



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Oct. 26, 2016, issue

## *Next meeting:*

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016, at Tanglewood Pavilion

## Learn about German-American Heritage in QC

Kelly Lao, executive director, German-American Heritage Center, will tell us about “Germans in the Quad Cities” at the Nov. 2 meeting. (One question she can be expected to answer is, “Who is the Lady of Germania [shown below]?”)

Kelly has been at the center for 5 years, as volunteer coordinator, assistant director and director. She earned a masters degree in museum studies from Western Illinois University.



She’ll tell us about the many German Americans who helped create this community. German immigrants influenced many

aspects of life, from clubs and organizations to many historic buildings in downtown Davenport.

We’ll learn the history of the German American Heritage Center, 712 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Davenport, and someone may win a free membership in it. To learn more, go to [www.gahc.org](http://www.gahc.org)

## *Last meeting:*

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2016



## RYLA helps build leadership skills

Four Bettendorf High School students – (from left:) **Eleanor Drexler, Alina Sepanski, Andrew Del Vecchio** and **Ben Tinsman** – attended the week-long Iowa Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) last summer at Grinnell College, and they told us about their experiences during the Oct. 26 meeting.

With the four students passing the microphone among them to answer, guidance counselor Amy Harksen posed a series of questions – “Describe your first day,” “... a typical day,” “... the last day,” “... your biggest challenge” and “... the greatest take-away you brought back with you.”

None of the Bettendorf students went to RYLA with expectations. Greeted with hugs and people offering to take their bags, Eleanor found it “kind of overwhelming” at first, but eye-opening. About 250 sophomores- or juniors-to-be from across Iowa attended, and they were

divided into teams of 12, so all were compelled to quickly become acquainted with former strangers. From the first day, they also began to learn about Rotary, the 4-Way Test and “Service above Self.”

Throughout the week, the students attended sessions led by Rotarians, other community leaders and RYLA-graduate counselors. Team-building was a common theme – many activities stressed the need to work together to solve a challenge, they said. “The challenges took you out of your comfort zone,” Andrew said. “We had about a 30% chance of being blindfolded.”

Eleanor found one of those challenges her most memorable: “We were all blindfolded, and told to follow a rope to its end. But it had no end.” Finally, the students realized they had to ask for help.

Friendships with former strangers deepened through the week, they all said, while sessions taught them problem-solving and communication skills, and how to get along with people from many diverse backgrounds.

“We were not prepared at first to open up and share things about ourselves,” Alina said. But by later in the week, especially during a session called “Take a Look Around,” the students shared all sorts of issues they had dealt with – depression, loss of a family member, drug addiction. “We saw we are not alone in these problems,” Ben said as he labeled that his most memorable session.

In the end, along with leadership skills, they learned how to empathize with others and respect diverse viewpoints. And, as Alina said, “The Rotarians had a huge impact on us” – including applying the precepts of the 4-Way Test in their schools and daily lives.



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

**President Jonna Schuler** collected \$241 – with extra happiness emanating from: **John DeDoncker** – assuring us he “didn’t die during the Leadville 100,” he said business had kept him away since then... **Jennifer Naeve** – invited all to the Bettendorf Business Network Connect event, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27 at Ascentra Credit Union, 2339 E. 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave.... **Dick Paplinski** – back from vacation in Italy... visiting Rotarian Ken Beck: the election is in less than two weeks, with early voting at Bettendorf Public Library... former BRC President Scott Tunncliff – “I agree with Ken: please vote – you can vote for two Scott County supervisors”... **Jim Slavens** – lunched with his three sons, one supporting Clinton, one backing Trump and one undecided... **John Rabine** – his Penn State beat Ohio State... **Lee Marbach** – son No. 3 is on the way... **Brent Werner** – Geneseo HS won 30-0... **Tim Lane** – finally fulfilled promise to his wife and got tickets to the Cubs’ Saturday evening game – “The best!”

### **The meeting opened...**

**President Jonna Schuler** led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. **Tom Howard**, accompanied by **Deanna Severs** on piano, led the singing of “God Bless America.” President Jonna led the Pledge of Allegiance. During the Moment of Silence we asked for healing for **Dave Deuth**, and learned that **Kelly Love-Sherrick**’s mother-in-law had broken her leg. Also, **Harry Coin** asked

that we remember all the teens who are battling depression. After introductions, Tom and Deanna returned to lead singing of “Rotary Welcomes You” and “Let there be Peace on Earth.”

### **Stand-in secretary Bill Daley introduced...**

#### **Visiting Rotarian**

Ken Beck, Davenport Rotary

#### **Guests**

Deana Severs, piano player

Bettendorf High School students Ben Tinsman, Andrew Del Vecchio, Alina Sepanski and Eleanor Drexler

Amy Harksen, Bettendorf High School guidance counselor

Scott Tunnickliff, guest of **Harry Coin**

Craig Keller, guest of **Harry Coin**

Joe Champion, guest of **Kevin Kraft**

In all, 51 Bettendorf Rotarians attended and were joined by 9 guests and 1 visiting Rotarian.



### **And at the end...**

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

### **Missing today...**

Ashby, Bennett, Blaske, Boeye, Bormann, Chambers, Coin, G., Crist, Dobesh, Dugan, Eikenberry, Elledge, Featherstone, Foster, Franks, Gallagher, Sr., Gallagher, Jr., Garlach, Gause, Habenicht, Hager, Howard, Hurd, James, Kellenberger, Lawrence, McGimpsey, Mannix, Martinez, Mickle, Mohr, Morrison, Nanda, Naumann, Nelson, Pieart, Ploehn, Powers, Ross, Saul, Schmit, Scranton, Shea, Sherrick, Smith, Spelhaug, Stone, Stopulos, Webster, Wells, and Worner

### **Make-ups...**

Harry Coin, Iowa Quad Cities Rotary

### **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, 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**

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

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



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

**Nov. 2:** Kelly Lao Executive Director, German-American Heritage Center: Germans in the Quad Cities

### **BRC News staff...**

**Editor, reporter, photographer:** Fred Anderson

**Correspondent, Website host:** Johanna Smith

### **For more on Bettendorf Rotary:**

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