

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Rotary

Club of Bettendorf



September is

**Basic Education and
Literacy Month**



The meeting began with.....

Greetings and Handshakes:

- All members shared a “hello” and “welcome” with each other.

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.
- *A couple of other songs were sung, and one had new lyrics supplied by Pat Thornton.*

Offerings for a Moment of Silence:

- SK Nanda - “Our Troops!”
- Fred Anderson - The people of Ukraine
- Mike Simons - Craig Windmiller had a minor stroke, but he is doing well and should return to Rotary next week.
- Angie Kendall - Molly Steil Rowland passed away last week.

Guests:

- Samantha Sancen from the River Bend Food Bank, guest of Penny McGimpsey
- Mandi Guyer, guest of Tracy Rommel
- Michelle LeMoine from Big Brothers Big Sisters, guest of Eric Reinsch

COMING UP...

September 30th

RYLA
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Beatrice Shirley
Kaleb Beintema
Lena Buntmeyer
Amos Spector

October 23, 2026

Rotary
Club of Bettendorf
PRESENTS

**PINTZ
4 POLIO**

Good Drinks. Greater Impact.

Tips Change Lives!

A Healthier World is on Tap

WHEN: Friday, October 23, 2026

TIME: 5 – 7pm

WHERE: Harrington's Pub – 2321 Cumberland Square, Bettendorf IA

WHY: Social fun together with a purpose to benefit Rotary International Polio Plus – worldwide efforts to eradicate Polio.

HOW: Generous tips and donations will be collected by guest bartenders of Bettendorf Rotary Club!

CONNECTION - FRIENDSHIPS - FUN!!

Announcements

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jessica VanDyke for being one of the *Quad Cities Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 honorees. Jessica is the Business Growth and Sports Development Director for Visit Quad Cities.



Lobsterfest Plans Underway

Lobsterfest Co-Chairs Gwen Tombergs and Penny McGimpsey are already hard at work to make the 2027 event great. Committees are being formed and many Rotarians have already committed to chair those committees. One more co-chair for the live auction committee is still needed. ***Who would love to work with Jake Eikenberry to round up some great auction items?***

The sponsorship committee of Marcia Erickson, Penny McGimpsey, Maria Osterberg, and Eric Reinsch are ready to hear from anyone who would like to be a sponsor.

Grants Committee Formed

Grants Committee Chair Joe Pacha has gathered his team and the grant applications are now open. New to the committee this year are Lee Marbach, Matt Nelson, John Gnatovich, and Tim Downing.

All Are Invited

The Bettendorf Library will host an official ribbon cutting on September 30th at 5 pm for the new outreach van. The ribbon cutting will take place in front of the library and tours of the van will be offered.

Our club supported this project, so go check it out!

Open House Celebration

Junior Achievement is celebrating their 70th anniversary with an open house on Thursday, October 8th from 4 to 7 p.m. at JA Inspiration Center, 6600 44th Ave., Suite 3, Moline, IL.

No RSVPs are necessary. Complimentary drinks and appetizers will be available.



Some Other Things Going On

Iowa Quad Cities Rotary Fundraiser



Participate, volunteer, sponsor,
and/or buy merch

No registration fee.
[CLICK HERE.](#)

Give If You Can



Hospitals have an increased need for platelets to support patient treatment. Platelets are medicine for cancer patients, trauma victims, new mothers and so many others.

If you're new to ImpactLife, use this referral code O6MU5DT when you schedule and donate - you will earn a limited-edition referral T-shirt!

Schedule: bloodcenter.org/center
Questions? Call [1-800-747-5401](tel:1-800-747-5401)

For the Next 6 Weeks



Support area students as they lead the charge in the fight against hunger. Contact Samantha Sancen at 563-345-6490 for more information.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Fundraiser



October 22, 2026

Starlite Ballroom, Mississippi Valley
Fairgrounds

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Happy Bucks

- **Jessica VanDyke** | Jessica was happy to be recognized by the *Quad Cities Business Journal*, and she is excited for the Iowa League of Cities visitors in town for their convention.
- **Gabe Wells** | Apparently a Braves fan, Gabe was happy that the Atlanta Braves clinched a playoff berth.
- **Ann Kappeler** | Ann has been happy to cheer on her grandson as he scores touchdowns for the Pleasant Valley Spartans, even though she is secretly (or not so secretly) a Bulldog at heart.
- **Joe Pacha** | Joe recently celebrated the 51st anniversary of this 29th birthday.
- **Kurt Lokenvitz** | Kurt was happy that he spent some time with one son at a concert last week and will spend time with his other son at Lambeau Field this week.
- **Eric Reinsch** | Eric is happy to be involved in the project to bring Quad City Bank & Trust's new headquarters to its new location.
- **Penny McGimpsey** | Penny and her husband attended Penny's 40th class reunion last week. While there, they made some observations about Penny's classmates and how the years have not been as kind to them as they have to Penny and Bill.



