



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Nov. 26, 2014, issue

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014, at
➔ The Tanglewood Pavilion,
4250 Middle Road, Bettendorf

This program's certain to be entertaining...

Program chair **Scott Naumann** describes **Jason Platt**, the featured speaker at our Dec. 3 meeting as a “cartoonist, artist, actor, and father...”



In the June 6, 2010, issue of the *Quad-City Times*, theater writer David Burke opened a review this way:

“Jason Platt’s perspective on the musical ‘Guys and Dolls’ comes with plenty of experience.

“Although he’s making his directorial debut with the Quad-City Music Guild version of the show, which opens next weekend at Prospect Park Auditorium in Moline, it’s the fifth time he’s been involved with the classic musical...”

Last meeting:

Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2014



What’s new at BPL – and a tour...

Since Bettendorf Public Library Director **Sue Mannix** described the library’s recent renovations at an earlier November meeting, at the Nov. 26 meeting Assistant Director **Maria Levetzow** talked about resources that are available 24/7 through the use of a patron’s library card.

At www.bettendorflibrary.com/, the library’s Web site, “you can find the calendar of events – we’re constantly adding to it” – and links to digital books, magazines, songs, audio-books and more, she said. You can download to a smart phone, tablet, other mobile device or your PC, she added.

Bettendorf has changed its sharing consortium from the Iowa state-wide system to RiverShare, which consists of 20 nearby libraries – and that has significantly reduced the waiting list for popular items, Maria said.



After Maria's presentation, **Kelly Giovanine**, executive director of the



Bettendorf Public Library Foundation presented some facts about the foundation in a "trivia game" format. During the game, we learned, among other facts: The Foundation was formed in 1983, spurred by a

large bequest from the Larry Kakert estate. The first cash gift, \$2,019, received in 1986, was used to start a CD collection, one of the first for a library in the QC. The late **Faye Clow** literally "wrote the book" on how to form and fund a library foundation, Kelly said.

After their presentations, some Rotarians stayed behind to take a tour of the newly renovated areas in the library. Updated features include:

- many more **private study spaces**, each with a 4-person



capacity
→ more computers

- more space for kids' programming – with increased safety due to two controlled entrances
- streamlined check-out in the expanded check-in / check-out / information area



- an enclosed space where groups "can get creative,"

Maria explained; for example, interested people recently saw how a letterpress printing press works – by



bringing the press in to observe it in operation. The space contains a 3-D printer, and new programming is being planned for the space, she said.

Announcements...

→ **Future meeting sites:**

All December – Tanglewood Pavilion, 4250 Middle Road in Bettendorf

January (if construction is finished) – the new Hilton Garden Inn

→ **LobsterFest planning:** Everyone interested in helping with LobsterFest is invited to the first "committee of the whole" meeting at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, at Tanglewood Pavilion. The focus will be on obtaining sponsors and beginning committee work. The 2015 LobsterFest will be Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Rivermont Collegiate.



**Jon Ryan
Happy \$\$...**
(Named in honor of the late Bettendorf Rotarian, punster, jokester and all-around good guy)

President Sharon collected \$277 – with some extra \$\$ from: **John Sherrick**, at his first meeting back, giving thanks for the club’s support while he was at the Mayo Clinic, plus \$20 – “\$1 for each hour of my surgery”... **Joe Tirone** – \$20 for the two severely wounded soldiers he took hunting – they bagged deer and birds... **Theron Schutte** – 31st anniversary... **Craig Windmiller** – new granddaughter. 2 weeks old... **Ken Vandersnick** – happy about the good QCSO holiday concert... **Dimy Doresca** – a Chicago-area Rotary club and a Rotaract club have signed on to support the Haiti water project – a January start is possible... **Dave Deuth** – happy to be here + son’s 24th birthday... **Dawn Saul** – also happy to be here... with some time to spare... **Christy Gause** – not-quite-40-yet birthday... **Johanna Smith** – happy to have delivered a Thanksgiving basket with her son + happy **Mike Limberg** fixed her computer... **Dr. Tom Olson** – thankful he’s going to Florida for car and boat shows... **President Sharon** – thankful **Ann Kappeler** hosted the Charities Board meeting – grants will be announced soon.

History without Harry...

