



**THE  
BETTENDORF  
ROTARY  
CLUB NEWS**  
Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club  
March 3, 2015, issue

***Next meeting:***  
Wednesday, March 11, 2015,  
at the **Tanglewood Pavilion**

**DeDoncker to comment  
on state of the economy**

Each year about this time, **John DeDoncker** pulls out his charts and graphs and assesses the “State of the Economy” – and he’ll do it again at the March 11 meeting.



In Friday’s economic news, the Labor Department reported that the nation’s non-farm workforce rose by 295,000,

“extending for another month one of the best streaks of jobs growth since the late 1990s.”

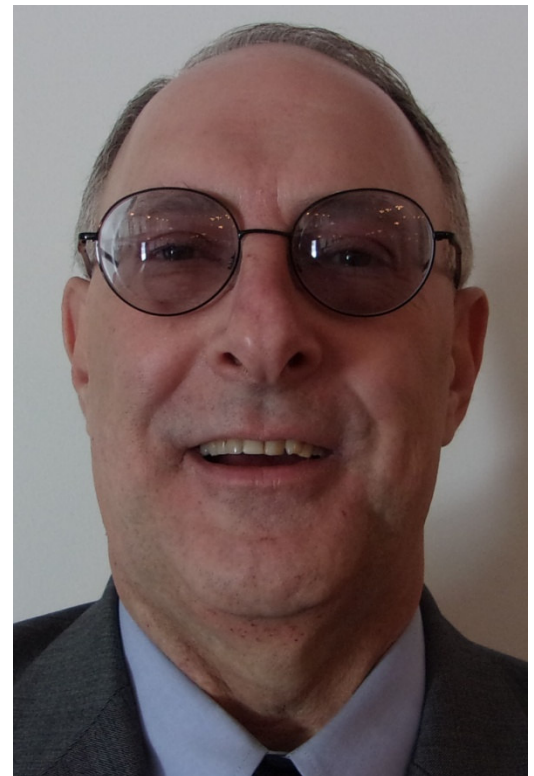
The unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percent, to 5.5 percent, exceeding economists’ expectations – on average, they had predicted “a payrolls number of 240,000 with a jobless rate of 5.6 percent.”

The growth in wages continued to be “sluggish, rising by a mere three pennies an hour, or a 2.0 percent annualized gain. The average work week was 34.6 hours, essentially unchanged.”

***Last meeting:***  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015

**Show biz career  
natural for Miller**

**Doug Miller**, who has spent his life in the entertainment industry in Iowa, and is a founder of the Iowa Motion Picture Association, regaled us at the March 4 meeting with tales of how a star-struck kid from Davenport built a career behind the scenes in broadcasting and live performance.



In the early ’60s, Doug had two chance face-to-face meetings with touring musicians – rock-n-roll star Fabian and jazz great Louis Armstrong – and he was hooked on a career in entertainment.

Fabian was in Davenport for a concert and Doug wanted his autograph. The star was staying at the Hotel Blackhawk, and Doug asked the desk clerk for his room number – and got it. He went up to the room, got the autograph and pressed the elevator button. As he stepped in, he heard a voice behind him say, “Hold the elevator.” It was Fabian and his manager

– and Doug said he couldn't manage to think of anything to say.

The encounter with Armstrong wasn't quite as awkward, Doug said: Introduced

to him after the show, he blurted out something about his uncle having known **Bix Beiderbecke**. Armstrong, who had been influenced by Bix, said, "He was great, man."

At age 16 Doug was hired as an usher at the RKO Orpheum Theater (now the Adler Theater). He was promoted to head usher and got

to know every job in the theater. He also became well acquainted with the area RKO manager, from whom he learned about promoting events. And he gained insights into live theater.

Many music acts played the theater – from Roy Orbison to Ella Fitzgerald, Sonny & Cher to pianists Ferrante and Teicher – and he met most of them. He also met most Quad City leaders in many walks of life.

He said he almost didn't graduate, because he often closed the theater after late-night acts. But the principal of Bettendorf High, his alma mater, arranged for extra study sessions to help him through.

After graduating from high school, and dropping out of college, he was drafted into the Army. At his base in Vietnam, he soon learned he was actually acquainted with his commanding general – who had been at the Rock Island Arsenal and

whom he had met through concerts at the Orpheum.

When the general found out the **Bob Hope** Christmas Show for the troops was scheduled to perform at his base, he transferred Doug onto his staff – and he knew how to work with Hope's road crew set it all up. Doug met many celebrities as part of that gig – including giving Sen. John McCain's father – an admiral – directions to the "head."

With a start like all that, Doug was a natural for an entertainment career.

