

MAY 6, 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:

- Penny McGimpsey - "Our Troops!"
- John DeDoncker - Bob VanVooren, a prominent attorney in the area, passed away last week.

Guest:

- Dr. Nikhil Wagle, guest of Decker Ploehn, visiting as a potential member

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

- The birthday song was sung and those celebrating May birthdays and anniversaries were recognized, including our own club for being around for 69 years.



SK Nanda met past Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick at the District 6000 convention.

COMING UP...

May 13, 2026



Casandra Erwin
Director of Development



Congratulations, Joe!

To recognize exemplary ethical leadership and outstanding commitment to community service, Rotary's Guardian of Integrity Award honors individuals who embody integrity in their actions.

This year, BRC nominated the deserving recipient, Joe Campion, who was recognized last week at the District 6000 conference with the Guardian of Integrity award. He might be best known for spearheading the Acres of Warmth initiative, but Joe does many other things to support the club and the community, including using his woodworking skills to raise funds and volunteering for projects of all kinds.

After serving as club president, Joe has continued to contribute in his at-large position on the board. Thanks, Joe, for all you do for the club and for the community.



SK Nanda, Penny McGimpsey, Jake Eikenberry, and Marcia Erickson joined Joe Campion to celebrate his Guardian of Integrity award.

Habitat for Humanity Home Build

Join your fellow Rotarians for a volunteer build day with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday May 16th at 424 E. 15th St. in Davenport. Framing and siding is scheduled to be completed, but there will likely be other tasks needed as well. Thanks to everyone who has signed up already. **Morning slots are full, but there is a need for more volunteers in the afternoon.**

Use this link to sign up:

11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.: [CLICK HERE](#)



Lobsterfest Tickets on Sale Now

Only 37 days before the event of the summer. Get your tickets now for the 20th Anniversary of Lobsterfest!

When purchasing tickets, there is a dropdown menu that allows you to choose your tablemates. Use that dropdown to select with whom you want to sit.

Get your tickets now! [CLICK HERE](#).

Lobsterfest 2026
Tickets on sale now at: LobsterfestQC.org
A great dinner featuring lobster tail and all the sides, hosted wine and beer, live and mobile auctions. Proceeds support QC area nonprofits!

20th Year!

Rotary Club of Bettendorf | UnityPoint Health | TBK BANK

Friday, June 12 | Waterfront Convention Center

Happy Bucks

- **Penny McGimpsey** | Penny was happy so many Rotarians went to Argrow's House last week and heard about their amazing work. She was also happy to attend the District 6000 conference with others to honor Guardian of Integrity award recipient, Joe Champion.
- **Larry O'Brien** | After spending the winter in Florida, Larry is happy to be back and see everyone again.
- **Ryan Thompson** | Ryan was happy to celebrate his 27th birthday last week.
- **Sharon Sarver** | Sharon is happy to be back from a 2 ½ week adventure with her husband in their Sprinter van. The number of states they have visited is now up to 32.
- **Larry Thein** | Larry just returned from watching his son play baseball during his senior year of college. Recently, Noah slid into home and was not only out, but also ended up with a broken nose. He had his crooked nose rebroken to set it straight and didn't have to miss any games.
- **John Gnatovich** | John is proud to be involved with an organization that does so much good in the community, and he encouraged his fellow Rotarians to volunteer at the Food Bank, as he did recently with other BRC members. John will be at East Moline's Taco and Margarita Festival on Saturday.
- **Harry Coin** | In honor of the club's anniversary, Harry shared that the first official BRC meeting was at a cafe in downtown Bettendorf. Keeping everyone in suspense, Harry will disclose the name of that cafe next week.
- **Tim Lane** | With the help of emcee Decker Ploehn, the Alzheimer's Association raised \$90,000 at their event last week.
- **John Rabine** | John is grateful and proud to be a Bettendorf Rotarian, and he was happy to celebrate his birthday last month.
- **Decker Ploehn** | Decker celebrated his 74th birthday, and generously gave an additional dollar to make it \$75. He also contributed, because he was happy to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association. At the event, artwork done by individuals experiencing Alzheimer's go up for auction. Some of the pieces garner bids up to \$9000. The winning bidders often gift the pieces back to the families of the artists.
- **Marcia Erickson** | Marcia is happy that her Action Coach business is in a new location, right across the street from the Waterfront Convention Center.



This Week's Program

Odds & Ends

Incoming president, Marcia Erickson, noted that she will be using ClubRunner more during her presidency, so she encouraged all members to access ClubRunner now and update any information that is out-of-date.

Marcia will be submitting a district grant to help the YWCA purchase a trailer, allowing them to take their services to the streets. She is partnering with the Iowa Quad Cities Rotary to leverage more funding.



Marcia encouraged members to invite their friends to Lobsterfest. Bringing new people to the event can lead to new members, as well as raise more funds for the causes BRC supports.

PT Boeye is leading the silent auction committee, and their goal is to acquire 100 items for the auction. Tables were asked to develop a basket to add to the auction. A table leader will ensure the task is completed.

Penny wrapped up the meeting with a short Rotary trivia game.



Support The Rotary Foundation and you support youth here and around the world. Contact our [Foundation Chair, SK Nanda](#) for more information or visit [The Rotary Foundation website](#).

May is the month dedicated to helping young people advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Through numerous Rotary Foundation-funded projects, youth involved in Rotary have positively impacted millions of lives. **Interact clubs** bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills and learn about the world through service projects and activities. **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** is an intensive leadership experience where youth develop leadership skills while having fun and making connections. **Rotary Youth Exchange** builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students ages 15-19 are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.

Happy May Birthday

1st
Decker Ploehn

13th
Marty Clifton

29th
Sharon Sarver

2nd
Sarah Potter

26th
Mitch Dietrich

30th
Deb Boland

11th
Eric Reinsch



Happy BRC Anniversary

52 Years
Tim Downing

20 Years
Ann Kappeler

8 Years
Sandy Yoder

40 Years
Decker Ploehn

16 Years
Penny McGimpsey

4 Years
Pat Engelhaupt

25 Years
Greg Blaske

12 Years
Lee Marbach

1 Year
Veena Wulfekuhle
Marsha Luedtke





Club of Bettendorf

Club Executives

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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