

NOVEMBER 12, 2025



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:

- Bob Gallagher, Jr. - “Our Troops!”
- Fred Anderson - the people of Ukraine
- Monica Kruse - Prayers for the Dell family whose 20-year-old daughter died recently from ALS

Guest:

- John Gnatovich - Visiting from the Rotary Club of Cambridge

COMING UP...

November 19, 2025



Col. William Parker
U.S. Army

November 26, 2025



FOR NEXT WEEK’S MEETING



Many people are in need of food right now, so let’s do what we do so well--help those in need. Stock the shelves at the Community Center’s food pantry by bringing some can goods to next week’s meeting.

Steve Sorensen has graciously offered to deliver everything that is collected.



Happy Bucks

- **Decker Ploehn via Larry Thein** | Decker asked Larry to convey his appreciation to everyone who voted for the police station referendum. (Larry referred to it as a “jail”, but was quickly corrected by the crowd.)
- **Tracy Rommel** | Tracy has a lot of happiness to share. After 33 years, her husband retired at the end of October. They are adjusting to his presence at home, where she also works. She is also happy that her son is engaged, so they will be celebrating two weddings in 2026.
- **Gwen Tombergs** | After moving to Eldridge, Gwen sold her house in Bettendorf in just 3 days. She was able to cast a vote for the referendum prior to her move.
- **Lee Marbach** | Lee was happy to attend the Bettendorf Middle School groundbreaking last week. He enjoys living in a city that is willing to invest in the community.
- **Harry Coin** | Harry reiterated that the referendum was for a police station, not a jail.



Paul Harris Fellows



In recognition of making contributions of \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation, Rotarians are awarded a pin and certificate. Each additional \$1000 garners a gem stone added to the pin.

For the first 5 years as a BRC member, the club makes contributions on behalf of the member, so each member can achieve their initial Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

BRC Foundation Chair SK Nanda, presented Gwen Tombergs, Ron Crist, and Sandy Yoder with their Paul Harris Fellow recognitions.

Announcements

• **Blanket Drive '25**

1311 blankets have been collected and 653 have been delivered. For those who have volunteered, please remember to check in with agencies and deliver as needed. Also, those who are responsible for collecting blankets at box sites should do so regularly.

• **Thanksgiving Baskets**

Twenty-two Thanksgiving basket deliveries will take place on Saturday, November 22nd. Baskets can be picked up at HyVee between 8 a.m. and noon that day. Jake Eikenberry has received the list of addresses and will get that information out by Friday to those who have volunteered.

• **Festival of Trees' Celebrity Luncheon**

Two tables have been reserved for Bettendorf Rotarians who are interested in attending the Festival of Trees' Celebrity Luncheon. Tickets are \$65 and should be paid to Bettendorf Rotary. Contact Penny or Carol soon if you are interested. The event is at the River Center and runs from noon to 1:30 p.m.



Community Service Opportunities

• **XStream Fall Clean Up**

Join others at Leach Park in Bettendorf this Saturday, November 15th from 1 to 3 pm to help clean up the city. For more information and to sign up to help, [click here](#).

• **Happy Joe's Special Needs Christmas Party**

Help is needed to serve pizza at this year's Happy Joe's Christmas Party for individuals with special needs at the Vibrant Area. About 1800 people are served at the parties, so many hands are needed. The parties are Tuesday, December 2nd and Wednesday, December 3rd. Both days, there are two parties, one at 9:30 a.m. and one at 11:30 a.m.



[Those who are interested in volunteering can click here.](#)

This Week's Program

Jeff Hassel, BRC Treasurer

In an effort to provide members with more information about the club's financial situation, Jeff shared two handouts. Some of the key points were:

- Each spring, the incoming president should prepare a budget that includes estimates for Lobsterfest proceeds and membership numbers. Ideally, a budget presentation will be done at a meeting early in the Rotary year.
- BRC has a club account, as well as funds in a foundation. There are foundation funds at the Quad Cities Community Foundation and a Chuck Mooney Foundation account at TBK Bank.
- Interest income from the Community Foundation account is used to fund seven \$1000 annual scholarships.
- Cash from Happy Bucks goes to the club account, but checks for Happy Bucks for birthdays, etc., are deposited into the foundation account.
- Recently, a significant Paul Harris payment was made, because there were a number of payments missed. Those payments will be made two times each year going forward.
- Currently, the club has about \$306,000 foundation accounts, some of which is not accessible, and \$127,000 in cash.
- As seen on the handout, there is a budget deficit this year.
- A long list of community projects details where \$182,780 is allocated. The amount designated for the Charities Committee is based on Lobsterfest proceeds and what remains after other community projects are funded.

Jeff is available to answer any questions. He can be contacted by [clicking here.](#)



This Week's Program, Part II

Ryan Janzti, Downtown Bettendorf Organization

Started in 2017, the Downtown Bettendorf Organization (DBO) is dedicated to promoting the downtown through 3 pillars: Business and Economic Growth, Infrastructure and Livability, and Advocacy and Promotion.

BRC will be providing partial funding for a new Bett sign. The sign will serve as a focal point and encourage people to stop, gather, and engage in the downtown area. Next summer is the target date for completion.



Happy November Birthday

4th

Fred Anderson
Ray Brauer

5th

Jennifer Naeve

6th

Beth Clark

30th

Ken Vandersnick



Help celebrate your birthday
or Rotary anniversary
by inviting someone to join you
at a Rotary meeting this month!

Happy BRC Anniversary

18 Years

Jerry Felsing

6 Years

Pat Thornton

12 Years

Michael Hurd

2 Years

Craig Wagner

9 Years

Joe Champion

1 Year

Chad Nichols



Club of Bettendorf

Club Executives

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LOCAL ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS...

Monday

12:00pm | Davenport | Outing Club
12:00pm | Moline | TBD

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