



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS...

in the time of Covid-19

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Feb. 10, 2021, 41st Covid issue

Next meeting, via ZOOM:
Feb. 17, 2021

Community development amidst the pandemic

Our speaker for the Feb. 17 meeting – **Mark Hunt**, Bettendorf’s community development director – began that position in May 2020, just about two months after the Covid-19 pandemic shut down... everything.

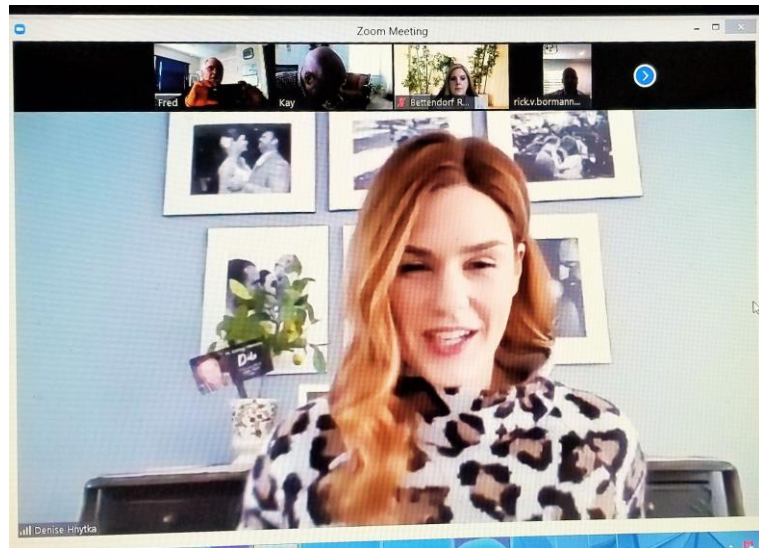


In dealing with that challenge, Mark had the advantage of already being familiar with the QC. For some 17 years he had worked in various planning positions in Davenport and Rock Island, and as finance and economic development director for Milan, Ill

The Bettendorf Website notes that Mark began working in local government in 2003 as a planner at Bi-State Regional Commission. Earlier he served in the U.S. Coast Guard as a public affairs specialist.

Mark and his wife Jen live in Bettendorf. They are parents of Julia, 23, and Ethan, 18, and grandchildren Ryker and Esme.

This issue:
Feb. 10, 2021



Doing TV news in time of Covid-19

As she provided some insight into local broadcasting in the time of Covid-19, WQAD-TV8 news anchor **Denise Hnytka** revealed some surprises to those attending the Feb. 10 meeting via ZOOM.

Speaking from her makeshift studio in the basement of her West Davenport home, Denise said that with the proper apps and connections, “You all could broadcast with the equipment you have” at home.

“We still use all of the stuff” usually associated with a remote TV broadcast, she added, including the truck with the TV8 logo on the side, large TV cameras and lights, and lavalier microphones. But since the pandemic prompted widespread lockdowns last March, “we’ve made it work” largely from home, she said.

Not knowing how long the shutdown would last, she said at first she staged a small area of her basement with a few props. She asked a florist for help to “make it look nice,” but that soon ended because there was no budget for it.

She decided to include some family photos in her set. “People appreciated a more natural setting,” she said, adding, “I was at home, just like the rest of you.”

When she’s working at home, her boys, ages 2 and 4, are in daycare. Her husband operates an electrician business in Muscatine.

Denise said she’s been going in to the station for the nightly newscasts since October, but the rest of her reporting is from home. The Ch. 8 building is vastly different, she said: “A year ago about 100 people worked there, but now it’s down to about 10,” because of all of the pandemic safety steps. Most reporters broadcast remotely, she said, because they daily contact many people and don’t know their health status.



After the birth of her second son, Denise suffered from postpartum depression. That experience influenced her decision to start her weekly podcast, “On a Mother Level.” She explained, “I realized I had things to say” – although most of her podcasts now take the form of interviews with mothers and how they are dealing with their parenting experiences and challenges.

This week’s podcast, for example, focuses on a North Scott mother of a child with leukemia. In researching and reporting that podcast, Denise said, “I learned that just 4% of donations to cancer research goes to childhood cancer research.... Also, most donated blood goes to support patients such as her son.”

In Q&A after her presentation, Denise strongly urged everyone attending to consider donating blood. [Harry Coin added a comment that blood donation is easy, and he recommended talking with one’s doctor about it. To make an appointment at the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, call 563-359-5401; for more information, click on www.bloodcenter.org/.]

To learn more about Denise’s podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/on-a-mother-level/id1472638710>.

Announcements...



➔**Return to normal meetings:** President Rick Bormann projected that the Plexiglas shields will be in place for his projected return to in-person meetings on March 1 at Tanglewood Pavilion.

