



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS...

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Feb. 9, 2022

*Next:*

**Beginning at 11 a.m. Feb. 16 at Waterfront Convention Center**

## We'll give out \$38,600 in grants to non-profits

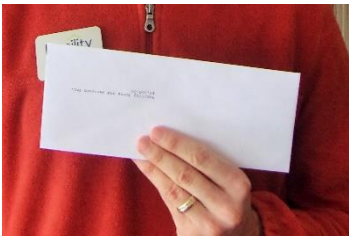
Taking the place of our usual meeting at its usual time, next Wednesday we'll meet at the Waterfront Convention Center to award a record amount in

grants – \$38,600 – to not-for-profit agencies in the Quad Cities.

Because of the Covid-19 shutdown, we have not gathered to present grants since 2019. So this meeting is also a celebration – “This is why we do what we do,” said **President Larry Thein**.

To allow recipients adequate time to receive their grants, the lunch service will begin at 11 a.m., and presentations will also begin early, expected to run 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Because of the importance of this event in the life of Bettendorf Rotary, an estimated 60 members are predicted to be at this meeting. **Larry** asked members who know they can't to attend to please notify **Club Secretary Shelly Naumann** ([bettendorfrotary@gmail.com](mailto:bettendorfrotary@gmail.com)) so food can be prepared accordingly.



Feb. 9, 2022



## Journal to serve business in QC

**John Lohman**, publisher of the *Quad Cities Regional Business Journal*, which put out its first issue on Jan. 24, told us the story of expanding the concept of his publication from Cedar Rapids-Iowa City to the QC, at our Feb. 9 meeting.

John spent most of his life in Iowa before launching the *Corridor Business Journal*, which serves the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City business community. He was born in Evanston, Ill., but the family moved to northwest Iowa when he was a small child. He earned two degrees at the University of Iowa – and he entertained sports fan as Herkie the Hawk part of that time.

After receiving his master's degree, he covered Iowa City as a reporter for the

*Cedar Rapids Gazette*. After losing that job, he went to work at the Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant as a community-outreach officer. In that capacity, he gave presentations to groups across the state – one of which was at the *Des Moines Business Record*, where he got the idea for a similar publication in the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids market.

John established the Corridor Media Group and launched *CBJ* in 2004. He said it became profitable three years later – just before the Iowa River flood of 2008 inundated his offices and seriously damaged businesses throughout the entire CR-IC corridor.

As his enterprise was recovering, he was encouraged to expand into the Quad Cities by several leaders here, including Mike Freemire, then mayor of Bettendorf (and a former BRC member). John studied the possibility over the next few years, finally getting serious about half a year ago, he said.



He hired **Jennifer DeWitt**, a veteran of QC business journalism, as his new publication's editor, and opened offices in the Alter Building in downtown Bettendorf.

In addition to publishing the bi-weekly *QCRBJ*, the company creates electronic newsletters and podcasts, and stages events, such as “90 Ideas in 90 Minutes” – a session with nine QC business leaders, scheduled for Thursday, April 21, at Davenport's Adler Theatre. To purchase \$40 tickets for the 7:30-9:30 a.m. event, contact Jenni Hatz, 563-345-7225 or [jenni@quadcitiesbusiness.com](mailto:jenni@quadcitiesbusiness.com).

## Announcements...

### →State of the City:

#### **Mayor Bob**

**Gallagher** will present his annual State of the City address at **noon Wednesday, March 9**, at the Waterfront Convention Center. Since BRC is the host organization, this event takes the place of our regular meeting.



#### **Decker Ploehn**

reminded us that we should arrive early because lunch service begins at 11 a.m. with the mayor's address beginning half an hour later.

### →Rotary Youth Exchange - update:

**Harry Coin** said a female volunteer has been secured to be a supervisor and liaison between the exchange youth, host families and the school. But Harry said a male volunteer is needed as a supervisor. One more host family is also needed, Harry said; two other families have already volunteered to host the still-unknown student for three months each.

