



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS...

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
Feb. 23, 2022

*Next:*  
March 2 at Tanglewood Pavilion

## We'll hear from the 'First Lady of Natural News'

In this era when some people doubt everything that other people hold as truth, almost everything seems to have become politicized, so our March 2 speaker is timely. **Joni Abbott** produces a weekly radio / pod show, Homegrown Health.



According to the Health Freedom Iowa website, Joni "has been dubbed

'The First Lady of Natural News.'..." Her show "pertains to everything 'family'," including such topics as "home-birthing..., parental rights, vaccine education, home-schooling, home-gardening..., alternative healing modalities..., and overall lively discussion and interviews that will encourage, empower, strengthen and enlighten families world-wide." Click on: <http://www.healthfreedomiowa.org/partners.html>

You can find her podcasts here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/homegrown-health/id1420254454>

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## CASA helps kids get to safe homes

The name seems dry and lifeless. Yet, we learned at the Feb. 23 meeting that Court-Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, which are at work in 66 of Iowa's 99 counties, help abused or neglected children who appear in court with some remarkable results. Those children achieve higher graduation rates, have lower healthcare and foster care costs, are more employable and experience less homelessness, incarceration or teen pregnancies.

Those benefits accrued to only about 12% of the estimated 11,000 abused / neglected Iowa children in the most recent year with complete statistics.

Three experienced child advocates spoke to us: → **Megan Hill**, executive director of Friends of Iowa CASA – there are some 950 CASA programs in 49 states, with more than 93,000 volunteers



→ **Anthony Bielski**, a volunteer who is a



longtime member of the Board of Directors, Friends of Iowa CASA. After having completed about 30 hours of training, Anthony, like all volunteer CASAs, works

with a judge on one case at a time – involving either one child or all of the siblings in one family.

→ **Georgann Cusack**, program



coordinator of the Iowa Child Advocacy Board in Scott and surrounding counties. Her work also involves Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

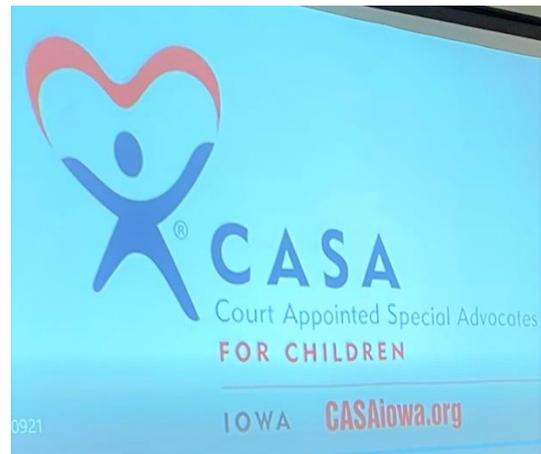
comprising 5-7 volunteer members in a county, who meet monthly to review Iowa Department of Human Services cases in their area. Iowa has 26 local boards serving 52 counties, which “hear from interested parties”, reporting their findings and making recommendations to the courts and DHS.

Anthony elaborated on the work of a CASA, which typically consumes a few hours a week. Through monthly visits of about two hours, he gets to know the child well. He also gets information from others who know the child, such as DHS workers, parents, therapists, teachers and maybe others – reporting findings and recommendations to the judge. He goes

to court with the child. He monitors plans and court orders affecting the child. In short, he guides the child as quickly as possible through “the system” until the child reaches a safe, permanent home.

Megan, who has years of experience as a CASA and as a coordinator of CASAs, oversees often 30-40 cases at the same time – “with more waiting... there aren’t enough CASAs to meet the need,” she said.

Anthony said his six years of CASA service “make me a better person... a better parent.”



To learn more, contact Georgann, the Scott County coordinator: 563-323-3616 or [georgann.cusack@dia.iowa.gov](mailto:georgann.cusack@dia.iowa.gov).

## Announcements...

→ **Meeting room layout:** “If you like this layout,” **President Larry Thein** began, “please tell me.” When we arrived for the meeting, we saw the room set with the “front” – speaker’s rostrum, big screen and projection equipment – rotated 90 degrees and much closer to the food and the bar. That put tables closer to the action. “If you don’t like it,” Larry continued, “tell **Decker (Ploehn).**”

In any case, share your reaction with Larry... and we’ll see the members’

consensus expressed in the room arrangement next meeting.

➔ **Charities Committee:** Still buoyed by last week's public celebration of BRC's service to the community – as we awarded nearly \$37,000 in grants to 21 not-for-profit QC agencies – Larry thanked the Charities Committee for its work in assessing grant requests and selecting the recipients. He asked its members who were present to stand.

Charities Committee members this year are: **Jeff Hassel**, chair, **Ann Kappeler**, **Carol Foster**, **Joe Champion**, **Bob Gallagher St.**, **Joe Pacha**, **Rick Bormann**, **John DeDoncker** and **Greg Blaske**.

➔ **BRC Board:** With about one-third of his presidential term remaining – which means the annual turnover in BRC leadership (July 1) is approaching – Larry invited members who are interested in being nominated to serve on the Board to notify him, or any current Board member.

➔ **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. This event takes the place of our regular meeting. Arrive early for lunch service, beginning at 11 a.m. The mayor's address begins at 11:30.

