



# Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

[www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines](http://www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines) / Fridays @ 11:45 - Cozy Cafe 8535 Birchwood Ct.

**February 14, 2025**

***This Week's Program:***

**Steve Dakin**  
Rotary Foundation

*Arranged By:*

Ed Arnold

*Greeter:*

Bill D. Corwin

*Invocation:*

Bob Moore

*Sergeant:*

Dianne Downing

*Scribe:*

Mark McAndrews

## ***2024-25 Officers & Directors***

Tim Olejniczak, President

Dianne Downing, 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

Jack Bell, Past President

## ***Future Programs***

**2/21:** Dave Wagner  
Underground Natural Gas  
Storage

**2/28:** TBA

## **Prez Sez**

*Tim Olejniczak*

Hope everyone is having a good week so far! I also hope that everyone is getting prepped for the potential snow storm on Wednesday!

I will start off by saying thank you for everyone who participated at the meeting this last Friday. I think that was the first meeting I have been a part of where the speaker didn't show up. But, I also enjoyed learning a little about those who were in attendance especially what brought you to Rotary and what keeps you wanting to be a part of Rotary. To me what really stuck out was it was our service projects that really seem to keep our members coming back but also the relationships that we have with other members. As I've stated and will always say what got me to commit to Rotary was how welcomed I felt at the first meeting. Even though I was young and didn't know anyone in the club I felt welcomed right away, and I do think our members is truly what makes our club great.



So, two things. First, I truly do believe our club is great and we have members who do an amazing job making people feel at home so I will always continue to challenge people to bring a guest to our meetings, but also after you bring a guest to get their feedback. We want to know good and bad what our club can improve on, and then also ask them if they'd want to join us as part of our club. I think sometimes people just want to be asked and want to feel wanted.

Second, service projects seems to be what our members enjoy and keep them coming back, so if anyone ever has any service projects please let me or someone on the board know and we will see if it's something we can participate in.

I want to end today by again thanking everyone for their flexibility. I know the last couple of months have been a little crazy with locations, meals and now add speaker to the list but everyone has been encouraging and providing feedback which I truly appreciate. I do feel like we have found a good home at the cozy cafe and have found some stability there, but as always please provide any feedback.

I hope everyone has a great rest of your week, stay safe and I will see you Friday!

Tim

## 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, Downtown Holiday Inn - Mercy, (7:00 am)

## Upcoming Events

**CFUM** - February 17th & April 21

**Board Meeting** - February 27th, Noon Cozy Cafe

**Polio Plus Night** - February 28th Iowa Wolves

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

**Tim Olejniczak**

Timothy.Olejniczak@edwardjones.com

## Love is in the Air **Valentine Refresher**

### How Did Valentine's Day Start?

Some historians believe it has roots in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia. Held yearly on February 15, Lupercalia celebrated the coming of spring and fertility. It involved animal sacrifice, lots of drunken revelry, and possibly a ritual in which men and women were paired off by choosing names from a jar.

As Christianity spread, pagan rituals fell out of favor. At the end of the 5th century AD, Pope Gelasius I outlawed the celebration. He's sometimes credited with implementing St. Valentine's Day, a holy feast day, to replace it, but we don't have definitive proof. Regardless, the Christian holiday eventually overtook the riotous Lupercalia.

### Who Was St. Valentine?

St. Valentine is the patron saint of lovers, people with epilepsy, and beekeepers, among other things, but the real-life history of the man is unknown. There are various legends about a Christian figure named Valentine or Valentinus who was martyred on February 14 in the 3rd century AD.

In one story, St. Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who refused to convert to paganism and was executed by Emperor Claudius II in about 270 AD. Prior to his execution, he miraculously healed the daughter of his jailer. As the legend goes, he then fell in love with the daughter and, on the day of his execution, wrote her a letter signed "from your Valentine."

### Why Do We Send Valentines?

Love letters, of course, go way back; if the legend of St. Valentine is true, his missive to the jailer's daughter probably counts as the first valentine. But historians say that the earliest valentines as we think of them today came about in Europe and the United States in the 17th century. They were possibly inspired by the German tradition of exchanging Freundschaftskarten, or friendship cards. These early valentines were handmade—sometimes very elaborately with lace and ribbons—and inscribed with sentimental messages. Over time, as printing and postal services advanced, valentines became a big commercial business.

## Future Information

Ed Arnold - Program Chair



	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Invocation</b>	<b>Sergeant</b>	<b>Scribe</b>
<b>Feb 21</b>	Jack Bell	Kelly Peterson	Leray Glendenning	Bob Moore
<b>Feb 28</b>	Leray Glendenning	Doyle Sanders	Bill Grask	Kelly Peterson
<b>Mar 7</b>	Bill Grask	Julia Taylor	Tony Hunt	Doyle Sanders
<i>Can't complete your assigned duty?</i> Please assist Tim Olejniczak by finding your substitute!				

