



# Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

[www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines](http://www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines) / Fridays @ Noon - UGCC 4000-86th St. Urbandale

## Prez Sez

Jack Bell

In my previous Rotary life back East, April through July was always busier than the norm - not that the "norm" wasn't busy. It's just that those 3-4 months were absolutely packed, highlighting the power of Rotary through service and fellowship.

Each year in April we began joint planning for our Flags for Our Heroes display of 750 American flags in a park in Gaithersburg, organized with three other clubs. You need to check out the website ([www.flagsforourheros.org](http://www.flagsforourheros.org)) and watch the video! Weeks of work for a four-day event over Memorial Day: "selling" flag medallions, each of which would honor a hero; hours on knees trying to surface 750 holes dug the previous year; "planting" the flags; a few prayers for sunny skies, and working with the scouts who camped at the site and performed a moving flag retirement ceremony, among other tasks. And then of course takedown which always turned into a community event on the Memorial Day Monday. I recall disturbing a few barbeques in the quest for "volunteers"...

Then came the Rockville Rotary 8k, a race through downtown Rockville that required teams of volunteers, with the added benefit of a Finish Chute stocked with donated food that we recovered for our snack programs. For this event I always said a prayer for rain - which could translate into fewer runners & therefore more food to rescue! In 2017 my prayers were answered...however I can confirm that being a course marshal in a monsoon ranks only slightly higher than Christmas shopping with my 13 year old niece (who I love dearly).

Finally, we would head out to Winchester, VA to serve an Opening Night barbeque at Camp Fantastic, a camp for kids with cancer. The onset of August, when it all had ended, was a bit of a let-down as I missed all the planning, service, and interaction with members of other local clubs.

I mention these activities as I feel that a similar time for our club is fast approaching. First there's district orientation this weekend, which brings together members from many other clubs for discussions about DGE Dave Cook's plans for FY25. I believe that I indicated during Steve Wieneke's talk about RLI a few months ago that, for me, the fellowship and reconnection at these events ranks with the content. Then we have the district foundation socials, the Wolves game on the 23rd of February, planning for pickleball and the tourney, the District Celebration in Pella and the raffle at HyVee.

Plenty of upcoming activities offering opportunities to serve, reconnect and once again highlight the power of Rotary. And no need for concerns about the weather!

Rotary Creates Hope, Jack

February 16, 2024

*This Week's Program:*

**Andrew Batt**

Iowa PBS

Arranged By:

Ed Arnold

Greeter:

Tony Hunt

Invocation:

Kelly Peterson

Sergeant:

Bob Moore

Scribe:

Mark McAndrews



**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**

**2/23:** Courtney Davenport  
Valerius Elementary  
Shcool Girls Program

**3/1:** Chris Bertelson  
Rotary Foundation

## 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)

### Upcoming Events

District Foundation Socials - February 19 & 26

Iowa Wolves Polio Night - Friday, February 23

CFUM Supper Club (To-Go) -  
Monday, February 26

District Assembly - Saturday, March 30

Pickleball Programs - April 12 & 13

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

**Jack Bell**

jackbell@yahoo.com

## Scribbles

### *Elizabeth Sedrel - Living History Farms*



*Thanks to Elizabeth for joining us and sharing  
fun facts and the comings and goings  
of Living History Farms!*



## Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

**Greeter**

**Invocation**

**Sergeant**

**Scribe**

**Feb 23**

Joe Kobes

Dan Boes

Tim Olejniczak

Wendi Wilson

**Mar 1**

Mark McAndrews

Bill D. Corwin

Doyle Sanders

Kelly Peterson

**Mar 8**

Bob Moore

Dianne Downing

Julia Taylor

Bill Grask

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



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

NORTHWEST ROTARY CLUB • P.O. Box 3715 • Urbandale, IA 50323