### Induction of new member...



➔**Glenn Dugan: S.K. Nanda** inducted our newest member, a New York native who has called Bettendorf his home for some 25 years. A mechanical engineer, he worked for Sears Manufacturing of Davenport for many years, before



launching his own business-consulting firm, which focuses on employee development. Glenn and his wife Connie are parents of 5 adult children and 2 grandchildren.

### Announcements...

→ **Joint QC Rotary meeting:** Glenn Kass reported he had attended a meeting with members of other QC clubs: a Rotarian who has spoken at the International Convention – Michelangelo Caruso – will speak at a meeting beginning at 3:45 p.m. April 20 in the Gold Room, Hotel Blackhawk. “This is an opportunity to ‘Light Up Rotary’” and introduce Rotary to prospective young members, Glenn said. A \$25 admission will cover expenses. More information will be available later.

### ‘Housewarming gift’: Kevin Kraft



presented the club with its first “housewarming gift – wherever it is.”

Unwrapping framed front- and inside-pages’ coverage of BRC charitable grants, as covered by *The Bettendorf*

*News*, Kevin said it is to be hung on the wall of our new meeting home “to remind ourselves of LobsterFest and all the good that we do with the money earned from it.” (As he returned to his seat, he uttered words of encouragement to **President Sharon Sarver** to find that meeting-room wall soon.)

**‘Betten-do’ project:** President Sharon announced the May 6 meeting as a time to do a “one-and-done” project for a QC non-profit agency. On that date, she said, members will go to that agency, have a quick lunch and complete the job. She explained, the job could be a cleanup, fix-up, painting or other task that the agency needed. Submit ideas over the next few weeks to either her (**563.320.7180 / [ssarver529@yahoo.com](mailto:ssarver529@yahoo.com)**) or Secretary **Johanna Smith (760.458.1218 / [Johanna M Smith@hotmail.com](mailto:Johanna_M_Smith@hotmail.com))**. We’ll vote on the projects in late April, she added.

**March meetings:** Just a reminder: We’re meeting all of March at the **Tanglewood Pavilion**.



### History with Harry... (Harry Coin looks through BRC archives to discover what the club was doing in years past...)

I was researching 1966, reading club minutes about Olympic athlete and Rotarian **Chuck Mooney** – oh, yes, Chuck. He competed, but didn’t place, in the 1966 Rotary-YMCA Olympics. Just as I wrote the first few lines, I think my psychic dog was channeling **Jon Ryan**. For years Jon read the news – with a twist – at our meetings. Anyhow, my dog chose that moment to let out a loud groaning sigh, collapse his head onto his feet and fall asleep.

I can take a hint: Write about something else. Skip 10 years. “Today in 1975 it was ‘Bring your Minister to Rotary Day!’ Declaring a jubilee day, there were no

finer.” The moment I finished that sentence, the cat leapt on my chair and whammed her little head right on my chin. This is the psychic sign for “epic fail.”

Skip another 10 years. “Today in 1985, a week after welcoming **Rich James** into the club, the club voted 44-3 in favor of a new Rotary extension breakfast community outreach program.” The dog heaved himself up in disgust and walked out without a look back. And the cat, instead of the usual brawling, marched out in close formation



beside the dog. I am now officially creaped out. I listen for the sounds of trumpets and the end of days.

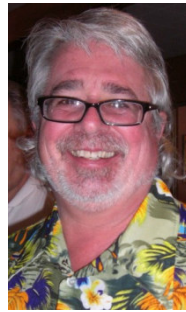
Do or die – last try. Skip 10 years. “This month in 1995 with a then-record 16



adult guests, and a program by CIA historian Don Welzenback: **Decker Ploehn** announced Bettendorf Rotary won first place at the Service Club Olympics (no doubt pleasing to Olympian Chuck

Mooney). Also that day: Jon Ryan announced Decker became a Paul Harris sustaining member.” I waited for it... would the cosmic sign be a ray of sunshine or a volcano? It was just the peaceful sound of a light rain. It came to me then – how magnificent a reward for just doing your job “optimistic and

harmonious” really is in today’s troubled world. And that WAS the news!



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

**President Sharon** collected \$380 – especially from: **John Rabine** – new carpeting in 3 bedrooms, thanks to **Bill Daley**’s Abbey Carpeting & Floor... **Jim Spelhaug** – \$100 for his upcoming birthday (holds his age well) + a pitch for even more scholarships, which signal to students that their community is behind them... **Dave Chambers** – grandson, Owen Weber, elected president of the BHS senior class... **Ken Vandersnick** – gone the last two weeks to New York and will be going to Colorado soon... **Kurt Lokenvitz** – kudos to both sons, one for his team winning a basketball tourney, the other being honored for his National History Day Website... **Pat Eikenberry** – sorry to miss **Mayor Bob**’s speech last week – “away on business”... **Julie Fopma** – lobbying for higher education at the Iowa Legislature in Des Moines and to members of the Iowa Congressional delegation in D.C.... **Glenn Kass** – New Jersey native Glenn commiserating with **Glenn Dugan** on Easterners settling in the Midwest, and loving it: “Lewis and Clark left the East too”... **Harry Coin** – word from family in Florida that his dad, **George**, has topped 500 miles biking this winter... **Kevin Kraft** – his family is in Florida too... **Greg Blaske** – another of his comments about the University of Kansas doing something or other in basketball... **Dave Deuth** – his daughter, a Miracle

