



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Aug. 12, 2015, issue

Next meeting:

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2015,
at Tanglewood Pavilion

Vocational Service is in the spotlight next week

Rotary began a hundred-plus years ago as a networking club among business and

professional men in Chicago – and that work-related focus lives on in the Vocational Service Chair position on the Board. **Ryan Bell** fulfills that position on the BRC Board – and this is his first opportunity to select members who can take a few minutes at the Aug. 19 meeting to educate the rest of us in what their day job is all about.



In a way, Ryan has a bigger challenge than the first vocational service chair did: Bettendorf Rotary contains a widely diverse membership – men and women pursuing careers in the rich cross-section of businesses, professions, not-for-profit agencies and other organizations that this community has to offer.

It'll be interesting to see exactly who Ryan assembles and what they have to tell the rest of us...

Last meeting:

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2015



Transported into Viet War Hell...

When **Bill “Hawk” Albracht** launched into the narrative of what he and the men under his command endured at a jungle outpost in Vietnam in October of 1969, the room grew quiet. We seemed to forget that we were at a Rotary meeting in Bettendorf, Iowa, on Aug. 12, 2015. No one wanted to miss a word. We all were transported into the midst of a long-ago, far-away war.

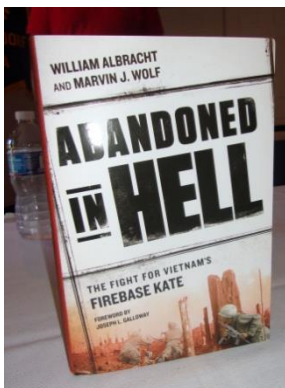
Bill set the stage masterfully: Just two years after joining the Army – and just two years after graduating from Alleman High School – he had completed Officer Candidate School, been commissioned, served a tour in Thailand and now – newly promoted to captain, the youngest in the Army – he had just arrived at Fire Base Kate, not far from the Cambodian border. He commanded a force of some 150 U.S. Army Special Forces and

Montagnard soldiers (the Montagnards were the original people in what became Vietnam, he had explained) and he arrived to find his men playing cards and volleyball.

“Our perimeter was in sad shape,” Bill said. “We were not battle-ready.” No patrols had been deployed to scout what enemy forces might be in the area.

“Tomorrow we get this place battle-ready,” he told his men, and they settled into an uneasy sleep.

That night three North Vietnam Army brigades – some 6,000 soldiers – attacked the base because it blocked their route to where they had intended to launch a campaign to cut South Vietnam in half, Bill said.



Against those overwhelming forces, for the next several days Bill and the men under his command stopped the North Vietnamese offensive. Running low on ammunition, reinforcements, water and air cover, they

prepared to abandon their position under cover of darkness. They were alone; “Spooky” – the nickname for World War II-era C-47 aircraft outfitted with deadly accurate Gattling-type guns – broke down and did not arrive to cover their retreat.

At that point, Bill stopped his narrative and invited listeners to read what happened next in his recently published book, *Abandoned in Hell*. More than a few BRC members accepted that offer and purchased a copy.



During the Q&A at the end of his remarks, Bill was reunited with his adjutant from their days with the Army Reserve unit in the QC – our own **John Sherrick**, who praised Bill for his ability to lead soldiers in combat.



New member induction...

S.K. Nanda conducted the induction of **Gary Felton**, commander of the Quad Cities Salvation Army unit. Before coming to the QC some five years ago, Gary had served communities in several Midwestern states – he’s a native of Wisconsin and a fan of both the Packers and the Badgers – and one term in Kingston, Jamaica. He and his wife are parents of a son who is a dean at Tennessee State University.



Announcements...

→ **We have a home: Tanglewood Hills Pavilion** – under the management of sisters-in-law **Juli Sundholm** and **Donna Sundholm** – is the new permanent meeting home for BRC. After reviewing the results of the survey of members and considering other factors, the BRC Board decided on Tanglewood at its Tuesday evening meeting.

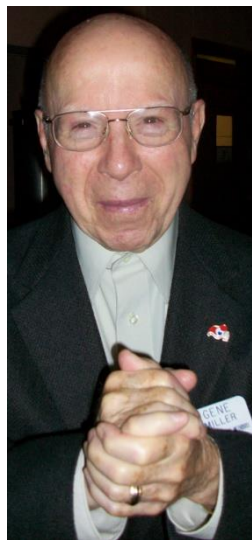
→ **Rotary ‘Operation Warm’:** Secretary **Johanna Smith** announced that BRC will participate, as we did last year, in the District 6000 project to collect funds to buy warm coats for needy Iowa children. Pledge sheets were at each table, and by the time she finished her announcements the room had already pledged \$1,960 – exceeding the \$1,500 the district promised to match! Suggested minimum pledge for each member is \$20. Deadline for payment is Sept. 16 – to ensure coats will be delivered to the QC by winter. Make checks payable to “Rotary District 6000 H.E.F.”

