



North Scottarian

North Scott Rotary - Eldridge and Davenport, IA
February 11th, 2026 Edition

UPCOMING PROGRAM

Miss Iowa - Lydia Fisher

Lydia Fisher, a Wapello, Iowa native with deep roots in Iowa’s small-town communities, was crowned Miss Iowa 2025, marking a historic milestone in the state’s pageant history.

Fisher, who began her pageant journey as a child, is the first person in the state's history to win titles at every level of the program: from Lil, Junior, Miss Teen and now Miss Iowa. She called the moment “a 15-year journey” that has been worth every step.

“This has been a long time coming for me,” Fisher said. “I was very grateful the moment the crown was put on my head, and it's going to be an exciting year ahead.”

Since her crowning, Fisher has been traveling the state nonstop. She said she’s already driven more than 2,000 miles, visiting communities, participating in interviews and promoting her community service initiative – “Don’t Skip a Beat: Advocating for the Cardiovascular Health of Americans.”

The cause is deeply personal to Fisher. She lost her grandmother to cardiovascular disease just weeks after last year’s Miss Iowa competition. Going into this year’s competition without her in the audience, she said, was difficult.

“I was really concerned about going into the week without her because she was one of my biggest supporters,” Fisher said. “But I can honestly say I've never felt closer to her. I could feel her presence with me the entire time.”

Fisher’s community service initiative focuses on cardiovascular health education, with efforts like building community gardens, advocating for safe walking paths and improving access in rural healthcare deserts. She said she’s working with public health officials, policymakers and local residents to make a difference.

Fisher, a graduate of the University of Alabama on a full-tuition scholarship, is now applying to medical school and hopes to use her scholarship earnings from Miss Iowa to help cover those costs.

“Honestly, just staying true to who I am, staying in connection with my family, my friends and my supporters – they're really going to be my backbone going into the Miss America competition,” Fisher said. (She competed last September for Miss America). She credits the pageant system with shaping her into who she is today.

“They've given me everything,” she said. “Leadership, networking, friendships, and the chance to be a role model. I always had a Miss Iowa to look up to growing up, and now I get to be that person for someone else.”



***If you have something you'd like included in the newsletter please email **Danielle Hines:**
DanielleRaeHines@gmail.com
AND Katie White: krdown4@gmail.com***

- Rotary International President**
Francesco Arezzo, Ragusa, Italy
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Katie White
Jennifer Kress
- Executive Secretary**
Deb Peterson
dennis.peterson1@gmail.com
563-570-4185

No cash? No problem! Scan below to send \$ to @NSRotary via Venmo.



LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Elizabeth Marner - Be a Light Project

Our program was presented by Elizabeth Marner, sister to club member Josh Koerperich. Elizabeth is the founder of the Be A Light Project after her own personal experience with mental health in a rural Iowa community. The nonprofit was formed to help build connections and bring access to mental health resources closer to home. There is currently a mental health epidemic with gaps in access, awareness, and connection, especially in rural communities. Families facing a mental health crisis often must travel a significant distance with long waits for visits. In addition to lack of resources, there is the stigma and isolation that those facing a mental health issue live with.

The rural reality statistics show that 60% of rural areas are facing a shortage in mental health resources. Suicide rates are also higher in the rural communities. Our current mental health system is built to be reactive, not proactive. This nonprofit is creating spaces where individuals, families, and adolescents feel seen, supported, and empowered to take a proactive approach to their emotional and mental well-being. They partner with public service providers, like-minded organizations, and local leaders to fill gaps by offering community-based education, outreach, and supportive services that make mental well-being accessible and talked about. They do not replace professional services but help to bridge the gap with them.

The Build A Light Programs are built around the Hope Lives Here Model, a three-part framework that guides participants through the three points in the model: Awareness, Understanding, Action. This model helps individuals and communities build confidence, reduce stigma, and create sustainable change. Within the Hope Lives Here model, they focus is on encouraging Better Brain Health and the importance of taking care of yourself mentally and having support close to home.

