



Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines
www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines / Fridays @ Noon - UGCC 4000-86th St. Urbandale

Prez Sez

Jack Bell

This past Friday our Club was fortunate to be one of the first to hear from Andy Bales (member of Rotary Club LA5), shortly after returning home to lead CFUM after one quarter of a century working on the issue of homelessness in Los Angeles. I look forward to hearing from him again about his plans for both CFUM and the wider community, once he's had a chance to get a better feel for the issues impacting Des Moines.

As I mentioned at our Christmas dinner a few weeks ago, whenever the topic of CFUM comes up, I think of Tom Narak, who I unfortunately did not get the chance to know very well. For those who weren't at that dinner, I recounted the story of how Tom became known as "The Bike Guy" at CFUM. During the spring of 2022 he organized a bicycle distribution for kids in the River Bend neighborhood, where CFUM is located.

It was a Saturday late in late April - cold and raining - Relays Saturday so of course the weather was grotty. The distribution was to start at 1pm, but kids started lining up in the rain around 11 (and it could have been earlier). Tom and a few others from the West Des Moines club arrived early and started the distribution, finishing - before the distribution was scheduled to begin - as I was pulling up amidst a gaggle of kids on bikes. As I walked over, I saw a line of eager youngsters, but the bikes were all handed out. We headed across the street to CFUM's offices and Tom got a count of kids without bikes, organized another collection, and within a month or so ensured that everyone who was left standing in the rain that Relays Saturday received a bike.

Tom was a wonderful inspiration to all Rotarians, even those like me who only witnessed one of his many Creations of Hope. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

Thank you for the good you do in the world, Jack

Scribbles...

Andy Bales - CFUM

Andy Bales is back in Iowa! Andy has been in LA since the year 2000 serving as the CEO of Union Rescue Mission. He and his wife are now back to be with grandkids and for him to step into the CEO position of Children and Family Urban Movement. He is looking forward to surrounding kids with hope and a place to flourish as they prepare for a changing world.

Andy shared with us the climate of homelessness in LA. There are about 75,000 homeless persons with 55K of them actually living on the streets. To put that in perspective, LA homeless represents 1/2 of the homeless in the entire US. He feels that California is doing it wrong. He believes that the homeless need help with recovering from mental health and substance abuse issues and then retraining to hold down jobs. They should be focusing on immediate shelter and then affordable housing. Unfortunately, California believes that they need attractive housing as a first priority and recovering from their demons isn't part of that picture.

Here in Des Moines, Andy is bringing his expertise to CFUM. CFUM was incorporated in 1992 after serving the Riverbend neighborhood for nearly 20 years. They identified a need for a place for kids during early dismissal days, school breaks and summer vacation. CFUM strives to create a community that supports the potential of children, youth, and families through educational success, healthy living and community engagement.

Continued...

January 19, 2024

This Week's Program:

Joe Stevens
Joppa

Arranged By:

Jack Bell

Greeter:

Bill D. Corwin

Invocation:

Tim Olejniczak

Sergeant:

Tony Hunt

Scribe:

Bill Grask



2022-23 Officers & Directors

Jack Bell, President

Tim Olejniczak, President Elect

Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer

Dianne Downing, Secretary

Ed Arnold, Board Member

Bill D. Corwin, Board Member

Kelly Peterson, Past President



Future Programs

1/26: Jana Huegerich
LiveServe

2/2: TBA

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, Echo Valley Golf Course, (6:30 am)
 West Des Moines, DM Golf & CC, (Noon)

Wednesday

East Polk County, Caring Hands, (7:00 am)
 Adel, 1016 Main St. Raccoon Valley Comm. House (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, Embassy Club - Ruan Bldg, (Noon)
 Winterset, Pizza Ranch, (Noon)

Friday

Des Moines, AM, Downtown Holiday Inn – Mercy, (7:00 am)

Scribe Continued

Jacob Nastruz, the coordinator of community engagement, discussed their children's programs including Haven After School, Awesome Summer Days, and the Healthy Living Breakfast Club. CFUM continues to have their staple "Supper Club" that we have helped with for decades. He continues to look for ways that the community can get involved by supporting these programs as well as other events. They need resources to be able to continue current programming especially since Des Moines is losing some public school funding for after school care. If you would like to get involved in some way, please contact Jacob@CFUM.org.

Wendi Wilson, Scribe

Congratulations!



Paul Harris Award Winners
 Tony Hunt & Wendy Kriegshauser

Upcoming Events

Urbandale Chamber AM Exchange
 Tuesday, January 30

District Assembly
 Saturday, March 30

District Foundation Gala - April 19
 District Celebration - April 20

Items for the Nor'Wester should be submitted by end of the day each Monday. Please send to:
Jack Bell
 jackbell@yahoo.com



Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

	Greeter	Invocation	Sergeant	Scribe
Jan 26	Dianne Downing	Doyle Sanders	Mark McAndrews	Bob Moore
Feb 2	Leray Glendenning	Julia Taylor	Joe Kobes	Bill D. Corwin
Feb 9	Bill Grask	Wendi Wilson	Wendy Kriegshauser	Jake Heston
<i>Can't complete your assigned duty?</i> Please assist Jack Bell by finding your substitute!				



CREATE HOPE
 in the WORLD