

NOVEMBER 19, 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:

- SK Nanda - “Our Troops!”
- Decker Ploehn - Longtime Davenport resident, city alderman, and Scott County Supervisor Jim Hancock unexpectedly died Monday. Prayers to his family.

### Guests:

- Jenö Berta - Visiting from the Rotary Club of the Iowa Quad Cities
- Rotary exchange student Miri Brueggemann

## In Appreciation of Our Rotarian Veterans



## COMING UP...

November 26, 2025



November 27, 2025



## Announcements

- **Blanket Drive '25**

Over 1400 blankets have been collected so far and 700 have been delivered to agencies in need. If anyone knows of other agencies who want blankets, contact Joe.

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**

Fifteen Rotarians will be delivering 20 Thanksgiving baskets this Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Baskets can be picked up at the Devils Glen HyVee between 8 a.m. and noon that day. Each basket will also receive a blanket, which will be in a separate cart at HyVee.

- **Fill the Pantry Initiative**

All the canned goods and other food brought in today will be delivered to the Bettendorf Community Center food pantry to help them stock their shelves. **Over 130 items were donated.** Way to go, Rotarians!



## Community Service Opportunity

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

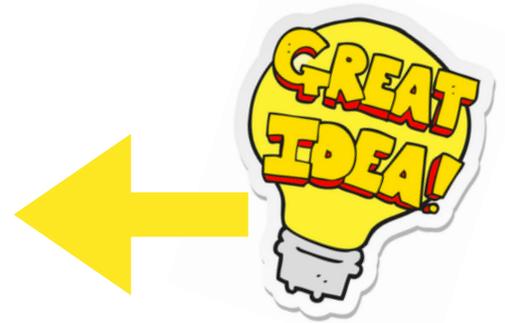
Help is needed to serve pizza at this year's Happy Joe's Christmas Party for individuals with special needs at the Vibrant Area. About 1800 people are served at the parties, so many hands are needed. The parties are Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both days, there 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.



## Happy Bucks

- **Decker Ploehn** | Decker reiterated his appreciation for the work that went into passing the police station referendum. He acknowledged Ann Kappeler for doing such a great job and thanked everyone who voted for the initiative.
- **Tracy Rommel** | Tracy and her husband celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary yesterday.
- **Ken Vandersnick** | At the end of the month, Ken will celebrate his 84<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun, and to commemorate his birthday, he made a \$100 donation to the blanket drive.
- **Steve Sorensen** | After his impromptu proposal last week to bring in canned goods for the food pantry, Steve was happy that so many people remembered and brought in bags of food.
- **Penny McGimpsey** | Penny and her beloved are celebrating 36 years of marital bliss.



## Making the World a Better Place

The Rotary Club of Corning, Iowa accepted the challenge of District Governor, Norlan Hinke, to plant at least one tree for every member of the club, in a unique way. The club completed the challenge through its connections and work in Kenya with Fr. Eluid Mwenda. In August, Fr. Eluid visited with the club to explain how food trees benefit families in his community by providing food and nutrition, as well as by adding to their \$2/day income as the families sell the excess.

Last month, while visiting Kenya, club member Dr. Steve Gruba helped plant 30 trees the club bought, 10 each of avocado, mango, and orange. These trees benefited 10 families, selected for their commitment to care for the trees, as each family received one tree of each variety.

In two years, the families will be enjoying the food from these trees, and they are all extremely grateful for the trees and support. Rotary clubs are committed to making the world a better place for everyone and this small project, in meeting the challenge of the District Governor, will have that effect in a local community in central Kenya.



A Rotarian from Corning, Iowa helped plant food trees in Kenya.

## *This Week's Program* *Col. William Parker, U.S. Army*

Garrison Commander of Rock Island Arsenal, Colonel William “Joe” Parker has moved 17 times in his 23 years with the Army. In his current role, Col. Parker wears many hats, but he enjoys the challenges and varied duties of the job. In 7 months, Col. Parker will be reassigned, but he plans to stay on the Arsenal in a different capacity, so two of his daughters can finish high school at Pleasant Valley.



The Arsenal is the only full service Army installation in Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. While there are many different functions on the island, the primary purpose of the installation is to generate and sustain readiness.

The Arsenal’s impact on the local community is measured through a nearly \$2 million economic impact, and available employment through 14,000 community jobs.

Part of Col. Parker’s responsibilities is to connect the Arsenal with the community. His goal is to get more people on the island, and progress has been made through partnerships with community organizations like River Action, scouting groups, and the Quad City Marathon. Reopening the golf course has been a positive move and the nine-hole course will be improved even more next year. Col. Parker will continue to work with community organizations, as well as Visit Quad Cities to get the word out about what the Arsenal has to offer.

The island is full of history, from the government bridge to Quarters One to the museum. Getting on the island has become less cumbersome, so Quad Citians are encouraged to visit.



# 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

**12 Years**

Michael Hurd

**9 Years**

Joe Champion

**6 Years**

Pat Thornton

**2 Years**

Craig Wagner

**1 Year**

Chad Nichols



## Club of Bettendorf

### Club Executives

#### President

Penny McGimpsey  
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#### President Elect

Marcia Erickson  
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#### President Nominee/Club Service

Brock Biggerstaff  
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#### Immediate Past President

Michael Ingleby  
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#### Directors

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#### Youth

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#### Rotary Foundation

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#### Public Image/Social Media

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#### Executive Secretary

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#### Treasurer

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### LOCAL ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS...

#### Monday

12:00pm | Davenport | Outing Club  
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