



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS...

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
March 23, 2022

Next:
March 30 at Tanglewood Pavilion

John DeDoncker will take our economic pulse...

As he has for a number of years, for the March 30 meeting, our own **John DeDoncker** will analyze the economic numbers to yield a financial review of the past year – and offer a forecast for the year to come.



In a “normal” year, that’s not an easy task. But recent history has been – and promises to continue to be – anything but normal. The Covid-19 pandemic has had worldwide impact – including uncertainty arising

from the appearance of yet another variant of the virus. Not one economic indicator is acting the way it “should be.” Supply chains are scrambled. Production of goods and services has been interrupted. Shipping is snarled at every choke-point. There are labor shortages in key sectors. Unemployment appears to be low. Prices are inflated to historic highs as demand outstrips supplies of... everything. Attempts to sort it all out are hampered by all of the above all at once.

John, help us out!!

March 23, 2022



United Way helps QC early readers

To help struggling young readers improve their skill, United Way Quad Cities is carrying out a campaign, Read United QC. **Renee Gellerman**, president and CEO, and our own **Melissa Pepper** explained the program and gave us some personal perspectives on young readers at the March 23 meeting.

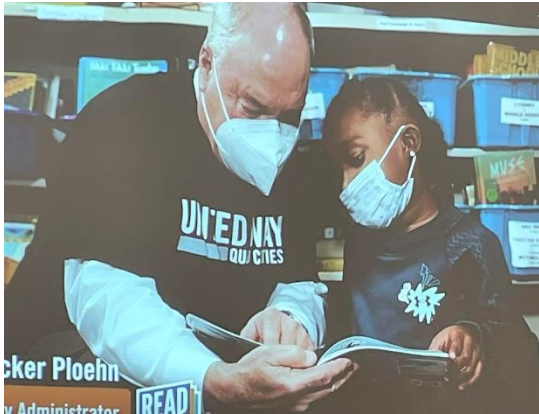
Melissa opened with the story of how her young son Grayson got his introduction to school during the Covid-19 pandemic. To him, she said, school has meant a Zoom screen connection to a teacher and other children,

followed by in-person learning with, and then without, a mask. She related how all of that background affected his ability to



develop a love of reading – and how grateful she was that she and her husband were able to help Grayson learn to read.

“But not all parents can help kids expand their reading ability,” for a variety of reasons, she observed. In an effort to fill that gap in the most vulnerable children’s abilities, United Way devised the Read United QC program, she explained.



As a transition from her introductory comments, Melissa showed a public-service video that local TV stations are using to help publicize the United Way reading program – “starring” our own **Decker Ploehn** and an early reader from the Rock Island school system. The little girl read a passage from a story book, and Decker gently coached her when she came to a difficult word.



Renee said Read United QC aims to help at least 500 preschool to 3rd grade students in Scott and Rock Island counties by pairing a volunteer mentor with each child whom the school districts identify as needing extra help.

Educators feared the pandemic – during which many parents kept children at home because of health-safety concerns – had caused problems with the abilities of early readers. The impact came into sharp focus after an assessment of 3rd graders’ abilities to read at grade level revealed some startling numbers, Renee said.

Before Covid-19, 61% of all 3rd graders had a reading proficiency at grade level – but since the pandemic, that has dropped to 30%. The numbers are much worse for minority students: For Black 3rd graders, proficiency fell from 37% before Covid-19 to “less than one in 10,” Renee said. Hispanic students also dropped dramatically – from 52% grade-level proficiency before to 24% afterward. In contrast, white students’ proficiency fell from 63% pre-pandemic to 36% since.



Research shows one-to-one coaching to be an extremely effective way to help struggling readers improve their performance – and their love of reading.

In Read United QC, adult volunteers read at least half an hour once a week with their paired early reader. So far, Renee said, 377 adults have signed up with a total of 500 targeted. Volunteers can sign up online, she said, and they go through a background check, online orientation and training before beginning work with a student. Teachers with reading expertise

have created reading-education kits for the volunteers to use.

Besides the reading program, United Way hopes to raise \$500,000 in donations to pay for early-childhood education, out-of-school, mentoring and parenting classes. To donate, text READQC to 41444.

To learn more, or to volunteer, logon to UnitedWayQC.org/ReadUnitedQC – or call 563-355-4320. United Way’s office is at 852 Middle Road, Suite 401, in Bettendorf.

Announcements...



➔ **Lunch for Bettendorf PD: Monica Kruse** reported on this month’s appreciation lunch for the Bettendorf Police Department. The March meal was from Pizza Ranch, courtesy of **Tim Lane**, she reported. April’s meal will be from Mio Russo, and is sponsored by **Mike Vondran**. Monica added that two more sponsors were needed.

