

# Rotary Buzzer

## Club Calendar

- September 30  
Pulled Pork Planning Meeting
- October 7  
Rotary 101
- October 14  
Pulled Pork Dinner planning
- October 21  
Kurt Phillips, Program Chair
- October 26  
Drive Thru Pulled Pork Dinner—Grace Church
- October 28  
Mary Dufelmeier, Program Chair
- November 4  
Andy Bartlett, Ledges State Park  
Cody Bowers, program chair
- November 11  
Doug Thompson, Program chair
- November 18  
Tony Prouty, Program chair
- Pres. Matt Ethlon
- DG Steve Dakin
- RI Pres. Holger Knaack
- Jeff Anderson, Editor

## Meeting Recap

President Matt welcomed a larger (but still social distancing) crowd on Wednesday. He was happy to welcome Sam Byriel as an official new member of our club—although his new member materials and badge have not yet arrived! Sam shared that he grew up in Boone and attended the University of Northwestern in the Twin Cities and has returned to Boone as an Edward Jones representative. Sam's connection to Boone Rotary extends back to his high school days when he was selected to attend RYLA and he was also a recipient of a Boone Rotary Scholarship. He is happy to be a part of the club to help carry on the great work we do in our community and around the

world! If you haven't already had the opportunity to do so, please be sure to introduce yourself to Sam and welcome him to the club!

### 5 for 5 Pledge Drive

Our Five for Five Pledge Drive is still underway. The club will match donations from club members, community members, or businesses up to \$5000! A copy of the pledge for was sent out earlier but you can also just note on a check that it's for the pledge drive and proper credit will be applied! Matt thought that as of Wednesday that \$2000 had been donated so we are well on our way to achieving the full match!

## HAPPY DOLLARS!

Happy dollars were paid by Craig Downs who was happy to be back in person again as well as by Brian who noted it has been awhile since he has been able to participate in person. Kurt paid a dollar for distracting Joe Smith while he was trying to get the hand sanitizer dispenser to work (and when he did, let's just say

the sanitizer didn't end up just on his hands!) resulting in his forgetting to turn off his phone... Hutch harkened back to the debate (led by Dwain Betten) years ago about whether we were incorrectly putting a comma after 'one nation' during our recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Dwain was correct about

### Pulled Pork Dinner

By time you read this (you are reading this, right?) we are less than a month out from our Pulled Pork Dinner. The success of the dinner always depends on presale of tickets but this year, well, the success of the dinner depends ENTIRELY on the presale of tickets. The profitability of the event will depend on a combination selling lots of tickets and making sure we purchase the right amount of "stuff" for the dinner. You can record the number of tickets you have sold on the sheet located near the podium each week!

there not being a comma there and we worked to break ourselves of the habit of using one! Sam was happy that his grandmother, Joyce Rouse, was celebrating her birthday and several members were happy to welcome Sam as our newest member.



Rotary Opens Opportunities

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

Henry Ward Beecher  
American clergyman,  
1813-1887



## Brian Mehlhaus and Joe Smith—COVID UPDATE

Brian began by sharing that 2020 has had an “interesting” spring...and summer...and now fall. He said that currently they are seeing about 7-8 new cases of COVID 19 detected a day in the county. The hospital has some rooms that are equipped as “negative pressure” to prevent air from the rooms of those hospitalized with the virus from being recirculated. He noted that they have not had have patients admitted to the Intensive Care Unit so far. He did say that the care facilities in Boone have largely avoided having any cases. The Madrid Home did have some cases about the time of the derecho which took the roof of their facility off which created some challenges. Brian expressed some frustration with the state of testing despite having 3 (or 4) different testing options. Boone County Hospital did receive one of the Rapid Testing machines but because they received so many tests from care facilities in central Iowa they had a hard time keeping up with supplies. They also can use the State Hygienic Lab for symptomatic patients which (normally) has a three day turnaround time for results as well as an independent lab but because of the number of tests they have been receiving the turnaround time has been between 5-10 days. As of this time there have been approximately 500 cases and 8 deaths associated with COVID 19 in Boone County. Brian did say that the clinics are busy again after a period several months ago when patients were deferring regular, ongoing care. The side effect of deferring care is that some patients with chronic conditions got a bit off the rails, so they working to get them back under good control and medical management again. Brian stressed that masks are essential to controlling the spread and reducing the risk of contracting the coronavirus—and he

was a bit frustrated with the messaging relating to that in Iowa. Joe shared that the pandemic has paradoxically “helped” the hospital’s financial position despite a 50% reduction in their census and doing no elective surgeries between mid-March and June. He said that the hospital received financial support from the stimulus, CARES act, and Payroll Protecting Program that allowed them to weather the storm—resulting in having upwards of 120 days of cash (to pay bills) on hand. The last time he spoke to us this cushion was far less. Joe also noted that the 340B program within the Affordable Care Act has been extremely beneficial to the hospital and community with respect to reimbursement for medications. Without it (or some viable alternative) the hospital would lose over \$2 million a year in revenue (and with it they generally end the year only about \$500,000 in the black, so you can do the math).



Dr. Brian Mehlhaus and Joe Smith

Have a good week!