

JUNE 17, 2026

Rotary Club of Bettendorf



**Service
Above
Self**



The meeting began with....

Handshake Greetings:

- Rotarians shared a handshake and hello with neighbors.

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
- Tom Olson - Melanie Gellhaus died while vacationing with her husband, Dr. Tom Gellhaus.

Guests:

- Dawn Higgs - Guest and wife of Jerry Higgs
- Geno DelPreore - Guest of Bryce Bowers
- Kurt Lokenvitz - Former BRC member, soon-to-be new BRC member, and guest of John Rabine

Red Badge Meeting

For those of you who are new to the club or want a refresh about all things BRC, a Red Badge Meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, June 18th

5 to 7 p.m.

Keller's American Grill

Contact Carol at bettendorfrotary@gmail.com to RSVP.



COMING UP...

June 17, 2026



Next week's agenda includes:

- The gavel pass from Penny to Marcia
- A Lobsterfest recap
- A review of this year's accomplishments
- A preview of what's to come
- Other things you won't want to miss



@bettendorfrotary

Lobsterfest 2026



Rotary
Club of Bettendorf



UnityPoint Health

TBK BANK



The leading lobster lady, Ann Kappeler, enjoyed the evening after many months of planning finally came together.



A group of tech savvy PV students helped with check in.



BRC members Joe Pacha, Decker Ploehn, Craig Windmiller, Mike Simons, Larry O'Brien, and Dr. Tom Olson had a great time at the 20th annual Lobsterfest.



BRC member Bill Daley and his wife Shannon took in all the sights and sounds of Lobsterfest.



Donning his festive lobster shirt, soon-to-be President Elect Brock Biggerstaff helped spot bidders during the live auction.



Gwen Tombergs encouraged bidding during the live auction, which she helped organize along with Troy Gutknecht.

In charge of logistics this year, Sharon Sarver was happy that the evening was a great success.



Announcements

Lobsterfest ...was everything it was cracked up to be.

Not-Chair Ann Kappeler is on a well-deserved vacation, but a recap of this year's event will take place next week. In her absence, President Penny thanked all Rotarians for making the 20th anniversary event such a great success. Guests had a great time, the meal was delicious, and lots of money was raised....who could ask for anything more?

John Deere Classic Volunteer

Rotarians have stepped up in a big way this year. Volunteer slots for hole #1 Gallery Management are full. Thanks to all Rotarians and friends for keeping this tradition alive.



Parade Help Needed

Three to five people are needed as float judges for Bettendorf's Fourth of July parade. The parade starts at 10 a.m. Although judges are not paid, Decker Ploehn promises that they will not go away thirsty. For those interested, contact Jeff Reiter at 563-344-4060 or email Jeff at jreiter@bettendorf.org.



Additionally, 4 people are needed to greet floats as they arrive to line up for the parade. Contact Harry Coin for more information.

BRC Golf Outing Set

Mark your calendars and plan to play in the BRC Golf Outing on Wednesday, September 9th at Palmer Hills Golf Course. More information will be coming soon, as well as a link to register your team, but for now, save the date!

We need 36 teams for a shotgun start so start gathering your group now.



Happy Bucks

- **Tim Lane** | Tim spent the last 10 days in Ireland, and he learned a couple things. First, the Irish have more roundabouts than Bettendorf. Second, if you drink too much Jameson, you can hallucinate things like Decker in a Lobster suit.
- **John Gnatovich** | John has been a Rotarian for 35 to 40 years. He is happy to be a Rotarian, especially a Bettendorf Rotarian.
- **Decker Ploehn** | Going into last week's Lobsterfest, Decker thought it would be difficult to raise \$30,000 for Family Resources, but he was happy and proud of the club for being very close to that goal. Decker was also happy that he spent a day shooting nerf balls at golfers during the League of Cities' golf outing. The nerf gun has been added to his Christmas wishlist.
- **Tom Olson** | Tom has leftover gummy lobsters, which he shared at his table and will bring to next week's meeting. He had a great time at Lobsterfest and encouraged everyone to attend next year.
- **Penny McGimpsey** | The "BETT" sign, which was Penny's presidential project, will be installed on Monday. As soon as a photo op is scheduled, she will let everyone know.



If you've ever wondered what really happens during a week at RYLA, you can find out on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, for Rotarian Visit Day at Grinnell College.

This year's Visit Day coincides with the popular Shark Tank Experience, where nearly 200 high school students work in teams to develop a service project they can take back to their communities.

Please register by completing the Visit Day form:
[RYLA Rotarian Visit Day Sign Up 2026](#)

This Week's Program

Ashleigh Johnston, Marketing and Communications Director

The Quad Cities International Airport is considered a regional airport, because it feeds larger airports. It's also an international airport, because a customs port of entry is present, which is helpful to large companies like John Deere. Offering nonstop flights to 11 cities via 4 different airlines, the Moline airport accommodated about 700,000 passengers last year.

Adding flights to current carriers or obtaining service from new airlines is based on many factors, but ultimately, the decision lies with the airlines. Because the Moline airport is within driving distance to many other airports, competition is steep.

“Project Gateway” is a comprehensive project to upgrade many of the airport’s facilities. Phase 1 was completed last spring, which included work on the ticket counters, TSA screening, and other areas. Phase 2 is currently in process. Among the many projects in this phase are upgrades to restrooms, lounge areas, dining and gift shop areas, and the floors. Phase 3 and 4 will involve the installation of a canopy over two lanes of the drop off/pick up area. An outdoor observation area is also planned.



Support The Rotary Foundation in their efforts to promote fellowship around the world. Contact our [Foundation Chair, SK Nanda](#) for more information or visit [The Rotary Foundation website](#).

Every June, Rotary International highlights one of its most vibrant and engaging programs—Rotary Fellowships Month. This special observance shines a spotlight on the diverse, worldwide communities of Rotary members who come together to connect over shared interests, hobbies, and professional pursuits. Rotary Fellowships are more than just clubs within a club; they are a powerful way to deepen friendships, expand cultural understanding, and foster lifelong connections across borders.

Happy **JUNE** Birthday

4th
Daryn Smith

8th
Matt Nelson

17th
Ann Kappeler

6th
Laura Johannsen

16th
Angie Kendall
Olivia Warren

22nd
Tim Lane

7th
Tracy Rommel

24th
Bill Daley



Happy BRC Anniversary

6 Years
Torri Smith

3 Years
Troy Gutknecht

1 Year
Angie Kendall





Club of Bettendorf

Club Executives

President

Penny McGimpsey
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Rotary Foundation

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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