... But with **Fred Anderson**, who got help from **Harry Coin** and **Tom Howard**, and encouragement from **Sharon Sarver** and **Decker Ploehn** to prepare this report for the next District 6000 newsletter...

The Bettendorf Rotary Club was chartered on May 22, 1957, which must have been a Monday, because the first mention of El Rancho Villa – the original name of the eatery at 2211 Kimberly Road – appeared in the minutes of the May 24, 1957, charter meeting. At that meeting, the chairman pro-tem was Charles Munson, who introduced the initial slate of officers: President-elect Robert Owen, V.P. Ken Horstmann and Secretary-Treasurer Larry Nelson.



By the Sept. 11, 1957, meeting, Mr. Nelson had left and **Chuck Mooney** said he’d finish his term, which he did... and then some. Chuck’s “term” stretched on to June 26, 2013.



For all of those years, and beyond, the Bettendorf Rotary Club met on Wednesday noon at El Rancho, with an occasional “field trip” elsewhere. Besides service to Bettendorf and the Quad-City community, the club took on a long series of international service projects, often with a water theme: drinking-water purification in emerging nations, bridges over canyons with raging rivers, latrines to improve sanitation in Central American villages.

Ironically, the only major interruption in the club’s history at that restaurant was caused by water. Specifically, on June 20, 1990, Duck Creek – which usually meandered peacefully a few dozen yards away – flooded, twice within three

weeks, inundating the restaurant nearly to its rafters. The club lost its meeting place and everything in it.

During the months the building was being refurbished, Bettendorf Rotary camped out at Asbury Methodist Church, Jumer's Castle Lodge and Riverview Inn.



After rebuilding, the restaurant on Kimberly Road (although legally still El Rancho Villa) emerged to do business as The Fortune Garden with a Chinese menu – and a buffet for Bettendorf Rotary.

After the flood, the club acquired new Rotary banners, member name-badges, a bell and a gavel to ring at the start of each meeting. A venerable upright piano appeared in the room. BRC is a singing Rotary – but that piano's tones always evoked the saloon scene



from a Western movie. The club's own **Bernie Vogel** coaxed real music out of that tinny old thing well into his retirement –

playing it all “by ear.” He was abetted by song leader **Tom Howard**, the club's first under-age-30 recruit and 1969-70 president, who still tells members which page to turn to in the songbooks. He describes his current accompanists as “two special ladies,” Ruth Symmons and Gail Baldwin, who “play for us because

they love what they hear at the meetings: the fun and the philanthropy.”

In April of **2011**, the club remodeled the meeting room, replacing a huge wall hanging of Chinese bridges with a display of exchange banners from clubs around the world where members have made-up. Members Connie Mangler and Amber Castro chose the color scheme. That year's president, **Jeff Hassel**, thanked the many volunteers who wielded paint brushes.

With little warning, in September 2014 Bettendorf Rotary Club's world changed forever. The month began with the Labor Day Run with Carl to fund scholarships, we went to Palmer Hills for our annual Golf Outing on the 10th – and James and Ying Mu, our longtime hosts at The Fortune Garden, sold the restaurant. The old piano was donated to a Bettendorf elementary school, members removed all of the Rotary materials from the building, and it was demolished.

Since then we've been wandering – although not exactly in the wilderness – but, still, wandering: The Davenport Country Club for the remainder of September, The Fountains in October, Bettendorf Public Library in November and Tanglewood Pavilion in December. We will find a new meeting home.

Meanwhile, we'll continue to serve our community – with grants to community nonprofits, scholarships to grads, dictionaries to 4th graders and, soon, a new pure-drinking-water project for a village in Haiti. Another water project...



The meeting opened...



After ringing the bell, **President Sharon Sarver** called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the 4-Way Test. With **Tom Howard** leading and pianist **Ruth Symmons** providing accompaniment, we sang the day's patriotic song, "America the

Beautiful." **President Sharon** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moments of Silence, during which she asked that we especially remember the families that received BRC Thanksgiving baskets, and we learned that **Steve Pieart's** sister has died.

After introductions, the singing resumed with Tom and Ruth leading "Rotary Ideals" and, this being the day before Thanksgiving, "We Gather Together" and "Harvest Home."

