



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

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Feb. 3, 2021, 39th Covid issue

Next meeting, via ZOOM:
Feb. 10, 2021

Hear how Denise Hnytko has adapted to pandemic

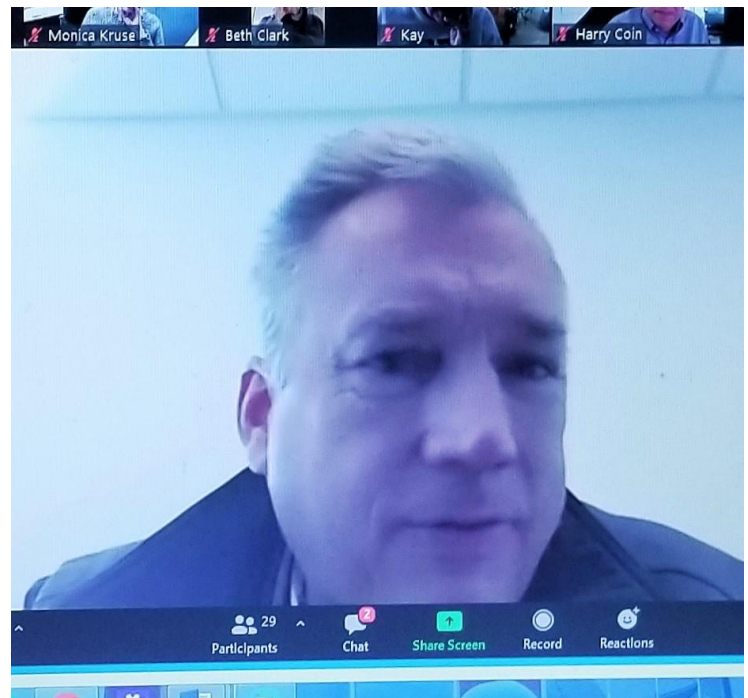


For nearly 10 years we've been used to seeing **Denise Hnytko** as an anchor of WQAD-TV8 evening newscasts. But since the Covid-19 pandemic, she's been broadcasting mostly from her Davenport home. At our Feb. 10 meeting, she'll give us a look inside this "new normal."

In addition, she'll tell us about her weekly podcast on parenting, "On A Mother Level" (she's a mom of 2).and how all of these changes have helped her "find a better work/family life balance," according to her Website.

Her podcasts "introduce you to parents with unique experiences and challenges, from infertility, to postpartum depression to teen's mental health." To learn more: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/on-a-mother-level/id1472638710>.

This issue: Feb. 3, 2021



RI firm a leader in positioning

While Past President **Mark Ross** was telling us about his company at our Feb. 3 meeting, he was also educating probably many of us about the function of "positioning" in manufacturing.

Mark is the CEO and CFO of ALM Positioners in Rock Island, which, its Website says, is "redefining how manufacturers assemble and weld by working faster, better and safer than with standard material-handling equipment."

Without positioners, Mark (and some of his colleagues on video) explained that welders often resort to using straps, chains and other devices to hold a work-piece in position as they welded. It is awkward, time-consuming and

sometimes dangerous. Often they have to change positions – and maybe move their welding equipment – to finish all of the welds on a piece.



Using ALM positioners, in contrast, lets the welder secure the work-piece once and have the positioner move it to any position necessary to complete all of the welds. ALM's products can hold work-pieces weighing 4,000 to 125,000 pounds, moving them hydraulically in any direction at the touch of a button.

Beginning with its two largest customers, Deere and Caterpillar, Mark said ALM custom-makes positioners for manufacturers in many industries, tailoring them to each company's needs. Its clients make products used in agriculture, construction, defense, aerospace, automotive, trucking and other industries, Mark said. Positioners safely raise their clients' productivity by about one-third, he explained.

ALM has set the goal of becoming the leading company in the \$500 million "intelligent positioning" market by 2025, he said. To learn more, click: <https://www.almmh.com/about/>.

Mark also put in a plug for his other company, Landjet, which drives clients to destinations such as Des Moines, Kansas City, Chicago or St Louis – "a typical range is 4 hours," Mark said – in what are essentially offices on wheels. Landjet goes to many cities not conveniently served by commercial flights, at a cost comparable to flying, he added.



Announcements...

→ Lunches for essential workers:

President Rick Bormann read a note from a teacher at Morningstar Academy, who said "thanks for taking care of us" by buying lunch last week for the school's teachers and staff.

→ Chilly Challenge: John DeDoncker



took up the challenge that Rick issued last week to run the Burry Scurry remotely – and earn a BRC donation to the non-profit of his choice. John, suffering through the winter at his alternative residence on St. Maarten, is giving his \$150 to Hav-Life and matching that with his own \$\$.