➔**Fundraiser:** Rick announced the beginning of the BRC 2021 fundraiser.

He invited members to volunteer for the 6-8-member steering committee. Because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, every aspect of the event must



be decided. Rick said **Ann Kappeler** has volunteered to be involved because of her extensive experience in past fundraisers. He urged all members to participate in

working on the event. To volunteer, email **Club Secretary Shelly Naumann:** bettendorfrotary@gmail.com

➔ **Appreciation lunches:** Continuing BRC's series of appreciation lunches for the community's first responders, Rick said we're buying lunch on Monday, Feb. 15, for the teachers and staff at Pleasant Valley's Cody Elementary School.

BRC Happy \$\$...



After the speaker, **Rick** asked members to report on what made them happy this week:

Frank Mitvalsky – Son Noah qualified in four events at the state swim meet this weekend... **Scott Naumann** – city staff worked on next year's budget – \$120 million, including new firefighter and police hires, but no hike in the tax rate... **Maria Osterberg** – 10-month-old no longer quite a baby has taken first steps... **Mary Macumber-Schmidt** – son has his first job after graduation... **Gwen Tombergs** – on her 62nd birthday,

showed off logo of her new company, Fresh Start Living.

The meeting opened...

President Bick Bormann called the 41st meeting of the Bettendorf Rotary Club in the time of Covid-19 to order via ZOOM. After greetings and a brief introduction of the day's speaker, he led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. **Tom Howard** sang "America the Beautiful," the day's patriotic song. Rick led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Moment of Silence – with **S.K. Nanda** giving special thanks for our troops. There were no guests. Rick for Happy \$\$.

At the end...

... of the meeting today, **Mary Macumber-Schmidt** 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 \$\$.'

To close the meeting, Rick reminded us to be proud to be Bettendorf Rotarians.

Upcoming meetings and more...

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

Feb. 17: Bettendorf's community development director, **Mark Hunt**, began that position in May 2020. Hear how he's been dealing with the twin challenges of a new job and the pandemic.



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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=RFhGOGO0eU5vaEFNYjB2TjR4WWtydz09>

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 Week 2 of Peace & Conflict Prevention and Resolution Month of Rotary International!



The news this week comes from Belarus, where TRF has provided the matching

funds for the purchase of a minibus for children affected by the Chernobyl reactor explosion. The Rotary Clubs of Shropshire, Staffordshire (D1210, West Midlands, UK) and the Newport (Shropshire) Lite are the sponsoring clubs with the Rotary Club of Minsk, Belarus, being the host club.

Newport Rotary Lite's Chernobyl Children lead, Margie Haslop, said: "This minibus will make an enormous difference to children whose tough lives have been made even worse by the pandemic in Belarus. It will mean they will be able to get to a day center to give them and their parents a break, the foster care center, leaving care project and – sadly – their much-needed palliative care services. The children have a whole range of disabilities resulting from the Chernobyl reactor explosion, and unfortunately many of these are life-limiting. Accessing services is extremely difficult for them and we've been told the minibus is already making a real difference to them.... As well as the serious risk of Covid, these children have multiple cancers from an explosion before they were even born, and the support given to the minibus from Newport, other Rotary clubs, schools and Furrows Telford means their lives will be better, however long they are."

In her own statement, Linda Walker, executive director of the Chernobyl Children's Project Charity, acknowledged the help offered by the Rotary clubs and TRF, adding "What Newport Rotary Lite has done for the children and young people we support is just fantastic... They have helped them for several years, but to get the children a new minibus will make a huge difference to their quality of life, which is even tougher at the moment."

49 Fun Facts of Rotary Geography
By Rotarian Steve Garret, DG District
5450

- Were you aware that the Rotary Club of Reno, Nev., is farther west than the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, Calif.?
- Would you guess that the meetings of the Rotary Club of Portland, Maine, are farther south than those of the clubs in London, England?
- Can you imagine that the Pensacola, Fla., Rotary Club is west of the Detroit, Mich., club?
- It's a fact that the Cairo, Ill., Rotary Club is south of Richmond, Va.
- There are 69 Rotary clubs with the word "Tokyo" in their club names.
- The Rotary Club of Nome, Alaska, lies west of the club in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the Santiago, Chile, club is located east of the Rotary Club of Philadelphia, Pa.
- Rotary geographers will know that virtually every Rotary club meeting in Australia is east of the Hong Kong Rotary Club.
- What do the Rotary clubs of Quito, Ecuador, Libreville, Gabon, Singapore, and Kampala, Uganda, have in common? You guessed right if you said they all meet approximately on the equator.

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 32)*

**Everything will kill you so choose
something fun!**



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