, fundraising activities, and club leadership efforts while continuing to deepen her understanding of Rotary's impact at the local and global levels. In 2022 her career returned Amber to the Quad Cities. We feel extremely fortunate that of the eight Rotary Clubs in the metro Quad Cities Amber chose to join the Rotary Club of Rock Island where she says, "I have proudly served for the past four years". Since becoming a member, Amber has been actively involved in club leadership, committee work, service projects, fundraising events, youth engagement initiatives, and membership activities. Amber says, "The Rotary Club of Rock Island has become my Rotary home, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Club President for the 2026–2027 Rotary year". She says, looking back, Rotary has been a constant throughout nearly two decades of professional and personal growth. Across four clubs, three communities, and almost 20 years of service, Rotary has provided countless opportunities to build friendships, develop leadership skills, serve communities, and support meaningful projects both locally and around the world. Her enthusiasm, big smile, and commitment to Rotary was fortunately recognized by our nominating committee two years ago when they invited her to "start through the chairs" toward becoming our president. She is a relatively new member of our club, but certainly no stranger to Rotary with 18 years of membership and leadership experience!

Stepping to the rostrum after being installed, Amber demonstrated she is no novice when it comes to Rotary or public speaking. In a spirited address Amber thanked all the previous presidents who Amber stated show the legacy of Rock Island Rotary. She said as our new president she is just "One part of the story" and that she is, "Standing on the shoulders of 111 presidents who came before her".

Continued Page 3 – "Amber"

*Service Above
Self*

FOLLOW US!

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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

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 Dismer, 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 two special guests today. Visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron was with us from the Naples, Florida Club and Lucian Bradley joined us as a guest of our new President, Amber Wood. Rock Island Rotarians are proud of our club and all we do and loving having guests join us. Invite a friend or colleague to an upcoming meeting!
- ★ **NEW CLUB DIRECTORY BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED NEXT WEEK!** – Stop at the Sergeant's table and get yours. Every member is entitled to a complimentary book.
- ★ **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, and at all our projects and events. You even see sponsors on tee shirts from the Reindeer Ramble and Pumpkin Palooza. See Kathy Trone or Sue Rector for details.
- ★ **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's free and just for fun! Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Everything else will be provided by Rotary! Check out the flier on page 6!
- ★ **DON'T MISS OUR NEXT BIG OUTING!** – We are taking a deluxe motor coach to Chicago to 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 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 says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.
- ★ **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	Sharon Williams	July 14
Dwight Ford	July 3	Frank Lambert	July 15
Ernest Beane	July 3	Geno DelPreore	July 16
James Jones	July 4	Lindsey Honert	July 17
Holly Sparkman	July 7	Doug Hultquist	July 28
Kevin Koski	July 12		

Amber – Continued from page 1

She named numerous local Rock Island Rotary projects and said our club helped children experience the thrill of reading, gave them hope for the future, and helped them as they reach for their potential. She thanked her predecessor, John Oliger for his friendship and mentoring preparing her to be president. She called John forward and gave him a personal gift and glass Rotary mug with the International Logo and an appropriately modified “Four Way Test” referencing his hilariously funny fox Pax referencing our Club’s water project, but the words came out, “Drinking is very important to our Club”. He later received a Past President’s pin from Amber and his Rotary president theme banner. She noted that John is always authentic, puts people first, and showed us it was okay to laugh! She said he showed us that Rotary is a family. Amber also thanked all the outgoing officers and board members that have served with her and those that will be serving in the coming year. Then she extended her appreciation to all members who worked on projects, chaired projects, and led or served on club committees. Turning to the future, President Wood said she wants her year to focus on service not so much in projects but in the fellowship that occurs and the friendships that grow from working together. She told of her recent experience at the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan. She attended along with 37,000 fellow Rotarians and noted that welcoming, openness, and friendship she experienced from people speaking different languages, from different cultures and representing Rotary from all over the world was more impressive than the many great programs and sessions she attended. Amber eloquently stated, “Service has one language!”. She said the opening ceremony with the parade of flags representing Rotary from more than 200 countries represented not individual nations, but a gathering of the world in service and work toward better health, education, and peace. She noted that Club growth is a critical and top priority for Rotary, “Not because bigger is better, but because more people mean more service.” She noted our emphasis on youth services, including the Jordan Earlyact, Rocky Interact, RYLA, and Earl Hanson partnership activities is more than service, it is, “Investing in tomorrow’s leaders.” In closing Amber noted that through Rotary we are “Sharing a Vision”. We thank Amber for her inspiring comments and look forward to an exciting year in which Rock Island Rotary and each of us will help Create Lasting Impact.

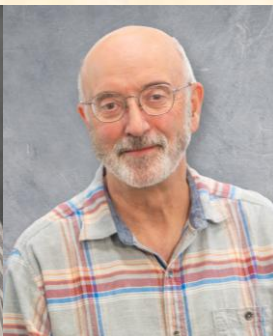
ROCK ISLAND ROTARY LEADERSHIP 2026-2027



Amber Wood
President



Julie Gelaude
President Elect



Forrest Meyer
President Designate



Angela Campbell
Secretary



Molly Shattuck
Treasurer



John Oliger
Past President



Frank Lambert
Co-Sgt. at Arms



Bob Swanson
Co-Sgt. at Arms



Geno DelPreore
Director 1 yr.