→ **Moving back towards normal:** Rick announced he had ordered 10 Plexiglas shields, which can be placed strategically in the meeting room to help keep social

distances when we return to meeting in person. “With those, plus vaccinations, maybe we can get back to meeting in person soon,” he said hopefully.

BRC Happy \$\$...



Rick asked members to share sources of their happiness this week: **Eric Reinsch** – returned to work after self-quarantining because his wife

had been exposed to Covid-19... **Decker Ploehn** – tested the 4th and 5th times last week because of possible Covid-19 exposure – “We have a stupid people problem,” he stated, “not a pandemic problem”... **Dr. Tom Olson** – he and Robin have received their second Covid-19 vaccinations... **Harry Coin** – an “almost funny” observation: youngest daughter Liz performed improv comedy at a rehabilitation center, so she got a vaccination, but Harry’s Mom, who’s eligible for a shot because of her age, hasn’t had one yet.

The meeting opened...

The 40th meeting of the Bettendorf Rotary Club in the time of Covid-19 came to order via ZOOM. After calling the meeting to order and introducing the speaker, **President Rick Bormann** led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. We heard the singing of two songs: **Dick Hanzelka** sang the patriotic song, “This Is My Country,” and **Tom Howard** sang the perennial favorite, “Let There Be Peace on Earth.” Rick returned to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence, when we offered support for our troops (thanks to **S.K. Nanda**) and to first responders, including police and fire

officers and EMTs (thanks to **Tom Mielnik**).

Club Secretary Shelly Naumann introduced returning guest **Shannon Chap**, who told us a bit about herself: Married 28 years, she and her husband are parents of four boys, ranging in age from 11 to 28. She’s joining Bettendorf Rotary to find opportunities to know more about the community – and to give back to it.



Members with February birthdays – who without a pandemic would have headed for

the dessert tray – are: 05 **Penny Guenther**; 05 **Shelly Naumann**; 10 **Gwen Tombergs**; 13 **Shawn Langan** and **Paul Scranton**; 15 **Russell Wright**; 16 **Tim Downing**; 22 **Tricia Gross**; 23 **S.K. Nanda**; 25 **Craig Windmiller**.

At the end...

... of the meeting today, **Eric Reinsch** received the “Happy to Have a Make-up” drawn from among the names of members who shared the source of their happiness in today’s ‘BRC Happy \$\$.’



After that, Rick pronounced our our usual benediction: “Be proud to be a Rotarian – especially a Bettendorf Rotarian. See you next week.”

Upcoming meetings and more...

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

Feb. 10:

WQAD-TV8 evening newscast anchor Denise Hnytka talks about having to broadcast from home since the Covid-19 pandemic, and tells us about her weekly podcast on parenting, "On A Mother Level"



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For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

Website:

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bettendorfrotary>

To join BRC meetings, at noon every Wednesday:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85935276889?pwd=RFhGOGQ0eU5vaEFNYjB2TjR4WWtydz09>

Meeting ID: 859 3527 6889

Passcode: 069113

For more on Rotary International:

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



Rotarians elsewhere...

The Rotary Foundation Minute...

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



Welcome to February, The Peace & Conflict Prevention and Resolution Month of Rotary International!

For Rotarians, February focuses on conflicts that occur throughout the world that have as their root causes poverty, despair, economic hardship and poor health. This is precisely what the grants sponsored by TRF impact. Throughout the month of January, Rotarians all over the world were doing charitable vocations that were beneficial to all concerned.

Some clubs in St. Lucia, (United Kingdom) donated 12 computers to two high schools; some bought 10,000 masks for a school; several clubs distributed thousands of dictionaries to elementary pupils; D5450 (Colorado USA) organized internships for the homeless. By mid-January, Rotarians in 70 clubs across Nebraska and western Iowa had donated \$15,000 in a multi-district food drive. These donations were more than double with \$17,000 in matching grants from the foundations operated by the two districts.

The last week of January featured another act of kindness undertaken by Rotarians with the support of TRF. With help from a Rotary Foundation Grant, Rotary D7810 (New Brunswick/Maine) donated \$12,000 to Catholic Charities of Maine for the purchase of food for food banks in two counties because of the increased food insecurity due to COVID-19.

Giving is more than an activity. It is a way of life and a beacon in the search for hope in troubled times. There is great turmoil today, but these are not unusual times, not in the span of human history. The wisdom of the ages is especially important to help us set our path and purpose.

(K.R. Ravindran, Foundation Trustee Chair. Rotary magazine, February 2021)

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?” (A dose of humor, hopefully to help start your Rotary week with a smile. Version

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Hard to get started this morning. Spent too much time trying to get my orange juice down. The carton said “Concentrate”.

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

