

JUNE 24, 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
- Sharon Sarver - Sharon passed around a card to send well wishes to former BRC member Carl Loweth, who has had a couple of falls and is currently recuperating from the most recent one.

Guests:

- Ron Froeschle - Guest of John Rabine
- Pat Olsen - District 6000 Assistant District Governor
- Tia Steele - Guest of Marcia Erickson
- Dr. Darin Haack - New Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent and guest of Brian Strusz
- Gail - Piano playing extraordinaire

COMING UP...

July 1, 2026



Due to the club's commitment to the John Deere Classic and the upcoming 4th of July holiday, there will be no meeting on July 1st.

July 8, 2026
Esther Joy King
YouthHope



Meet the Newest BRC Member

A familiar face is back at Rotary. Kurt Lokenvitz was inducted as the newest member of BRC, but the club is not new to Kurt. As a BRC member from 2009 - 2020, Kurt is very familiar with the great things the club does.

Kurt is the father to two boys, one a recent Iowa graduate and one who is a junior at Iowa. When he isn't busy with his corporate marketing position at Hertz Farm Management, Kurt enjoys hiking.

Welcome back, Kurt!



Become a Bequest Society Member

As Foundation Chair, SK Nanda reminds everyone that they can leave part of their estate to The Rotary Foundation, and it costs virtually nothing right now!

By including the Foundation in a will or trust, there is no cash outlay at the current time. Rotarians can leave a gift to the Foundation and continue to support a cause they see as valuable after their lifetime.

To update your will by including the Foundation, you can also take advantage of the very generous offer by Frank Mitvalsky, who will make that change at no charge. Contact Frank or SK for more information.



Lobsterfest Total Revealed

Never-to-be-Chair-Again Ann Kappeler is saving many of the thank you's for another time, but she was able to share a few interesting Lobsterfest facts. About the same number of people attended this year as last year, and they drank about the same amount, according to the bar tab. Decker did a great job "encouraging" robust bidding, and nearly \$30,000 was raised for Family Resources, the organization chosen through club members' input.

The total raised was **\$152,070**, thanks to the efforts of many Rotarians. More information will be coming, but for now, everyone involved should give themselves a pat on the back.



Board Structure Rework

After receiving feedback from members, the board structure has been revised. The new structure offers several advantages. First, the presidential track is less daunting and requires a four-year commitment, which is substantially less than the previous structure.

In addition, there are five non-presidential track positions that are renewed annually, and there are up to three at-large positions, also renewed annually. The secretary and treasurer are paid positions and non-voting members.

The board meets monthly, and meetings typically last 1 to 2 hours. Additional time may be needed between meetings for various projects.

At today's meeting, the membership voted unanimously to adopt the new board structure.

Anyone interested in serving on the board or learning more about the open positions can contact any current board member.



BRC Golf Outing-September 9th

Let's fill up the Palmer Hills course this year. Bring your friends, guests, and potential members to the BRC golf outing. Golf is \$80/golfer, a reasonable amount for a day of fun and a meal afterwards. Non-golfing Rotarians can come for the meal at no cost, but they can also bring a guest for a mere \$15. Get on the links with these handy links:

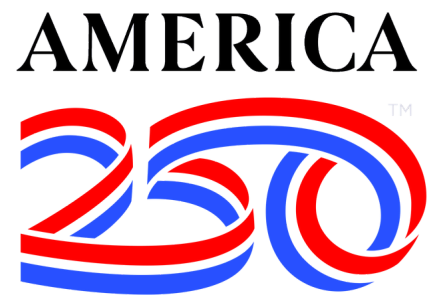
- To register for golf, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To pay for individual golfers, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To pay for a foursome, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To support the event with a hole sponsorship, [CLICK HERE](#).
- If a guest would like to join the fun for a meal without the frustration of golf, [CLICK HERE](#).



Contact [Maria Osterberg](#) with any questions.

