



# CENTER FOR BELGIAN CULTURE of Western Illinois, Inc.

1608 Seventh Street, Moline, Illinois 61265  
(309) 762-0167  
www.belgianmuseumquadcities.org



May, 2016

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President**  
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**Vice President**  
Steve Slininger

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Alan Hoyt

**Member at Large**  
Bonnie Tanamor

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Steve Slininger

**Honorary Consul**  
Patrick Van Nevel  
pvannevel@msn.com

**Membership**  
Bill Coopman

**Waffle Chairman**  
Catherine VanHecke

**Flemings in the World**  
Marlene Shattuck

**Genealogy**  
Linda Polich  
fredlinda1985@gmail.com

**Archivist**  
Millie Kale

**Marketing**  
Angie Jennes

**Rolle Bolle**  
Bob Van De Voorde

**Newsletter Editor**  
Dave Coopman  
d.coopman@mchsi.com

**Volunteer Recruiter**  
Jan Irwin  
(309) 230-1645

**Gift Shop**  
Diana Slininger

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 7th	Waffle Breakfast	7:30 to 11:00 a.m.
May 7th	Belgian Lacemakers	1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
May 9th	Board Meeting	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
May 20th	Rolle Bolle Dinner	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
May 30th	Memorial Day Waffles	8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Visit the Center for more information and to stay updated on current events.

## Schedule for Volunteers

The May schedule is as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Gift Counter</i>	<i>Host/Hostess</i>
Wed., May 4th	Alan Hoyt	Alan Hoyt
Fri., May 6th	Rosemarie VanAcker	Joan DeClerk
Sat., May 7th	Barb Michalek (am)	Grace Fisher (pm)
Wed., May 11th	Mary Lou Andrae	Bonnie Newman
Fri., May 13th	Millie Kale	Millie Kale
Sat., May 14th	Mary Gardner-Karcher	Mary Gardner-Karcher
Wed., May 18th	Barb Coppens	Linda Polich
Fri., May 20th	Bev Fullmer	Georgia Slininger
Sat., May 21st	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger
Wed., May 25th	tbd	tbd
Fri., May 27th	Bob Francione	Bob Francione
Sat., May 28th	Diana Slininger	Diana Slininger

Contact Diana Slininger at (309) 792-2790  
as soon as possible if there is a schedule conflict.



Remember the  
Fallen & Our  
Dearly Departed  
May 30th

**OPEN Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Waffle Breakfast 1st Sat. of each month**

## Older Generations Can Capture the Younger Generations:

A personal essay about friendship, regardless of age, and how that inspired me to become an active member in the Center for Belgian Culture

by Bonnie Tanamor

*Part Two continued from April newsletter*

The following month, my husband and I volunteered to work the waffle breakfast. I was a broke college student, so I was all about earning a free breakfast! When the crowd died down, Celie and I met at the gift counter. She pulled out her yearbook and let me flip through it. She showed me pictures of Bonnie (my namesake) and of my grandmother, Janette VandeVelde. I can't explain how much that gesture meant to me.

Over the next year or so, my husband and I volunteered at most of the monthly waffle breakfast gatherings. The more we volunteered, the more we got to know Celie and Gene Donohue, and various key volunteers of the Center of Belgian Culture. Slowly the members of the CBC became like family to me.

Celie was the President of the center at the time, and she started to prepare the center to transition to the next generation. She recruited several new board members, and one of those members was me. Celie was still very active within the board and the Center, but was more interested in grooming the next generation to take over.

My first go sitting on the CBC Board was interesting, and we experienced several obstacles that tested all of our commitment to the Center's survival. Deciding to move, where to move to, and how we were going to do all of this with dwindling interest in membership. There were several heated discussions and the board was truly divided on what to do.

It was during this time that Celie and I really forged our friendship. We talked at least once a week about different strategies to keep the Center alive, and through our shared love of our Belgian heritage our friendship really turned into a mentorship. I grew to admire Celie's determination and her fierce spirit.

I ended up stepping away from the CBC board in 2013, as my career started to grow. So I missed out on a lot of the big changes. I think shortly after the Center moved to its new location, the entire Quad Cities found out that the Belgian Village Inn was closing. I immediately called Celie to see if she and Gene wanted to meet Jason and me to try and get one last VandeRuben.

We all met at the Belgian Village Inn after work around 4:30 p.m. We somehow found a place at the bar to bunker down. You couldn't even move it was so busy! The remaining

staff was running around like crazy trying to serve people drinks and appetizers, but the staff was uncertain if there would be any more VandeRubens. Our sentiment was, "What the hell? Might as well stay for one last drink and hope for the best."

Last year, I'd found out Celie had gotten sick. We hadn't talked as much since I'd gotten so busy with life outside the Center. We chatted a few times on the phone, but I didn't get to visit her before she passed. I feel she wanted it that way. She wanted me to remember that fierce, vibrant woman that she was.

I can tell you that during our last conversation, Celie was in a bit of a fog. Well, at least until I told her I was going to join the CBC board again. Once she heard that, it was like Celie was back to her vibrant self. She said, "That's the best news I have had in a long time."

For me, volunteering for the CBC is the best way that I can honor Celie's memory. Her dedication to The Center's survival is something to be admired.

