

Prez Sez

Bill D. Corwin

What a meeting we had, last week. It was HUGE. We had many of our members back in person, and several distinguished guests. All in all, almost all the tables were full. It was great to look out and see everyone's faces. Let's keep it going. It is exciting to see the return to in-person gathering. We heard that we had our most successful raffle in recent history. We all got to witness the random luck of a man named Joe Leonhardt. We can all also congratulate Larry Sample on his big win. All in all, a lot of fun to be a part of it. Thanks, Joe Kobes, for all you did to make it that way. The final totals will be in soon, but it is safe to say that because of all the support from our members and/or raffle ticket sponsors and the customers, we will have some money to do good in the world again, this year.



We have some exciting projects on the horizon, both locally and even some internationally. More details to come on those items. Let's all take a moment to pat each other on the back and say, "Good job, team." We are coming out of the pandemic stronger every day. Our 2021-2022 season is not without challenges, though. It looks like our challenge for this year is going to be membership. We are losing members regularly, this year. We are all on the membership committee. We invited many purchasers of raffle tickets to check out our Club. I still want to encourage you to bring a guest to Rotary. We always have room for like-minded people ready to work for service above self. The phrase "many hands make light work" is true. We have many projects on the books that take many hands.

To everyone reading this message, thanks for all you do for the good of the world.

Scribbles...

Jessica Dunker Iowa Restaurant Association

Our speaker was Jessica Dunker, President and CEO of the Iowa Restaurant Association. From the Association's website, the Iowa Restaurant Association (IRA) is the professional association for the restaurant and retail beverage industry in Iowa. The IRA works to represent, promote, protect, educate and advocate for the industry as a whole. The association represents more than 6000 eating and drinking establishments in Iowa. Iowa's restaurant and beverage industry is the second largest private sector employer in the state, with more than 153,700 employees.



Jessica was not a stranger to everyone in the Club. Her twin daughters are the same age as Dr. Wendy Wilson's younger daughter and they all were acquainted. Jessica told us she is a mother of 5: two sets of twins (two girls, two boys) and one additional child. She said she has two pairs and a spare. Another of our members recognized Jessica from her many interviews of the last year, speaking on the news programs about the industry she represents. (See also the article in Sunday's *Des Moines Register*!) Jessica took us through the sheer size of the restaurant and retail beverage industry. Annual sales in Iowa of over 4.4 billion annually.

Her main topic was about the effects the pandemic had on the Iowa Restaurant Industry. She took us back to the day she got a call from the Governor with the heads-up that her industry would be shut down (with 2 days' notice). She had to work with her board help assist the

Continued...

June 11, 2021

This Week's Program:

Dave Cook
Welcome Train

-- Hybrid + Zoom --

Arranged By:
Bill W. Corwin

Greeter:

Joe Kobes

Invocation:

Shannon Heinen

Sergeant:

Doyle Sanders

Scribe:

Dan Boes

2020-21 Officers & Directors

Bill D. Corwin, President
 Bill D. Corwin, President Elect
 Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer
 Dianne Downing, Secretary
 Eric Idehen, Board Member
 Donna Larson, Board Member
 Bob Moore, Board Member
 Kyle Pieper, Board Member
 Open, Board Member
 Beth Goedken, Past President

Future Programs Meeting Type Subject To Change

6/18: Pat McGonegle
Iowa Pork Producers
Hybrid + Zoom

6/25: NO MEETING

Other Locations

Monday

West Polk County, Toyota of Des Moines, (Noon)

Tuesday

Ankeny, Ankeny Golf & Country Club, (11:45)

Johnston, Hyperion Golf & CC, (7:00 am)

Dallas Center, Memorial Hall, (Noon)

Norwalk, Echo Valley Golf Course, (6:30 am)

West Des Moines, DM Golf & CC, (Noon)

Wednesday

East Polk County, Prairie Meadows, (7:00 am)

Adel, Patrick's Restaurant, 211 S 7th St, #C, (Noon)

The Greater Des Moines Club, check the District 6000 website for time and location

Thursday

Waukee, Des Moines Golf & Country Club, (6:45 am)

Des Moines, Wakonda Club, (Noon)

Winterset, Pizza Ranch, (Noon)

Friday

Des Moines, AM, Wakonda Club at 3915 Fleur Dr. (7:00 am)

**DON'T WAIT.
VACCINATE!**

Items for the Nor'Wester should be submitted
by end of the day each Monday. Please send to:

**Jenifer Mercer-
Klimowski**

Phone: 515-237-2203 Fax: 515-237-2283
jmercerc-klimowski@emcnl.com

Scribe Continued...

Governor in determining what would be used to define what was a Bar / Restaurant for the purpose of the shutdown. The Association board had an emergency meeting and decided that a broad definition would be used for the shutdown. The shutdown was supposed to last 16 days when originally discussed. The pandemic caused many challenges to the industry, according to Jessica. Many national chain restaurants closed locations that were poor performers, anyway. Local restaurants had to adapt for takeout, online ordering and reduced capacity. Jessica praised the state government for its speed and agility and responsiveness to the industry. Our state has fared better than many others.

As the industry has been allowed to reopen and is moving back to full capacity, there are still major issues. The main one is the lack of employees to work. Jessica said most restaurants/bars that did reopen would be having record years if they were able to hire full staff. Hiring issues are not all pay related. Jessica shared that her industry is one of the quickest ways of any industry in Iowa to grow an employee from a starting wage to the middle class. Jessica sees takeout, online ordering, and contactless delivery of meals (even of cocktails) as pandemic changes that are here to stay. The outlook for the industry is improvement this year vs. last year, but the lack of employees is a major challenge. She asked if we knew anyone looking for work, have them reach out a restaurant or bar in their area. They will probably have good luck if they do.

Scribe, Bill D. Corwin

Upcoming Events

(Re) Installation Dinner

Christopher's Beaverdale - Wednesday, June 23 - 6:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE!!

Annual Golf Outing - September 17, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting -- Meeting ID: 317 412 7211 Password: 840343

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3174127211?pwd=ck5FdHZDYmhwZXJJN0xDUmxnZUIGUT09>

Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

<u>Program</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Invocation</u>	<u>Sergeant</u>	<u>Scribe</u>
June 18 - Iowa Pork Producers	Donna Larson	Shannon Heinen	Julia Taylor	Jenifer M-K
June 25 - No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting	No Meeting
July 2 - TBA	Eric Idehen	Bob Moore	Tim Olenjniczak	Dianne Downing
<i>Can't complete your assigned duty? Please assist Bill D. by finding your substitute!</i>				