



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS... in the time of Covid-19

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
July 1, 2020, 12th Covid issue

Next meeting:
Tanglewood Pavilion and Zoom
July 8, 2020

Larry Thein to report on our member survey

Remember back in the mist-shrouded days of our lives before the coronavirus pandemic? We called that normal – and one of the things Bettendorf Rotarians did was to complete a survey about the shape of the future of the club.

Remember that?



Well, **Larry Thein** does, and at next week’s meeting, he’s going to tell us what we had to say about that future.

You’ll want to be there – or attend by Zoom – so

you can find out the consensus of where we’re going... and maybe comment some more...

This issue:
July 1, 2020



Pandemic’s effect on lawmakers

As the representative for Iowa House District 94, **Gary Mohr** represents Bettendorf, eastern Davenport and some of the surrounding county in the Iowa House. At our July 1 meeting, he presented a summary of what happened during the 2020 session of the Iowa state legislature, which was interrupted for weeks by measures taken to counter the coronavirus pandemic.

The legislature convened on Jan. 13, 2020, Gary said, with every expectation of a normal session stretching through the rest of the winter and into spring. Then the pandemic came ashore in the U.S., the legislature adjourned on March 16

and didn't reconvene until June 3. The session – “It was absolutely crazy,” Gary said – lasted to June 14.

Gary had been named to head the House's finance committee, so responsibility for the state's budget rested on his shoulders. In a normal year, the state's Revenue Estimating Council – a three-member panel that examines all the pertinent data – would have reported to the committee how much income the state was likely to receive. That council held the last of its three scheduled meetings in early March, shortly before the shutdown.

Normally most of Iowa's revenue comes from three kinds of taxes – personal income, corporate and sales. Some 70% of the sales taxes come from the activities of “big-box” retailers – “and their income was booming” after the March 16 shutdown, Gary said. So when his committee asked the REC for a new revenue projection, it was able to deliver by June 1.



Gary's committee applied the same “conservative budgeting principles,” he said, “which were no tax increases, no expansion of government and no spending more than we take in.” It was also committed to the priorities of public safety, education and the state's three universities. While freezing much of the previous year's budget, the committee

did increase public education by 2.3%, boosted the Hawkeye child health program a bit and funded low-income health care with the increased needs of adults made jobless by the pandemic in mind.

In summary, Gary said his committee added \$170-180 million to the \$7.8 billion state budget.



Gary posed with Rotarians from two important constituencies, city government (Decker Ploehn and Mayor Bob Gallagher) and secondary education (Brian Strusz)

He mentioned a few other important laws that emerged from the session, noting that about 100 of the 1,000 or more bills introduced actually make it through the full legislative process:

- Since human trafficking takes place because of the Interstate highways that crisscross the state, Gary sponsored a bill to fund the education of hotel and motel workers so they could recognize human trafficking if it occurs in their business.
- Another bill protects businesses from liability lawsuits rising from the coronavirus pandemic, if the business follows health guidelines such as wearing face masks and washing hands.

He said the legislature is gradually fixing the inequities in Iowa's outdated school funding formula rather than drastically revising the formula all at once.

Presentation...

→ Paul Harris Fellow: Will Doland



received his first Paul Harris Fellowship pin – signifying he has contributed \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation – from **S.K. Nanda**, BRC’s Rotary Foundation chair.

Along with making the presentation, S.K. updated two pieces of information about Rotary International: Like BRC, RI has a new president for the 2020-21 year just beginning: he is Holger Knaack of Germany; a new banner hanging from our lectern proclaims the theme for his year: “Rotary Opens Opportunity.”



S.K. also noted that the \$1,000 that it takes to become a Paul Harris Fellow is the same amount as when the fellowship was created in 1957. “That was the price of a Chevrolet,” S.K. explained. From that humble beginning, The Rotary Foundation has grown to enable Rotary to underwrite hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of humanitarian projects worldwide. This year TRF dedicates \$50

million to PolioPlus – which is matched 2:1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – to continue the effort to eradicate polio from the planet.

Announcements...

→ **Julie says ‘thanks’:** Julie, our host at Tanglewood Pavilion, expressed her appreciation that BRC shared part of members’ meal fees with Tanglewood. During the weeks between the coronavirus shutdown and BRC’s return to meeting at Tanglewood, members continued to pay full dues, splitting the meal fee portion among Tanglewood, QC food pantries and a contingency fund for pandemic-related emergencies.



→ **‘First Day’ school supplies for kids:** **Gwen Tombergs** invited members to contribute to the United Way’s “First Day Project” to provide school supplies for kids who might not be able to afford them and hygiene products for schools. She said BRC members can bring donations to her at the July 15 meeting, or drop them off on Thursday, July 16, at the *Quad-City Times*, 500 E. 3rd St., Davenport. For more information, contact Amy Barnett: abarnett@unitedwayqc.org or 563-444-0328.

→ **Golf Outing:** Save Wednesday, Sept. 16, for BRC’s annual Golf Outing at Palmer Hills Golf Course. First tee time is 10:58 a.m. More details to come as the committee continues its planning work.

