

JANUARY 28, 2026

Rotary

Club of Bettendorf



**Service
Above
Self**



The meeting began with....

Opening:

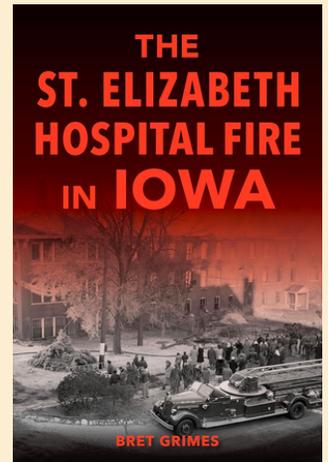
- Members recited Rotary's Four-Way Test.
 - Is it the TRUTH?
 - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 - Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
 - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
- A patriotic song was sung, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Offerings for a Moment of Silence:

- SK Nanda - "Our Troops!"
- Decker Ploehn - For Andrea Bladel, a dedicated nurse and wife of Davenport Police Chief Jeff Bladel, who recently passed.
- Decker Ploehn - For Mick Landauer, a beloved crossing guard at Hopewell Elementary School, who died last weekend.
- Linda Wood - For a friend's infant granddaughter undergoing a serious surgery
- Olivia Warren - For Renee Good and Alex Pretti and the people of Minnesota

COMING UP...

February 4, 2026



Bret Grimes
Author

February 25, 2026

State of the City Address
Mayor Gallagher
Waterfront Convention
Center



Steve Sorensen was presented with the Rotarian of the Quarter award by Jake Eikenberry. Steve received the award for living out the Rotary motto "Service Above Self". Examples of Steve's giving back are the following:

- Serving on the grant committee
- Working on the blanket drive and organizing the drive's faith communities initiative
- Volunteering at the Rotary's Riverbend Food Bank food boxes packing event
- Organizing a food drive for the Bettendorf Community Center pantry



Announcements

• **BBBS Putt Around**

The Big Brothers Big Sisters' Putt Around fundraiser is February 4th through the 6th. Times are 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8:30 p.m. on both Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, times are 3 to 5 p.m. only.

Last year's Rotary challenge didn't have a lot of teams; nonetheless, Bettendorf Rotary took home the first place Rotary challenge trophy. A BRC team needs to ensure the title stays with our club. Teams consist of 4 players. Sign up your team here or get more information.

• **Red Badge Meeting**

The next Red Badge meeting is Tuesday, February 10th from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Keller's American Grill at The Isle from 5 to 6:30 p.m. **Contact Carol to RSVP by Wednesday, February 4th.**

• **Blanket Drive**

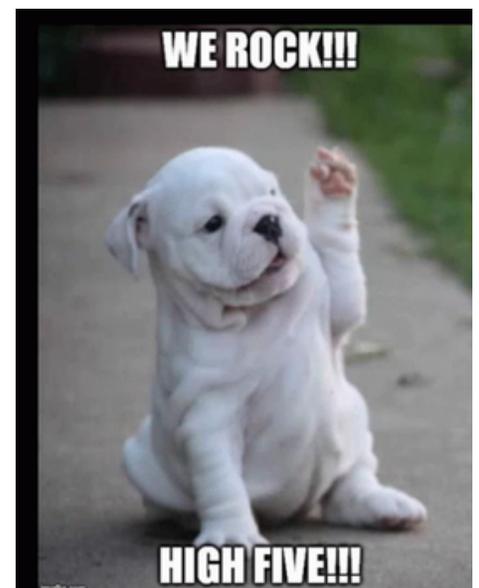
Steve Sorensen reported that the faith communities have provided over 200 more blankets and \$300 to the drive. The shelves are pretty bare at the warehouse, so these donations are welcomed. On a related note, Craig Windmiller shared that he took advantage of a blanket sale at Kohl's, which includes nice, warm blankets that are buy-one-get-one right now.



Offering Thanks

A Note from Joe Pacha, Grants Committee Chair

Our club has received two letters of thanks from two of the organizations that received a Bettendorf Rotary Grant. The first was from the Bettendorf Library Foundation thanking us for the \$2500 to help fund the new library's Teen Zone project. The letter stated that we are "the greatest damn club on earth." The second letter was from New Kingdom Trailriders thanking us for their grant of \$1500.