After the meeting, she reported, “**Shawn Langan** stepped up to provide a future meal. That leaves only one sponsorship slot left to be filled to complete one year of meals for our outstanding police department.”

➔ **Fundraiser for Ukraine: Monica**

announced the Sunflowers for Ukraine Relief Project, a partnership between BRC and Bereskin Gallery and Art Academy, “to fundraise and provide relief directly to those who are displaced.”



Scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, April 1, it’s an opportunity to purchase an original piece of art – featuring sunflowers, the Ukrainian national flower – donated by local artists. Artists can still donate a piece for the fundraiser – by the March 29 deadline. To donate, or for more information, contact the gallery – <https://www.bereskinartgallery.com/ukraine-relief-project>. The gallery is at 2967 State St., Bettendorf.

Proceeds from the event will go directly to the Kyiv Rotary Club through Rotary International.

➔ **Aid to Philippines: Harry Coin**

updated our project to install fixed clean drinking water stations and supply toothbrushes and toothpaste to children of families who live as squatters beside a landfill west of Manila where they subsist by scavenging. He reported that, thanks to International Service Chair **Tim Lane**, and **Harry**’s college roommate Roc Blumenthal, who is president this year at the Alabang, Philippines Rotary Club, BRC has sent \$4,000.

➔ **Member retention:** Following its meeting after last week’s membership meeting, the New Member Retention Committee, led by co-chairs **Sharon Sarver** and **Ann Kappeler**, brought together new members with their sponsors or mentors – and **President Larry Thein** asked all present to stand.

The group is working on ways to engage new members, including a “BettenDo” project to benefit the community... social events... ice-breaker opportunities... more use of social media to help keep all members connected.

→**LobsterFest: Matt Sturdevant** thanked “Team Lobster” for such a productive meeting Tuesday. He announced that tickets will go on sale



May 2 for the June 11 event. With a goal of selling 400 tickets, he said more than a hundred have been sold so far. In other LobsterFest developments:

→**Shelly Naumann** announced that sponsorships have reached the \$25,000 mark on the way to the \$100,000 goal. She praised **Maria Osterberg** and **Eric Reinsch** for their work getting sponsors.

→**Scott Naumann** explained how value has been added to sponsorships in terms of the number of tickets they now receive: 16 for Gold (\$2,500) sponsors, 8 for Silver (\$1,000) and 4 for Bronze (\$500).

→**Larry** thanked **Brock Biggerstaff** for his work developing the spreadsheet to

track LobsterFest sponsorships. He also thanked all new members on “Team LobsterFest,” asking them to stand.

→**BRC Board: President Larry Thein** said there’s still time for any member who is interested in becoming part of the 5-year presidential track on the BRC Board to apply – just tell any current Board member.

→**Heart Walk:** Following up on last week’s program, Cathy Brandt, corporate events director of the American Heart Association for Dubuque and the Quad Cities, provides two ways BRC members can participate in the QC Heart Walk:

→Join the Rotary Club of Bettendorf Team of the Quad Cities Heart Walk: <http://www2.heart.org/goto/RotaryofBettendorf> or

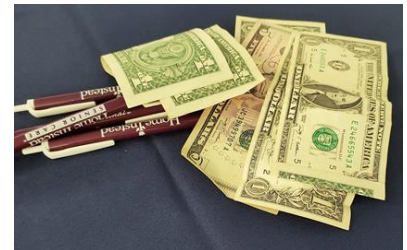
→Start your own team:

www.QuadCitiesHeartWalk.org

The fundraising event steps off the morning of Saturday, June 11, with check-in opening at 8 a.m., at Schwiebert Riverfront Park, 101 17th St., Rock Island. For more information or to register, call 815-541-1945.

BRC Happy \$\$ Plus...

Roaming the room with the microphone, **President Larry Thein** opened the sharing of news: Four years



ago, he said, he was on safari in Africa – and tomorrow he takes delivery of trophies from the taxidermist... **Larry** also said thanks for a referral from a member... **Scott Naumann** – recorded a Rotary-promoting spot with a local radio station, adding, “We need positivity,” which he provided recalling such projects

as the Acre of Warmth campaign over the winter – and he invited listeners to join a QC Rotary club... **Tim Lane** – on vacation in Florida, the Lanes visited former BRC members, the Carl Loweths, now Floridians... **Mike Simons** – marking his 62nd birthday... **Maria Osterberg** – it's her baby's 2nd birthday... **Tim Downing** – very happy



to say Iowa State is one of only three schools in the NCAA tournaments with both men's and women's teams still competing (go, Cyclones!)... **Sharon**

Sarver – happy to see **Mark Ross, Will Doland** and **John DeDoncker** all at today's meeting – and thanks to **John** for repeating at a Title Sponsor of LobsterFest... **Mary Macomber Schmidt** – happy to have kids home for Spring Break... and happy they're gone now... **Decker Ploehn** – last week at this time he was in Iowa City with about 100 other city managers + happy to see Renee

Gellerman as guest speaker...