→ **Golf Outing: Tim Lane** provided details for this annual event – scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 9** at Palmer Hills Golf Club. Hole sponsorships are available at \$100, he announced. Tee times begin at 11 a.m., and – since the Outing replaces that day’s meeting – dinner begins about 6 p.m. at the Pavilion. The fee for 18 holes of golf

with cart rental is \$40 for Rotarians, \$50 for non-Rotarians. Dinner is free for Bettendorf Rotarians, just \$10 per guest. The menu, as always, includes grilled steak, chicken and salmon with sides and dessert. Drinks will be available on the course and at dinner. Signup sheets went around the room for participation as well as hole sponsorships. Contact **Tim** at **320-9161** or timlane7@gmail.com.

And this news...

→ **Note of thanks: President Kevin** read



a note from **Gene Miller** thanking the club for the special recognition at last week’s meeting for Gene’s 60 years in Rotary. He closed the note by noting he was thankful for “the privilege of membership” in BRC (as we’re all thankful that Gene has been with us for many of those 60 years).



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

President Kevin collected \$208 – with extra happiness-prompted amounts from: **Glenn Dugan** – daughter will be married on Saturday + she’s found her faith in God – and Glenn chipped in his “last \$20” after paying for the wedding... **Gary Mohr** – “I’m going to run for **Linda Miller**’s seat in the Iowa House in

2016"... **George Daugherty** – spent time with our three kids and three grandkids"... **Curtis Fee** – “going to be with my son at the Cubs game tonight”... **Ryan Bell** – thanks to **Jim Slavens** for a fun time on his boat, which Ryan purchased at LobsterFest... **Ann Kappeler** – went to the Mississippi Valley Fair last week with grandkids... **Bill Tubbs** – “\$\$ for seeing my friend Chuck Collins as a guest here”... **Dick Schillig** – 25 days to Labor Day and Run with Carl... **Decker Ploehn** – Illinois-bound lanes of I-74 are open, “so here’s \$10” – but he’s not talking about Iowa-bound lanes just yet...

The meeting opened...



President Kevin Kraft sounded the bell, led the recitation of The 4-Way Test and deferred to **Tom Howard** who led the singing of the day’s patriotic song,

“America the Beautiful,” with accompaniment by **Scott Naumann**’s laptop. President Kevin returned to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moments of Silence.



During Introductions, we met **Adam Dada**, graduate of Rivermont Collegiate and Bettendorf Rotary Scholarship recipient, who will pursue a degree in business

administration at the University of California at Berkeley.

Secretary Johanna Smith introduced...

Visiting Rotarian:

Bill Tubbs, North Scott Rotary

Guests:

Bill Albracht, speaker

Nick Albracht, speaker

Chuck Collins, guest of **Ann Kappeler**

Adam Dada, Rivermont graduate, guest of

Curtis Fee

Dennis Girard, PCV Development, guest of

Kevin Kraft

Kelly Voges, Locals Love Us, guest of **Ryan Bell**

Brittney Hopkins, Knilans’ Furniture

Cara Joiner, Senior Star, guest of **Annette**

Martinez

In total, 54 Bettendorf Rotarians attended and were joined by 8 guests and 1 visiting Rotarian.



And at the end...

... of the meeting, **George Daugherty** won a Happy to Have a Make-up in the drawing from among all those members who participated in *Jon Ryan Happy \$\$*.

Missing today...

Bibik, Blaske, Bush, Carroll, Chambers, Coin, G., Daley, DeDoncker, Deuth, Dickson, Doland, Duda, Elledge, Featherstone, Fopma, Franks, Gause, Hartsock, Hassel, Hill, Hintermeister, Hinton, Hipple, Hurd, James, Larsen, Lizak, McGimpsey, Mannix, Mitvalsky, Morrison, Naeve, Nelson, Paplinski, Powers, Rabine, Ross, Rutherford, Saul, Schmidt, Schmit, Scranton, Spelhaug, Thein, Webster, Wells, Werner, Willsher, Windmiller

Make-ups...

Board of Directors meeting: Bell, Sarver, Dobesh, Kraft, Nanda, Lane, Daley, Schutte and Spelhaug *[More →]*

Moline Rotary: Ken Vandersnick
Illinois QC Rotary: S.K. Nanda and Fred Anderson



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, 7th 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
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

Upcoming meetings...



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

Aug. 19: Vocational Service Programs

Aug. 26: Club Assembly

Sept. 9: Golf Outing and steak fry, Palmer Hills Golf Course

Sept. 16: Kelly Thompson, Teens for Tomorrow (Community Foundation Youth Driven Philanthropy)

Oct. 14: Mike Whalen, Heart of America Restaurants and Inns

BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter, photographer: Fred Anderson

Correspondent, Web-site host: Johanna Smith

For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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

For more on Rotary District 6000:

www.rotary6000.org/

For more on Rotary International:

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