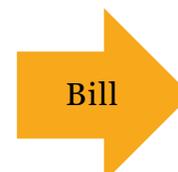


Happy Bucks

- **Tim Lane** | After years of removing a chair from his table each week to accommodate extra elbow (or other body parts) room, Tim was happy to see the tables were set for 6 people today. There will no longer be a need to play “Hide and Go Seek the Chair” with the Tanglewood ladies.
- **Jean Dickson** | Jean is happy to be running for reelection to the Scott County Board of Supervisors. She asked for signatures on the petition to get on the June primary ballot.
- **Bill Daley** | After a long hiatus, Bill was glad to be back at a meeting. He very much appreciated everyone who reached out and/or visited while he recuperated from his heart surgery, which went well. Bill will undergo surgery on his legs this summer, which will help increase blood flow, and Bill was told blood flow is a good thing to have.
- **Tom Olson** | Tom made a quick getaway to Florida this past weekend for some much-needed sunshine. He had a brush with fame during brunch, when he got his picture taken with former First Lady Laura Bush.
- **Olivia Warren** | Even though its only slightly warmer in Philadelphia, Olivia is excited to go there on a visit to see her new nephew.
- **Decker Ploehn** | Returning from a wonderful two-week vacation in Hawaii, Decker only had \$18 remaining to express his happiness for being back.
- **Sharon Sarver** | Sharon was happy that her jeans fit today, and she did not make a big deal out of Will Doland and Bill Daley’s attendance at today’s meeting (as requested by Will).



Will



Bill



This Week's Program

JOAN KRANOVICH, Vice President

“It all starts with a visit.” That’s the key to the work done at Visit Quad Cities, which advocates for tourism on both sides of the river. The organization’s mission is to “...enhance the region’s quality of life and create economic development opportunities through tourism...”.

When people visit the area, revenue is generated through visitors’ use of restaurants, entertainment venues, retail stores, lodging locations, and other services. The average stay for visitors is 2.3 days, and May is the month with the highest visitor activity.

Sports QC is a nonprofit division of Visit Quad Cities and an initiative that focuses on bringing sporting events to the area. A number of high level sporting competitions are coming to the Quad Cities, including women’s college wrestling and several golf championships this spring.

To learn more about [Visit Quad Cities](#), [click here](#).



The Rotary Foundation transforms gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

Our club supports the important work of the Rotary Foundation and recently sent in the funds included in this year’s budget to the Annual Fund and to polio initiatives.

To learn more about the Rotary Foundation, [click here](#).



Happy FEBRUARY Birthday

10th

Gwen Tombergs

16th

Tim Downing

23rd

SK Nanda

13th

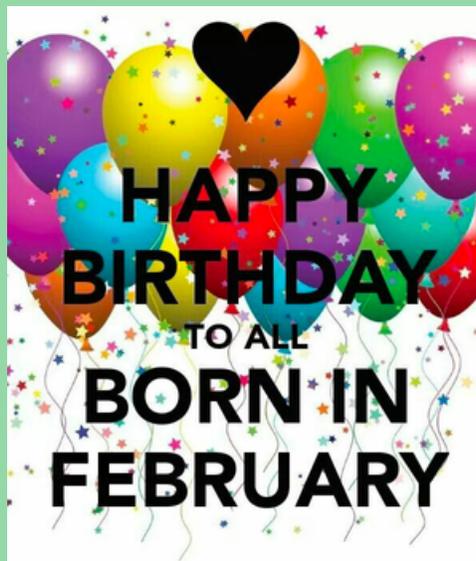
Shawn Langan
Paul Scranton

17th

Bobby Ray Bunch

25th

Craig Windmiller



Happy BRC Anniversary

15 Years

Craig Windmiller

9 Years

Larry O'Brien

7 Years

Maria Osterberg

4 Years

Jessica VanDyke

Shelly Wells-Cain

Sharon Smith

Dave Sheffield

1 Year

Olivia Warren



Club of Bettendorf

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LOCAL ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS...

Monday

12:00pm | Davenport | River Center
12:00pm | Moline | Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday

12:00pm | Rock Island | QC Botanical Center

Wednesday

12:00pm | Bettendorf | Tanglewood Hills Pavilion
5:00pm | Davenport | Mini-Meet | Lunardi's

Thursday

7:00am | Iowa Quad Cities | J-Bar
12:00pm | East Moline | Christ United
Methodist Church
12:00pm | Milan | Pinnacle Country Club

Friday

12:00pm | North Scott | Hilton Garden Inn,
Bettendorf