Secretary Johanna Smith introduced:

Visiting Rotarians:

Bill Tubbs, North Scott Rotary

Guests:

Ruth Symmons, pianist

Mike Zmuda, former member, Quad Cities Illinois Rotary

Jean Holloway, guest of **Ann Kappeler**

Kelly Giovanine, Bettendorf Library (speaker)

Maria Levetzow, Bettendorf Library (speaker)

In all, 31 Bettendorf Rotarians attended and were joined by 5 guests and 1 visiting Rotarian.



And at the end...

... of the meeting, **Dave Deuth** won a Happy to Have a Make-up in the drawing from among all those members who participated in Jon Ryan Happy \$\$\$. And we wished each other a **Happy Thanksgiving**.

Upcoming meetings...

... Thanks to program chair **Scott Naumann**, scottn@midlandcom.com, 445-4260:



Dec. 3: Jason Platt, cartoonist, artist, actor, father

Dec. 10: Pleasant Valley Chorus: Christmas music

Dec. 17: Mark Smith: Hand-to-Hand

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve – no meeting

Missing...

(Number in parentheses: total meetings missed since July 1, 2014):

Arndt (21), Ashby, Bell, Blaske (8), Boeye (18), Bowe (21), Bush (22), Chambers (8), Coin, G. (2), Coin, H., DeDoncker (16), Dickson (13), Dobesh (8), Duda (14), Eikenberry (19), Ellstrom (22), Erpelding (17), Featherstone (17), Felsing (8), Franks (15), Gallagher, Jr. (9), Gallagher, Sr. (13), Geisewite, Gudgel (15), Habenicht (16), Hartsock (12), Hassel (12), Heninger (8), Hill (10), Hinton (19), Hipple (19), Hurd (10), Kass, Kennedy (22), Kraft, Lane, Larsen (14), Limberg (10), Lizak (11), Lokenvitz (9), Loweth (6), McGimpsey (9), McWilliams (19), Mannhardt (2), Mannix (20), Martinez (11), Miller, L. (9), Mitvalsky (11), Morrison (4), Naeve (19), Naumann, Nelson (22), Oswald (9), Pieart (3), Ploehn (6), Powers (7), Ross (7), Rutherford (2),

Salm (22), Scranton (20), Slavens (5), Spelhaug (3), Stone (7), Stopulos (8), Vollbrecht (17), Werner (22), Wessel (11), Willsher (19), Worley (21), Zachary (12)



Make-ups...

Happy to Have a Make Up: Dave Death, Kevin Kraft

Thanksgiving basket delivery: Steven Sorenson, Andrew Gudgel, Kelly Love-Sherrick, Bill Daley, Jim Slavens, Ralph Heninger, Dave Chambers, George Coin, Dimy Doresca, Tim Lane, John Rabine, Sharon Sarver, Todd Ashby, Ryan Bell

Make up at another QC club...

Monday, noon: Davenport – The Outing Club
Monday, noon: Moline – Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline
Monday, 6 p.m.: QC Illinois – Arbor Village Club House, Moline
Tuesday, 7:15 a.m.: River Cities – Brothers Restaurant, Rapids City
Tuesday, noon: Rock Island – QC Botanical Center
Wednesday, noon: Bettendorf – Tanglewood Pavilion (during December)
Wednesday, 5 p.m.: Mini Meet – Lunardi’s Restaurant, Davenport
Thursday, 7 a.m.: Iowa Quad Cities – J-Bar, Elmore Avenue, Davenport
Thursday, noon: East Moline – Christ United Methodist Church
Thursday, noon: Milan – Pinnacle Country Club
2nd and 4th Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Twin Rivers Rotary After Hours – Bierstube, Moline
Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport

Update your directory info

If you would like to update your listing in the BRC Member Directory at <http://www.bettendorffrotary.com/>, it’s pretty simple:

Log in to your account using your email address and your private password – if it’s your first time, use the password “member”.

Click on “Member Account” in the left-side column to bring up your personal file.

Make the changes you want – you can change your password too – then scroll to the bottom of the file and click the “save” button.

BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter: Fred Anderson

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For more on Bettendorf Rotary Club:

<http://www.bettendorffrotary.com/>



For more on Rotary International:

<https://www.rotary.org/>