



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

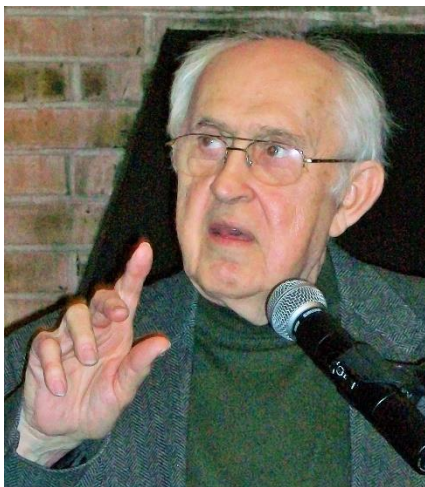
**Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
March 10, 2021, 45th Covid issue**

***Next, at Tanglewood
Pavilion and via ZOOM:
March 17, 2021***

**Learn the truth about
St. Patrick – on his day**

Mention St. Patrick to most of us, and only a few things will likely come to mind. He was Irish. It’s said he drove the snakes out of Ireland. And his day is an opportunity to engage in a bit of frivolity.

One of our members even went so far – during such a time of frivolity at the old Glynn’s Pub in downtown Bettendorf – that he ended the good saint’s day with an O’ prefix to his decidedly non-Irish name... by an official act of the mayor.



At next week’s meeting we’ll have the opportunity to learn something real about the Patron Saint of Ireland from our guest speaker, **Don Wooten**. We’ll meet the historic person and find out why the Irish hold him in high esteem.

***This issue:
March 10, 2021***



**John: economy
recovering well**

Last year around this time, our own **John DeDoncker** presented his annual economic forecast – and shortly after that the Covid-19 pandemic threw *everything* out the preverbal window... including John’s 2020 forecast.

This year, at the March 10 meeting, rather than dwell on what everyone knew would be terrible 2020 numbers, John focused on how the economy is performing right now – and he offered these predictions for 2021:

- The V-shaped recovery – rising steeply from an equally steep decline in 2020 – will continue
- Gross Domestic Product will continue to rebound vigorously
- Inflation and interest rates are likely to remain low
- The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) stimulus package, just signed into law by President Joe Biden, likely will not be followed by another
- The housing market will continue to gain strength
- The U.S. will continue to build toward “herd immunity” to the Covid-19 virus, thanks to the three vaccines that have been developed, produced and disseminated
- Later on, income tax rates for the wealthiest Americans, including taxes on capital gains, likely will rise.

Before making those predictions for 2021 overall, John described the current status of a number of economic indicators. His observations included these:

Since two-thirds of the U.S. economy depends on consumer spending – and “we’re already seeing more spending now than in December 2020,” John said – expect a spike in spending as the \$1,400 checks to individuals under the ARP. Spending on groceries is up, down on gasoline, he said, while people are saving more by a double-digit margin, and credit card delinquency is very low.

Unemployment, and under-employment, still affects millions of Americans, John said, with service sectors such as travel and hospitality especially hard-hit. Hospitality is rebounding somewhat, he added, but many restaurants went out of business and others are still struggling.

Covid hurt the manufacturing sector, he said, but it is showing renewed strength. The housing market is especially hot with new-housing starts on the rise – but prices took their biggest jump since 2014. With mortgage rates expected to stay low, housing looks to remain “pretty positive,” John added.

The national debt continues to rise by numbers that are hard for most people to grasp – federal borrowing now amounts to \$224,000 per taxpaying American, John said. But he expects it to have little effect on the overall economy because the Federal Reserve “has flooded the federal balance sheet” and “we’re a long way” from seeing increased interest rates.



Presentation...

→**Paul Harris +3:** For having contributed \$4,000 to The Rotary Foundation since joining Rotary, **Greg Blaske** received the Paul Harris Fellowship pin plus three rubies from **S.K. Nanda**. Donations to TRF fund projects around the world to improve people’s lives. [See the last page of this newsletter to read about a project that resulted from work by several clubs.]