➔ **Lobsterfest: Penny McGimpsey** announced the next meeting of the LobsterFest Planning Committee – **5:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at Realty One Group**, 4726 N Brady St. Davenport. With all



of the work it takes to make this No. 1 fundraising event in the BRC calendar succeed, she invited everyone who's interested to attend.

LobsterFest will be Saturday, June 11.



➔ **Lunch for BPD: Monica Kruse** (during "BRC Happy \$\$ Plus") reported on the second BRC lunch for the Bettendorf Police Department on Friday, Feb. 18. Thanks go to **Jerry Felsing**, Steve's Glass, for underwriting the lunch of Happy Joe's pizza and dessert. **Tim Lane**, Edward Jones, is sponsoring the March lunch, from Pizza Ranch. "We still need sponsors for the last two months of 2022," Monica said.

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

**President Larry Thein** roamed among the tables with the microphone so members on ZOOM could hear members in the room share their news: **Maria Osterberg** – daughter's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday... **Todd Ashby** – happy to be back... **Tim Lane** – grandson's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday... **Tim**

**Downing** – 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – celebrated at a surprise party on Sunday – he recalled attending his first Rotary meeting as a guest at age 16... **John Rabine** – bought a house and thanked Rotarians **Bob Gallagher** for legal help, **Bill Daley** for new floor coverings and **Jerry Felsing** for new glass shower doors... **Frank Mitvalsky** – son Noah’s 200-relay swim team triumphed at state while breaking records... **Mike Vondran** – celebrating a successful Martini Shake-off fundraiser for HAVlife + thanks for BRC grant... **Monica Kruse** – elaborated on two of the handouts at our tables – Habitat for Humanity needs volunteer construction site supervisors, to lead crews of volunteers on new-home construction and repair work – to volunteer or for more information: Rebecca Ludin: 563-359-9066 / [Rebecca.Ludin@habitatqc.org](mailto:Rebecca.Ludin@habitatqc.org) + invitation to QC Area Realtors fundraiser for Project Jack – a program in memory of Jack Lindaman, a victim of spinal muscular atrophy at age 6, which gives Iowa 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders opportunities to “pay it forward” using \$250 grants – 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at Five Cities Brewing... Larry – reminder: new members who attended the recent Red Badge Meeting can now remove that sticker from their name badge.

### The meeting opened...



At the sound of the bell, **President Larry Thein** welcomed everyone. He asked **Penny McGimpsey** to lead the recitation of The Four-Way Test. **Tom Howard** led the singing of the day’s patriotic song, “Goc Bless America.” Larry asked **Eric**

**Reinsch** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Larry led the Moment of Silence, during which we especially remembered our troops (thanks to **S.K. Nanda**), the people of Ukraine, as they are being invaded by Russians (**Monica Kruse**) and friends in the community in need of support (**Harry Coin** and **Mike Ingleby**).

**Club Secretary Shelly Naumann** introduced guests: Brian Kopf, guest of **Penny McGimpsey**; Derek Cockrell, guest of **Matt Sturdevant**; and Haileigh Garza, guest of **Larry Thein**.

After announcements, we lived up to our reputation as a singing Rotary when Tom led us in “Sing Out a Song of Rot’ry,” two verses of “If You’re Happy and You Know It” – and, since Rotary was founded on this date in 1905, “Happy Birthday, Rotary International.”

### At the end...

... of the meeting today, **Frank Mitvalsky** 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”.



### To join BRC meetings via ZOOM...

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

Meeting ID: 782 374 8708

Passcode: 236034

## Upcoming meetings & more...

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



**March 2:** Joni Abbott producer of a weekly radio show / podcast, Homegrown Health

**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>

**Saturday, June 11: LobsterFest**

## BRC News staff...

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## For more on Bettendorf Rotary...

**Website:**

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

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



## 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...

### 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.

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/FMfcgzGmtrMRVRTqKkXdpNhmndxVCMpm>.

The early bird price discount is available until March 22.

### Rotary District 6000 governor...



Kiran and I visited our 66 district Rotary clubs in person and via zoom over the first part of this Rotary year. We look forward to continuing to work with all of the Rotarians in our great district and show together how with Rotary we all...  
**SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES!**

**IN ROTARY FELLOWSHIP**  
Alka K Khanolkar | District 6000  
Governor 2021-22  
Email - akhanolkar6000@gmail.com  
Cell – 319-504-9857



The R.I.S.E. Action Team shares this thought:

**The mouth should have three gatekeepers:  
Is it true?  
Is it kind?  
Is it necessary? – Arab Proverb**

**For more on Rotary District 6000:**  
<https://rotary6000.org/>

### The Areas of Focus of Rotary International ...

The work of Rotary begins in the community, and every community has its own unique needs and concerns. While we serve in countless ways, we've focused our efforts in six key areas to maximize our impact. These areas encompass some of the world's most critical and widespread humanitarian needs, and we have a proven record of success in addressing them:

- **Peace and conflict prevention/ resolution**
- **Disease prevention and treatment**
- **Water and sanitation**
- **Maternal and child health**
- **Basic education and literacy**
- **Economic and community development**

Rotary members planning new service projects are encouraged to consider these areas and the many opportunities for innovative projects within them.

**For more on Rotary International:**  
<https://www.rotary.org/>