



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Feb. 18, 2015, issue

## *Next meeting:*

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015, at the Waterfront Convention Center

## Mayor Bob Gallagher reports on State of City



Last week Bettendorf’s Fire Chief Gerry Voelliger was on ice. This week **Mayor Bob Gallagher** is in the spotlight. It’s his annual State of the City address, when we can all learn about the last year’s progress and plans

for the next and future years.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch service begins at 11:45. Mayor Bob’s speech is scheduled to begin at 12:30. It all takes place in the Iowa/Illinois Rooms, according to *The Bettendorf News*.

## *Last meeting:*

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015



## Fire chief scales sheer ice for fun

Bettendorf Fire Chief **Gerry Voelliger** keeps himself in motion: “The more you sit still, the less you are able to move,” he says, adding, “Life’s more fun when you move.”

And move he does – up and down frozen waterfalls. To keep himself in top condition to move this way, every day he does pushups, pull-ups and sit-ups – 100 of each – at age 60.

Gerry has developed a friendship with Canadian ice climber Will Gadd, who climbs such landmarks as Niagara Falls –

he showed a video of Gadd scaling that frozen cataract with the water falling mere feet away. (If you'd like to learn more about Gadd's historic climb, go to <http://adventureblog.nationalgeographic.com/2015/02/01/video-interview-ice-climbing-niagara-falls-will-gadd-on-being-drawn-to-the-edge/>.)



Meanwhile, Gerry does most of his climbing within a 2-hour drive of the QC, at such waterfalls as Illinois' Starved Rock State Park: "There's nothing more beautiful than climbing on ice with rushing water beside you," he said.

He also veers away from natural waterfalls occasionally: he was part of a group that scaled an 80-ft.-high corn silo outside Cedar Falls, Iowa, where 58,000 gallons of water and an Iowa winter had turned that agricultural icon into a category-5 (out of 7) ice climb. That rating was because of "its vertical-ness," he told a reporter for Al Jazeera America, which broadcast a feature on the climb.

In addition to showing videos of ice climbing – including Ourey, Colo., dubbed "the ice-climbing capital of the U.S." – Gerry explained the equipment he uses and the protective clothing he wears during a climb. The helmet is the most important item, he said, because chunks of ice fall continually during a climb. Typically, he wears 5 layers above the waist, from a perspiration-repelling inner shirt to a rain



slicker, and 3 layers of leggings, from long underwear to waterproof trousers.

Each piece of equipment is unique to ice climbing, Gerry explained. The **rope** is waterproof and stretches 8% to slow a fall. **Picks** are designed to dig in and hold onto ice. Shoe-mounted **crampons** help him "walk" up vertical ice. Ice screws, which can quickly burrow into solid ice, provide a margin of safety at intervals along the climb.



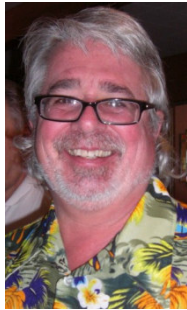
To underscore the need to be safety-alert every moment of a climb, Gerry shared his "final thoughts," including: "The positive power of negative thinking" – in which he is always aware of the unintended bad consequences of each move he makes. He also emphasized the need to "do the simple things – right," explaining it's those simple moves, executed correctly, that keep him safe.

In the end, he advised, "Stop and enjoy the view" (whether climbing ice or just taking a walk in nature).

### **Announcements...**

→**Next week's meeting:** We'll convene at the Waterfront Convention Center where we'll host **Mayor Bob Gallagher's** annual State of the City speech. It might be a good idea to come a bit early to get a good seat – and get through the buffet line before the speech begins.

➔ **March meetings:** We'll return to **Tanglewood Pavilion** for the entire month of membership meetings. If you can't remember any of the dates, check your February calendar...



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

As it did last week, **Scott Naumann's** laptop opened this segment with Paul Simon's "Cecilia" – prompting the photo you'll see elsewhere in this issue. As the music faded, **President Sharon** invited those with news or comments to share, and in so doing she collected **\$236** from:

**Ann Kappeler** – now that he has new shoes, 3-year-old grandson calls the former ones "Old Balance" + Mom, 93, says she's "young enough to drive"...  
**Rita Nelson** – birthday of 1-year-old granddaughter, Matilda + learned a lot at Iowa DNR Foresters meeting... **Glenn Kass** – last Friday was named the Western Illinois/Eastern Iowa representative on the Board of Directors of the America - Israel Chamber of Commerce Chicago... **Greg Blaske** – daughter Hannah named to *national* Honor Choir – they're going to Salt Lake City to perform... **Todd Ashby** – hockey-playing daughter, 9, at a tournament in Coralville scored her first goal... and got her first time in the penalty box... **Christy Gause** – 2 daughters – 2 birthdays... **Dimy Doresca** – Aurora, Ill., Rotary joined support for our Haiti water project + working to recruit more QC clubs... **Kelly Love-Sherrick** – sister just went into labor...