Jeff Dismer
Director 1 yr.



Jim Nordquist
Director 1 yr.



Sue Rector
Director 1 yr.



Steve Morenz
Director 2 yr.



Kate Mapes
Director 2 yr.



Robbie McIntyre
Director 2 yr.



Katie Resig
Director 2 yr.

Past District Governor Ruth Lee Installs Officers & Directors

Ruth Lee is no stranger to our club, having been a fellow member since joining Rotary in 1994. She is one of ten, and the first female, Rock Island Rotarian who have served as Governor of Rotary District 6420. She very eloquently handled the duties of installing officer, first calling forward Amber Wood for installation as President and followed that with the installation of all other officers and directors. She then turned to the general membership of the club and led a pledge of the members to support and aid Amber and our club leadership during the coming year. Officers and board members pledged to support the bylaws and constitution of Rock Island Rotary and to support the leadership of our Rotary District 6420 and Rotary International in so far as possible. Her words were succinct, clearly understood, and at the same time had a tone of formality that only an experienced past Governor can provide. She thanked our Club for inviting her to be our installing officer. It is us who thank her for leading this important ceremony and doing such an outstanding and memorable job!



CEREMONIAL PASSING THE GAVEL AGAIN, A CLUB FAVORITE!

It was just the second time we've done it, but it has quickly become a favorite part of our annual officer installation. Sue Rector witnessed it at another club and brought the idea to us last year. The process starts with inviting all living past presidents of the Club to return as our luncheon guests for the installation of our president. Shortly after the meeting is called to order all past presidents are called to the front and asked to line up in the chronological order of the year when they served. Of the 111 past Rock Island Rotary presidents, thirty-one are living.; Twenty-three joined us today plus Marcy Bell a current club member was invited to represent her deceased twin sister, Mary Fislar who was our president for 2004-05.

The Presidential Gavel was passed from past-president to past-president starting in the hands of John Wetzel who was president in 82-83 and then passed to Don Johnson 84-85, Frank Lambert 90-91, Gary Rowe 95-96, Bud Phillis 97-98, Ernie Beane 98-99, Kevin Koski 2000-01, Bob Swanson 03-04, Mary Fislar (represented by Marcy Bell 04-05, Ruth Lee 05-06, Jeff Dismer 06-07 and 07-08, Jim Moran 09-10, Tom Hammar 10-11, Frank Lambert (his second term) 12-13, Mike Locander 14-15, John Phillips 15-16, Steve Morenz 16-17, Mark Mayeski 19-20, Angela Campbell 20-21, Justin Peterson 21-22, Cindi Gramenz 22-23 and 23-24, 24-25 Sue Fleischman Rector, and John Oliger 25-26.

Each past president stated their name, the year(s) they served, and if they remembered the name of the Rotary International president during their term and the Presidential theme for their year. The line extended across the front of the room and halfway down one side. Thanks to Julie Gelaude who shot photos that we could piece together to provide a record of who was present and what it looked like. When the gavel reached John Oliger he and Amber went forward for the installation ceremony. The gavel was then handed to Amber who will maintain it until the end of June 2027.



Amber along with twelve past presidents look on as the presidents serving prior to their term pass the gavel toward them.



Eight more past presidents in the line that stated with John Wetzel, far right, our most senior present serving 43 years ago.

FINES & HAPPY DOLLARS

Julie decided to “go out with a bang” and prodded club members to give her a particularly rousing chorus of “Boos”. Naturally, we complied! She first levied a fine on Luis Moreno for needing to leave early today. Then she packed the coffers by fining everyone who did not have their Rotary Pin (Not the Name Badge – the Pin!) Feeling very satisfied with herself she then inquired who had watched the FIFA World Cup game last night between the US and Belgium. Then she fined everyone who is a U.S. Citizen, had parents who were U.S. Citizens, or family who had immigrated to the United States. That filled the coffers even higher. She then pointed out that today was a big day for John Olinger and Amber Wood and levied a fine on everyone sitting at a table with John or Amber and made it clear that applied even to guests! Needless to say it was a big haul today giving her successor, Forrest Meyer something to shoot for when he takes over next week. As always it was all in fun, with everyone knowing that fines all go to support our philanthropic work helping youth and non-profit organizations in our community!



Rotary International Foundation Raffle

Today’s raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing or a bottle of fine Merlot wine. Bud Phillis administrated the drawing and called on past president Ernie Beane to pull the winning tickets. The first ticket pulled was held by Jim Moran who took the cash and donated it to our Club’s Kenya Water Project. The second winning tickets was held by Jeff Dismar who took home the Wine. Thank you to all players. Join the raffle next week!