Happy Bucks

- **Tim Lane** | Tim recognized Penny's great presidential year and his own birthday, but he made a \$250 donation to the foundation in honor of the country's 250th birthday.
- **Tom Olson** | Tom also congratulated Penny on her year of success. He then encouraged eating the popcorn and lobster gummies provided today to facilitate breaking and/or pulling out a tooth.
- **Brian Strusz** | Brian welcomed the "new and improved" superintendent and thanked the club for its support of scholarships, RYLA and all the other youth activities. He said it has been a pleasure to work with everyone in this club throughout the years.
- **Frank Mitvalsky** | Along with two buddies, Frank's sons visited the Rocky Mountains and climbed the highest mountain in Colorado. They made it back safe and sound.
- **John Gnatovich** | John also thanked Penny for her leadership this year, and he encouraged all new members to attend the next Red Badge meeting. He went to the meeting last week and enjoyed the experience, including the appetizers.
- **Decker Ploehn** | Decker reminded Brian that there is a retirement option in Rotary and he need not resign from the club. He also announced his own retirement, along with Dave Faulk, as the 4th of July parade announcers, and he gave a shout out to Harry Coin for his work on the parade line up.
- **Steve Sorensen** | Steve thanked Brian for his leadership in the Pleasant Valley School District during his time as superintendent.
- **Ann Kappeler** | After Frank's announcement about his sons' adventure, Ann was reminded that she also climbed that mountain 25 years ago.
- **Penny McGimpsey** | Penny was thrilled be greeted with a chardonney from Julie today, in honor of her final meeting as president.



2026 4th of July Parade

Saturday, July 4, 2026

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Downtown Bettendorf

A Year in Review

As President Penny steps into her new role as Past President, she recounted the many great things accomplished this past Rotary year.

- We welcomed Rotary foreign youth exchange student, Miri Brueggemann from Germany who spent the fall semester here.
- We had a fun filled Annual Golf Outing on September 3 at Palmer Hills with 21 teams participating!
- There was another record year for Acres of Warmth this fall providing hundreds of blankets to people in need this winter.
- Two Pintz 4 Polio events at Harrington's Pub raised \$1,900 in addition to our club's annual \$3,000 contribution, totaling \$4,900!
- We helped our friends at the River Bend Food Bank pack boxes for families in need throughout the 23 counties they serve.
- We welcomed our new member Deb Boland as our Club's Charter Organization Representative with the Scouts Troops and Packs we sponsor!
- Holiday baskets for those in need were delivered for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Quad City Arts Celebrity Luncheon had an over-packed table of 13 Rotarians attending, 2 Bettendorf Rotarians as Celebrity Waiters, Jake Eickenberry and Marcia Erickson, and our Emcee Extraordinaire Decker Ploehn led the event!
- The Christmas/Holiday party was held at Swirl.
- We welcomed the Bettendorf High School Choir and enjoyed their Christmas Carols at our club!
- We had our Grants Presentation Ceremony with 15 grant recipients receiving a total of \$45,000 in grants!
- Our Paul E. Hellwege Guardian of Integrity award winner this year was Joe Champion.
- We awarded 7 \$1000 scholarships to area high school students.
- We worked together with Habitat For Humanity and prepped interior walls with primer of an entire house.
- Lobsterfest #20 was another fun filled and successful event with a night for Bettendorf Rotary to shine amongst friends and family.
- We welcomed 42 speakers to enlighten us on many various topics, events, organizations and businesses here in our Quad City area.
- We welcomed 15 new members with several attending Red Badge meetings each quarter, with many thanks to SK Nanda!
- The BETT Sign is being installed this week and will be finished next week!



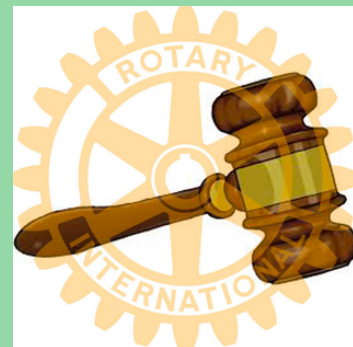
Passing the Gavel

BRC's new president, Marcia Erickson, praised the work of her predecessor as the gavel was passed. "Everyone sees what Penny does every week, but what you don't see is all the great things she does behind the scenes", said Marcia. "And, she did it all with a smile on her face." The club is grateful for Penny's leadership, guidance and uplifting spirit. Congratulations on a great year!

Marcia is excited "and a little bit terrified" for her upcoming year. As she took the reins, Marcia unveiled this year's Rotary theme, "Create Lasting Impact", which she sees as a wonderful guiding message. Marcia hopes to get more members involved this year through her efforts at reinvigorating committee work. By building a robust committee structure, Marcia feels members will have more opportunities to share their talents.

With Penny taking on the past president role and Marcia as president, Brock Biggerstaff is now the president nominee. He will be followed by Jake Eikenberry.

The club looks forward to a great year with Marcia at the helm and a strong board to support her. Thanks, Penny, and good luck to Marcia!



New president Marcia Erickson is joined by Pat Olsen, District 6000 Assistant District Governor, and past president Penny McGimpsey.



Club of Bettendorf

Club Executives

President

Penny McGimpsey
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President Elect

Marcia Erickson
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President Nominee/Club Service

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Immediate Past President

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Youth

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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