

DECEMBER 3, 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 - Steve Trumbo, longtime owner of Sports Fans passed away recently.
- Tim Lane - Marty Goetz, a friend of Tim's, lost his battle with cancer.
- Fred Anderson - The people of Ukraine

Guests:

- Deanna Jensen-Valliere - Visiting from the Rotary Club of North Scott
- David Ottavianelli - attending to hear the speaker



SK Nanda received a Major Donor award at the Rotary Foundation regional conference in North Liberty on November 24th. SK is a Benefactor, Bequest Society member, Paul Harris Society member and a Major Donor.

Thanks for your support of the Rotary Foundation!

COMING UP...

December 10, 2025



Kim Gregg
Service Coordinator
Epilepsy Advocacy
Network



December 11, 2025

BRC Christmas Party
See Page 2 for details.





Bettendorf Rotary Club

Christmas Party

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 11TH

5 TO 7 PM

Swirl Wine Bar
4832 Forest Grove Dr.
Bettendorf

RSVP by Monday, Dec. 8th to
Carol Foster
bettendorffrotary@gmail.com

Announcements

• **Blanket Drive '25**

Blankets keep coming in and going out. 1650 have been collected and 1164 have been distributed. Steve Sorensen is organizing Bettendorf churches to collect blankets in January. So far, 8 churches have agreed to assist with the project, but the goal is to get 10 participating churches and 500 blankets to be collected. Thanks to Gwen Tombergs, look for PSAs regarding the blanket drive on KWQC coming soon.

Joe Champion made a wooden snowman and asked for bids to purchase it, with proceeds going to the blanket drive. Pat Thornton and Decker Ploehn bought one each. Joe has several more snowbodies if anyone is interested. Contact Joe at joseph.p.campion@gmail.com.

• **Christmas Basket Delivery**

Christmas holiday food baskets and gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 20th. This is a great opportunity for Rotarians to get involved by purchasing gifts for the children in one of the 17 families. Receipts can be submitted to Carol for reimbursement of \$50 per child. To sign up for this great opportunity, [contact Jake Eikenberry](#).



Emmett and Jake Eikenberry



Joe Champion and Rotary Exchange Student Miri Brueggemann

Twenty Thanksgiving baskets were delivered on November 22nd. Many Rotarians were met with words of thanks and gratitude. Thanks to everyone who helped and to the entire club that supports this important project each year.

Happy Bucks

- **Joe Pacha** | In her first year at Heartland Community College, Joe's granddaughter was part of the school's volleyball team that won the NJCAA DII National Championship.
- **Larry Thein** | Larry was glad to have his son back home from college, so they could go hunting together. His son also helped Larry with his celebrity luncheon duties, which was "a blast"!
- **Brian Strusz** | Following his recent shoulder surgery, Brian had shout outs for 3 Rotarians--Greg Blaske who helped him through PT, Michelle Morse who provided transportation when he couldn't drive, and Decker Ploehn who made sure plowing was done after the recent snowstorm, while Brian only had to provide "refreshments".
- **Ron Crist** | Ron is happy that the second location for his business, near the TBK sports complex, is up and running.
- **John DeDoncker** | Returning after a hiatus, John is sporting a new pre-hunting trip look and is happy to be back.
- **Decker Ploehn** | On November 29th, Decker and his wife Jane celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In anticipation of this momentous occasion, the BRC table at the Celebrity Lunch challenged the happy couple to sing "I Will Always Love You", which raised \$640 for Quad City Arts. A win all around!
- **Harry Coin** | After experiencing some challenges, Harry's son resumed his education at St. Ambrose and just received an A+ in one of his areas of study.
- **Penny McGimpsey** | Penny jumped on the "I had a great time at the Celebrity Luncheon" bandwagon.

HAPPY



BRC was represented well at the Festival of Trees Celebrity Luncheon.
Standing: PT Boeye, Jake Eikenberry, Gwen Tombergs, Maria Osterberg, Mary Macumber-Schmidt, Penny McGimpsey, Troy Gutknecht
Seated: Mike Simons, Joe and Jennifer Pacha

This Week's Program

Chris Caves, VP of Business Retention & Expansion

Chris Caves' job is to "Grow Quad Cities", and her efforts are directed to economic develop and business retention. Because of the strong history of manufacturing in this area, Chris' focus is often in that sector.

In an attempt to determine what are the most in-demand industries and occupations that pay a living wage, a study was conducted that revealed data helpful to businesses, educational institutions, students, job seekers, and others.

