



THE BETTENDORF ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Bettendorf, Iowa, Rotary Club
Nov. 11, 2015, issue

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015,
at Tanglewood Pavilion

Augie CORE prepares students for careers

Augustana College’s “Careers, Opportunities, Research, and Exploration (CORE) is designed to build a more active and robust community of alumni, parents, and employers,” according to the college’s Website. We’ll learn more about this initiative from **Dr. Michael Edmondson** at the Nov. 11 meeting.



CORE, according to Augie’s Website, intends to “lead students through vocational discernment, skill development for employment and appropriate internships; and integrate a student’s professional development with academic advising and academic enrichment opportunities such as international and off-campus programs, undergraduate research and service learning. CORE’s comprehensive approach will better position Augustana graduates to pursue meaningful careers...”

→Also next week, Bettendorf Public Library will thank Bettendorf Rotary for its support over the years; see p. 3.

Last meeting:
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015



What U.S. Army confronts today

Speaking at the Nov. 11 Veterans Day meeting, from his perspective as deputy commanding general-support of the First Army Division at the Rock Island Arsenal, **Maj. Gen. Paul M. Benenati** provided a “once around the world” assessment of what the U.S. Army is facing today.

With some elements of the Army in 131 countries in support of strategic objectives of the United States, Gen.

Benenati noted that “never again will U.S. armed forces fight without allies.” At any given moment, every combat unit in the Army is either deployed, just back or preparing to go again, he said.

The force is designed to rely on the Reserves and National Guard to help carry out its missions, the general said – and he described the benefits to employers when they hire workers who serve in those units. He described them as “very versatile, dedicated, conscientious” and technical experts in their job who

have their own federal health insurance and pass regular drug tests.

Noting how difficult it is to predict where and when conflict will break out – admitting that “we did not see the Islamic State, Russian incursions in Ukraine or the return of U.S. military to Iraq” –

Gen. Benenati described some of the most troublesome areas of the world, which impact U.S. strategic planning. Among his observations:

→**Islamic State:** Tracing the roots of radical Islam to the Sunni-Shia schism that occurred more than 1400 years ago shortly after the death of Mohammed, he said that rift colors everything that occurs in the Muslim world to today. Much of the conflict in the region is compounded by its division into “nations” about 100 years ago by the British and French



Lt. Col. Mary Constantino and Capt. Laura Esper of 1st Army staff accompanied Gen. Benenati on Veterans Day

foreign offices – a division that largely ignored ethnic, tribal and, most importantly, sectarian territories that had existed for centuries. For example, Iraq ended up with a Shia majority and Sunni and Kurdish minorities, which bickered and fought until Saddam Hussein (Sunni) oppressed the other factions into a kind of brutal “peace.” The U.S., ignorant of the area’s history, deposed Saddam, freeing the Shia to oppress the Sunni – the most radically Islamist among whom morphed into the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The influence of Islamic State can be felt in every hot spot throughout Southwest Asia and beyond, he said; such as:

→**Bosnia:** With the breakup of Yugoslavia at the end of the Cold War, the three dominant ethnicities in Bosnia-Herzegovina – Bosniacs, Croats and Sunni Muslims – fought each other for dominance. At the moment they have achieved a sort of peace in which all three factions share the leadership of every government entity.

→**Syrian civil war:** What began as a power struggle between the brutally oppressive regime of Bashar al-Assad (an Alawite Shia Muslim) against a Sunni rebellion has dragged in elements of the U.S. and Russian military as well as fighters from Iran, Iraq and elsewhere around the globe. At the same time, ISIL is capturing territory in Syria and some of its neighbors to reestablish the ancient caliphate, which radical Islamists see as the ultimate end of their jihad (holy war).

→**Russia:** “Two years ago we sent the last tanks home from Europe after World War II,” Gen. Benenati said. “Then Russia invaded the Crimean area of Ukraine, and we’re sending the tanks back.” Russian leader Vladimir Putin “is extremely distrustful of the West,” he continued, as he sees its influence coming right up to Russia’s western border. While he is extremely popular within Russia, he faces such challenges as a rapidly decreasing population and a bad economy.

Meanwhile, Russia has nearly achieved par with the U.S. technologically, he said, and it is using that capability to counter the U.S. through such means as hacking some government and corporate targets – as is China, he added. Also, “Russia is the only country with the capacity to destroy the U.S.” with its nuclear arsenal. U.S. allies in the Baltic region “are scared,” the general added.

→**North Korea:** That “most heavily fortified place in the world” is led by a highly unpredictable and immature dictator making the Korean peninsula a site “where a surprise attack is possible,” he said. Because Seoul, the capital of prosperous South Korea, has “built up almost to the border with the north, the



first hours of an attack would be extremely bloody,” he added.

→**China:** The general characterized the world’s largest nation as not a military threat at this time, but its aggressive expansion of its influence in Southeast Asia, Africa and elsewhere means “we must maintain good relations to live in harmony,” he said.

While all of these global challenges face the U.S., the size of the Army is drawing down, the general said, as the nature of warfare evolves away from national army vs. national army to asymmetrical fighting against small groups or even lone individuals.

Announcements...