Announcements...

➔ **A special raffle coming up:** **Ann Kappeler** added some detail to the raffle that **Tom Mielnik** introduced last week. She asked for a few more volunteers to work on creating packages to be bid on, ticket sales and other raffle details.



The committee held its first planning meeting after the weekly meeting.

➔ **More lunches for essential workers:** The BRC Board committed to continuing our club's pandemic-prompted project to provide lunch for the teachers and staff of schools in Bettendorf. So far, we have provided lunch for one day at all public and private elementary schools in the city. The project will continue, **President Rick Bormann** said, with lunches at all middle / junior high and high schools by the end of the school year.

➔ **Scholarships are being awarded:** Officials at Bettendorf's high schools have selected the recipients of \$1,000 BRC Scholarships, to be presented to Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley, Rivermont Collegiate and Morningstar Academy graduates.

➔ **District 6000's Ride to End Polio:** Actually, **Rick** announced, it's not necessary to ride 30 miles to support a commitment to the campaign to raise funds for Rotary's PolioPlus within District 6000. Each member in the



district is asked to pledge \$30 (or more) and “do 30 units of something physical,” such as bike, walk or run 30 miles, or exercise for 30 minutes daily, between now and April 10, he said The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will match each \$30 donation 2-to-1 to purchase polio vaccinations.

BRC Happy \$\$...



President Rick Bormann walked through the room with a microphone so members could share sources of their happiness this week: **Gwen Tombergs** – displayed business cards for her new company, Fresh Start

Living, which helps people in life transitions, including de-cluttering... **Harry Coin** – provided background information on **Bill Stradt**, long-time BRC member who passed this week [see below]... **Steve Sorensen** – “doubled our grandkids in the last two months”... **Joe Campion** – weather’s warming and the birds are returning, so they need homes – so he’s offering a “sale” on his \$50 birdhouses for \$40 (all of which will go to BRC)... **Ken Brooks** – the Boys & Girls Club Virtual Gala 2021 fundraiser was a success and **Decker Ploehn** did a great job as emcee... **Dr. Tom Olson** – remembered Bill Stradt as his Scout leader + wife Robin “had a little trouble getting in and out” of one of Joe’s birdhouses last winter... **Ann Kappeler** – glad to be back from winter in Florida... gone long enough for all the snow to melt + got her first Covid-19 vaccination... **Scott Naumann** - Davenport Rotary is asking if our table shields are bullet-proof... visiting Moline Rotarian Mark Carlson – he’s now the sergeant-at-arms of Moline Rotary... **John DeDoncker** – happy to be back in person... **Rick** – happy to see so much growth in in-person attendance.