### →Membership growth: **Scott**

**Naumann** – who is an at-large member of the District 6000 Board – described a recent visit to a small, struggling club in the district: He is especially focused on membership growth – and that club was having difficulty recovering from the effects of Covid-19. In contrast, about BRC he said:

“We have momentum. Our new members are up. We have an opportunity, so let's get new members engaged – we'll continue to grow.” He also said BRC can serve as an example to clubs that are still struggling with declining membership.



## BRC Happy \$\$ Plus...

With the microphone, **President Larry Thein** roamed the room so members on ZOOM could hear the news from members in the room: **Larry** began – happy about Tuesday evening’s Red Badge meeting, “the largest in memory”... **Brock Biggerstaff** – his birthday, his first as a Rotarian + now well after illness... **Peggy Schneden** – happy her son-in-law, the Los Angeles Ram, is in Super Bowl – and there are donuts on the counter... **Brian Goerd** – even though the Iowa State Cyclones have hit a rough patch, happy they’re having a much better season than last year... **Jeff Doty** – after missing two birthdays and rough times with the Boy Scouts bankruptcy, it’s good to be back... **Tim Lane** – great Red Badge meeting last night and thanks for Tanglewood hostesses for their work supporting it – and for coffee today... **Joy Dodson** – welcome to today’s speaker... **Jeff Bloemker** – thanks to the BRC Board members who led the Red Badge meeting to help welcome new members... **Decker** – on vacation in Hawai’i the last two weeks – where his son “treated” him to a 6-mile Temple of Doom kayak ride + “here’s \$10 to send **S.K. Nanda** to smaller Iowa Rotary clubs” so they can learn more about the history of Rotary (see the Red Badge coverage, below)... **Ken Vandersnick** – **Peggy**’s son-in-law (Jake Gervase)

changed to Rams jersey No. 43 – he plays on special teams... **Tom Howard** – happy “his” Purdue basketball team beat the Illini... guest **Dave Sheffield** – got engaged – and plans to join BRC... **Larry** again – Rotary’s “birthday” is coming up soon – when is it?... **Scott Nauman** answered: Rotary was founded by Paul Harris on Feb. 23, 1905 [which is also **S.K. Nanda**’s birthday... except for the 1905 part: Ed. Fred].

## The meeting opened...

**President Larry Thein** rang the bell and called the meeting to order for members present and on ZOOM. After introducing the day’s speaker, **John Lohman**, of the *Quad Cities Regional Business Journal*, he



asked **Ken Vandersnick** to lead the recitation of The Four-Way Test. **Tom Howard** led the singing of the day’s patriotic song, “America the Beautiful.” **Larry** asked **Jeff Bloemker** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. **Larry** led the Moment of Silence, during which **S.K. Nanda** asked that we remember our troops and **Decker Ploehn** noted the passing of prominent QC resident **Bob Ontiveras** (founder of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and many businesses).

**Club Secretary Shelly Naumann** introduced visitors: **Robin McNamara**, guest of **Larry Thein**; **Robin Randall**, guest of **Maria Osterberg**; **Dave Sheffield**; and **Joni Abbott**, guest of **Scott Naumann**.

After announcements, **Tom Howard** led the singing of “Vive le Rotary” and “Let

Me Call You Sweetheart,” since Valentine’s Day is Monday. We sang it through once, then the second time through we omitted pronouns: “Let ... call ... sweetheart, ... in love with ...”.

## At the end...



... of the meeting today, **Brian Goerdt** won the drawing for a free meeting make-up from among the members who shared their news in today’s installment of “BRC Happy \$\$ Plus”.

## In other BRC news...

→ **Red Badge meeting:** On Tuesday evening, The BRC Board plus a few other members gathered with 13 new members in the reception room at the Tanglewood Chapel to get better acquainted and share Rotary knowledge.



