



**THE
BETTENDORF
ROTARY
CLUB NEWS**
Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
June 22, 2016, issue

Next meeting:
Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at
Tanglewood Pavilion

**The gavel will pass from
Kevin to Jonna...**

... But not only that: Outgoing **President Kevin Kraft** will look back over his year in office and note the significant events of his tenure. To remember the moment, he'll get his own gavel and some other artifacts, as well. Then **Jonna Schuler** will wield that little mallet and set the priorities for her year at the helm.

Over the past several years Bettendorf Rotary has achieved substantial growth – in membership, in fundraising to support service to the community and in means of providing that service.

The big question is: Will Kevin and Jonna have as much fun as Kevin and **Sharon Sarver** did last year?



Last meeting:
Wednesday, June 22, 2016

**Engage Iowa:
Fix Iowa tax code**

Ron Corbett, president of Engage Iowa, said he started the nonprofit organization that seeks to find commonsense solutions to “Iowa’s most serious economic, educational and environmental issues” about a year ago to create a discussion of public policy that would be good for all Iowans and avoid the rancor that too often goes with debate in the “toxic” political environment.



Ron, who is also the current mayor of Cedar Rapids, sees Iowa’s high personal income tax rates as the culprit in negative trends such as the reluctance of business to invest in Iowa and an “outflow of high earners to states such as South Dakota and Texas,” which costs Iowa billions in lost income.

Comparing Iowa to neighboring South Dakota, in both his remarks and a handout, Ron noted that in 1992-2013 that state gained \$831 million in adjusted gross income – \$372 million of it from Iowa. At the same time, Iowa lost \$3.89 billion in AGI, he said, largely because of

its outdated tax code which has “only three fewer lines than the federal tax code.”

To fix these problems, he advocates revising Iowa’s tax system, which he said “fails on all three” values of simplicity, fairness and competitiveness. He proposes:

- Eliminating all tax credits and deductions for incomes above \$10,000
- Adopting a flat tax of about 3% for all other earners
- Hiking the sales tax by 1-cent and using a portion of the resulting income to “dramatically speed up the implementation of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy” to combat the water pollution caused by nutrient-rich runoff from Iowa farm fields.

Summarizing, Ron said, “The switch to a new tax structure would immediately improve Iowa’s reputation as a business-friendly state and lead to a significant growth in the state’s economy.”



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

President Kevin Kraft collected \$230 – especially from these happy folks:
Jennifer Garlach – invitation to Boys and Girls Club fundraiser... **Decker Ploehn** – not exactly a happy but helpful) announcement that 16 street resurfacing projects are coming up, including Middle Road in about two weeks... **Mayor Bob Gallagher** – single-stream recycling begins in August with every-other-week pickup, and new blue recycling carts will

be distributed in 2-3 weeks – “If you see it in the picture (on top of the cart), it goes into the cart,” he said... **Mike Mickle** – 20th wedding anniversary... **Kevin Kraft** – daughter gets married on Saturday... offset by death of the washing machine, BB-gun wounding of a grandson and mysterious suds in the basement – all leading up to a \$100 check plus happiness wishes for the newlyweds.

The meeting opened...



President Kevin Kraft greeted members and guests, noting he has one meeting left in his presidency, called the meeting to order and led the recitation of The 4-Way Test. **Tom**

Howard, accompanied by pianist **Gail Baldwin**, led the singing of “This Is My country.” Kevin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and presided over the Moment of Silence, during which we learned that **Todd Ashby**’s father has cancer of the pancreas; **Laurie Hutcheson**’s Mom has died and **Johanna Smith**’s husband’s mother has died.

After introductions, Tom and Gail led two more songs – “God Bless Our Rotary” and “This Land Is Your Land.”

Secretary Johanna Smith introduced...

Visiting Rotarian:

Ron Corbett, Downtown Cedar Rapids Rotary and Engage Iowa (speaker)

Guests:

Gail Baldwin, pianist

Angie Felsing, guest of **Jerry Felsing**

Andy Anderson, Engage Iowa, guest of the speaker

Lisa Brown, Legal Aid, gest of **Decker Ploehn**

42 Bettendorf Rotarians attended and were joined by 5 guests.



And at the end...

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

Missing today...

Bennett, Bibik, Blaske, Boeye, Bormann, Bush, Carroll, Chambers, DeDoncker, Dobesh, Duda, Dugan, Eikenberry, Elledge, Featherstone, Gause, Habenicht, Hager, Hassel, Hill, Hurd, Hutcheson, James, Kappeler, Lane, Larsen, Lawrence, Love-Sherrick, Mannix, Martinez, Meyers, Mitvalsky, Mohr, Morrison, Naeve, Naumann, Nelson, Pacha, Paplinski, Powers, Ross, Sarver, Saul, Schillig, Schmit, Schneden, Schwab, Scranton, Sherrick, Slavens, Sorenson, Spelhaug, Stone, Thompson, Vandersnick, Webster, Wells, Werner and Windmiller

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 Room, HyVee, 7th 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
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
2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours – Bierstube, Moline
Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

Upcoming meetings...

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

June 29: Gavel exchange

July 6: Leadville 6 (100-mile run) with **John DeDoncker** and John Byrne

July 13: Presidential assembly

July 20: John Deere Classic with Clair Peterson, director



BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter, photographer: Fred Anderson

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For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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

For more on Rotary International:

<https://www.rotary.org/>

