

THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Dec. 4, 2013, issue

We are saddened by the passing of Lee Semenow

BRC members were stunned at news of the unexpected death Tuesday, Dec. 3, of **Lee Semenow** at his home in Davenport.

In an email the morning of his death, **President Chelsea Powers** commented, "His passion for Life and for Rotary was truly



inspiring. Lee served on our Rotary Board of Directors for many years as Co-International Service Chair and was a crucial part of our involvement in international projects." The most recent project was the construction of a bridge

that helped a remote Nicaraguan village connect with commerce, schools and health care.

Born in Denmark 67 years ago to Russian émigré parents, reared in Argentina and educated as a mechanical engineer, Lee was truly a citizen of the world, working extensively in Europe and Latin America. In 2005 he joined Triumph Consulting, Bettendorf. A celebration of his life will be 10:30 am Saturday, Dec. 14, at Weerts Funeral Home, Davenport. (Full obituary: <http://www.weertsfh.com/obituary.html?id=2665>)

Last meeting:

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013



Here's an update on I-74 bridge

As featured speaker at the Dec. 4 meeting, **Doug Rick**, I-74 project manager for the Iowa Department of Transportation, presented an update on the Mississippi River bridge project. (Doug was a substitute for **Brian Schmidt**, Bettendorf public works director, who had to cancel last-minute for family reasons. In introducing Doug, **Decker Ploehn** joked, "That's Brian's third cancellation as speaker here this year, so we fired him this morning.")

With the noticeable clearing-out of downtown Bettendorf in the area where the new I-74 bridge will come ashore from Illinois, Doug provided an overview of the project to date. He focused primarily on the central section – between Lincoln Road in Bettendorf and 12th Avenue in Moline – that straightens out the S-curve at the Illinois shore.



Construction of the bridge itself – a double “basket-handle” arch that will stand about 80 feet taller than the current double span, **Doug** said – will begin in 2017. Meanwhile, he and Decker said:
 → Only two of

the 44 properties to be acquired in the work area in Bettendorf remain; both are associated with Ross’ Restaurant, and are being negotiated

→ The next step downtown will involve installing the utility infrastructure in the area where on-off ramps will be located and State Street will be rerouted

→ Beginning in 2015, State Street will be closed and east-bound, as well as west-bound, traffic will run through downtown on Grant Street, which will be widened to six lanes

→ All bridge on-off ramps will be in a “diamond” configuration at Grant Street



→ At that exchange, there will be decorative plantings, sculptures and a two-elevator “let-down” structure to give access to the bicycle-pedestrian lane across the bridge

→ The bridge itself will have six vehicle lanes with break-

down space; the pedestrian-bike lane, 14 feet wide, will have a mid-river overlook site

→ LED-type lighting – with changeable colors, controlled by Bettendorf – will

outline the bridge arch and the support piers below

Federal funding for the center portion of the project is in place, Doug said, but money to complete new construction at Lincoln Road-53rd Street in Iowa and 12th Avenue-Avenue of the Cities in Moline has not yet been passed. Total budget for the project is an estimated \$1.4 billion, with about \$850 million for the central portion, he said. The current double-span bridge, which lies downstream from the new one, will be demolished, he added.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013, at the Fortune Garden Restaurant



A Christmas serenade...

The featured program at the Dec. 11 meeting will be a seasonal serenade in song from the Bettendorf High School Choir, thanks to **Theron Schutte**.

Announcements...

→ **Holiday baskets:** Chris Glass reported that the delivery of Thanksgiving baskets to selected Bettendorf families went well. He passed around a signup list for volunteers to deliver Christmas baskets.



→ **December Family Month:** Since December is Family Month in Rotary, **President Chelsea** said, and because many family members come home for the holidays, she reiterated the invitation to bring family members to a Bettendorf Rotary

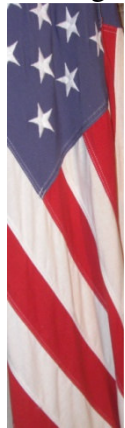
Club meeting as guests.

→ **Red Badge moved:** The Red Badge meeting for new members, “and anyone else who wants to refresh their knowledge of Rotary,” has been postponed to February – exact date to come, **President Chelsea** announced.

→ **A new sign...** now adorns the lectern during BRC meetings, thanks to the generosity of **Bill Daley**.

The meeting opened...

After **President Chelsea Powers** called the meeting to order, she led the recitation of The 4-Way Test. Reaching into the shallow end of the talent pool, she again called on **Fred Anderson** to fill in for vacationing **Tom Howard** to lead the singing of the day’s patriotic song, “God Bless America.”



After introductions and Moments of Reflection – during which we learned of **Lee’s** passing, the passing of **Glenn Kass’** mother and the hospitalization of **Chuck Mooney** and **Steve Pieart’s** daughter-in-law – the singing resumed. With accompaniment by **Scott Naumann’s** talented laptop, we belted out “R-O-T-A-R-Y,” “Let There Be Peace on Earth” and “Happy Birthday, Dear

Rotarians.” In December, those marking the passage of another year are 03, Theron Schutte; 05, David J. Franks; 13, Bradley Boeye; 23, Jeff Hassel, Bob H. Gallagher, Greg Blaske; 29, Johanna Smith; 30 Mike Lizak.