Elizabeth mentioned that good online mental health resources and podcasts are available through Mental Health America (www.mhanational.org), NAMI (www.nami.org), and the CDC (www.cdc.gov/mental-health).

Follow the Be A Light Project on Facebook, Instagram, and their website:
www.bealightproject.org.

Program notes by Mindy Leahy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Fri, Feb 13th:** 10:30 am Board Meeting
- Fri, Feb 13th:** Valentine's Day Meeting - Miss Iowa - Lydia Fischer. Also Drew Wilson and the Chordbusters will be performing. (Bring your significant other - MUST sign-up!!!)
- Fri, Feb 20th:** Joey Donia - Sports Director from KWQC arranged by Scott Case
- Fri, Feb 27th:** 7:30 am Friendly Friday NSJH
- Fri, Feb 27th:** Noah Glasgow - Reporter with the NS Press arranged by Tony Knobbe
- Fri, Mar 6th:** TBA arranged by Rily Grunwald
- Sat, Mar 7th:** Euchre night for Rotary - See sign up Pg 8
- Fri, Mar 13th:** 10:30 am Board Meeting
- Fri, Mar 13th:** Bethany Services arranged by Deanna J-V
- Fri, Mar 20th:** 10:30 am Program Committee meeting
- Fri, Mar 20th:** TBA arranged by Drew Wilson
- Fri, Mar 27th:** 7:30 am Friendly Friday NSJH
- Fri, Mar 27th:** Michelle Juerhing - Bix 7 Race Director arranged by Stephanie Eckhardt
- Fri, Mar 28th:** D6000 Grant Management Seminar
- Fri, Apr 17th:** Lancer Productions presents "The Addams Family"
- Fri, May 8th:** Rotary Foundation Day
- Fri, May 15th:** Youth Day
- Fri, May 22nd:** No meeting - Memorial Day
- Thurs, Jun 25th:** President Installation Party
- Fri, Jun 26th:** No meeting
- Thurs, Jul 30th:** Corn Boil
- Fri, Jul 31st:** No meeting

MEETING RECAP

Jim Smith, the Godfather, collected \$71 in fines as the sarge. He started by telling everyone to pull out a dollar and kiss it, as it will be going goodbye. Fines were assessed for members not bringing a guest to the Valentine's Day lunch, the one table with all men, non-February birthdays, red badges, and to those who have difficulty following directions for both the Welcome Song and parking between the lines.

MEETING RECAP

Attendance on February 6th was 53 members and 3 guests. Guests were Scott Heim, guest of **Deanna Jensen-Valliere**; Deb Tomey, guest of **Kelly Meyer**; and Elizabeth Marner, guest and sister of **Josh Koerperich**. Attending via zoom were **Chris Cournoyer, Kerri Hurning, Tricia Kane, Carrie Keppy** and one UNKNOWN Zoom user. **If you are the UNKNOWN Zoom user, please let us know who you are!! Attempting to connect was **Steve Suiter**.

Tony Knobbe gave a very heartfelt inspiration. His beloved lab Carly passed earlier in the week. Thanks to fellow Rotarian Fred Mulch, students in the vet program at North Scott were able to have experiential learning opportunities with Carly. Tony wrapped up his message with a poem he wrote about Carly, a heartfelt tribute that reflected on the bond between a dog and its owner with a poignant reminder of the special place dogs hold in our lives and the deep emotional connection we have with them.

Deanna Jensen-Valliere declared that it is National Wear Red Day in recognition of Heart Health month.

Deb Peterson provided an update on Rotary Reads. February dates are full; readers are needed for March and April. Sign up sheets are on the tables.

Jill Grunwald provided an update on the Valentine's Day lunch.

Drew Wilson said it is not too late to book a guest quartet to serenade your sweetheart for Valentine's. Contact him to make arrangements.

Katie White talked about the upcoming Euchre Tournament to be held at her house on Saturday, March 7. Sign-up sheets are on the table. All Euchre playing levels are encouraged to join in on the fun, with all proceeds going directly back to the club. This is a great opportunity to spend time and get to know your fellow Rotarians.