Among the findings were that job opportunities exist for job seekers at all levels of education. Annually, there are an average of 3,300 openings in the top 100 jobs. Ensuring the workforce includes those with the necessary education and/or skill training to fill those jobs needs to be a priority. The community must invest in these educational and training programs in order to position itself for the current and future needs of businesses.

Chris would love to further discuss this study, as well as all the other important work the Quad Cities Chamber does for the community. Contact Chris at 563.823.2672.



Meet Our Newest Member



Deb Boland joined the best Rotary club around when she was inducted this week to BRC.

After 25 years working at Mel Foster, Deb retired. Her grandkids were involved with scouting, so she decided to share her talents with them too.

Deb will be serving as BRC's liaison with scouting groups and is excited to develop ways that the relationship between the two groups can benefit both.

Welcome, Deb! We are glad to have you.

Happy DECEMBER Birthday

3rd

Marsha Luedtke

18th

Maria Osterberg

28th

Larry Thein
Josh Whitson
Paul Boffeli
Tim Bonney

12th

Dean Kraus

23rd

Dave Sheffield
Jeff Hassel

13th

Brad Boeye

26th

Jake Eikenberry

29th

Will Doland

15th

Gary Mohr

27th

Robert H. Gallagher
Greg Blaske

17th

Tom Mielnik



Happy BRC Anniversary

13 Years

Robert S. Gallagher

4 Years

Michael Manternach

11 Years

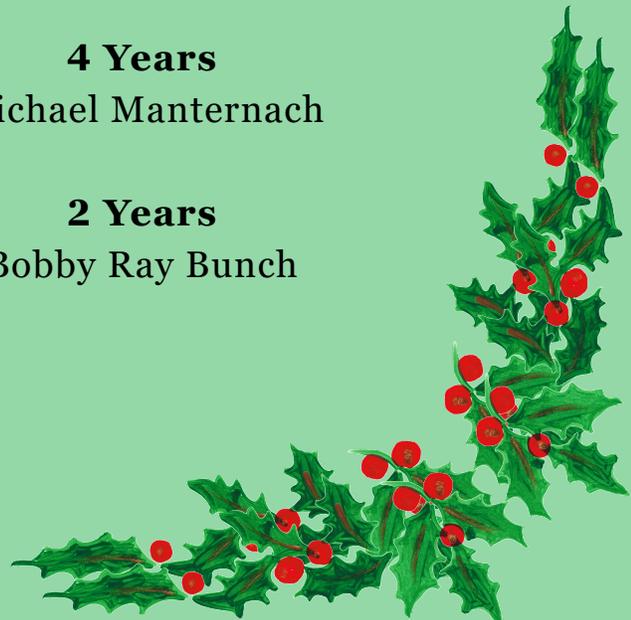
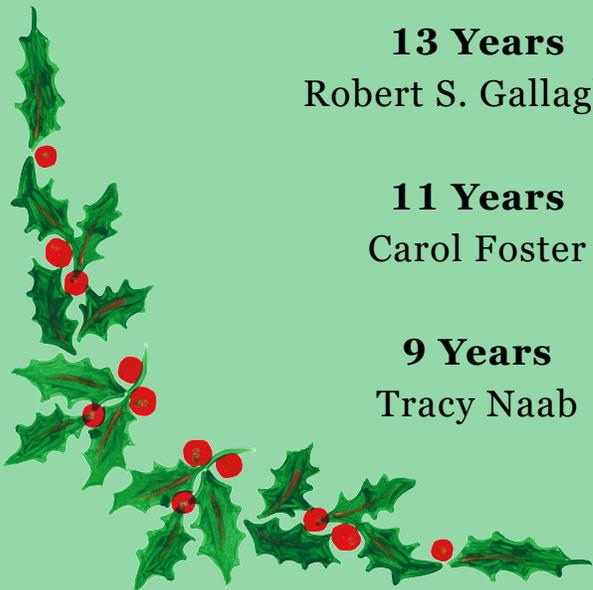
Carol Foster

2 Years

Bobby Ray Bunch

9 Years

Tracy Naab





Club of Bettendorf

Club Executives

President

Penny McGimpsey
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563-340-0027

President Elect

Marcia Erickson
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President Nominee/Club Service

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Immediate Past President

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Rotary Foundation

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Public Image/Social Media

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Treasurer

Jeff Hassel
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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