



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

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Sept. 9, 2020, 22nd Covid issue

Next meeting:
Tanglewood Pavilion and ZOOM
Sept. 16, 2020

We get to play a round at BRC's annual Golf Outing

At the Sept. 9 meeting, event co-chair **Dean Kraus** reminded everyone to go to Palmer Hills Golf Course instead of a regular meeting. "There won't be any food here," he said.

In case you might have forgotten, **Larry Thein** has tee-times. Dean said 20 teams of four had signed up to play. Golfers are automatically signed up for the early dinner, but he asked those who are planning to eat without golfing to tell one of the planners. Members eat free, but guests cost \$10. Dinner – hamburgers, chicken, hotdogs and side dishes to go, instead of buffet-style – begins at 5 p.m. at the Pavilion.



This issue:
Sept. 9, 2020



Challenging year for Iowa farmers

At the Sept. 9 meeting, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture **Mike Naig** described the "unprecedented challenges" the state's agriculture sector has faced during 2020 – the coronavirus pandemic, drought and the damage caused by derecho winds.

While Covid-19, the illness caused by the virus, has impacted everyone in the U.S., Mike said Iowa agriculture has been especially hard-hit. The bad news includes falling prices for corn, soybeans and other crops; illness among the workforces at food-processing plants; other interruptions in supply chains; and falling exports because of tariffs imposed

by the Trump Administration. Iowa is the No. 2 state in agricultural export income – behind only California, he said. The drop in commodity prices has fallen so low that they are at or below the cost of production, he reported. And problems at food-processing plants has meant livestock producers have far more animals still on their farms than in a normal year.

A full 99% of the state is experiencing drought conditions, Mike reported, with some areas registering a foot or more below normal rainfall levels for the year. At this point in the growing season – with corn being harvested in some parts of the state – rain such as today’s may still have some small impact on other crops, he said.



The word *derecho* (meaning straight ahead in Spanish) was coined in the late 1800s to describe strong straight-line winds, Mike

said. But the scale of this year’s *derecho* – damaging crops, trees and buildings from South Dakota to Ohio – is “something new,” he said. In Iowa, the middle third of the state saw serious damage, from Carroll in the far west to the Mississippi River.

While 95% of Iowa farmers have crop insurance, Mike reported, they still need more help – the same as after any natural disaster. “We will recover,” he said as he talked about next steps to be better prepared for the next *derecho* storm.

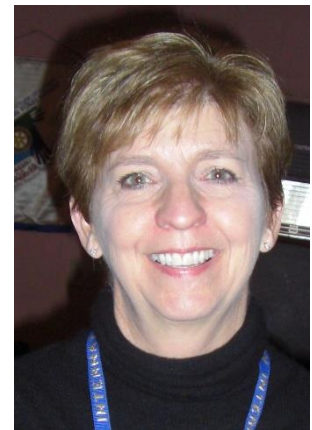
In answer to questions after his speech, Mike said 2020 has been “a tough year”

for the ethanol industry, a major “customer” for corn. Because Americans are driving so much less than in previous years due to Covid-19, demand for the fuel additive is down by about 60%, he said. That has caused about half of the state’s ethanol plants to close. He said he hopes a reversal of the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s imposition of the small-refinery exemption rule on the use of ethanol, plus renewed business activity, will help that industry in Iowa.

Announcements...

→The Rotary Club Frenzy: Ann

Kappeler thanked all of the members who shared ideas for auction items during last week’s meeting. Even though the meeting immediately follows lunch, she said she found **Harry Coin**’s description of BBQ brisket especially delicious. Another distinctive offering – a



34-by-60-inch wall hanging of the American flag constructed of reclaimed wood – also drew lots of interest (sorry: couldn’t see who offered it – please test me for next week’s issue: 563-650-3942).

The fundraising extravaganza will start at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 21 (at our meeting) and run through 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.

→**Member survey results:** Larry Thein shared the most liked responses to questions asked during the recent survey of members:

→Why did you join BRC? Networking... business development... community service

→Why would you recommend joining BRC? Fellowship / food / fellowship...



spreading goodwill
→What does BRC do well?
Raises money... makes newcomers feel welcome
→What could BRC do better?
Update the song list... switch greeters for every meeting... do

more projects and social network with other Rotary clubs

→What should BRC start doing (or resume doing)? Visitor nametags... welcoming group / committee for visitors and new members... more small-group socials

→What should BRC stop doing? Holiday parties in February, or after the Holiday season

→What are some favorite programs of speakers? **John DeDoncker**'s financial analyses... **Mayor Bob Gallagher**'s State of the City address... **Decker Ploehn**'s reports on the I-74 Bridge project, derecho storm cleanup etc. ... high school music groups (plus other programs involving student talent)

→Programs of speaker topics you'd like to see? Programs on local businesses... community leaders... thought-provoking projects... Honor Flight...