Tom Howard – proud "his Boilers" are the only Big-10 team left in the NCAA tournament... guest Jennifer Furness – enjoyed hearing

"men with such good singing voices" (nobody talked her into saying that, Tim).

The meeting opened...

After **Melissa Pepper** rang the bell, **President Larry Thein** called the meeting to order and asked **Jeff Bloemker** to lead the recitation of The 4-Way Test. **Tom Howard** led the singing of the patriotic song, "God Bless America," and **Jeff Hassel** led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

For the Moment of Silence, members around the room called out for

remembering our troops, supporting the besieged people of Ukraine, and comforting the families of QC actor **Michael King** and the grandmother of **Ryan Kopf**, on their passing.

Club Secretary Shelly Naumann

introduced guests: Renee Gellerman, our guest speaker; Dale Zude, guest of **Mike Vondran**; sisters Jenifer Furness and Jeanie Fountain, guests of **Scott Naumann**; and Rhonda Ludwig, guest of **Ken Vandersnick**

After announcements, **Tom** returned to lead us in two more songs: "Singin' in the Rain" (punctuating the day's weather) and, because Russia's invasion of Ukraine still rages, "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

At the end...

... of the meeting today, **Mary Macomber Schmidt** won the drawing for a free make-up from among the names of members who shared their news in today's installment of "BRC Happy \$\$ Plus."



For more on Bettendorf Rotary...

Website:

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

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

To join BRC meetings via ZOOM...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86114972491?pwd=c3RZdm5qL01EckFWZzFrSjZkZ01ZZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 1497 2491

Passcode: 816180

Upcoming meetings & more...

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



March 30: our own **John DeDoncker's** annual economic review and forecast

Friday, April 1: Sunflowers for Ukraine Relief, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Bereskin Gallery and Art

Academy

Saturday, April 2: District 6000 Education Assembly, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Des Moines Area Community College

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



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, 30th Street & 18th 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

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

Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

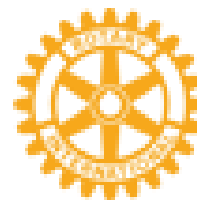
BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter: Fred Anderson
fred.anderson.1144@gmail.com

Correspondent, Website host:
Shelly Naumann:

bettendorffrotary@gmail.com

Rotary



Rotary elsewhere...

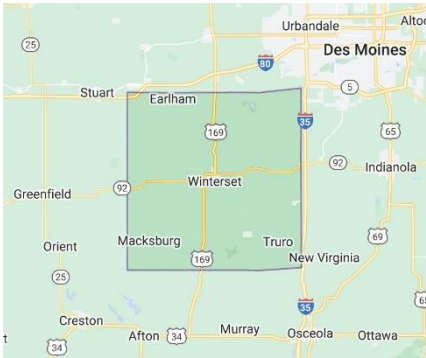
District 6000 Disaster Relief/ Humanitarian Services Action Team helps victims of Iowa natural disaster, Ukraine war

“The District 6000 Disaster Relief/
Humanitarian Services Fund Action
Team has been very busy the past few
weeks. Tornadoes and war have brought
into sharp focus the overwhelming need
that exists here in Iowa and in Ukraine.

“Citizens of Madison County and the
citizens of Ukraine have been harmed by

natural disasters and man-made conflagrations. During the past two weeks, your Disaster Action Team has developed a two-track approach to meeting the needs of Iowans and the citizens of Ukraine.

“The Disaster Relief Team has reached out to **Madison County** and identified a



trusted contact, Rotarian Thomas Leners, president of the Winterset club, to guide the distribution of funds donated by D6000 Rotarians to aid in the recovery of county residents that lost homes,

property and family members. Your dollars, given to H.E.F. (Humanitarian and Educational Foundation), our district's 501(c)(3), will be distributed to the Rotary Club of Winterset and Go Serv Global. Go Serv Global, run by Rotarian Paul Van Gorkom, its CEO. is doing all the cleanup at no charge. The work involves thousands of dollars a day and is expensive to operate. They are an excellent organization as we have seen firsthand with the trips made to Kentucky and now Winterset.

“Ukraine and its citizens are in the news as reports of thousands of refugees, mothers, children and the aged, who have fled their homes for the safety of neighboring countries. Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation are bringing together organizations and people both here and abroad to distribute food, medicine, clothing and other basic humanitarian needs to the homeless refugees fleeing the falling bombs, rockets and advancing Russian troops.

“There are two ways to use the tools of Rotary to help the citizens of Ukraine. Rotarians in our district can direct funds to H.E.F. and the Disaster Relief Team will work with Rotary International to get your funds to the organizations meeting the needs of the Ukrainians at the borders and in the countries of refuge.