Secretary Johanna Smith introduced:

Visiting Rotarians:

Michel Pontarelli, Iowa City Noon Rotary (Guest of **Chris Glass**)
Duncan Cameron, Naples, Fla., Rotary
PDG Bill Tubbs, North Scott Rotary
Ralph Heninger, Davenport Rotary

Guests:

Doug Rick, Iowa DOT (speaker)
Joe Tirone, Rock Island Arsenal Munitions Command, with **Chris Glass**

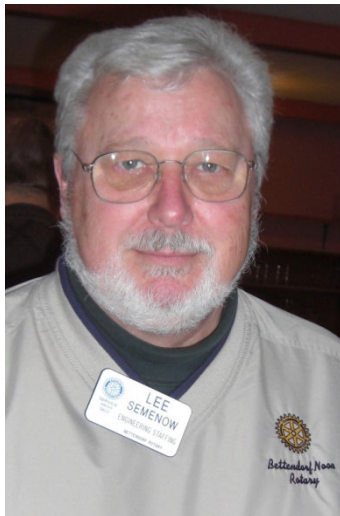
In all, 53 Bettendorf Rotarians attended! Joining us were 2 guests and 4 visiting Rotarians.

Jon Ryan Happy \$\$...
(Named in honor of the late Bettendorf Rotarian, punster, jokester and all-around good guy)



President Chelsea collected \$238 – with special commentary from: **Jim Slavens** – remembering **Lee Semenov** who, among other talents, spoke 5 languages fluently... **Dick Schillig** – noting his approaching 10-year anniversary as a Bettendorf Rotarian, recalled that the late **Ron Essner** would sit at the table where **Lee** sat, and during Moments of Reflection he always said, “Remember our troops” – which **Lee** picked up upon **Ron’s** passing... **Jerry Felsing** – got married last week... **Rich James** – two grandchildren’s birthdays... **Decker Ploehn** – 38th anniversary... **Diane Ricketts-McCool** – 3rd

time a grandma... **Frank Mitvalsky** – Northwestern beat Illinois, so \$1 for each Wildcat win... **Dr. Tom Olson** – “Dad turns 90 tomorrow, and Bill Wundram is 89 soon; they’re both still working, so I still have time to think about retiring”... **Sharon Sarver** – “I’ll miss the sexy way **Lee** would pronounce *Nicaragua*” + “I intend to contribute \$\$ to **Lee**’s favorite charity and I invite others to do the same”... **Todd Ashby** – wanted to distribute dictionaries at the school where his



wife teaches... but learned that **Lee** had beaten him to it... **President Chelsea Chelsea**, remembering **Lee**, said, “He was always early to Board meetings, he didn’t eat anything with feathers, but he did eat bacon.”

Noting that he touched “thousands of lives,” she read a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: “To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children... to leave the world a better place... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived: This is to have succeeded”... **Secretary Johanna Smith** (who worked closely with **Lee** during her transition into the secretary’s job and her recent maternity leave) said, simply, “**Lee** was a great man.”

Missing today...

Adams, K (19); Adams, L (17); Arndt (17); Bibik (14); Bove (23); Brown (23); Bush (18); Coin, H. (4); Daugherty (6); DeDoncker (12); Deuth (10); Dickson (14); Edwards (23); Eikenberry (15); Ellstrom (23); Featherstone (6); Franks (19);

Gallagher Sr. (11); Gallagher Jr. (7); Gause (7); Gudel (13); Habenicht (11); Hartsock (11); Hintermeister (13); Hinton (20); Hipple (15); Howard (2); Kappeler (19); Kass (4); Kellenberger (12); Kennedy (20); Kraft (3); Limberg (11); McWilliams (18); Marvin (13); Miller, L. (6); Naeve (4); Nelson (23); Oswald (13); Ross (10); Schutte (8); Scranton (19); Sherrick (14); Thompson (5); Vollbrecht (16); Werner (18); Willsher (10); Windmiller (9); Worley (23)

Make-ups...

Schillig, Galena, Ill., Rotary



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.: Iowa 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

Upcoming meetings...

... Thanks to program chair **Scott Naumann**, scottn@midlandcom.com, 445-4260.

Dec. 11: Bettendorf High School Choir vocal program

Dec. 18: Nicole Cline, Dale Carnegie training consultant: family time during holidays

Dec. 25: Christmas Day (*no meeting*)

Jan. 1, 2014: New Year's Day (*no meeting*)

Jan. 22: Natalie Johansen Murray: HAVlife (Hunter Aaron Vondran Memorial Foundation) – preventing lost youth potential

Jan. 29: LobsterFest grant presentations at the Waterfront Convention Center

News from Rotary International...

→ **Rotary's typhoon relief:** For more than three hours, Typhoon Haiyan violently shook the roof, walls, and windows of Edgar Chiongbian's house.

After the winds subsided and the rain stopped, he emerged from where he and his family had taken cover and inspected the damage.

"We were one of the lucky families," says Chiongbian, governor of Rotary District 3860 in the Philippines. "There was no major damage to our house."

The outcome was very different for communities and towns in central Philippines closer to the sea. Soon after the storm, Rotary clubs worldwide began rushing relief aid and funds into devastated communities.

Chiongbian says the typhoon destroyed homes and meeting places of Rotary members throughout the country, "but in spite of their situations, they are working around the clock to aid other victims. We've received support from Rotarians all over the world. It is very heartwarming. We are very grateful."

Other Rotary relief efforts include:

- → The Rotary Club of Woodstock-Oxford, Ontario, Canada, raised more than \$20,000 in relief funds, which will be matched by the Canadian government.
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- → The Grind Earth Project, founded by members of the Rotary Club of Northwest Austin, Texas, USA, is working with the Rotary Club of San Pedro South, Laguna, Philippines, and [WakaWaka Light](#) to supply thousands of solar-powered lamps to affected areas.
- → [WorldWaterWorks](#), an initiative of the Rotary Club of Chelwood Bridge, England, has delivered more than 500 Water Survival Boxes to disaster areas.

For more on Bettendorf Rotary Club:

<http://www.bettendorfrotrary.com/>