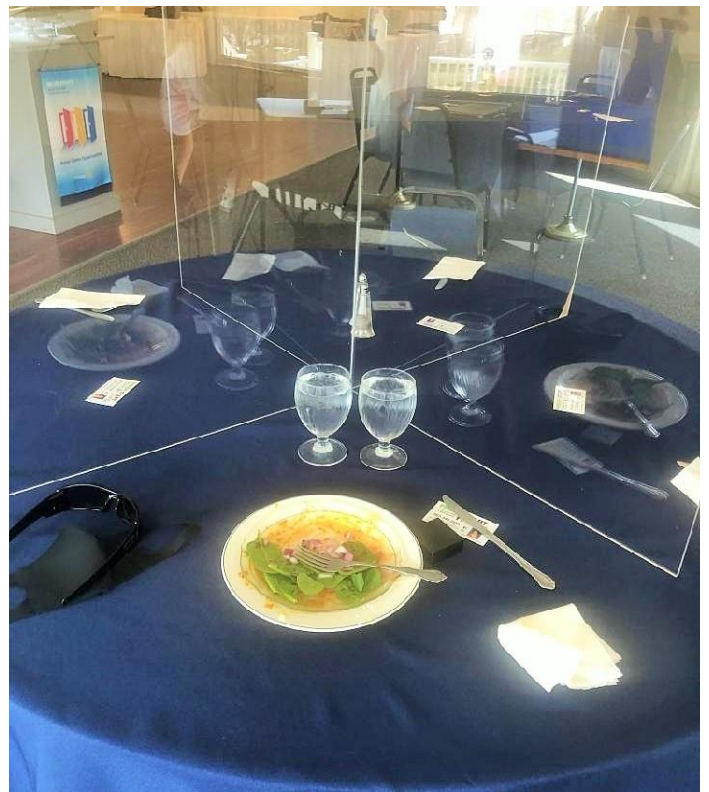


The meeting opened...

President Rick Bormann called the 45th meeting of the Bettendorf Rotary Club in the time of Covid-19 to order at both Tanglewood Pavilion and via ZOOM.

[Historic note: A year ago, on Wednesday, March 11, BRC had not yet ceased meeting in-person because of the

pandemic. At that meeting our own **John Sherrick** updated us on recent changes in federal tax laws. That was the last meeting for a while – but in the week of April 8, *The BRC News* resumed publication to keep us in touch with each other and share news of what individual members were doing to serve the community. By the end of April 2020, we had begun to talk about meeting virtually. And we had our first meeting by ZOOM on May 6, 2020 – **Mayor Bob Gallagher** and **Decker Ploehn**, city manager, updated us on how Bettendorf and the Quad Cities were adapting to the pandemic. And now, back to now...]



At the Pavilion, the table-top Plexiglas partitions finally arrived and were installed at dining tables to provide an extra element of protection to members.

Although the ZOOM members temporarily lost their audio feed, they heard Rick finish introducing **John**

DeDoncker as the day's speaker and proceed with leading the recitation of the 4-Way Test. On ZOOM, **Dick Hanzelka** sang the day's patriotic song, "America the Beautiful." Rick led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Moment of Silence, when we honored our troops, those suffering because of Covid-19 and the passing of longtime Bettendorf Rotarian **Bill Stradt** [see next page].

Club Secretary Shelly Naumann introduced visitors, Mark Carlson, of Moline Rotary, and Angela Stagg.



At the end...

... of the meeting today, **Harry Coin** 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

Remembering Bill Stradt...

The obituary in Wednesday's newspaper begins:



"William 'Bill' Emil Stradt, 93, of Bettendorf, died of natural causes on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, at the Kahl Home, Davenport, Iowa. A private family service is

planned at Weerts Funeral Home with a private family burial following at

Davenport Memorial Park Cemetery...."

The full obit is at:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/qctimes/name/william-stradt-obituary?pid=197953605>.

Harry Coin provided this additional information on this longtime member – one of the major contributors who founded the BRC Scholarship fund with a donation of \$21,000. Harry wrote:

"Throughout the Sixties, individual Rotarians were involved in a multitude of governmental, Chamber of Commerce, educational, civic and vocational projects. During that decade, the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce was continually held by Rotarians. Don Plumb was director of the Scott County Civil Defense; Bill Stradt and Bob Knapp received 'Boss of the Year' awards; 2002-03 While some traditions, like the Golf Outing/Steak Fry fundraiser and the Thanksgiving/Christmas baskets continued, other new traditions were born. Members began developing a web site and the Club directory was put on CD...."

Harry provided a list of the recipients of BRC Scholarships that Bill Stradt in part funded:

2020, Kadin Kruse & Madeline Licea; **2019**, Caroline Christophersen & Cecilie Schieffer; **2018**, Ashlyn Haack & Collin Smith; **2017**, Lillian Jones & Elizabeth Zupancic; **2016**, Diana Wu & Rebecca Fuhrmeister; **2015**, Branden Arends & Gabrielle Petkova; **2014**, Kelsey Clingingsmith & Shraddha Kumar; **2013**, Morgan Kennedy & Dionne Riley; **2012**, Robert DCamp & Morgan Kennedy; **2011**, Brooke Bierhaus & Jori Colarusso; **2010**, Clairra Hart; **2009**, Rachel Iltis; **2006**, Sara Castillo; **2004**, Sunita Saigal."