“The other way is to give directly through the Rotary International website. Use this link: www.rotary.org/en. You can read the stories and at the bottom of the page and donate to the Humanitarian Initiatives guided by Rotarians and their chosen partners on the front lines.”

Troy Thompson, Chair, Rotary District 6000 Disaster Relief/Humanitarian Services Fund Action Team

DG Alka Khanolkar adds:

“Over the weekend I received the opportunity (from my batch mate from District 6450 in Chicago) of being invited to join nine other Districts for applying for a \$25,000 Emergency Disaster Relief Grant through the RI Foundation....

“The \$25,000 from each of the 10 districts will be used to transport medical supplies to the Ukraine to meet the need of the hour. The first military flight will be leaving this Thursday with the first batch of medical supplies.

“Over the weekend PDG Chris Knapp (D6000 Foundation Chair), Rotarian Norlan Hinke (Incoming D6000 Foundation Chair) and myself attended a zoom call with other districts and learned about applying for the \$25,000 grant and saw the plans in progress for sending the medical supplies from the warehouse in Chicago in Partnership with UMANA (Ukraine Medical Association of North America).

“I want to take a moment to thank Norlan Hinke for helping us get the application form filled out and PDG Chris Knapp and myself signed and we submitted the form this morning. There is no financial obligation from our end. This is just another wonderful opportunity of helping when we can and we should. We will keep you updated and informed of the details as we receive the information followed with photos and a newsletter release of the medical supplies reaching the right place.

“Thanks again for all your generous contributions to our local and global communities! Let us continue to make a difference saving lives and doing good in the world.”

Reminder:

District Education Assembly...

The District Education Assembly – especially for presidents-elect, president-nominee and other incoming officers such as membership, Foundation and public image chairs – will be 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the Des Moines Area Community College, or DMACC.

Check in starts at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and refreshments.

The DMACC campus is at 602 N. 2nd Ave. W., Newton, IA 50208. The meeting is scheduled for Room 210A at the west end of the building.

To register – either to attend in-person or remotely:

<https://rotary6000.org/event/district-training-assembly-5/>

All-Iowa District Conference...

Our District Conference is next month. If you plan to book a hotel room at the Hyatt, you have until March 31 to get the

reduced rate of \$119, which includes internet and ramp parking. Learn about the speakers, activities and register at: <https://rotary6000.org/event/all-iow-district-conference/>.

District 6000 governor...



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

Two things to remember in life: Take care of your thoughts when you are alone and take

care of your words when you are with others.

IN ROTARY FELLOWSHIP

Alka K Khanolkar | District Governor 2021-22

Rotary District 6000

Email - akhanolkar6000@gmail.com

Cell – 319-504-9857

For more on Rotary District 6000:

<https://rotary6000.org/>



Rotary Foundation minute...

[S.K. Nanda, BRC’s Rotary Foundation chair, is on vacation, so this comes directly from the Foundation:]

World Water Day was March 22. One key focus of Rotary International is Water and Sanitation – especially in areas

of the world where those basic necessities cannot always be taken for granted. Through grants, the Rotary Foundation funds the work of members worldwide to help people who lack clean water, adequate sanitation and other reliable ways to have good sustainable hygiene. Here are quick looks at two recent projects:

Installing a water system in Tanzania:

(A collaboration between the Rotary Club of Same, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, in District 9214, and the Rotary Club of Ames, Iowa, District 6000)

“About 2,000 people in the village of Kigogo in Tanzania benefited from a Rotary Foundation global grant project that established a supply of safe water and a way to deliver it to residents. Through the project, local officials also received training in how to manage and maintain the new system.

“In Kigogo, having safe and affordable drinking water improved residents’ health, hygiene, educational opportunities and economic stability. With adequate water, people can grow food in their gardens and raise livestock. And because children don’t need to carry water, they can spend more time learning and playing.”

Bringing water to Navajo families: (A collaboration between the Rotary Club of San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico, District 4100, and the Rotary Club of Sedona, Arizona, District 5495)

“Many people in the Navajo community of Dilkon have never had running water in their homes. An estimated 30 percent of people living on the Navajo Nation must haul the water they need, often over long distances, because running pipes to homes is difficult in remote areas. In

addition, rainfall levels have dropped dramatically over the last century, and some water sources have been contaminated by mining. The lack of safe, readily available water affects people’s health, interferes with children’s education and erodes everyone’s economic security.

“But where most people see problems, Rotary members see an opportunity to take action to make communities stronger and healthier. After talking with people in Dilkon and working with nonprofit partners to conduct a community assessment, the Rotary Clubs of Sedona and San Felipe made a plan. With a Rotary Foundation global grant, they and their partners will install individual water systems for more than 50 houses, along with solar power to pump the water and for other household uses.”

For more on Rotary International:

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

