



# Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines / Fridays @ 11:45 - Cozy Cafe 8535 Birchwood Ct.

January 16 , 2026

*This Week's Program:*

**Tina & Josh  
Kidz Corner Kids**

*Arranged By:  
Leray Glendenning*

Greeter:

Bill W. Corwin

Invocation:

Kelly Peterson

Sergeant:

Tony Hunt

Scribe:

Bill D. Corwin

*Future Programs*

1/23: TBA

1/30: TBA

2/6: Chuck Current  
& Josh Spain  
Meals From the Heartland

## Message from the President

Dianne Downing

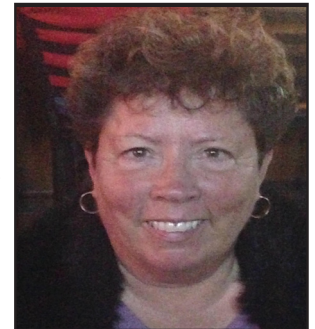
I've been going some more reading on Rotary history and found this.

### The Beginnings of Rotary

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram Shorey gathered at Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. This was the first Rotary Club meeting. They decided to call the new club "Rotary" after the practice of rotating meeting locations.

### The Founder of Rotary - Paul Harris

Paul Harris was born in Wisconsin but was raised in Vermont. After attending Princeton, the University of Vermont and the University of Iowa, Harris settled in Chicago where he lived until his death in 1947. He began a law practice in 1896, and established the first Rotary club "in fellowship and friendship" with three business associates. While he served as President of his club, it initiated its first public service project - constructing public toilets in Chicago. This step transformed Rotary into the world's first service club. When Harris died in 1947, more than 300,000 Rotarians mourned. An outpouring of contributions to the Rotary Foundation created the Paul Harris Memorial Fund, which continues to support the Rotary Foundation today.



## Scribbles *Eric Woolson Iowa Cat Nip*

Today's speaker, Eric Woolson, farms on the rolling hills of Wayne County, right along the Iowa/Missouri border. He grows organic catnip on a 27-acre farm though only about an acre is cultivated.

Eric's journey began with curiosity and a willingness to learn by doing. That curiosity eventually led him to DMACC. He earned an agribusiness degree to understand the science behind what he was seeing in the soil every day. But the real lessons came from the land itself.

Eric will tell you that one of the first things he learned was the importance of developing a powerful connection to the land. Organic farming demands attention, intuition, and patience. It also demands humility, especially when your biggest enemy is something as simple as weeds. He likes to say weeds are just like problems in life: deal with them when they're small, or they'll grow into something much harder to manage.

One surprise he learned, he decided to run electricity to the Morton building. He feared a \$10,000 bill. The actual cost? \$575. A reminder that a lack of information shouldn't paralyze you.

The end result? The final crop is sold as a commodity to a cat nip company out of Kansas City. Each pound of catnip is sold for \$30/lb and he can get two cuttings a year.



Scribe, Dan Boes



**2025-26 Officers & Directors**

- Dianne Downing, President
- Wendi Wilson, President Elect
- Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer
- Bill W. Corwin, Secretary
- Ed Arnold, Board Member
- Bill D. Corwin, Board Member
- Tony Hunt, Board Member
- Kelly Peterson, Board Member
- Tim Olejniczak, Past President

**Other Locations**

Monday

West Polk County, Food Depot, 3000 SE Grimes Blvd, Suite 200 in Grimes (Noon)

Tuesday

- Ankeny, Ankeny Golf & Country Club, (11:45)
- Ankeny, Magee's Irish Pub, (6:00 pm)
- Johnston, Hyperion Golf & CC, (7:00 am)
- Dallas Center, Memorial Hall, (Noon)
- Norwalk, City State Bank, (Noon)
- West Des Moines, DM Golf & CC, (Noon)

Wednesday

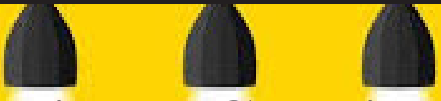
East Polk County, Lutheran Church of the Cross (7:00 am)  
Adel, Adel Public Library, 303 S. 10th St. (Noon)

Thursday

- Waukee, Des Moines Golf & Country Club, (6:45 am)
- Des Moines, Embassy Club - Ruan Bldg, (Noon)
- Winterset, Pizza Ranch, (Noon)
- Rotary Club of HOPE, First & Third Thursday of Month (5:30 pm - Virtual Zoom Meeting)

Friday

Des Moines, AM, Wakonda Club, (7:00 am)



## Bill W. Corwin

*Birthday* November, 1945

*Where do you live? Clive*


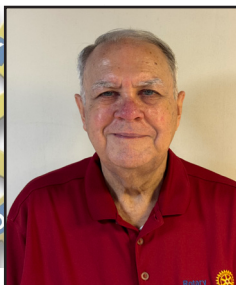

*Describe yourself in one word. Tall*

*What do you do for a living?*  
*CPA, Now Retired*

*Family members: Marilyn, spouse*  
*Bill, Matt And Jason, Sons*

*When did you join Rotary? 1/23/87*  
*Tell us about a good Rotary experience*  
*Able to be involved*

*What would you like to have our club accomplished this year?*  
*More members*

**Upcoming Events**

Feb 9-14 Waukee Rotary Blood Donor Week



*Birthdays*

January 13 Marv Johnson

**Future Info**

**Ed Arnold - Program Chair**

	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Sergeant</b>	<b>Scribe</b>
<b>Jan 23</b>	Leray Glendenning	Doyle Sanders	Mark McAndrews	Justin Nickel
<b>Jan 30</b>	Tony Hunt	Julia Taylor	Kelly Peterson	Leray Glendenning
<b>Feb 6</b>	Mark McAndrews	Wendi Wilson	Doyle Sanders	Tony Hunt

*Can't complete your assigned duty?* Please assist by finding your substitute!

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

**Dianne Downing**

iowagirlddn@gmail.com

