



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

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Dec. 2, 2020, 33rd Covid issue

Next meeting:
Via ZOOM...
Dec. 9, 2020

What one might find where Lillie meets Pine...

“After an exciting decade of volunteering in AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, teaching in Japan, and working in Chicago, **Katy**



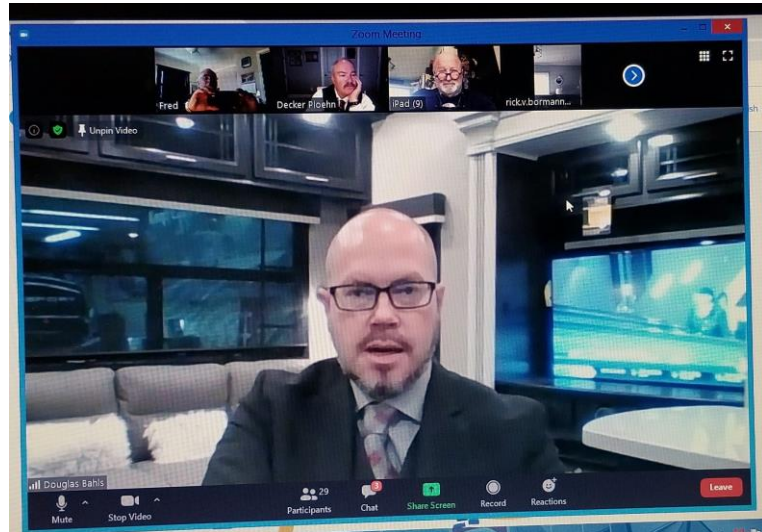
(**Miller**) returned to her native Iowa, where she grew up on Pine Street and Lillie Avenue.” So begins the narrative at the Website of Lillie & Pine, whose founder and product maker, is our Dec. 9 speaker.

The narrative continues: “She saw Nathan Miller across a room and asked

the person next to her ‘Is he single?’ Over the few years, Katy and Nathan married, Lillie & Pine unintentionally became a business and their wild + beautiful daughter, Sadie, was born.

“Katy creates and makes by hand all of the recipes and is one of her best customers. Turning this healthy hobby into a family business has been an incredible joy....” Learn more at katy@lillieandpine.com.

This issue:
Dec. 2, 2020



Success amid the pandemic

As 2019 was closing, **Doug Bahls**, general manager of Camping World Quad Cities in Davenport, looked toward 2020 with hope. The old year had been tough, he said at the Dec. 2 ZOOM meeting, and he hoped for better things.

Although January was slow, as it always is for a recreation vehicle dealership, Doug said February showed some promise...

Then in March, “the bottom fell out,” because of the coronavirus pandemic. After three weeks of shortened hours and some cuts in staff, Doug said Camping World decided to go the other way – expanding hours, buying quantities of short-supply items, such as toilet paper and hand sanitizer, “to help customers if they needed it.”

Besides the full range of camping vehicles evident in its huge lot beside

U.S. 61 near the Interstate 280 interchange, Camping World accentuated all of the other possibilities it offered – RV service bays, a full line of camping supplies and other outdoor vehicles, such as “four-wheelers, boats, motorcycles,” he said.

“We extended hours to be of greater service to the public,” he continued. “We made ‘Co-Videos’ for customers fearful of coming in to the store.” If a customer shows interest in a recreational vehicle, “we shoot a video ‘tour’ and send it to them.” The Davenport store has made thousands of them, he added.

All of that effort paid off in increased sales, Doug said. It helped that a national trend was emerging: people were increasingly taking their vacations in campers. And consumers were discovering that the upper end of the recreational vehicle spectrum offered all the comforts of home – sometimes even better, he commented. “Campers are full of technology,” including home-sized appliances and surround-sound entertainment systems.

Taking questions after his prepared comments, Doug was asked about camping after Covid-19. “People loved camping” this year, he replied. “They began with small campers, and now they’re trading up to larger models.”

Announcements...



→**Christmas baskets:** Harry Coin complemented all who volunteered to deliver Thanksgiving baskets, and called for volunteers to deliver Christmas baskets – which will

include a toy for each child in the recipient family. About half of the members needed to deliver to the 14 families on BRC’s list volunteered during the meeting.

The baskets will be picked up at the Devils Glen Hy-Vee the morning of Saturday, Dec. 19; members will add the toys they bought and gift-wrapped; then they’ll deliver them. BRC will reimburse members up to \$50 per toy.

Harry said he would email volunteers the details of their recipient family soon so they can have time to shop for the kids.

→**Turkey Trot:** Gwen Tombergs ran the virtual Turkey Trot, which resulted in a \$150 donation from BRC to Living Well Cares.

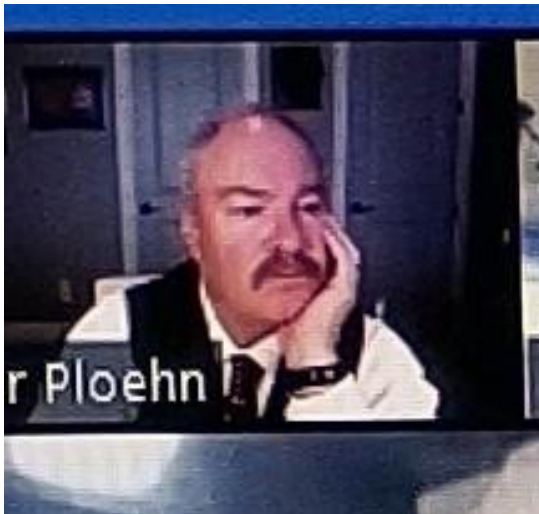
→**Free lunch of thanks:** Continuing BRC’s series of thank-you lunches to essential workers in Bettendorf, the teachers and staff at Rivermont Collegiate received pizzas since our last meeting. **Phil Dunbridge** coordinated the details.



