[Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt this issue of your Bettendorf Rotary Club News for an important announcement: Your editor – whose vision temporarily exceeds his ability (please note the use of the word ‘temporary’) – has come to an embarrassing conclusion: It’s time to get on with getting the newsletter OUT, as opposed to getting-it-out-AND-done-in-a-clever-new-format. So, this week, he concentrates on content. Expect a new, exciting, maybe even more-fun-at-parties format… coming to a Rotary newsletter near you! The Management]

Next meeting:
Noon Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at the Fortune Garden…
Jim Spelhaug: ‘PV Schools celebrate 100,000 hours of community service’

The March 6, 2009, issue of the Quad-City Times carried a story that reported that Pleasant Valley High School had surpassed “…100,000 hours of community service since the graduation requirement began six years ago. Pleasant Valley students are required to volunteer 70 hours of their time to such service in order to receive their diplomas.”

At an all-school assembly in January, attended by community leaders, Principal Debbie Menke said, “We’re here to celebrate the work of each and every one of you. You’ve all made contributions to your community, your country and your world.”

The Times article continued: “‘The most difficult part of our program was getting people to buy into it,’ said Greg Adamson, a community leader who helped spearhead the idea. He said the notion of doing something for school but
not receiving a grade seemed unheard of to some.”

The community service requirement has paid dividends for some students. Due in part to her community service, one student won a four-year college scholarship. Another, who did volunteer work with special-needs students, was hired to work in a related program.

Pleasant Valley Superintendent Jim Spelhaug said the requirement has taught students some things that they may not learn in the classroom.

He told the students: “We want your intellectual skills to be sharp, and in conjunction, we want you to profoundly understand your citizenship responsibility. It is our hope that you leave here with a desire to serve.”

Jim will tell us more about this program – of which everyone in Bettendorf can be proud – during the next meeting: Noon Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at the Fortune Garden.

Last meeting:

Noon Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at the Fortune Garden…

The truth about winter camping in Wisconsin

Frank Mitvalsky and his brother-in-law, Michael Selburg, told us w-a-y more about camping in below-zero weather in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest of northern Wisconsin than anyone had ever thought we’d want to know. But… strangely… as they related the fun of such hilarious goings-on at 25-below-zero as exploding camp stoves, lighters that won’t light because they’re frozen or cell-phone batteries that lose their charge – the room became fascinated with what Frank had lovingly called “A Walk in the Woods for the Truly Insane.” We asked a lot of questions afterward, and learned still more about layers of arctic underwear and other topics we never thought we’d ever learn about – or talk about.

Thank you, Frank and Mike, for a truly unusual, entertaining – and, all kidding aside, informative program.

Announcements:

REMINDER: The April 22 meeting of Bettendorf Rotary will be in the Iowa Room of the Waterfront Convention Center. The program: All about this new facility in our community – plus a tour – led by Decker Ploehn and Nancy Donovan of the Isle of Capri. We won’t meet at the Fortune Garden.

[More announcements, page 3…]
President Nicole McWilliams presided. The meeting opened with the singing of The National Anthem and Moments of Reflection.

RED BADGE MEETING 6-7:30 p.m. April 23 in the St. Croix Room at the Isle of Capri. All new members with a red “new member” sticker on your nametag must attend this meeting to have the sticker removed. If that’s not enough incentive, the hors d’oeuvres are FREE (have you tried their cocoanut shrimp!?). This is also an excellent way to learn more about Bettendorf Rotary. Board members are expected to attend; spouses are welcome. Cash bar. RSVP to Nicole: 332-3071.

Volunteers are needed for the Lobsterfest – especially, to help set up, tear down and work the silent auction. Contact Todd Larsen: 743.7824.

‘We are a singing Rotary...’ Tom Howard, song leader and Purdue’s favorite alumnus, led us in singing “A Helping Hand (through Rotary)”… “April Showers” … and, of course, “Happy Birthday.”