**Decker Ploehn** – see you next week at the Waterfront CC for **Mayor Bob's** State of the City...

### The meeting opened...



**President Sharon Sarver** called the meeting to order, led the recitation of The 4-Way Test, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and presided over Moments of Silence. **Tom Howard** led the singing of the day's patriotic song, "America the Beautiful," with accompaniment from **Scott Naumann's** laptop.

During Moments of Silence, we learned **Tom Howard's** son is recovering from a brain bleed, which he suffered in a fall.

After introductions, Tom and Scott's laptop again teamed up to lead the singing of "Get Together Song" and "Smiles."


### Guests & visiting Rotarians...

#### Guests:

Michel Pontarelli, University of Iowa MBA Program, guest of **Dimy Doresca**  
Bettendorf Fire Chief Gerry Voelliger, speaker

In total, 46 Bettendorf Rotarians attended, joined by 2 guests.

### And at the end...

... of the meeting, **Ann Kappeler** won a Happy to Have a Make-up in the drawing from among all those members who participated in Jon Ryan Happy \$\$.  


## Upcoming meetings...

... Thanks to program chair **Scott Naumann**, [scottn@midlandcom.com](mailto:scottn@midlandcom.com), 445-4260:

**Feb. 25: Mayor Bob Gallagher's** State of the City address at the **Waterfront Convention Center**

**March 4:** Doug Miller, Iowa film historian

**March 11:** John DeDoncker, "State of the Economy"

**March 18:** Tom Bley, Camp Shalom

**March 25:** open

**April 1:** Aaron Tennant, Tennant Truck Lines: Truckers' Image and Economics

**April 8:** Kai Swanson, "Masterworks VI: Peace and Brotherhood Ode to Joy" (The QCSO Masterworks Series is being performed in April)



## Missing...

(Number in parentheses: total meetings missed since July 1, 2014):

Arndt (32), Bibik (21), Boeye (24), Bowe (32), Bush (33), Coin, G. (6), DeDoncker (22), Dickson (20), Dobesh (17), Downing (5), Duda (19), Eikenberry (25), Ellstrom (33), Erpelding (28), Featherstone (26), Foster, Franks (21), Gallagher, Sr. (19), Gallagher, Jr. (13), Gudgel (25), Habenicht (25), Hartsock (19), Hassel (18), Heninger (15), Hill (20), Hinton (30), Hipple, (29), Hurd (21), Kennedy (33), Lane, Larsen (19), Limberg (20), Lizak (18), Loweth (10), McGimpsey (13), McWilliams (30), Mannix (29), Marbach (7), Miller, L. (20), Naeve (30), Nanda (2), Oswald (18), Powers (10), Rabine (7), Ricketts-McCool (25), Salm (33), Saul (20), Schillig (4), Schuler, Scranton (29), Slavens (10), Stone (9), Vandersnick, Werner (33), Willsher (27), Worley (32), Zachary (20)

## Make-ups...

Decker Ploehn, Rotary Club of Moline and Iowa Quad Cities Rotary

Ann Kappeler, Happy to Have a Make-up

## Make up at another QC club...

Monday, noon: Davenport – The Outing Club

Monday, noon: Moline – Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline

Monday, 6 p.m.: QC Illinois – Club Rm., HyVee, 7<sup>th</sup> Street & John Deere Road, Moline

Tuesday, 7:15 a.m.: River Cities – Brothers Restaurant, Rapids City

Tuesday, noon: Rock Island – QC Botanical Center

**Wednesday, noon: Bettendorf – Tanglewood Pavilion (during March)**

Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Mini Meet – Lunardi's Restaurant, Davenport

Thursday, 7 a.m.: Iowa Quad Cities – J-Bar, Elmore Avenue, Davenport

Thursday, noon: East Moline – Christ United Methodist Church

Thursday, noon: Milan – Pinnacle Country Club

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours – Bierstube, Moline

Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

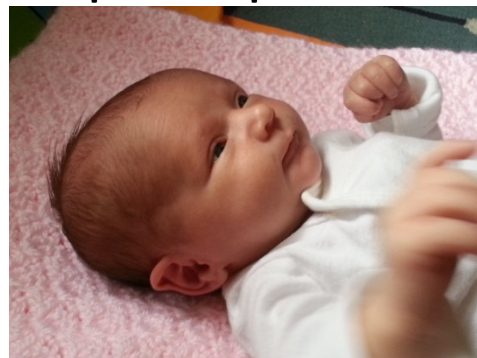
## BRC News staff...

**Editor, reporter:** Fred Anderson

**Photographer:** Glenn Kass

**Correspondent, Web-site host:** Johanna Smith

## That promised photo...



Cecilia Marie Anderson, age 2 weeks

**For more on Bettendorf Rotary:**

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