Each member of the Board – **Larry Thein, Tim Lane, Brian Strusz, Laura Dobesh, Mike Ingleby, S.K. Nanda, Brian Goerdt, Rick Bormann, Harry Coin and Scott Naumann** – shared a bit of what being a Bettendorf Rotarian



means to them. S.K. especially outlined the history of Rotary and how it is structured to carry out projects to help people around the world improve their lives. Also in attendance were **Frank Mitvalsky** and **Joe Campion**, two of a newly formed group of mentors who help new members “get plugged in” to active participation in the club. **Club Secretary Shelly Naumann** and *BRC News* Editor **Fred Anderson** also participated.

Taken together, the “two-minute stories” by these members gave a fuller sense of what Rotary – and BRC – are about. The Rotary emphasis on service dominated... and it was also a dominant theme when the new members took their turns to speak. A number of them have already volunteered – to deliver Christmas baskets or to join a committee or other working group of the club, for example. Some of the new BRC members have been in Rotary in other locations.

The members at the meeting who can now remove the red patch from their membership badge were: **Joy Dodson, Deb McCreight, Matt Sturdevant, Steve Roberts, Michael Manternach, Jeff Bloemker, Dan Harvey, Mike Vondran, Marty Clifton, Whitney Misfeldt, Eric Reinsch, Jessica VanDyke and Dana DeDecker.**

## For more on Bettendorf Rotary...

Website:

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

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

## To join BRC meetings...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7823748708?pwd=Q1dKblVLSFhLZUJZVnA3YzVnLzRKZz09>

Meeting ID: 782 374 8708

Passcode: 236034

## BRC News staff...

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## For more on Rotary International:

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

## Upcoming meetings & more...

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



### Feb. 16:

Awarding of \$38,600 in BRC Charitable Grants, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Waterfront Convention Center – lunch service begins at 11 a.m.

### March 9:

**Mayor Bob Gallagher** gives the State of the City address at the Waterfront Convention Center

**April 22-23:** All-Iowa District Conference, Coralville Hyatt

**June 4-8:** Rotary International Convention, Houston, Texas; to register: <https://convention.rotary.org/en>



## Make up at another QC club...

*[NOTE: To update any of these listings, please notify the editor; thanks]*

Monday, noon: Davenport – Davenport YMCA

Monday, noon: Moline – Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline

Monday, 6 p.m.: QC Illinois – Club Room, upstairs, Hy-Vee, 30<sup>th</sup> Street & 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island

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

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

Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport



## Rotary elsewhere...

### Rotary Foundation minute...



[NOTE: Some weeks, the District 6000 Rotary Foundation Minute comes from the district's chair, Olabisi Gwamna, of the Rotary Club of Mt.

**Pleasant, Iowa. Since he didn't send one this week, S.K. Nanda, BRC's Rotary Foundation chair, wrote:]**

“The fourth object of Rotary is the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideals of service.”

Rotary gives scholarships to study up to two years in any of its seven peace centers around the world. They are:

→Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

→University of Bradford, Bradford, England

→University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

→Duke and North Carolina universities, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina

→International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan

→Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

To learn how to apply or nominate someone for a peace fellowship, visit: [Rotary.org/peace-fellowships](https://Rotary.org/peace-fellowships).

## All-Iowa District Conference...

The All-Iowa District Conference, April 22-23, combines Iowa's two Rotary districts – 6000 and District 5970 in northern Iowa. It's the first time in 75 years that the two districts have combined for a conference.

Some highlights:

→Friday lunch speaker: Aaron Putze, Rotary Club of Waukee, author of “You Are Destined for Greatness” on Hawkeye Chuck Long, who will be in attendance

→House of Friendship Friday and Saturday until 2 p.m.

→Tree planting Friday afternoon in observance of Earth Day

→Friday evening optional event at Big Grove Brewery – receive a special Rotary Glass with one drink ticket and heavy appetizers

→Saturday starts with “Hawkeye Breakfast” followed by sessions.

→Saturday luncheon speaker: RN Rachel Fisher, a human traffic survivor, followed by a panel on human trafficking

→Saturday afternoon: awards, breakout sessions and other activities

→Saturday dinner – celebrate the success of the last two days



View your registration choices at <https://rotary6000.org/event/all-iow-district-conference/>.

You can register online or mail the form that's an attachment on this email:

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

The early bird price discount is available until March 22.