



# THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

**Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club**  
Oct. 24, 2012, issue

## *Next meeting:*

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012, at  
Family Resources in Davenport

## **Family Resources visit includes briefing, tour**

BRC provides grants to a number of non-profit agencies in the QC community each year, but most members don't often get to see the impact of the club's support. The Oct. 31 meeting provides an opportunity to see that impact – and more – when we visit social services agency **Family Resources** on the campus of the historic Annie Wittenmyer Home at **2800 Eastern Ave., Davenport.**

After a lunch of lasagna served by FR's Culinary Kids, we'll get an overview briefing from agency director **Cheryl Goodwin** and a tour of the facilities, including the gym, site of our meeting, whose renovation was helped by a \$2,500 BRC grant last year. (The Culinary Kids program got help from another BRC grant in 2009.)



At the Oct. 24 meeting **Sharon Sarver** advised us to arrive

early – lunch service begins 11:50. Sharon provided directions: turn south from Kimberly Road or north from Locust Street... west onto Wittenmyer Lane... “parking is directly to your right, behind the gymnasium.”

Guests are welcome, she said; if you're bringing one, please tell her: **(320.7180 or [ssarver529@yahoo.com](mailto:ssarver529@yahoo.com)).**

## *Last meeting:*

Wednesday Oct. 24, 2012



**Retired District Court Judge Charlie Pelton**

## **Retain Wiggins, Pelton asks**

Since 1962, Iowa's district court judges and Supreme Court justices have been chosen by a nonpartisan commission that reviews the professional qualifications of

applicants and forwards the names of all who pass that scrutiny on to the governor, who appoints them. This process has resulted in an independent judiciary, guided by the state Constitution and free from politics. Judges and justices face a retention vote every eight years.

In the 2010 election, Iowans voted out three Supreme Court justices for the first time in 50 years because of the controversial 2009 Varnum ruling by the unanimous 7-member Supreme Court that declared a 1998 anti-gay marriage law unconstitutional. This year Justice David Wiggins, another of the seven, faces a retention vote, and the same organized forces that ousted his colleagues are trying to remove him.

At the Oct. 24 meeting, retired district court **Judge Charles (“Charlie”) Pelton**, Clinton, told BRC members why he opposes the effort to vote Wiggins out. “I’m going to let you decide this (Varnum) case,” Pelton said, and he began by “swearing in” his audience by reading the oath that justices take – to uphold the state and U.S. Constitutions.

Then, noting, “Judges don’t go looking for controversy,” but rather rule on the constitutionality of laws that come to them for review, Pelton summarized the facts in the Varnum case: Six same-gender couples had applied for marriage licenses and been turned down by the Polk County recorder. They sued and the case eventually got to the state Supreme Court.

The justices applied the law, Pelton said, specifically Article 1, Sec. 6 of the Iowa Constitution, which guarantees equal protection for all persons under the law and requires that all of the state’s laws must apply uniformly to everyone. “Any inconsistent law shall be void,” Pelton

quoted the Constitution as saying. And the 1998 law defining marriage as being only between one man and one woman was declared invalid. The reason, Pelton explained, was that it denied all of the privileges of marriage – such as married-status taxation or inheritance by a surviving spouse – to same-gender marriage partners. “You can’t exclude members of one class – in this case,



married same-sex partners – from the privileges given to all,” Pelton said.

Judge Pelton was accompanied by **Jordan Kaplan**, an attorney with the Davenport law firm of Betty, Neuman & McMahon, and

chairman of the Scott County Bar Executive Council’s Retention Vote Committee.

### The meeting opened...

With **President Mark Ross** at the



lectern, the meeting opened with the recitation of the 4-Way Test and the singing of “This Is My Country” – under the direction of Music Leader Extraordinaire **Tom Howard**, returned from his tour of European capitals (and other

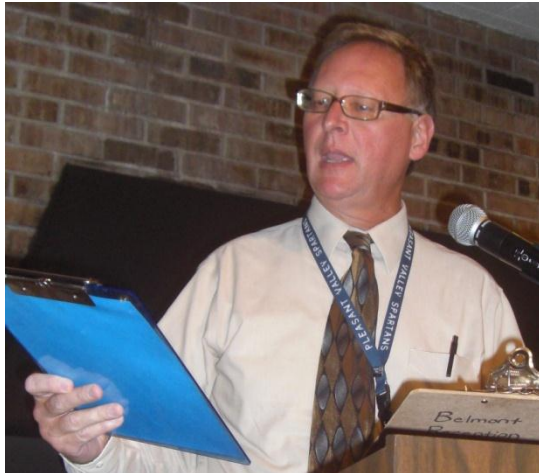
spots). After Moments of Reflection, the singing resumed, with recorded musical accompaniment by the talented laptop of **Scott Naumann**: “Shine on, Harvest Moon” and “Vive le Rotary” (2 verses).

