

APRIL 1, 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 brave people of Ukraine
- Mike Simons - Bill Daley is in the hospital for surgery again.
- Tim Lane - Tim's granddaughter will be undergoing open heart surgery next week.
- Joe Champion - Kevin Kraft's mother died recently.
- Mary Macumber Schmidt - Visit Quad Cities' Dave Herrell is having a medical procedure performed.

Guests:

- Kristin Meyer from Junior Theatre
- Dr. Matt Nelson, veterinarian and potential member
- Colbie Andes, visiting for the 2nd time

COMING UP...

April 8, 2026



Amy Jones
Director of Corporate
Social Responsibility



Rotary
District 6000



2026 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rotarians Uniting for Good

May 1st and 2nd

The Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel Conference Center
300 East 9th Street
Coralville, IA 52241

Guardian Integrity Award recipients, including Joe Champion, will be honored at the reception and dinner on Friday evening.

[CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION INFO.](#)



Thanks Keep Rolling In

Recently, a thank you note was received from the organizers of **Night to Shine**, which is a special night of celebration for individuals with disabilities. **Night to Shine** received a grant this year from BRC and expressed their gratitude for making their event a success.



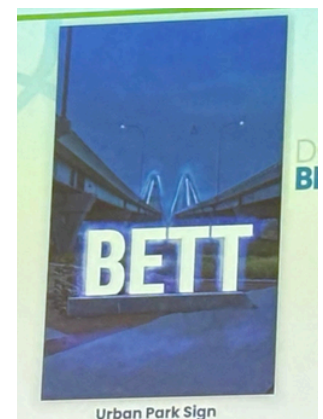
Lobsterfest '26

- **Fund-A-Cause** | Voting is underway to select the fund-a-cause organization for this year's event. Ballots will again be available at next week's meeting. Once the ballots are tallied, the top 3 vote getters will be presented for another round of voting before a winner is announced.
- **Ticket Sales** | Ticket sales are now open. A QR code will soon be added to the website and is also available at meetings.
- **Beverages Needed** | Bourbon and wine is needed. Please bring donations of bourbon and/or wine to a meeting or a donation of cash is also welcomed.



Other Announcements

- **Pintz 4 Polio** | World Immunization Week is April 24th through 30th, so it was a great time to raise \$800 at the Pintz 4 Polio event last Friday. Thanks to Harrington's for hosting the event, for the guest bartenders earning tips, and for everyone who attended.
- **Junior Theatre** | Kristin Meyer attended the meeting today and shared that a free show of *Swiss Family Robinson* will be performed in April and May. Also, Junior Theatre has classes and camps that are now forming for this summer. Visit the [Junior Theatre website](#) for more information.
- **BETT Sign** | On Tuesday, April 7th at 4 p.m. at the 15th St. landing, a check presentation will be made. The \$15,000 contribution from the club is to help pay for the BETT sign welcoming visitors to Bettendorf. Funds for the project were from the club's portion of the presidential grant project and the money designated for the international convention, which Penny was unable to attend. BRC will be recognized for the support of this project. All Rotarians are welcome to attend the presentation and go for a celebratory beverage afterwards.



Welcome to Our Newest Member

Encouraged by member Veena Wulfekuhle, Michael Blomme decided to check out Bettendorf Rotary, and now he is the newest member of the club. Michael grew up in Silvis, went to school at Alleman, and graduated from the University of Illinois. He spent 33 years teaching physical education and music. After retiring from that career, Michael went back to school and is now a medical assistant, working in Silvis.

Welcome to the club, Michael!

New member Michael
Blomme and President
Penny



Happy Bucks

- **Troy Gutknecht** | Tonight, Troy will be enjoying a beverage at Swirl while making Lobsterfest live auction plans. Also, Troy will be taking over the clubhouse at Pebble Creek Golf Course, so stay tuned for more information on that.
- **Ray Brauer** | The Scouts' golf outing is May 29th. Come join the fun.
- **Dave Falk** | Though he didn't publically divulge the amount of his check, Dave threw in one dollar more than last year for his March birthday.
- **Decker Ploehn** | 36 years ago on April 1st, Decker accepted the job as Bettendorf's City Administration. Yes, it was on April Fool's Day. <Fill in your own joke here.>
- **Mike Simons** | In addition to his birthday this month, Mike is also happy about Illinois' March Madness win over Iowa.
- **Tom Olson** | Because he hasn't shared any puns recently, Tom said he had 12 new ones to tell. Before everyone had a chance to leave, Tom announced that it was an April Fool's joke.
- **John Gnatovich** | John is happy that his goddaughter and family are involved in a Rotary club in Georgia.
- **Sharon Sarver** | Sharon was happy for Ascentra Credit Union's sponsorship of a recent library foundation event. She also was happy that Bettendorf Rotary received recognition via a news story regarding the new teen space at the library, which the club helped fund.
- **Ann Kappeler** | In case anyone is interested in assuming the chairmanship duties of Lobsterfest, Ann was happy to point out the perks of working on the event, which includes taking regular meetings at Swirl.

Happy
APRIL FOOL'S
Day

This Week's Program

Rob Ewoldt, Executive Board

The Iowa Soybean Association's purpose is to deliver increased soybean demand through market development and new uses, farmer-focused research, timely information and know-how and policy initiatives enabling farmers and the industry to flourish.

China has been the number one customer of soybeans; however, that relationship has changed, which has resulted in challenges for the industry. Brazil is the United States' biggest competitor, and they have many undeveloped acres that can be added to production in coming years. However, their product is of lesser quality than that of the US. The soybean association is always trying to develop new markets for their product.

For more information, visit the [Iowa Soybean Association website](#).



APRIL DESIGNATION IS

Photo by Joseph Kim Miller from © Rotary Club of Miri. Design layout by Gilbert Thien.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH

"What is the value of the life of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own, the price tag would be marked: Not for sale - this life is invaluable." 1979-80 James L. Bomar Jr

Rotary 

TAKE ACTION: Join a Project

Support The Rotary Foundation and you support mothers and children around the world.

Contact our [Foundation Chair, SK Nanda](#) for more information or visit [The Rotary Foundation website](#).

Happy **April** Birthday

1st

Patt Englander

7th

Carol Foster

26th

John Rabine

2nd

Linda Wood

9th

Heather Egger

27th

Sean Vogler

4th

Mike Ingleby

12th

Bailey Pribyl

28th

Ryan Thompson

5th

PT Boeye
Mike Vondran

22nd

Brian Strusz

29th

Peggy Schneden



Happy BRC Anniversary

21 Years

Fred Anderson

11 Years

Larry Thein

17 Years

Mary Macumber-Schmidt
Sharon Sarver

8 Years

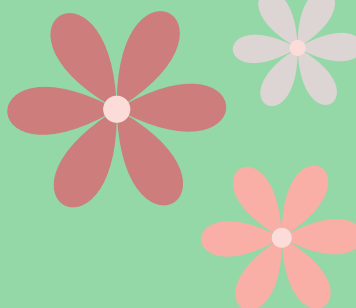
Shawn Langan
Mike Simons

12 Years

Will Doland

2 Years

Tasha Keegan





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