



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Jan. 5, 2011, issue

## *Next meeting:*

Noon Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011, at  
The Fortune Garden Restaurant

## Public affairs show coming soon to 'QPT



You'll recognize him as the co-anchor of "Good Morning Quad Cities" on WQAD. Soon, **Jim Mertens** will also host a new public affairs program on WQPT, "The Cities." He'll tell us all about it at the Jan. 12 meeting.

"The Cities" will air at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday with a repeat at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. It is the only locally produced prime-time public affairs show in the QC.

At WQAD, Mertens also hosts the one-hour midday broadcast, "News 8 at 11." You may also hear him with "The KUUL Morning Guys" on KUUL-FM (101.3). A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, he started his career at WFON-FM in Fond du Lac, Wis.

Off the air, Jim has served as president of the Iowa Broadcast News Association, the Northwest Broadcast News Association and that organization's foundation to raise scholarship funds.

## *Last meeting:*

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2010

## After restoration, Blackhawk lives on

Admitting he's "in love with restoring historic hotels," **Wes Ludloff** told members at the Jan. 5 meeting all about the newly restored Hotel Blackhawk in downtown Davenport.



After reopening Dec. 12, The Blackhawk ran special pricing for local guests – "We had a great response," Wes said – and now is focusing on fine-tuning staff training and putting final touches on hotel features and amenities.

The Blackhawk, which opened in 1915, had slipped in quality in recent years. The restoration project, which began in 2009, aimed to restore it to its original luster, with a 21<sup>st</sup> century twist. There are fewer guest rooms, 130, and they are more like suites with the smallest at 400 sq. ft., Wes said. All residential apartments – another change from the hotel's original character – have been leased, he added.

He described many of the Blackhawk's amenities: the Bix Bistro, retail shops, a coffee shop,



spa, barber shop, florist, 8-lane bowling alley and bar, 40-ft. pool on the 3<sup>rd</sup> level deck – and the completely restored Gold Room.

The expansive lobby has been restored to its 1915 splendor, complete with a skylight. The Blackhawk is on the National Registry of Historic Hotels. Grand opening is Saturday, Jan. 29.

### The meeting opened...



**President Jeff Hassel** led the assembled throng in the recitation of “The 4-Way Test” and singing the day’s

patriotic song, “My country, ’Tis of Thee.”

After Moments of Reflection, **Tom Howard** directed the chorus in a cappella renditions of “Auld Lang Syne” and



“Happy Birthday, Dear Rotarians” – especially for the January cake-eaters (chocolate-chocolate; yum!): 2, Dennis Heinrich; 13, James Richards; 14, Mark Ross;

16, Tony Calabrese; 17, Jon Ellstrom; 20, George Daugherty; 25, Dave Deuth, **Lee Semenow**, 29, John Archer

### Secretary Chuck introduced: Visiting Rotarian...:

Kirk Metzger, Davenport: Banking ... and guest:

Jeff Peters with Jim Legare



### Announcements...

→ **1st BRC Social hour.** The bar opens for the first monthly BRC Social Hour at **5:15 p.m. Jan. 17 at Symposium Café.** **President Jeff** says **Decker Ploehn** is buying the first round; Decker swears there’s a City Council meeting then... the mystery deepens....

→ **Charitable grants.** Representatives of the 11 not-for-profit organizations selected to receive a total of \$15,000 in Bettendorf Rotary charitable grants will be our guests – and guest speakers – at the meeting **Wednesday, Jan. 26.** Come early, grab lunch and learn where the money we raised at last June’s LobsterFest is going.

→ **Holiday Party.** **Lisa Brown** announced that 93 have made reservations – with the deadline still a few hours away. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7, at the Crow Valley Country Club.

→ **New member campaign.** Membership chair **Connie Mangler**



kicked off a new membership drive for the second half of **President Jeff**'s reign: Connie's committee minions – **Jonna Schuller, Dawn Saul, Kevin Kraft, Tim Lane** and **Tim Lofgren** – will call all

members for suggested new members. So far, we've added 6 new members this year; the goal is 13 more.



→ **LobsterFest Committee.** **Scott Naumann** announced the first 2011 meeting of the LobsterFest Committee – 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, at the Bettendorf Public Library and every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday until

the event, **Saturday, June 11.** Scott passed around signup sheets for volunteers.

### News...

**Lora Adams** delivered the news: At least two will share the Mega Millions jackpot... father-to-be rushes wife to the hospital – and gets a speeding ticket... Pittsburgh man finds his house reduced to rubble; oops, city says – wrong address... "Butt-dialed" cell phone sends SWAT team to suburban Chicago school... NYC man thinks his life is garbage, so he jumps – but uncollected garbage bags break his fall; that's life in the big city.