Kid advocate, earning funds to benefit kids at U of I Hospitals at a dance marathon at UNI... **Craig Windmiller** – grandson’s 5<sup>th</sup> birthday... **Mayor Bob** – thanks for the support at last week’s State of the City + daughter elected president of BHS junior class... **Carol Foster** – urges all to join the campaign to expunge “the R word” from everyone’s vocabulary... **Theron Schutte** – congratulations to PV and NS high school basketball teams going to State + to coach Ben Pennington being recognized for his achievements... **President Sharon** – kudos to ISU for its dramatic come-from-behind win over OU Monday night.

another QC club, please pass it on to one of these members, Dimy said.

### The meeting opened...

**President Sharon Sarver** called the meeting to order and led the recitation of The 4-Way Test. After **Tom Howard** (abetted by **Scott Naumann**’s musical laptop) led the singing of “God Bless America,” President Sharon returned to lead Moments of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. After introductions, Tom returned to lead the singing of Vive le Rotary,” “Give My Regards to Broadway” and “Happy Birthday, Dear Rotarians” who – in March – are: 07, James R. Spelhaug; 09, Rene Hipple; 13, Andrew Gudgel, Glenn Kass; 14, Ralph Heninger; 15, Glenn Dugan; 16, Rich James; 21, Chelsea Powers, Jenny Garlach; 25 Andrew Arndt; 31, Dave Falk, Kevin Kraft.



### In other BRC news...

➔ **Recruiting partners: Dimy Doresca**, chair of the BRC International Project committee, made a presentation Monday evening to the Illinois QC Rotary about the BRC-led project to provide clean water to a village in Haiti. Dimy and committee members **Tim Lane** and **Fred Anderson** have secured commitments from other clubs including Tipton, Davenport, Chicago, Bensenville and Aurora, Ill., Puerto Rico and Grand Cayman. And the recruitment continues – if you have a contact in a club, especially



### Stand-in secretary Jonna Schuler introduced...

#### Guests:

Doug Miller (Speaker)  
Stephanie Noyd (guest of **Pat Eikenberry**)

In all, 54 Bettendorf Rotarians attended, and they were joined by 2 guests.

## Upcoming meetings...

... Thanks to program chair **Scott Naumann**, [scottn@midlandcom.com](mailto:scottn@midlandcom.com), 445-4260:

**March 11:** John DeDoncker, "State of the Economy"

**March 18:** Tom Bley, Camp Shalom

**March 25:** open

**April 1:** Aaron

Tennant, Tennant Truck Lines: Truckers' Image and Economics

**April 8:** Kai Swanson, "Masterworks VI: Peace and Brotherhood Ode to Joy" (The QCSO Masterworks Series is being performed in April)

**April 15:** Judd Hulting, Patriot Renewable Fuels, Annawan, Ill.



## Make-ups...

Scott Naumann, North Scott Rotary

Rita Nelson, Davenport Rotary

Ken Vandersnick, North Scott Rotary



## 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 – Club Rm., HyVee, 7<sup>th</sup> Street & John Deere Road, 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 March)**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.: Twin Rivers

Rotary After Hours – Bierstube, Moline

Friday, noon: North Scott – Steeplegate Inn, Davenport



## Missing...

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

Boeye (25), Bowe (34), Bush (35), Coin, G. (8), Daugherty (10), DeDoncker (23), Dickson (22), Dobesh (19), Downing (7), Duda (21), Ellstrom (35), Erpelding (30), Featherstone (28), Gause (20), Geisewite (2), Habenicht (27), Hartsock (21), Hassel (19), Heninger (16), Hill (22), Hinton (32), Hipple (30), Hurd (23), Kappeler (11), Kennedy (35), Larsen (19), Limberg (22), Lizak (19), Loweth (12), McWilliams (32), Mannix (30), Miller, L. (22), Mitvalsky (15), Naeve (32), Oswald (20), Ploehn (5), Powers (11), Rutherford (6), Salm (35), Saul (22), Scranton (31), Slavens (12), Werner (35), Willsher (29), Worley (34), Zachary (21)

## BRC News staff...

**Editor, reporter:** Fred Anderson

**Photographer:** Glenn Kass

**Correspondent, Web-site host:** Johanna Smith

## For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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

## For more on Rotary International:

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