**Secretary Chuck Mooney had no one to introduce at first, but later...**

**Visiting Rotarian:**

Tom Fedje, Davenport: Edgerton Women's Health Center

**Announcements...**



→**Dictionaries.** Jim Spelhaug said the dictionaries – which BRC gives to each 4th grader in the city of Bettendorf – have arrived. Jim asked for volunteers to distribute them, and passed around sign-up sheets.

→**Read to Succeed.** Scott Naumann



said the mentoring program, in which BRC volunteers will read to 1<sup>st</sup> graders each week in their

classroom, is ready to go as soon as the final few volunteers sign up. The program will take place in all 13 1<sup>st</sup>-grade classrooms in Bettendorf. It takes a commitment of 30-60 minutes per week, he said. To sign up, contact Scott: [scottn@midlandcom.com](mailto:scottn@midlandcom.com) or 445-4260.

**New member induction...**

→**Tom Bush.**

Past president **Dave Falk** inducted our newest member, **Tom Bush**, the public relations director of McCarthy-Bush Corp., Bettendorf, which has expanded from commercial and residential real estate to include companies in construction, mining and steel and sheet metal production. He and his wife have three adult children.



**News...**

**Fred Anderson** didn't look too far for news, but reported this story: Brazilian Gilberto Araujo surprised everyone who



had gathered for his wake in a town in Bahia state when he walked in and said, "Guys, I'm

alive. Pinch me." Some people fainted, his mother said, and others fled. Araujo had been working out of town for about four months, but that apparently was enough time for family and friends to mistakenly identify a murdered local man as him. Now his mother is happy, and the morgue has its body back.

**Jon Ryan Happy \$\$...**

**President Mark** collected \$160 for our foundations + \$108 for our Scholarship Fund from **Dick Schillig**, marking both

his birthday and anniversary. Other \$\$ came from **Tom Howard** – birthday card arrived while he was on vacation – with an “inspiring” message... **Jim Spelhaug** – more than 25 PVHS musicians made it into the All-State Music Festival...

**Carter LeBeau** – Bears won!... **Kevin Kraft** – congratulations to PVHS football Spartans, 9-0... **Greg Blaske** – son and daughter, both distinguished PV students... **Steve Pieart** – son’s school, Mount Union, in the football playoffs... **Rich James** – UNI stopped its losing streak... **Decker Ploehn** – Tanglefoot Lane is now open (Yeah!)... until Spring, when Utica Ridge-Greenbrier widening project begins...



### Missing today...

K. Adams -2, L. Adams-2, Archer-6, Ashby, Bibik, Boeye, Bowe-16, Brown-16, H. Coin-2, Daley, DeDoncker, Deuth-2, Dickson-2, Dobesh, Duda-2, Edwards-6, Eikenberry-14, Ellstrom-16, Franks-2, Gallagher, Glass, Habenicht, Harrison-13, Hassel-2, Heninger, Hinton-2, Kappeler-4, Kellenberger, Kass, Kennedy-4, Limberg, Loweth-2, McGimpsey, McWilliams-4, Mangler, Marvin-7, Murphy-7, Murray-16, Nanda, Nelson-16, Olson-3, Oswald-2, Powers, Rolf-4, Schuler-2, Schutte, Scranton, Sherrick-2, Stopulos, Volbrecht-6, Werner, Windmiller-3, Worley-14

**For more on BRC – and Rotary – see:**  
<http://www.bettendorffrotary.com/>



### Make-ups...

**At Thirsty Thursday, Oct. 18:** Steve Habenicht, Steve Pieart, Connie Mangler, Brent Werner, Chris Glass

**At Davenport:** Mark Ross, Linda Miller, Diane Ricketts-McCool, Pat Eikenberry, John Archer, Doyle McCully

### Upcoming meetings...

... Thanks to program chair **Brian Kennedy**. Have program ideas? Contact Brian: **340-5114**, [bmfkennedy@att.net](mailto:bmfkennedy@att.net)  
**Oct. 31:** Field trip to Family Resources, 2800 Eastern Ave., Davenport

### News staff...

Editor, reporter: Fred Anderson...  
 Correspondent: Chuck Mooney...  
 Photographer: Carter LeBeau...  
 Webmeister/Web-site host: Chris Glass

### Other news of interest to BRC...

➔ **Brian Barquist Benefit.** Former BHS teacher and football assistant coach Brian Barquist, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has been chosen for a cell-transplant study at Northwestern University. It has a 75% chance of success – but is not covered by insurance. A benefit event – 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, in the Black Watch Room at Pebble Creek, LeClaire – will help defray the \$125,000 cost of this treatment.