BRC Happy \$\$...



President Rick Bormann took the mic around the room so these Rotarians could share their happiness: **Steve Piart** – Pleasant Valley

High School's volleyball playing...

Maria Osterberg – happy to be back in person – and updating: the baby is 5 months old, and the 3.5-year-old is in preschool... **Decker Ploehn** – pickup of derecho-downed brush is still free – through the week of Sept. 14 – just cut it to 5-feet-long and bring it to the curb, he advised... **Mike Simons** – a “happy customer” of the city's tree pickup services... **Gary Mohr** – “a treat” to host today's speaker – and a promise to bring more state dignitaries to speak at BRC meetings.



The meeting opened...

Meeting for the 22nd time in the age of Covid-19 at Tanglewood Pavilion and via ZOOM, the meeting came to order when guest speaker Mike Naig, Iowa's secretary of agriculture, rang the bell.

President Rick Bormann led the recitation of The 4-Way Test. Via ZOOM, **Dick Hanzelka** sang “This Is My Country,” the day's patriotic song. Rick led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Moment of Silence, during which we honored our troops and supported those suffering because of the coronavirus pandemic. **Club Secretary Shelly Naumann** introduced Tiffany Lynch, the guest of **Carry Lamb**, and Chris Sullivan, the guest of **Shawn Langan**.



At the end...
 ... of the meeting today, **Steve Piart** won the “Happy to Have a Make-up” in the drawing from among all who shared happiness in this week’s BRC Happy \$\$.

BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter, photographer:
 Fred Anderson
fred.anderson.1144@gmail.com
Correspondent, Website host:
 Shelly Naumann:
bettendorfrotary@gmail.com

Upcoming meetings and more...

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



Sept. 16: No regular meeting – it’s BRC’s annual Golf Outing at Palmer Hills Golf Course
Sept. 30: Deadline for submitting auction items for “The Rotary Frenzy” fundraiser
Oct. 21-24: “The

Rotary Fund Frenzy”

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



Rotarians elsewhere...



The Rotary Foundation Minute...

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

Welcome to Rotary International’s Basic Education & Literacy Month!

Basic health improvement goes hand in glove with this month’s theme. All our stories this week celebrate the achievements of Rotarians improving lives both globally and in their communities with the financial support of TRF.

Before Valory Myers and three members of the Rotary Club of Fishers, Ind., traveled to Sierra Leone and started a fresh-water project, the West African country had very few sources of clean water. Since 2008, however, the country has witnessed much progress, which came to a head recently with a \$290,600 grant from TRF. Commenting on the grant, which is to fund 25 water wells in communities across Sierra-Leone, Past President Myers explained that situations in the rural areas propelled his club into action. “We saw we could make an impact there where ... 60% of people at that time did not have access to clean water. They were getting water from streams, ponds, and other sources that weren’t protected or sanitary.” With a total of \$1 million having been spent so far on water projects in Sierra-Leone, this Rotary Foundation Global Grant makes

the fifth of such by the Rotary Club of Fishers.

In another Global Grant success, area Rotary Clubs jointly worked to obtain a \$96,850 fund for Covid-19 response for community healthcare providers in Alameda County, Calif. The Rotary Club of Livermore and the Rotary E-Club of Lake Atitlan-Panajachel, Guatemala, represented the Area 4 Rotary clubs comprising Hayward, Castro Valley, Dublin and Pleasanton, among others. The grant will fund essential Covid-19 medical equipment for three local community health centers aside from engaging volunteers to participate in “high-priority” Covid-19 education, outreach and support initiatives. Area 4 Rotary Clubs have supported similar Covid-19 responses in the past.

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Bukoba, Tanzania, the Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise completed a water, sanitation and hygiene Rotary Global Grant for a rural boarding school. The Iuhya Secondary School in Bukoba lacked sufficient water for 600 students, faculty and staff, necessitating a daily 4-kilometer trek to a spring where students had to wake up every 5:a.m. and carry 5-gallon buckets each day before attending classes. The \$74,420 grant supported the construction of four 60,000-liter rainwater harvesting tanks; renovation of six existing tanks and construction of a toilet building with five flush toilets, hand washing sinks and a changing room for the girls. El Molino High School Interact Club created a “Walk for Water” fundraiser, involving parents and friends and with matching funds from TRF, contributed \$1,193.50 toward the grant.

“If you can’t feed a hundred people, then just feed one” (Mother Teresa).

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



**Rotary District
6000
governor...**

*‘The fifth test’ –
“Is it fun?”
(Version 10)*

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Proud to be a Rotarian,
Steve Dakin
District 6000 governor 2020-21
steve@retiredfun.net

For more on Bettendorf Rotary:
<http://www.bettendorffrotary.com/> and on
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/
bettendorffrotary](https://www.facebook.com/bettendorffrotary)

For more on Rotary International:
<https://www.rotary.org/>

