



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
April 5, 2017, issue

Next meeting:
Wednesday, April 12, 2017,
At Tanglewood Pavilion



This speaker has a lot to talk about

The scheduled speaker at the April 12 meeting is **Kim Kurtenbach Furness**, a professional speaker who says she “enjoys being able to

educate, motivate and inspire those who are looking to live life on purpose!” A rich assortment of experiences informs her presentation:

BA in mass communications with a minor in theology... professional actress, producer and director in more than 60 stage plays, 12 feature films, 3 TV shows and “more commercials than I can count”... hospice care giver... program instructor for children with autism... founder of a theatre company... homeschooling teacher... wife... ex-wife... aunt... daughter... mother (of two pit bulls)... SCUBA diver... lounge singer... academic tutor... award-winning deep sea fisher... sky diver... karaoke DJ... world traveler... clarinet player... network marketer... lottery winner... certified handler of firearms... poet... screenwriter... climber of

mountains... and, most recently, survivor of stage 3 ovarian cancer.

Last meeting:
Wednesday, April 5, 2017



John updates economy for '17

John DeDoncker, Triumph Community Bank, opened his 2017 Update on the Economy by noting proudly that he had come close on most of his year-ago predictions – saying the one that made him the happiest was the prediction that the Cubs would win the World Series.

Accompanied by a collection of Power-Point slides to show trends for each category, John reported the current status of many economic indicators. His observations included:

→Gross Domestic Product of about \$19 trillion a year, rising last year and for the last several years at about a 2% rate. At some \$5.5 trillion, consumer spending is the largest component of GDP – within that, non-store retail is rising at a fast 12% while in-store retail is declining, he pointed out.

→The Core Inflation Index, now inching above 2%, has prompted the Federal Reserve to raise the prime rate 0.25 point three times within the last year.

→Unemployment dropped to 4.7% nationally, equating to about 7.5 million people still actively looking for work. Real wages finally came close to those of 2009, John said, and the participation rate of workers ages 16-63 inched up to 63% – the pre-recession level was 66%. While Iowa has a 3.5% unemployment rate, Illinois' stands at 6%.



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→The Index of Supply Managers stands at 57.7, “highest in 3-4 years,” he said.

→Housing starts, historically fluctuating about 1.5 million, climbed to about 1.25 million in 2016, he said. Within that, about a fourth are housing structures with 5 or more units, and single-unit houses account for a declining percentage. Existing homes, at 1.8 million, are at the lowest number since about 2000, he said.

→Among indices of optimism, John reported the University of Michigan’s Consumer Sentiment Index stands at about 100 (and heading up, and the small Business Optimism Index “is as positive as it’s been in a long time.”

→Among other economic indicators: Commodity prices remain low. National debt has topped \$19 trillion, and it’s still growing, but low interest rates keep the debt’s interest expense at about 2010 levels. Government spending accounts for about 20% of the economy. Average personal savings rate is about 8%.

Summing up, John said the U.S. remains “the only bright economy” in the world. With the current favorable exchange rate, he added, “This could be a great summer for a European vacation.”

As for his predictions for the next year:

- Growth: 3.5%
- Consumer Price Index: 2.5%
- Prime Interest Rate: 4.5%
- 10-year bond rate: 3%
- Unemployment: 4.5%
- Dow-Jones Average: >21000
- World Series: “probably not a Cubs repeat...”



Presentation...

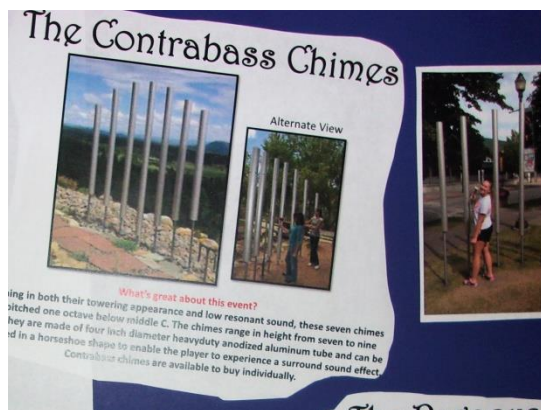
→**Rotarian of the Month:** For his ongoing work in Youth Services, **Jim Spelhaug** received the quarterly award from Vocational Service Chair **Richard “Ozzy” Oswald**. Bettendorf Rotary’s annual service to the community’s youth includes scholarships to graduates of Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley high schools, Rivermont Collegiate and Scott Community College, and the donation of

a personal dictionary to each 4th grade pupil in the City of Bettendorf.

Announcements...

→ District 6000 meeting in QC April 6:

The leadership and members from many District 6000 clubs are meeting Thursday, April 6, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. All Rotarians are welcome – this is an opportunity to meet Rotarians from other Iowa clubs.