Upcoming meetings...

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

March 17: On St. Patrick's Day, we'll have the opportunity to learn more about the Patron Saint of Ireland from our guest speaker, **Don Wooten**. We'll meet the historic person and find out why the Irish hold him in high esteem.



Make up at another QC club...

[NOTE: If any of these listings need to be updated, please notify the editor; thanks]

Monday, noon: Davenport – The Outing Club

Monday, noon: Moline – Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline

Monday, 6 p.m.: QC Illinois – Club Room, Hy-Vee, 7th Street & John Deere Road, Moline

Tuesday, 7:15 a.m.: River Cities – Brothers Restaurant, Rapids City

Tuesday, noon: Rock Island – QC Botanical Center

Wednesday, noon: Bettendorf – Tanglewood Hills Pavilion

Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Mini Meet – Lunardi's Restaurant, Davenport

Thursday, 7 a.m.: Iowa Quad Cities – J-Bar, Elmore Avenue, Davenport

Thursday, noon: East Moline – Christ United Methodist Church

Thursday, noon: Milan – Pinnacle Country Club

2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours – Bierstube, Moline

Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

BRC News staff...

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Thanks to **S.K. Nanda**, **Larry Thein** and **Scott Naumann** for on-site photography

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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...

District 6000 Conference early registration deadline is Monday!

The Early Bird In-Person Registration for the “Living the 5 Way Test” District 6000 Conference ends Monday, March 15. The conference is Saturday, April 24, 4:30-9 p.m. at the Courtyard Ankeny Marriott Hotel.

You can register online at the district Website, or click the link below, print the attached form and mail with payment, or call District Secretary Carolyn Scharff at 877-976-8279.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgxwLswDnqCMRHwdgMDmzkSgHlcpq>.



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 36)

A skeleton walks into a bar and orders a beer and a mop.

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

The Rotary Foundation Minute...

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

Welcome to Week 2 of Rotary International's Month of Water and Sanitation.



Happy Women's Month to all Rotarians and other women around the world.

In the past week, Rotarians in D9110 (Nigeria); D9455 (Australia) and D3610 (South Korea) funded a 30 million Nigerian Naira (US \$72,898) Rotary Foundation Global Grant in their effort to fulfill one of RI's 7 areas of focus. Twelve schools in the Lagos area of Nigeria will benefit from the RF's Matching Grant aimed at improving literacy and education in two local government areas of Lagos. Along with

the three international districts, 17 local Rotary clubs, including Okota and Isolo, contributed 2.5million Naira (US \$6,075) to provide each school with e-learning equipment or smart classrooms. Each school will receive an interactive board, a projector, software resources and a 2.3KVA generator.



E-learning cuts across all subjects and the president of Rotary Club of Okota said the equipment will help students properly assimilate. The principal of Okota Junior Grammar School, Mrs. Oduguwa Taiwo, appreciated the efforts of Rotary and assured the organization of proper maintenance of the equipment.

In a joint effort Global Grant, the Rotary Club of Emory-Druid Hills, Decatur, Ga. (D6900 USA) and Rotary Club of Udaipur (D9600 India) coordinated a project aimed at improving the quality of life of a differently-abled community. TRF provided the necessary matching funds for the \$182,995 Global Grant which was spent on developing a central fabrication unit for prosthetics and orthotics at Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. When fully operational, the unit will provide artificial limbs and equipment to bolster the center's campaign for empowering the differently abled. According to PDG Rajesh Agrawal of D6900, with the help of TRF, NSS is serving needy individuals with essential services including free food, operative surgery, limbs, education and life-saving skills.

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