Birthdays in April:
Chuck Mooney, 13th... Joe Douglas, 17th... Lori Jahn, 25th... John Rabine and Edward Swan, 25th... Mike Volbrecht, 28th... Brian Rossmiller, 29th... George Coin, 30th.

who is moving to the Quad Cities and is looking for a rental home – preferably, near a YMCA so he can continue to enjoy lap swimming. Suggestions? Contact Nicole: 332-3071.

 Reserve FRIDAY, MAY 1, on your calendar. It’s a special event to help Bettendorf Rotary raise funds to support Polio Plus. There’ll be a murder, most foul. Chief suspect: Scott Naumann. More clues will be discovered in coming weeks....
Generous members... made donations to the Bettendorf Rotary Foundation. They had their reasons...

- Kevin Kraft – $55 for his birthday.
- David Falk – $60 for his birthday.
- Harry Coin – $10 because he has been freed from the task of editing the newsletter.

The news
Fred Anderson continued his weekly award-winning newscasts, providing Bettendorf Rotarians with in-depth news and analysis – and stories they won’t find anywhere else, such as this hard-hitting report:

A 28-year-old Ohio man has been charged with drunken driving after crashing his ... bar stool.

Police in Newark, east of Columbus, responded to a 911 call that went like this: "I got a friend who wrecked a bar stool," the caller said.

When the dispatcher asked if he hit his head inside the bar, the friend replied, "Um, no, he was riding the bar stool ... a motorized bar stool."

Kile Wygle, the rider of the lawnmower-engine-powered bar-stool, was hospitalized with minor injuries. The contraption can go up to 38 mph.

Police charged Wygle with operating a vehicle while intoxicated. In a stunning demonstration of judgment, he told an officer he had consumed 15 beers.

Sergeant at arms
Sgt-at-arms Doyle McCully collected $136 for our foundations.

He regaled us with the interpretations, by members of a 1st grade class, of some common sayings. A few examples: “Strike while... the bug is close.” “Don’t’ bit the hand that... looks dirty.” “No news is... impossible.” “If you lie down with dog, you’ll ... stink in the morning.”

Thanks for that educational report.

Visiting Rotarians...
Jason Gordon, Davenport, Fund Raising; Mike Selburg, Madison, IL, Clergy ... and guest
Rick Merwin, guest of Nicole McWilliams
Upcoming featured speakers

From Mr. Brian Kennedy, program chairman:

➤ April 15: Bill Onions, CPA, “Stimulus Spending and your Taxes”

➤ April 22: “Field Trip” to Waterfront Convention Center

➤ April 29: State Rep. Linda Miller, “State Legislative Session Recap”

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Please use this news!

Invite prospective new members who might appreciate our speakers.

Lunch and program only $8 per visitor, payable at the door.

# # #

MISSING TODAY:


MAKE UPS:

Duncan Cameron at Naples Bay, Fla., and Naples, Fla.

At today’s committee meeting:


This issue of The Bettendorf Rotary Club News brought to you by:

Carter LeBeau, photos… Chuck Mooney, reporter… Ralph Heninger, Webmeister… Fred Anderson, editor – with LOTS of support from Harry Coin and Connie Mangler.

Make up a meeting at a nearby Rotary Club:

Monday, noon……Davenport - The Outing Club
Monday, noon……Moline - Calvary Church of the Quad Cities
Monday, 6 pm…………QC Illinois - Moline Club
Tuesday, 7:15 am…… River Cities - Brothers Rest. Rapid City
Tuesday, noon…..Rock Island - QC Botanical Ctr.
Wednesday, noon….Bettendorf - Fortune Garden
Wednesday, 5 pm……….Mini Meet - Lunardi’s
Thursday, 7 am……IA Quad Cities - The Lodge
Thursday, noon….East Moline - Christ United Methodist Church
Thursday, noon…….Milan - Milan Community Center
Friday, noon………North Scott - Steeplegate Inn