### Sergeant at Arms...

**President Jeff** collected \$296 for our foundations and \$45 for our Scholarship fund from these happy Rotarians, who gave their **Ryan \$\$**:

**Dick Schillig** – Medicare signup season is over + Trinity has signed as a Run With Carl sponsor – 242 days to go...

**Jim Spelhaug** – his Mom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday – Jim still thinks he's her favorite out of 7 siblings... **Ann Kappeler** – feels good about the 11 charity fund recipients...

**Harry Coin** – his older Little Brother's grades are improving, and the younger one hand-made Christmas presents for all his nieces and nephews... **Carter**

**LeBeau** – despite a bidding war to make him stop, delivered a singing celebration of Illinois'



Texas Bowl win (if you want to join him next time, here's a key phrase: "*Oskee Wow Wow*," which he swears means "Fling out that dear old flag of orange and blue")...

**Ken Vandersnick** – "Here's 10 bucks – I'm happy it's ended"... **Decker Ploehn** – tossed in \$\$ from **John Rabine** (an Iowa fan happy about some unspecified win) and **Linda Miller** ("Her legislative committee will delve into mental health matters")...

**Kevin Kraft** – although out of town for Christmas, returned to find walks and driveway snow-free; he thanked the city crews...

**Amber Castro** – soon to add "Auntie" title... **Jen deBuhr** – her daughter's now 1... **Greg Blaske** – 45<sup>th</sup> birthday (Greg! You don't look a day over 43!)...

**Penny McGimpsey** – the Packers beat the Bears... **Tom Howard** –

thanx to all the electrical-safety-conscious companies for buying his company's products... **Pat Eikenberry** – son's going back to college, daughter's getting married... **Scott Naumann** – \$1 a point for the Pack's winning margin...



### **Missing today:**

Brummel, Cameron, Dobesh, Ellstrom, Felsing, Foster, Freemire, Freese, Gudgel, Habenicht, Hinton, Jochmann, Jones, Kass, Lane, Lanum, Lofgren, Loweth, McWilliams, L. Miller, Pelecky, Powers, Praul, Richards, Ricketts-McCool, Ross, Sarver, Sherrick, St. Laurent, Schutte, Vogel, Volbrecht, Worley

### **Make-ups:**

Duncan Cameron @ Naples, Fla.  
Rich James @ Summit County, Colo.

At today's committee meetings: Kevin Kraft, Penny McGimpsey, Pat Eikenberry, Frank Mitvasky, Bob Gallagher, Greg Blaske, Connie Mangler, Tom Coley, Todd Larsen, Bob Lundin, Dick Schillig, Kurt Lokenvitz, Jen DeBuhr, Jonna Schuller, John DeDoncker, Tom Ahlstrand, Tony Calabrese, Brian Kennedy, Ann Kappeler

### **Upcoming meetings...**

**Jan. 19:** Decker Ploehn, new 5-year Bettendorf Capital Improvement Plan  
**Jan. 26:** Charitable Giving funds & grants

### **News Staff...**

Editor, reporter: Fred Anderson...  
Correspondent: Chuck Mooney...  
Photographer: Carter LeBeau...  
Webmeister: Ralph Heninger...  
Website host: Harry Coin

### **Make up at another QC club...**

Monday, noon: Davenport – The Outing Club  
Monday, noon: Moline – Christ the King Catholic Church  
Monday, 6 p.m.: QC Illinois – Arbor Village Club House, Moline  
Tuesday, 7:15 a.m.: River Cities – Brothers Restaurant, Rapid City  
Tuesday, noon: Rock Island – QC Botanical Center  
**Wednesday, noon: Bettendorf – Fortune Garden Restaurant**  
Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Mini Meet – Lunardi's Restaurant, Davenport  
Thursday, 7 a.m.: IA Quad Cities – The Lodge, Bettendorf  
Thursday, noon: East Moline – Christ United Methodist Church  
Thursday, noon: Milan – Pinnacle Country Club  
Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

### **Bettendorf Rotary resources**

**Hot links where you can find answers to many questions about Rotary.**

The history of Bettendorf Rotary, and more:  
<http://www.bettendorfrotary.com/local.htm>

Bettendorf Rotary in the community:  
<http://www.bettendorfrotary.com/community.htm>

Bettendorf Rotary's current officers:  
<http://www.bettendorfrotary.com/current.htm>

Bettendorf Rotary's committees and their chairs:  
<http://www.bettendorfrotary.com/committ.htm>

Links to Rotary International, Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus... and more:  
<http://www.bettendorfrotary.com/links.htm>

Link to District 6000's Website:  
[www.rotary6000.org](http://www.rotary6000.org)