BRC Happy \$\$...



President Rick Bormann carried the microphone into the room to learn what happiness Bettendorf Rotarians have to share:

Steve Pieart – happy 80th birthday... **Larry Thein** – son earned both coach's and players' awards for his performance on the baseball diamond – including 2 RBI and 2 important outs...

Dr. Tom Olson – grandkids, wearing helmets while riding bikes, were pulled over by a Bettendorf PD patrol car and given... a certificate for ice cream because of they rode safely... **Decker Ploehn** – swore-in BPD's newest police officer, badge No. 4114 (his own, from 40 years ago, was 4025, he said)...

Mayor Bob Gallagher – happy 51st birthday... **George Coin** – happy 2 grandkids made the dean's list

The meeting opened...

In the 4th week of meeting both at Tanglewood Pavilion and via Zoom, **President Rick Bormann** began the first meeting of his presidential term by noting, "... when we pull the group together... good things happen."

After Rick led the recitation of The 4-Way Test, **Tom Howard** sang the full lyrics of his "Is My Country," including "... I thrill to see Old Glory take the breeze..."

Rick returned to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the Moment of Silence, in which we honored our troops and those suffering because of Covid-19; we also learned of the death of **Tim Lane's** father-in-law.

Club Secretary Shelly Naumann reported the members with July birthdays: 02, **Larry O'Brien**; 07, **Frank**

Mitvalsky; 10, **Monica Kruse**; 14, **John DeDoncker**; 21, **Dave Chambers**, **Frank Schwab**; 27, **Bob S. Gallagher**; 28, **Steve Pieart**; 30, **Benjamin Keith**.

➔**Oktoberfest planning:** After the weekly membership meeting, the committee planning our Oct. 3 fundraising event met. Planning will continue with ticket sales expected to begin next month. Stay tuned...

And at the end...

... of the meeting today, **Steve Pieart** won the "Happy to Have a Make-up" in the drawing from among all those members who shared their happiness in this week's *BRC Happy \$\$*.



Upcoming meetings and more...

Meeting programs thanks to Program Chair **Scott Naumann**, 563-505-7953; scottnaumann@msn.com:



July 8: Our own **Larry Thein** will report the results of the membership survey

July 15: **President Rick Bormann** will reveal his priorities for his presidential year and update the

Board and committee chairs

Wednesday, Sept. 16: Golf Outing at Palmer Hills Golf Course: first tee time 10:58 a.m. Dinner details to come...

Saturday, Oct. 3: **Oktoberfest at Tanglewood Pavilion**, 3-7 p.m.

Watch this space for what else is coming up on the BRC calendar...

In the meantime: Be safe... Be well!



Rotarians elsewhere...

The Rotary Foundation Minute...

[Thanks to **S.K. Nanda**, BRC's Rotary Foundation chair]

Welcome to this last week of Rotary Fellowships Month!

As we transition into the new Rotary year, clubs all over the world are experiencing a change of leadership. The ceremonies, normally done in person, are now mostly online. Being involved in leadership transition has not stopped Rotarians from extending a helping hand to those in dire need of assistance.

Recently a grant from TRF, with additional contributions from members of the Rotary Club of North Platte Noon (Nebraska) and with the help of Gary's Super Foods, generated \$6,000 worth of food items for distribution to various pantries that were running short of food supplies. Recognizing the impact of the pandemic on communities in and around North Platte, these Rotarians loaded a trailer at Gary's Super Foods with 282 cases of food. The North Platte grant is part of the \$25,150 that TRF has granted for use throughout Nebraska in response to Covid-19.

During the celebration of the United Nations Public Service Day in Evanston, Ill. on June 23, President Mark Daniel Malory reiterated that TRF has awarded \$20 million to support Rotary Clubs worldwide in their response to Covid-19 in their communities.

In Philanthropy, the quarterly national magazine of The Philanthropy Roundtable, TRF is cited for having donated \$2 billion "collected from its 35,000 local chapters, and additional billions from the Gates Foundation for polio eradication. At the end of 2019, donors contributed an additional \$2.6 billion with the aim of turning one of history's most wounding viruses (polio) into a cold memory." (online article)

In Rotary,
Olabisi Gwamna Ph.D, Rotary Club of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Editor, Foundation Minute

Governor, District 6000...

To mark the passing of the District 6000 governor's gavel from **Erna Morain**, the 2019-2020 leader, to her successor for 2020-2021, **Steve Dakin** – and to attempt a record for virtual gavel-passings, the district sent out an invitation to all clubs. The event – including passing the presidential gavels from all participating District 6000 clubs – was staged online the afternoon of Friday, July 26. Bettendorf Rotarians **S.K. Nanda**

and **Fred Anderson** "attended" virtually from Fred's deck.

Afterward, now Past DG Erna emailed: "...If you missed the celebration, or if you want to see it again, just click this link to the 52-minute recording: <https://youtu.be/tbiuHzQAb2w>."