Congratulations to our Newest Paul Harris Fellow



Club Foundation Chair, Sue Rector had the pleasure of presenting a Paul Harris Fellow award to Lucian Bradley. The award was in recognition of Amber Wood’s donations and she, already a Paul Harris Fellow designated the honor go to Lucian. Amber and Lucian will become Mr. & Mrs. Bradley in April. We congratulate Lucian and thank Amber for her dedicated support of the Rotary International Foundation. Foundation contributions are used in the ongoing battle to end polio, to provide disaster relief where needed, to see that impoverished families have access to clean water and health care and portions are returned to Rotary Districts from where the funds came for distribution as District Grants.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The 2026 Rotary International convention ended on June 17 in the city of Taipei, Taiwan. During the grand finale of the convention featuring various reports, Holger Knaack, Rotary Foundation Chair of Trustee highlighted the continuing efforts by TRF to eliminate the debilitating scourge of Polio still ravaging few corners of the globe. He reminded the attendees that the world is still at great risk of polio in certain areas of conflict and war. “The world is still at great risk of polio in areas of conflict and war. Polio viruses continue to turn up in wastewater samples in Europe. The danger is not behind us. What many Rotarians may not realize is how carefully we steward the dollars you give to PolioPlus. We don’t simply write a check to WHO and UNICEF. Each year, we meet with our partners to review the budget of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and do a depth analysis of progress and opportunities and conduct a financial audit. For Pakistan’s National Immunization Day alone — US\$22 million — we pay for 350,000 health workers. We pay for 20,000 motorbikes to reach remote villages. We pay for 4,000 vehicles. We pay for 20 boats that carry vaccinators along the Indus. The smallest line in the entire budget is for the purple markers we use to mark a child’s finger after vaccination. Every line. Every cost. We see them all. This is what it takes to vaccinate 47 million children under five in a single country. And the health workers do this work supported by 100,000 army and police personnel... I have traveled to India frequently in recent years. I saw often what polio leaves behind — people crawling in the dirt, begging. But I have never seen a child affected by polio, because polio no longer exists in India. And what we made true in India, we will make true in Pakistan. In Afghanistan. In every place where this fight is not yet won. And yet — look at where we are. Since Rotary committed to this fight in 1985, more than 20 million children have been spared from paralysis. We are closer to eradicating polio than humanity has ever come to eradicating any disease except smallpox.”

A MESSAGE FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OLAYINKA H. BABALOLA TO YOU

Time prevented Amber from showing a video message from our new Rotary International President during our meeting today. She wanted all of us to see and hear his messages. This is the link that will allow you to view the video. Please Control/Click this link to view his important message:

https://storestuff.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/13799_166337465?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%222026_074_Rotary2030_EN_Sub.mp4%22%3B%20filename%2A%3DUTF-8%27%272026_074_Rotary2030_EN_Sub.mp4&AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAVSTDGYGYQEWN6C&Expires=1813781871&Signature=o3XRkapJl8fWLA7whLiqXaduy18%3D

KEVIN GIVES “NEXT TO LAST” REPORT ON BIRDIES!



Birdies Chairman Kevin Koski reported several updates on this year's recently completed Birdies for Charity Pledge Drive. The Club goal was to have 38 members make pledgee. That goal was achieved. Thank you, Kevin and Rotarians!

Because we had just completed a Club Foundation Fund drive to put our Foundation assets over \$1,000,000.00, we did not set a dollar goal this year, thinking pledges would drop. The Number 1 Club once again beat the odds and today Kevin reports our Birdies pledges reach **\$10,325.00** an incredible achievement! Thank you, Rotarians!!!!



Kevin announced the winner of our “In Club” contest with a \$50 prize going to the member who came closest to predicting the final number of Birdies that would be scored during the tournament. Ernie Beane was close, Jim Moran was just a bit closer, but our winner was Rick Emery. The golfers scored 2,041 birdies, Rick predicted 2,049 just eight away from the actual final. Congratulations Rick – let us know the secret of your guessing ability!

Why is this the “next to last” report? The John Deere Charitable Foundation will add their bonus, and we won't know that amount until later this summer. Kevin will be eager to make that final report!

MAKE YOUR PLANS FOR A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION VACATION!

Today we heard just a very short report on Amber's incredible experiences at the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan. It was an experience she will never forget. Each of us can have that sort of experience the Convention typically runs four days. Wherever you travel for the event, book a few extra days and enjoy the people, culture, architecture, and friendliness of the host country. Start your plans now so you're packed and ready to go when the time arrives!

Here are the locations for future conventions:

- 2027: 26-30 June – Barcelona, Spain →
- 2028: 27-31 May – Minneapolis, Minnesota (tentative)
- 2029: 23-27 June – Dubai, UAE (tentative)
- 2030: 25-29 May – Chicago, Illinois (tentative)
- 2031: 7-11 June – Dublin, Ireland (tentative)



Have a life changing experience and perhaps a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit people and areas of the world you have only read about or seen in the movies. Rotary provides various options for housing, travel, and extended tours in conjunction with the convention. But the real benefit is the convention and the experiences you will share with fellow Rotarians from all over the world. Think you won't know anyone there? By the end of the Convention, you will have new friends from communities and countries you may never have heard of. It's just the nature of Rotary, it is fellowship, caring, and an opportunity to be more than you every dreamed you could be. Give it some serious thought.

OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



In Memory Of
Fred Luckenbill



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island



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





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