



Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines / Fridays @ Noon - UGCC 4000-86th St. Urbandale

Prez Sez

Jack Bell

Before digging in, a huge Thank You to Ed for his continued leadership on the Wolves polio fundraiser! Fun night and a good turnout.

Several years ago, while with Deloitte, I spent time with a consultant/coach named Tony Putnam. Tony also happened to be a descriptive psychologist and one of the many things I learned from Tony was the “laziness of questions” (his description) and the art - and benefit - of turning questions into statements. Anyone who has ever been in a job interview can attest to how a conversation is much more enjoyable (and less tiresome) than a Q&A ping-pong session. Those who have worked retail can confirm the grave danger associated with leaning on the “may I help you?” opener.

I was reminded of this concept recently after an exchange at Lifetime Fitness, which began with a standard query. The FY25 Rotary theme I mentioned in last week’s newsletter had just been announced and I became curious about the history of our themes; I was interested to see how many themes were posed as questions.

The Rotarian behind the theme concept was Percy Hodgson. Back in 1949, Rotarian Percy constructed an 83-word theme (pins, banners and socks must have been huge back then!) that consisted of a listing of four objectives - and most likely was a key reason that the ‘56 theme was “Keep Rotary Simple”. Some themes attempt to resonate with a Global Call to Action: “Serve to Unite Mankind” (’77) or “Mankind is One – Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World” (’82) while others have been a bit more modest in sweep: Be A Friend (’84) or Enjoy Rotary (’86). Interestingly, “Service” didn’t find its way into the theme until ’77, beginning a run of appearing five of the following eight years.

Not a single theme was posed as a question – one could imagine something like “What can Rotary do for your World?” (or something pithier) would’ve appeared at some point, especially given the potential for engagement. While I’m not a descriptive psychologist, this little exercise highlights some intriguing patterns in communication and messaging within Rotary’s history.



March 1, 2024

This Week's Program:

Chris Bertelson
Rotary Foundation

Arranged By:

Doyle Sanders

Greeter:

Mark McAndrews

Invocation:

Bill D. Corwin

Sergeant:

Doyle Sanders

Scribe:

Kelly Peterson



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

3/8: Dr. Jimmy Reyes
Diabetes Mgmt &
Familial Project - Nigeria

3/15: Tim Olejniczak
Professional Development

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 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

Courtney Davenport *Valerius Elementary School Girls Program*

Courtney Davenport is a Special Education teacher at Valerius Elementary and heads up their Girls Program. Courtney is a member of the Meskwaki tribe here in Iowa. She brought us information regarding their girls program.

The Chrysalis Foundation has given a grant for a girls program at Valerius Elementary. . The program is for girls in the 4th and 5th grade who are more at risk. Most of the girls are from the free and reduced lunch program and come from many ethnicities. The most a program can hold is about 25 students. This past year they had to split the girls into semesters because of the number of girls interested.

The program focuses on social skills, hygiene, friendships, financial literacy and STEM or STEAM programs. The program has been available for the past 3 years. A student will apply to be a part of the program at the beginning of the school year. . They meet weekly afterschool so a parent has to be able to provide transportation. Students have a snack, a lesson and then usually a craft. Courtney has been able to get her lesson plans from Teachers Pay Teachers. They have been able to track how successful the program is through surveys. Urbandale middle school also has a similar program.

Wendi Wilson, Scribe



We Need A New GOAL!

Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

Greeter

Invocation

Sergeant

Scribe

Mar 8

Bob Moore

Dianne Downing

Julia Taylor

Bill Grask

Mar 15

Tim Olejniczak

Wendy Kriegshauser

Dan Boes

Jake Heston

Mar 22

Julia Taylor

Leray Glendenning

Bill D. Corwin

Tony Hunt

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



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**