Give Me A Sign



The new BETT sign is in place under the I-74 bridge and a plaque has been installed that recognizes the organizations helping to make it possible, which includes Bettendorf Rotary Club.

This was past president Penny McGimpsey's presidential project (pictured next to the 2nd "T" in the accompanying photo).

This Week's Program

Mike Zapolski, Athletic Director

College Sports Gone Wild

Mike Zapolsky has spent 44 years working in the college athletics arena, including 19 years at Augustana College, but he never anticipated the current state of collegiate athletics. While Augustana has experienced few of the issues plaguing college athletics, the business of college sports is a multimillion dollar enterprise that has changed dramatically over the past 10 years.

The 2015 O'Bannon v. NCAA court case started the evolution that led to the 2021 NCAA v. Alston case and eventually the House v. NCAA case, which dismantled the amateur status of student athletes, allowed for no scholarship limits, and permitted direct financial payments to athletes.

Some of the major issues currently impacting college athletics are: third party NIL payouts, concept of an annual salary cap, new 5 year age-based eligibility model, and sports betting, just to name a few.

A bill is currently moving through the legislature that would require consistent rules in all states, address antitrust lawsuits, and restrict the number of times athletes can transfer between schools.



The Rotary Foundation celebrates transformational opportunities including early childhood education, foundational literacy classes, technology programs, and continuing education for teachers during *Basic Education and Literacy Month*.

For example, the Rotary Club of Rapid City is partnering with an organization, Friends of the Children, to add early literacy intervention to a successful initiative providing mentorship and other support to Indigenous children. The intervention provides access to culturally relevant materials, interactive learning technology, and a learning environment that honors Lakota culture.

Consider a gift to The Rotary Foundation that will help communities address educational challenges so that students can focus on the most important thing — learning!

[CLICK HERE](#)

[Contact Foundation Chair
SK Nanda](#) for more information.

Rotary Leadership Institute - October 17-18, 2026

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) offers a dynamic learning experience for all Rotary members, regardless of their level of experience.

What is RLI?

--Facilitated Learning: RLI provides an interactive, participatory learning environment that engages members in discussions and activities. Members discuss relevant challenges and exchange ideas. It is not a lecture series looking at powerpoint slides.

--Leadership Development: The educational series of courses is designed to help members become more effective and knowledgeable leaders within their Rotary Clubs. RLI graduates are encouraged, but not required to assume leadership responsibilities in their club.

--Rotary Fundamentals: Learn about key Rotary topics such as Effective Service Projects, Membership Engagement, Public Image, Build a Stronger Club and The Rotary Foundation. Members learn and grow in their understanding of Rotary rudimentary subjects.

--RLI is not just about Rotary, it's about learning leadership skills that can be used in our everyday lives.

Why Participate?

--Energize yourself and your club: RLI helps strengthen and invigorate you and your club.

--Leadership Skill Development: Gain valuable skills and knowledge that will benefit you and your club.

--Establish Connections: Network with fellow Rotarians and exchange ideas on strengthening your club and overcoming challenges.

Program Structure

--Sequential Learning: RLI curriculum consists of two day sessions over one weekend, to be completed in order (Part 1, 2 & 3). Each part consists of 6 separate course subjects.

--Educational Sessions: Each session builds on the previous one, creating a comprehensive learning experience. A total of 18 different courses are covered.



For more information or to register:

Steve Wieneke

Rotary District 6000 RLI Coordinator

515-250-0507

swieneked6k@gmail.com

Happy September Birthday

6th

Michelle Morse

22nd

Joe Pacha
Derek Cockrell

29th

Harry Coin

12th

Kurt Lokenvitz

28th

Michael Hurd



Happy BRC Anniversary



Bob Gallagher, Sr.

27 Years

Frank Mitvalsky

17 Years

Tom Olson

5 Years

Jean Dickson
Marcia Erickson

4 Years

PT Boeye

1 Year

Bailey Pribyl





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

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