→**Recognition for BRC’s support of Bettendorf Public Library:** Each week, Bettendorf Rotary thanks our program presenter with “a donation to the Bettendorf Public Library in your name.” Next Wednesday the library will thank BRC by mounting a plaque in the children’s section. The plaque will be unveiled at **11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.** A tour of the recently remodeled library facilities will begin at **10:30.**

➔**North Scott Rotary auction:** North Scott Rotary has invited us to its Rallies for Youth Auction Friday, Nov. 20, at the Rogalski Center, St. Ambrose University in Davenport. Events consist of a social hour, dinner, silent and live auctions. Tickets at \$25 and auction proceeds fund NSR’s charities and activities. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

➔**Holiday meetings schedule:** Because they occur so close to holidays, these meetings have been cancelled:

- ➔**Nov. 25, pre-Thanksgiving**
- ➔**Dec. 23, pre-Christmas**
- ➔**Dec. 30, pre-New Year’s Eve**



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

President Kevin Kraft collected \$312 with all funds going to the QC Honor

Flight: **Kevin Kraft** – \$20 for Vets Day...

Gary Mohr – congrats to **Mayor Bob**

Gallagher for another 4 years at the city’s helm after last week’s

election... **Dave Falk** – happy to have attended a reunion with his Vietnam-War shipmates

2 weeks ago... **Christy Gause** – happy to bring her guests to the special Vets Day meeting... **Bill Daley** – happy to be here among our veteran / guests...

Decker Ploehn – 2 tickets to QC Performing Arts event available to highest bidder to see him after the meeting... **Chuck Geisewite (Sr.)** –

spent 2 weeks with daughter in San Antonio – “2 weeks of draught-busting rain”... **Harry Coin** – \$20 in recognition of the service to country of his guest, Mike McCoy... **Mayor Bob** – invitation to the Vets Day ceremony at 2 p.m. at Vets Memorial Park... **Maj. Gen. Paul Benenati** – happy to be at BRC + “Bettendorf is my home”... **Dr. Tom Olson** – recounted how his Dad’s ship entered Tokyo Bay at the end of WWII – “glad it came back out”... **S.K. Nanda** – in recognition of his 3 years in the Indian Army and 43 years working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The meeting opened...

At the sound of the bell, **President Kevin Kraft** called the meeting to order and led the recitation of The 4-Way Test. **Tom Howard** led the singing of “The National Anthem.” After a Moment of Silence, the regular features of our weekly meetings were suspended to allow time for recognition of veterans and the presentation of our guest speaker.

With 31 guests present – invited veterans and members of veterans’ families – President Kevin asked each guest- and member-veteran to stand and identify his or her branch of service and years served.

Secretary Johanna Smith introduced...

Guests:

Maj. Gen. Paul Benanati, First Army Division, Rock Island Arsenal, speaker
 Capt. Laura Esper, First Army Division, Rock Island Arsenal

Lt. Col. Mary Constantino, First Army Division, Rock Island Arsenal

Chuck Geisewite, guest of **Chuck Geisewite**
 Bob Sartor, guest of **Fred Anderson**

Con Blevins, guest of **Johanna Smith**
 Sue Kraft, guest of **Kevin Kraft**

Jon Flower, guest of **Tom Howard**



Bill Pipe, guest of **Tom Howard**
 Col. Rob Gagnon, guest of **Tom Howard**
 Wayne Siskoff, guest of **Kevin Kraft**
 Matt Bowman, guest of **Bill Daley**
 John Menard, guest of **Ken Vandersnick**
 Jay Gardner, guest of **Jim Slavens**
 Lou Magyer, guest of **Steve Piart**
 Joe Dobesh, guest of **Laurie Dobesh**
 Bob Woodham, guest of **Dick Schillig**
 Milo and Nadia Doland, guests of **Will Doland**
 George McDowell, guest of **Jim Slavens**
 Mike McCoy, guest of **Harry Coin**
 William Rubel, guest of **Harry Coin**
 Ward Olson, guest of **Dr. Tom Olson**
 Dave Case, guest of **Larry Thein**
 Harold DeFrieze, guest of **Curtis Fee**
 Dennis Loan, guest of **Curtis Fee**
 Jim Fisher, guest of **Jonna Schuler**
 Don Erickson, guest of **Christy Gause**
 Annie Erickson, guest of **Christy Gause**
 Bob McQueen, guest of **Craig Windmiller**
 Pat Carroll, guest of **Chris Carroll**
 Chopper Shea, Locals Love Us, guest of **Ryan Bell**

A total of 52 Bettendorf Rotarians and 31 guests attended.

Missing today...

Bibik, Blaske, Bush, DeDoncker, Deuth, Dickson, Duda, Eikenberry, Elledge, Featherstone, Felsing, Felton, Foster, Franks, Habenicht, Hager, Hassel, Hill, Hinman, Hintermeister, Hinton, Hipple, Hurd, James, Kappeler, Kellenberger, Lane, Larsen, Lawrence, Love-Sherrick, Mannix, Martinez, Mitvalsky, Morrison, Nelson, Oswald, Powers, Rabine, Rickets-McCool, Ross, Rutherford, Saul, Schmidt, Schmit, Schneden, Scranton, Sherrick, Spelhaug, Stone, Stopulos, Webster, Wells, Willsher, Worner

Make-ups...

Tim Lane, **Tipton Rotary Club**
Board of Directors meeting: Schuler, Spelhaug, Lane, Bell, Sarver, Kraft, Dobesh, Daley, Nanda and Smith

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 Room, 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:

Nov. 18 – Before the meeting: At 10:30 a.m. (see page 3) we’ll meet in the lobby of Bettendorf Public Library for a tour and dedication of the

“thanks, Bettendorf Rotary” plaque.

Nov. 18: Dr. Michael Edmondson, associate vice president for career development, Augustana College: the college’s initiative, Careers, Opportunities, Research and Exploration (CORE)

BRC News staff...

Editor, reporter, photographer: Fred Anderson

Correspondent, Web-site host: Johanna Smith

For more on Bettendorf Rotary:

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