This is the impact that the older generation can have on the younger generation. It doesn't take much to enjoy sharing a passion with a younger person. I encourage all of you to reach out to someone that you know and forge a friendship. You'll likely never get to know the true and lasting impact your stories and knowledge can have on a young person.

The Center for Belgian Culture will be working towards educational dinner programs that will be a perfect bonding opportunity for the older and younger generations to come together and discover or rediscover our heritage. Our first dinner presentation will be about *rolle bolle* and be held on Friday, May 20th, at the Friends Circle Club. Please see the newsletter item for more details.

## The Kleine Winkel

We're starting a clearance sale! **All caps, t-shirts, and the CBC mugs are 20% off.** Any of these items will make great gifts, so stop in and take advantage of the discount for birthdays or even early Christmas shopping. And don't forget our other Belgian-related gifts, too!

## News of the Membership

Congratulations to **Chet VanDeVelde** who celebrated his 98th birthday on April 21st.

Sympathy is offered to the family of **William "Bill" Fisher**, who died March 25th at Hope Creek Care Facility, East Moline. Bill was a longtime supporter of the CBC, the Belgian community, and was a Knight in the Order of Leopold II. Active as a player and organizer of rolle bolle, Bill was the Center's representative to the Western League rolle bolle group.

Get Well wishes are extended to **Margaret Wadsworth**, who is now recuperating at home.

## Dinner & Discover

The CBC will host a Rolle Bolle Dinner and Discover Event on Friday, May 20th, at the Friends Circle, 701-18th Avenue, Moline, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. You'll learn all about the sport of rolle bolle from our speaker, Roy DePauw. Dinner will be Flemish pork stew, roll, dessert, and beverage.

The cost is \$15.00/person (non-CBC member); \$12.00/person (CBC members and senior non-members 65+); \$10.00/person (CBC members 65+); and \$8.00/person for children 10 years and younger. Tickets will be available at the CBC or can be mailed to: CBC Rolle Bolle, 1608-7th Street, Moline, IL 61265. Tickets must be purchased by May 16th, and only 20 tickets will be sold at the door.

## MAY WAFFLE OPPORTUNITIES



The volunteers for **May 7th's** waffle breakfast will be Bill and Sandy Coopman, Teresa Nelson, Pam Black, Jan Irwin, Luke Miller and Barb Coppens.

In keeping with tradition, waffles will be served on **Memorial Day**, May 30th. Please note the time will be 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. At press time, Memorial Day waffle volunteers are Dave Coopman, Lois and Fred DeCoster, and Barb and Jim Kuhl. The Center will NOT be open this day.

Mike Kerckhove will make the mix and start the coffee, and Joan DeCap will cashier. Catherine VanHecke will make sure everyone enjoys their breakfast.

## Put Your Hat in the Ring

The election of officers will be held at the CBC's June 13th meeting. Five officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large will be elected to serve as the Executive Board.

Briefly, duties include: The President will serve as principal executive officer; provide general direction of CBC; appoint committee chairpersons; preside at all meetings. The Vice-President will exercise all duties of President in his/her absence; provide leadership for all committees; be in charge of Christmas dinner and any formal dinners. The Secretary will keep accurate records of all board meetings and shall be the custodian of records/documents pertaining to the business of the CBC. The Treasurer accounts for all funds and keeps monies in our name at appointed financial institutions; provides monthly accounting of funds; and makes timely payment and deposits of funds. The Member-at-Large represents the membership and assists the Executive Board as needed. This position serves as liaison to the community.

All offices are open, and if you are interested in guiding the CBC as an officer, please attend our May 9th meeting to let us know your interest. Serving would be a great way to help the CBC and your community.

## Brussels

The recent events in Brussels put the Center into the public eye, but not the way we would have wanted. The local television stations shot background video and interviewed Honorary Consul Patrick Van Nevel and several board members about their feelings regarding the terrorism in Brussels. Needless to say we were all concerned with Belgian friends, relatives, the county in general, and with what had happened. Our thoughts and condolences go to all victims of the terrorism that befell Brussels, and Belgium, that day.

## The Flemish Coast

The Flemish coast is a 40 mile sandy stretch on the North Sea. With wide beaches and quiet dunes, it's Flanders' most visited attraction. At the most, it's a two hour drive from most Flemish cities. The Kustram (Coast Tram) connects Knokke with DePanne and is the longest tram in the world, traveling through ten coastal communities. Three million people visit the coast annually.

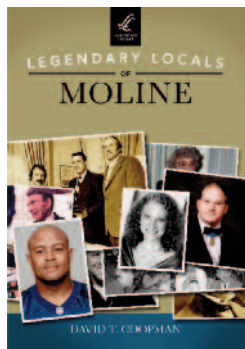
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*May, 2016*

## Shameless Plug

Your newsletter editor has just had a new book released by Arcadia Publishing; *Legendary Locals of Moline*. The book features biographical sketches of early and current individuals who have contributed to the history and betterment of Moline and has over 200 images of people and places. Some names will be familiar and some will be somewhat surprising to you. The book features eight individuals with ties to Belgium. It will be available at major book stores, the Rock Island County Historical Society Library; Trevor Hardware, several Walgreen stores, and on-line at Amazon, and the publisher.



(l-r) Celie Donohue, Bonnie & Jason Tanamor, and Gene Donohue enjoy a last VandeRueben at the Belgian Village Inn before it closed.

*Happy Mother's Day*  
*Sunday, May 8th*