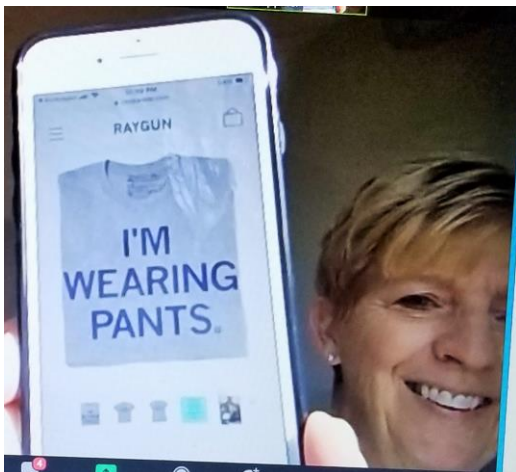
→**A footnote on grants:** As the meeting was breaking up, someone noted that the BRC Charitable Grants Committee is meeting tonight to review the 47 applications that will be considered for this year’s round of grants to QC not-for-profit organizations.

BRC Happy \$\$...

These Bettendorf Rotarians shared the current source of their happiness: **Decker Ploehn** – he and **Scott Naumann**, at the behest of **Gwen Tombergs**, spent four hours this morning



video-recording the intro to this year’s virtual auction fundraiser for United Way. Hard to imagine this, but Decker said his cheeks hurt from laughing so much as he tried to be a straight-man to Scott’s ad lib character-izations... **Gwen** – seconded the motion about it being the funniest morning of her life; the auction kicks off at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, and runs to 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18. All three Bettendorf Rotarians promise loads of laughs in a good cause... **Dr. Tom Olson** – his Santa suit is available for anyone who needs to impersonate the



Jolly Old Elf... (And added after the official Happy \$\$:} **Ann Kappeler** – displayed the perfect T-shirt for the time of Covid-19.

The meeting opened...

We gathered, all by ZOOM, for the 33rd time in the time of Covid-19. **President Rick Bormann** called the meeting to order and led the recitation of The 4-Way Test. **Tom Howard** sang “God Bless America.” Rick led the Pledge of Allegiance. For the Moment of Silence, **S.K. Nanda** remembered our troops, and **Tom Mielnik** offered support for all who suffering because of the Covid pandemic.

Club Secretary Shelly Naumann

announced the December birthdays: 05, **David Franks**; 10, **Aymman (Amy) Anis**; 12, **Dean Kraus**; 13, **Brad Boeye**; 15, **Gary Mohr**; 17, **Tom Mielnik**; 18, **Maria Osterberg**; 23, **Jeff Hassel, Bob H. Gallagher** and **Greg Blaske**; 28, **Larry Thein**; 29, **Will Doland**.



At the end...

... of the meeting today, **Dr. Tom Olson** won the “Happy to Have a Make-up” in the drawing from among all who shared 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**:

Dec. 9: Katy Miller, founder and product maker at Lillie and Pine

Saturday, Dec.

19: Distribution of Christmas baskets and toys

Dec. 23 and 30:

No meetings because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays



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Rotarians elsewhere...

The Rotary Foundation Minute...



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

Welcome to the last week of Rotary International's Foundation Month

The news this week is all about Rotarians helping ease the discomfort of Covid-19 in communities impacted by the pandemic. Fifty-two clubs make up

Rotary International District 6380 (Michigan and Ontario, Canada) with seven clubs located in Macomb County, Mich. These seven clubs donated more than 90,000 PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to hospitals, nursing homes, dental offices, homeless shelters, food programs and schools as part of their on-going "100,000 Mask Challenge." This largesse was made possible through a Rotary International Disaster Grant of \$25,000 awarded by TRF.

In a related report, the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North received a \$73,000 grant from TRF called the "Pandemic Relief for Detroit Project" to provide a total of 100,000 masks to frontline workers in the area. A member of the Livingston Sunrise Rotary Club and incoming DG for 2021-2022, Brenda K. Tipton, expressed gratitude to the Foundation, explaining that the \$73,000 GG Project "will supply PPEs and human service needs to the Detroit area... The Detroit VA Hospital is on the list to receive \$10,000 worth of PPEs."

Still in Michigan, District 6360 has provided funds matched by TRF to agencies providing nutritious meals to seniors in St. Joseph-Barton Harbor. The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Barton Harbor handed a sum of \$3,750 to Senior Nutrition Services and Meals on Wheels of SW Michigan. TRF grant was awarded to help respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused over 66% increase in need and new requests. Prior to Coronavirus, according to club president, Matt Hanley, 300 meals a day were served, but with the onset of the pandemic, the need has risen to 500 meals daily.

As I look back on 2020, I reflect on how *our lives have changed. The global*

