



**THE
BETTENDORF
ROTARY
CLUB NEWS**
Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
April 11, 2018, issue

Next meeting:

Noon Wednesday, April 18, 2018
At Tanglewood Hills Pavilion

**Gaining perspective on
QC workforce issues**

As the Quad Cities prepare for the Big Table discussions on its future, at our April 18 meeting we'll hear from an expert in one key issue affecting that future – our workforce.



Christine Caves is an employment and training counselor for Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and

IowaWorks. With 20 years' experience in education, businesses and government, she can speak to the workforce challenges and opportunities facing the QC region. Those challenges include such issues as registered apprenticeships in the skilled trades, manufacturing, allied health, transportation/logistics and information technology.

Her work puts her in daily contact with area youth and their preparation to join the world of work, especially in the QC and surrounding area. She has a master's degree in psychology-career management and counseling and is recognized as a master career specialist with the National Career Development Association.

Last meeting:
Wednesday, April 11, 2018



**Optimistic for
2018 economy**

To open his annual "Economic Update," **John DeDoncker** compared the nation's economic performance over the last 12 months with his predictions last year. Although many of the indicators were close or spot-on – such as the Federal Reserve's prime interest rate – John admitted he had been too optimistic when predicting others, such as the Gross Domestic Product and Consumer Price Index.

Before updating his predictions for a year from now, John talked about the performances of many economic indices; among the highlights:

→The GDP “has been falling slowly ever since the Reagan administration, John said, standing at about 3% now. Consumer spending contributes the largest part of GDP, he said, but it’s leveling off. Non-store retailing is showing the strongest growth. Consumer spending is about 5% above a year ago, he said, largely because of falling savings rates – two-thirds of the Millennial Generation have saved nothing for retirement, and credit-card spending is rising, he explained.

→Inflation held at about 2.1% in 2017, John said, and is staying at about that level so far in ’18. “So the Fed (Federal Reserve) feels it can raise rates if it needs to,” he commented.

→An unemployment rate at 4.1% equates to about 6.6 million jobless. An average of about 202,000 new jobs were added in the U.S. monthly in 2018, but March saw just 103,000 added. Part-time workers are declining as full-time employment edges up. Unemployment rates stand at 2.9% in Iowa and about 5% in Illinois, he reported. “Finally, wages are starting to go up,” he commented, and “we’re going to see a big jump in our next update.”

While housing starts lag behind 2017, John said, “We’re on the verge of a boom because we need more housing.” He said consumers are optimistic, citing several indices. Stock markets are rising although volatile in the face of threatened trade wars. The national debt is projected to top \$1 trillion by year after next if current trends spurred by tax cuts without spending decreases continue.

Commenting on what could be labeled “the Trump effect,” John said, “I hate the guy but love what he’s doing for business.

As for his predictions for the next 12 months, John said he sees strong growth, little rise in inflation, nearly unchanged interest rates, about 4.0% unemployment and the Dow Industrial Index “back about to \$27,000.”

He refrained from showing comparable optimism for the Cubs to return to the World Series.



Induction of new members...

S.K. Nanda introduced three new members, who were inducted:

→**Allison Fair**, a native of Nevada, Iowa, who has joined the Arndt Chiropractic Center. A graduate of St. Ambrose University and Palmer College of Chiropractic, she has lived in the Qhad Cities for 16 years.

→**Michael Simons**, owner of Blaze Restoration Services, which he and his wife Danette founded in 1995. They are the parents of daughters, Alyssa, 26, who recently completed a master’s degree, and Aubrey, 22.

→**Ben Keith**, an engineer with MidAmerican Energy. A QC Native, Ben graduated from United Township High School and earned his civil engineering degree from Southern Illinois University

at Edwardsville. He and wife Kelly are parents of son Kaden, 3.

Announcements...

→Get Alessandro to cook for you:

There are still opportunities to enjoy a homemade Italian meal prepared by Rotary Exchange student **Alessandro loMaestro** – but the window of opportunity is beginning to close as the end of the school year draws near. To make arrangements, contact **Dr. Julie Meyers** (livewellqc@gmail.com).

→Serve the Bettendorf community: **plant trees:** Volunteers are still needed to help City of Bettendorf crews plant trees the morning of Saturday, April 28. For more information, contact **Carol Foster** (carolfoster@hdcmail.org) or **President Tim** (tim.lane@edwardjones.com).

BRC Happy \$\$...

President Tim Lane collected \$211 – especially from these happy Rotarians: **John Rabine** – \$20 for missed meetings due to surgery... **Sue Mannix** - \$57 – birthday... **Jerry Felsing** – his partner retired... **Dave Chambers** – back from Florida... **Larry Thein** – headed to Wrigley for a Cubs game soon... **Phil Dunbridge** –



invitation to Rivermont in Bloom, fundraising auctions, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at the University Club, 1518 15th Ave., Moline... **Mayor Bob Gallagher** – with his son, watched the USA team recapture the world freestyle wrestling title... **Joe Campion** – apparently hoarse after cheering his team on in the NCAA basketball

championship, managed, “Go, ’Nova”... **Decker Ploehn** – went to Bettendorf Lions Club’s 75th anniversary celebration on Saturday... **John DeDoncker** – newly graduated son has joined Missman Engineering... **President Tim** – daughter excelled at Ruby’s Bike & Brew context for fastest at downing a brew, eating a brat and biking a distance... **Dr. Tom Olson** – congratulations to visiting Rotarian Ken Beck, whose son is one of the Bettendorf-grad duo behind “A Quiet Place, this week’s No. 1 new movie.

The meeting opened...



President Tim Lane called the meeting order and he led the recitation of The 4-Way Test.

Song leader **Tom Howard**, with piano accompanist **Tewanta Lopez**, led the singing of “This Is My

Country.”

President Tim led the Pledge of Allegiance and Moments of Silence, during which we learned Tewanta will undergo a medical test and **Jennifer Naeve** faces surgery for a brain aneurism. We also remembered our troops and friends of Rotarians in need of support.

After introductions, Tom led the singing of “A Helping Hand” and “April Showers.”

Secretary Johanna Smith reported...

Visiting Rotarians:

Ken Beck, Davenport Rotary

Guests:

Tewanta Lopez, pianist

Brett Goodmundson, Reference Audio Visual

Jan Wagner, Shelter Insurance, guest of
Penny McGimpsey
Shawn Langan, Ruhl Commercial, guest of
Ron Crist

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

Missing today...

Arumugam, Ashby, Bennett, Blaske, Boeye,
Bormann, Clark, G. Coin, Dobesh, Early
Eikenberry, Franks, Gause, Hanzelka,
Hassel, Hill, Hutcheson, Kappeler, Larsen,
Lawrence, Lokenvitz, Loweth, Martinez,
Mickle, Mohr, Naeve, Nelson, O'Brien,
Pedersen, Powell, Raso, Ricketts-McCool,
Ross, Sarver, Saul, Schneden, Scranton,
Spykstra, Tombergs, Wells, Werner,
Windmiller, Worner.

Make-up ...

Carol Foster, North Scott 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,
Hy-Vee, 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 18:

Christine Caves of
Eastern Iowa
Community Colleges
examines the needs of
the QC workforce

June 9:

LobsterFest XII,
Tanglewood Hills
Pavilion and Grounds

June 13:

We host a luncheon for the 22 2018 Miss
Iowa contestants and their personal assistants

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For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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



For more on Rotary International:

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