Pat Olsen mentioned that the next Police Luncheon is still being planned. Marcia Brandt will be sponsoring. Pat will communicate the date to the club once it is scheduled.

Jordan Williams encouraged members to attend the Hand-In-Hand Chilli Cookoff being held Saturday, February 7th. He will again be participating.

Deanna Jensen-Valliere reminded everyone that there is a board meeting next week at 10:30.

Valentine's Day Meeting Fri, Feb 13th - Current List of

Sign-ups:

Jeff Ashcraft
Tyler & Sammy Bindrum
Marcia & Bill Brandt
Becky Bray
Maria & Bill Bribriesco
Brad Burt
Scott & Nancy Case
Dick & Shirley Cole
Samantha Culver
Sean & Stephanie Eckhardt
Steve & Tammy Fahrenkrog
Scott & Erin Beth Garvin
Rich & Mary Golinghorst
Ardita & Rily Grunwald
Dale & Jill Grunwald
Ryan Hannah Hicks
Danielle Hines
Paul & Marguerite Holzworth
Deanna Jensen-Valliere
Ryan Johnson
Jody & Stan Johnston-Mohr
Nathan Kessler
Tony & Lorene Knobbe, Parker Zick
Josh Koerperich
Jen Kress
Mindy & Ed Leahy
Tracy Lindaman
Matt Maiers
John & Joan Maxwell
Tom & Diana Messer
Fred Mulch & Nancy Kime
Marty & Trish O'Boyle
Patrick Olsen
Diane & David Papke-Cole
Leroy & Linda Paustian
Ross & Carol Paustian
Kay & Mike Pence
Deb Peterson & Ann Hanson
Richard & Gwen Pokora
Steve & Bonne Powell
Greg & Kendra Schaapveld
Jack & Georgine Schinckel
Jim Smith & Jean Moffitt
Mahesh Sharma
Sara Somsky
Paul & Gerry Thronson
Jan & Tom Touney
Heather Wagner
Katie White
Theresa White & Linda Tubbs
Kim Wilkins
Drew Wilson + 3 Chord Busters
Mike & Tammy Zimmer
Miss Iowa + chaperone

CLUB SERVICE

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Feb 13th: Brad Burt
Feb 20th: Patrick Olsen
Feb 27th: Nathan Kessler

GREETERS:

Feb 13th: Diane Cole and Fred Mulch
Feb 20th: Mike Zimmer and Rich Horst
Feb 27th: Sean Eckhardt and Rily Grunwald

NEWSLETTER:

Feb 13th: Bill Hoover
Feb 20th: Sam Culver
Feb 27th: Drew Wilson

SONG LEADERS:

Feb 13th: Drew Wilson
Feb 20th: Jody Johnston-Mohr
Feb 27th: Paul Holzworth

INSPIRATION:

Feb 13th: Drew Wilson
Feb 20th: Josh Koerperich
Feb 27th: Scott Case

PIANO:

Feb 13th: Tewanta Lopez
Feb 20th: Ron May
Feb 27th: Marguerite Holzworth

ARIZONA SNOWBIRD ROTARIANS

On Saturday, February 7th, Arizona Snowbirds and Fellow Rotarians, along with their wives; met up at the Barleen Dinner Show in Apache Junction. Left to Right: **Pat Deluca** (Mary Ann), **Merle Anderson** (Mary Lou), and **Jeff Helms** (Mindy).





EUCHRE **TOURNAMENT**

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH
FROM 6PM - 10 PM

AT THE WHITES' HOUSE
23555 200th AVE - DAVENPORT

ENTRY - \$10 PER PERSON
MUST SIGN UP WITH A PARTNER
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND A SNACK TO SHARE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT KATIE WHITE OR MINDY LEAHY

PRIZES, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!!

A Fundraiser Tournament to Support the North Scott Rotary Club.

PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY BACK TO THE CLUB!

Sign up sheets will be on the tables at our meetings. You can also contact Katie or Mindy to sign up!!