



Nor'Wester

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

Prez Sez

Bill D. Corwin

Saturday afternoon, Lisa and I watched a hard-fought loss by our Iowa Hawkeyes to Illinois, then we took an impromptu road trip. Our son Parker joined us for Mass in Madrid, with the hopes of trying out **What You Smokin BBQ and Brew** in Luther Iowa. After church, we found out they were out of a lot of food and had a 45-minute wait. That caused me to say something crazy. We are only 20 minutes away from Hickory Park. Off we went. Yes, there is a Rotary twist here shortly. Up HWY 17 we head by GPS to HWY 30. Once we found out the wait at Hickory Park was also 30 minutes, we took a Rotary Detour. I asked the crew if they wanted to see something cool. They said "of course" and I tuned the car west on HWY 30 vs. east. With anticipation we traveled to Boone and there on the right just as you hit the main drag is a very impressive site of Rotary miracle. It is a full-size restored Welcome Train that was written out in this quarterly publication for district 6000. The train not very visible in the dark but it was there, just the same. My family and I did stop and look at it and it is impressive, for certain. The large sign welcoming visitors to Boone on the sides of the coal car and the long passenger car as well. I am certain that as the project gets completed further with lights, benches, and a sidewalk, it will be more of a gathering space than it is now. The details on how to donate to the project are in the District 6000 news as well. We all enjoyed the detour between reservation and the table being ready, and it is just one more little benefit of being a Rotarian.



Raffle ticket selling season is upon us. Cool Basil being added to the tickets should be a great addition. My wife and I really enjoy that restaurant when we go and they have such a variety of choices. See the upcoming event for opportunities for you to sell 5 or more sheets. If efforts on the part of the Club members do their part in selling, this will one of the best years in fund raising on the tickets, ever. The Hy-Vee opportunity on top of our individual efforts should be extremely effective. I know if we run out of tickets, Joe can get more printed, so do not worry selling so many we run out.

I continue wanting to encourage you to bring a guest to rotary (via zoom or to in-person meetings). We always have room for like-minded people ready to work for service above self.

Scribbles...

Tim Grabinsky MidAmerican Energy

Our speaker today was Tim Grabinski with MidAmerican Energy. Tim has been with MidAmerican for 25 years. Tim is a community relations professional and currently is the Economic Advantage Manager for the utility. For those of us who have been around Des Moines for decades, like me, MidAmerican was originally Iowa Power & Light. Since those days, the company has rebranded itself, and been acquired by and become a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway through Berkshire Hathaway Energy. It operates utility services in 18 states, Canada and the Philippines and has over 19,000 employees. It also has a division, Home Services of America, that provides real estate mortgage and brokerage services. Rotarian Helen Turner is one of their real estate brokers.



More specially about their utility operations: One of their goals is to utilize more sustainable sources of energy. As a proof of their commitment, in the year 2000, their sources of

Continued...

March 19, 2021

This Week's Program:

Leslie Irlbeck
Metro Waste Authority
-- Hybrid + Zoom --

Arranged By:

Ed Arnold/Cassie Riley

Greeter:

Danny Mielneczek

Invocation:

Jenifer MK

Sergeant:

Donna Larson

Scribe:

Kyle Pieper

2020-21 Officers & Directors

- Bill D. Corwin, President
- Open, President Elect
- Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer
- Dianne Downing, Secretary
- Eric Idehen, Board Member
- Donna Larson, Board Member
- Bob Moore, Board Member
- Kyle Pieper, Board Member
- Matt Nelson, Board Member
- Beth Goedken, Past President

Future Programs

Meeting Type Subject To Change

3/26: Eric Barnum
Drake Choral Activities
Hybrid + Zoom

4/2: TBA
Hybrid + Zoom

This & That

Scribe Continued...

Upcoming Events

-- District Events --

LIVING THE 5 WAY TEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

On Zoom or Ankeny Courtyard Marriott
Apr 24, 2021 - 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

3rd annual Pickleball for a Purpose Tournament

Smash Park West Des Moines - May 15, 2021 - 8:00 - 5:00

Hy-Vee Raffle Ticket Sales

Saturday & Sunday - May 22 & 23 and May 29 & 30

energy were 70% coal, 19% natural gas, 11% nuclear and 0% wind. In 2020 those percentages are now 24% coal, 12% natural gas, 4% nuclear and 59% wind. Another fun fact, Iowa has the 13th lowest utility rates in the US.

MidAmerican, along with other Iowa-based utilities, was hard hit by last summer's derecho. MidAmerican's response team totaled nearly 2,100 workers, and they restored service to nearly all their customers in less than 120 hours. And this most recent cold spell, which devastated part of Texas, also had an impact on Iowa utilities. The natural gas usage was up 50% from normal during the period of February 5th to the 18th. Tim did explain that their cost of acquiring natural gas also went up, but was lessened by their practice of protecting against spikes in price with long term contracts. He did estimate that the average increase in our natural gas cost/month will be about \$18.

MidAmerican is also investing in electric vehicle charging stations around the state. They currently have 18 locations and plan to add another 18 in 2021, and 14 in 2022.

Scribe, Bill W. Corwin



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

Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski

Phone: 515-237-2203 Fax: 515-237-2283
jmercerc-klimowski@emenl.com

Covid Vaccine Info

A note about COVID 19 Vaccine distribution here in Iowa. I was told that the shot is open to anyone 50 and older with any underlying condition, and the person who told me that got his shot 3 days after getting on the list.

His underlying condition was asthma.

So please share your story by sending it to Bill D. Corwin at wdcorwin@gmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting -- Meeting ID: 317 412 7211 Password: 840343

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3174127211?pwd=ck5FdHZDYmhwZXJjN0xDUmxnZUIGUT09>

Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

| Program | Greeter | Invocation | Sergeant | Scribe |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Mar 26 - Drake Choral Activities | LeAnn Auxier | Leray Glendenning | Eric Idehen | Dave Piersel |
| Apr 2 - TBA | Dan Boes | Bill Grask | Jim Lipscomb | Jenifer M-K |
| Apr 9 - TBA | Bill W. Corwin | Matt Nelson | Beth Goedken | Larry Sample |

Can't complete your assigned duty? Please assist Bill D. by finding your substitute!