



Nor'Wester

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

Prez Sez

Jack Bell

On Sunday we had a celebration for Juanito, the Rotary Youth Exchange student I hosted from August to December of last year. Fortunately, the early-morning ominous weather forecast dissipated, and we were able to have the barbeque as planned. Around 40-50 people showed up to wish Juan well and hear stories of his year in Des Moines - although his residence was here, he was able to visit quite a bit of America, including Chicago, KC, DC, Disneyland and Southern California, Las Vegas and Minneapolis; not to mention Waterloo and Rockford.

He played varsity soccer for a club that just missed (by 1 goal) the 4A State Tourney, nearly got straight A's (English being the only exception), went to Friday night football games (and 2 Hawkeye games including tailgates), the Homecoming Dance, watched the Last Dance and Ted Lasso, experienced school lunches and was able to compare local seafood offerings to his native Vigo, Spain fare.

I recall mulling over the decision to host in the Spring of 2023. My main obstacle was an utter lack of culinary skills, which Rick Stammer from the Des Moines AM club swatted away with one concise question: "you eat, right?". Because both Juan and I did eat (and still do) both Sakari Sushi and Ted's Coney Island will see a drop in revenue after we bid adios to Juan.

In addition to his stay with me, he stayed with two wonderful families: Angie and Matt Trettin and Phil and Brenda Holt. He made some life-long friends in those households, not the least of whom is the Trettin's son, a sophomore at Roosevelt. There's talk of a trip to Galicia (spend a minute and search for images, especially how Vigo is decorated at Christmas). For now, Juan - along with around 20 other Youth Exchange students from across the US - will board a bus for a month-long trip across the US, returning mid-July for one last stop at Sakari before heading home for his senior year.

A bit coincidental that meeting a Rotary exchange student in the Madrid airport in August of 2022 got me thinking about hosting. Nearly 2 years after that chance encounter, we are wrapping up an amazing experience, all because of Rotary.

Scribbles...

Scott Raecker - Robert D. & Bille Ray Center

Our club again welcomed Des Moines AM Rotary member and Executive Director of the Robert D and Bille Ray center at Drake University, Scott Raecker to our meeting Friday. This center is the home of the Character Counts Program. He is not a stranger to our club and has presented many times in his role with Character Counts. He remembered a funny story about his first time to our club years ago. Charles Gabus encouraged him to put some money in the bucket during the sergeant. He never forgotten that lesson. He also reported with pride about his clubs president, the youngest club president in their history and his daughter, Emily Adreon. Scott brought great energy and purpose to his talk to our club.

We got some of the history of the Character Counts program. The program was started by former Governor Robert D Ray, as a lasting legacy of the Sesquicentennial in 1997. He told us the that first class to use the Character counts program was a 5th grade class in West Des Moines. From this beginning after 10 Years 11,000 educators were trained in the character



Continued...

May 31, 2024

This Week's Program:

Kaitly Patchett
Capital Crossroads

Arranged By:

Jack Bell

Greeter:

Leray Glendenning

Invocation:

Bob Moore

Sergeant:

Wendi Wilson

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

6/14: Ben Godar
Varsity Cinema

6/21: Alysa Goethe
Iowa Diabetes
Association

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...

counts programs and were used in the classrooms. Today over 8,000,000 students attend the in-classroom trainings, all around the world are using the program to promote the core values and improve civility one child at a time. Everywhere the program is used the results are measured.

The 6 pillars of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. Some of the metrics that are measured are Graduation rates, classroom attendance, math proficiency rates, and English proficiency rates. The program has many success stories from schools about how this program in improving the overall education of the children along with making them better people and citizens, One of the larger school system in California saw a major reduction in out of school suspension over a 10 year period. Starting with over 6000 and going as low as under 300 are the actual numbers that were shared. That school's system believes that the character counts program is a major reason for the improvement.

This 27 year old program that began right here in Iowa really seems to be changing the world for the better, one person at time. The goal was some lasting legacy of the Iowa Sequential and I think this program is living up to that goal in ways that were probably not even thought of every day. It will be existing to hear where things are when they turn 30.

Bill D. Corwin

Upcoming Events

CFUM, June 24

District I-Cubs Game, June 24

RYLA Grinnell College, July 14 - 19

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

Jack Bell

jackbell@yahoo.com

Birthdays

June 1 Mark McAndrews

Future Information



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Ed Arnold - Program Chair				
	Greeter	Invocation	Sergeant	Scribe
June 14	Bill Grask	Tim Olejniczak	Doyle Sanders	Jake Heston
June 21	Tony Hunt	Julia Taylor	Wendi Wilson	Bob Moore
June 28	Joe Kobes	Kelly Peterson	Dan Boes	Tim Olejniczak
<i>Can't complete your assigned duty?</i> Please assist Jack Bell by finding your substitute!				