

**FEBRUARY 18, 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!"
- Fred Anderson - The people of Ukraine
- Decker Ploehn - Rob Cusack died last week. He was a former prosecutor in the Scott County Attorney's Office.

### **Guest:**

- John Gnatovich visited for the second time and will be completing an application to join the club!

Incoming President Marcia Erickson tried out the podium while filling in for current President Penny McGimpsey, who is on a well-deserved vacation.



## **COMING UP...**

**February 25, 2026**



**State of the City  
Address  
Mayor Bob Gallagher**

**Waterfront  
Convention  
Center**

11 a.m.  
Doors Open

11:30 a.m.  
Opening Remarks and  
Lunch

12:15 p.m.  
State of the City  
Address

## Announcements

### • **State of the City Address**

Next week is Mayor Bob's annual State of the City Address, which will also serve as our weekly meeting. You do not need to RSVP, but tables for BRC members will be reserved. Please see page 1 for details on time and place.

### • **Blanket Drive Update**

There are about 400 or 500 blankets at the warehouse that can still be delivered to organizations. *If you have been assigned to an organization, please check with them to see if they are still in need of blankets.*

## Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been hard at work getting input, having discussions, and developing a plan to help current members appreciate the value of their membership, as well as to recruit new members to the club. Josh Whitson and Beth Clark presented results of the committee's recruitment work.

After surveying current members, the committee decided that the club is a place that people come together for a sense of purpose and belonging and that participating in volunteer projects helps to facilitate those feelings. While performing good deeds in the community, prospective members will be introduced to the club and to Rotary's core values.

Four volunteer opportunities have been planned for this year, which include the River Bend Food Bank in April, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Plant Sale in May, River Action's Floatzilla in August, and the Festival of Trees in November. Rotarians are asked to volunteer and bring guests with them as an introduction to the club and the great work we do. Sign up sheets are available, and business cards with a QR Code are also available to give to prospective members.

When guests visit the club, a poster at check-in will be used to capture some basic information, so the committee can follow up with the guests.

Questions about the committee's work or volunteer projects can be directed to Beth at [bethcolbyclark@gmail.com](mailto:bethcolbyclark@gmail.com).



Beth Clark



Josh Whitson

## Happy Bucks



- **Larry Thein** | Larry was happy to watch his son play baseball against the Crimson Tide of Alabama and that his son made it on the MLB Network (inadvertently, but on it nonetheless). Larry was also happy to learn that Guy Scaife graduated from the University of Alabama a few years ago.
- **Gwen Tombergs** | As a result of breaking her kneecap in January, Gwen's driving was halted. Her travel had been limited, so she is happy to be back to driving and back to Rotary.
- **Harry Coin** | PSA from Harry: Update your Google Chrome immediately to avoid being vulnerable to a breach.
- **Decker Ploehn** | With no data to contradict him, Decker is assuming his Putt Around team won the Rotary challenge. **Sharon Sarver** was able to verify that Decker's team finished ahead of her own and suggested perhaps more happy bucks from Decker were in order. Decker disagreed.
- **Tim Lane** | After meeting with a college classmate, Tim felt ethically bound to throw in happy bucks, based on a pizza incident years ago.



Like Rotary International, the Rotary Action Group for Peace has a mission to advance goodwill, understanding, and peace. They aim to be at the forefront of building a sustainable peaceful world by providing a platform for individuals and communities to become intentional in peacebuilding—within themselves, their societies, and across the globe.

To achieve this, they focus on three core strategies:

**Educate • Engage • Empower**

The Rotary Action Group for Peace works to cultivate the skills, relationships, and commitment needed to create a more peaceful world.

Support The Rotary Foundation and you support peace around the world. Contact our Foundation Chair, SK Nanda for more information or visit The Rotary Foundation website.

## *This Week's Program*

### **Eric VanSpeybroeck, Sales Director and Paul Rouse, President**

Rouse Consulting Group provides comprehensive IT services to businesses in the Quad Cities and beyond. Eric VanSpeybroeck and Paul Rouse's presentation focused on AI, which can be very useful when used properly. Unfortunately, it can also be damaging when used for nefarious purposes.

AI has fundamentally changed the way people consume technology, and it will continue to have an enormous impact on everyday personal activities, on the way businesses operate, and on many different jobs. AI is the next step after a Google search. Using AI is more of an interaction or a conversation. Some of the most common uses are: content generation, process automation, translating languages, providing research on subjects and predicting results, and virtual assistance.

There is no doubt AI will eliminate jobs. Some predict the medical field will experience some of the most significant change, with AI being used for everything from diagnoses to surgery.

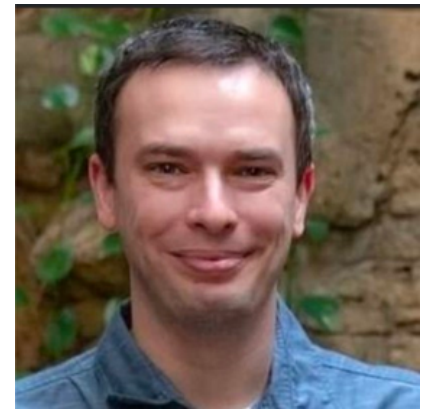
To increase the degree of control over one's data and improve security, the following practical tips should be used when using AI:

- **Verify AI Tool Credibility**--Always check the source and reliability of AI tools before use to avoid security risks and misinformation.
- **Protect Personal Information**--Do not share sensitive personal or financial data with AI tools unless their security is guaranteed.
- **Understand Privacy Policies**--Know how AI tools collect, store, and use your data to prevent unauthorized sharing or misuse.
- **Fact-Check AI Content**--Do not assume that AI-generated responses are fact. It is a probability engine; it will feed the closest match to your query which can be totally inaccurate.
- **Keep AI Tools Updated**--Regularly update AI software to benefit from security patches and protect against vulnerabilities.

For more information about Rouse Consulting Group, [click here](#).



**ROUSE**  
CONSULTING GROUP



**Eric VanSpeybroeck**



**Paul Rouse**

# 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

### Club Executives

#### President

Penny McGimpsey  
pmcg0809@gmail.com  
563-340-0027

#### President Elect

Marcia Erickson  
marciaerickson@actioncoach.com

#### President Nominee/Club Service

Brock Biggerstaff  
bbiggerstaff@goambank.com

#### Immediate Past President

Michael Ingleby  
mikeingleby@aol.com  
563-340-7739

#### Directors

Jake Eikenberry-Community Service  
eikenberryjake89@gmail.com

Ann Kappeler  
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Joe Champion  
joseph.p.champion@gmail.com

#### Youth

Brian Strusz  
struszbrian@pleasval.org  
563-332-5550

#### Rotary Foundation

S.K. Nanda  
s.nanda@mchsi.com

#### Public Image/Social Media

Beth Clark  
bethcolbyclark@gmail.com

#### Executive Secretary

Carol Foster  
bettendorfrotary@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Jeff Hassel  
hassel14@gmail.com



### 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