→ Rotary Row at Faye's Field:

President Jonna Schuler said work will begin May 1 on installation of sets of chimes that visitors to Rotary Row at Faye's Field can play as they walk along the path in this feature of the Learning Campus. The chimes will be dedicated (as part of the kickoff of Iowa Tourism Month) at 10 a.m. Friday, May 5.

→ New member project: President

Jonna thanked **Rick Bormann** for his quick work signing up new-member volunteers for the "Betten-Do" project – renovation of the deck just outside our meeting room at Tanglewood Pavilion. The project will take place in two phases: starting about 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 28, finishing about 1 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

→ If you have a birthday, invite a friend: As she has each first-of-month meeting, **President Jonna** reminded those with April birthdays to invite a

friend / prospective member to attend a meeting this month as your guest.



→ LobsterFest off to a fast start: **Secretary Johanna Smith** announced that sponsorship is growing at a very good rate, but, of course, "We'll welcome any that still want to sign on as sponsors."

Tickets are now on sale – at \$75 per seat / \$520 per table of 8. They'll be available at meetings or at bettendorffrotary.com.

There's still time to donate raffle / silent auction items that can be assembled in gift baskets. Contact **Gwen Tombergs** (gtombergs@quadcitieschamber.com) or **Ann Kappeler** (Annkappeler1950@gmail.com).

2017 LobsterFest Sponsors

(As of 4/5/17):

\$48,000 in committed sponsorships (\$25,000 in cash – \$23,000 in in-kind)

Co-Presenting Sponsors

Triumph Community Bank
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BRC Happy \$\$...

President Jonna collected \$153, with additional amounts from these especially happy BRC members: **Bob Gallagher Sr.** – granddaughter (**Mayor Bob's** daughter Ally) will be studying and running, with scholarships for both, at the University of Miami of Ohio... **Bill Daley** daughter has a lead role in the

Davenport Central High School production of "Beauty and the Beast," April 29-30... (and later, Bill tossed in another \$1, noting, "**Paul Scranton** has finally discovered we're not meeting at the Fortune Garden anymore")... **Dr. Julie Meyers** – her chiropractic practice, LiveWell Chiropractic & Wellness, 3456 Holiday Court, celebrated 4 years of operation with an open house April 5... **Tim Lane** – daughters, students at St. Ambrose University, participated in SAU's recent benefit dance marathon, which raised \$223,000!

The meeting opened...

At the sound of the bell, **President Jonna Schuler** opened the meeting and led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. Song leader **Tom Howard**, accompanied by pianist **Gail Baldwin**, led the singing of the day's patriotic song, "God Bless America." Jonna led the Pledge of Allegiance and presided over Moments of Silence, during which we supported **Dave Deuth** and **Lee Marbach**, who continue to recover from illness.

After introductions, Tom and Gail led more singing: "Be a Friend," "April Showers" and that monthly favorite "Happy birthday, Dear Rotarians." This month the most

entitled dessert-bar eaters are:
02, Matt Schmit; 06, Sue Mannix; 07, Carol Foster; 17, Chris Carroll; 22, Drew Lawrence; 23, Rita Nelson; 25, John Rabine; 26, Jennifer Bennett; 29, Peggy Schneden; 30, George Coin.



Secretary Johanna Smith introduced...

Visiting Rotarian

Mary Huebbe, Davenport Rotary

Guests

Gail Baldwin, piano accompanist

Megan Early, Iowa American Water (“Ozzy”

Oswald guest)

Sonya Smith, Homewood Suites (Sharon

Sarver guest)

Craig Keller, Mediacom (Jerry Higgs guest)

In all, 56 Bettendorf Rotarians attended and were joined by 4 guests and 1 visiting Rotarian.



And at the end...

... of the meeting, **Bob Gallagher Sr.** won the “Happy to Have a Make-up” in the drawing from among all those members who shared their happiness and some

extra \$\$ in this week’s *BRC Happy \$\$*.

Missing today...

Bennett, Boeye, Campion, Carroll, Coin, G., Dobesh, Eikenberry, Elledge, Falk, Featherstone, Felsing, Garlach, Hassel, Hurd, James, Kellenberger, Kraft, Kraus, Larsen, Lokenvitz, Love-Sherrick, Loweth, McGimpsey, Mannix, Marbach, Martinez, Mitvalsky, Mohr, Morrison, Naab, Naeve, Nelson, Powell, Powers, Raso, Ricketts-McCool, Ross, Saul, Schillig, Schmit, Shea, Sherrick, Slavens, Werner, Windmiller and Worner

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 Hills 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... and more

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

April 12: Kim Kurtenbach Furness, actress, entrepreneur, survivor.

April 19: Richard Pokora: Bettendorf Business Network

Saturday, June 10: BRC’s 11th Annual LobsterFest, Tanglewood Hills Pavilion

BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter, photographer: Fred Anderson

Correspondent, Website host: Johanna Smith

For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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

