



# Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines  
www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines / Fridays @ 11:45 - Ramada, 5000 Merle Hay Road

July 26, 2024

*This Week's Program:*

**Jeremy Parsons**  
Iowa State Fair

Arranged By:

Bill D. Corwin

Greeter:

Jack Bell

Invocation:

Bill Grask

Sergeant:

Mark McAndrews

Scribe:

Dianne Downing

## 2024-25 Officers & Directors

Tim Olejniczak, President

TBA, President Elect

Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer

Dianne Downing, Secretary

Ed Arnold, Board Member

Bill D. Corwin, Board Member

Tony Hunt, Board Member

Kelly Peterson, Board Member

Jack Bell, Past President

## Future Programs

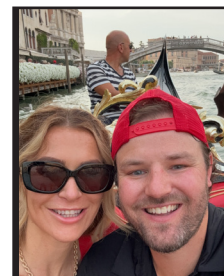
8/2: Sara Kurovski  
Make A Wish Foundation

8/9: Alysa Goethe  
Iowa Diabetes Association

## Prez Sez

*Tim Olejniczak*

Greetings! It feels good to be back in the USA, Billie and I had a great time in Europe but I am happy to be back in the States. I was just talking to my mom yesterday and told her that whenever I am gone or travel to another country, it just makes me that much more appreciative that I am an American and that I get to call this country home. I think it is very easy to take for granted the things that we have here: Space, good size grocery stores, don't have to rely on public transportation, good air conditioning especially in July, and many more things. Billie and I spent a couple days together in London, then a week in Slovenia and finished with a long weekend in Venice, and even though all those places are developed, I personally would still choose to live in the US over those places. With that being said, it made me think about Rotary and especially the international project we have going on Africa, and just how proud I am to be a part of something that tries to do good and make an impact all over the world. I think someday it would be pretty cool if we were able to get some people in our club to go down to Africa and check out the clinic that we are helping supply!



Since I have left for my travels to Europe a lot has happen here in our nation and as I mentioned above my mind always goes back to how thankful I am to be an American while traveling abroad here are few thoughts that I have had.

First, step out of your comfort zone. When traveling one thing Billie always tries to get me to do is try some new food or maybe do something I normally wouldn't have done and just get me out of my comfort zone. Which got me thinking there's truth to that even when it comes to Rotary. For me personally going to the first meeting was out of my comfort zone, going to something a really knew nothing about and I knew no one at that time who was even a member of Rotary. Fast, forward to five years later and I am now serving as president of this club which is also out of my comfort zone, because as everyone is well aware of commitment scares me (typical millennial I know). But, by going out of my comfort zone and going to that meeting is has led me to be a part of something that I truly enjoy, just like usually when I try a food when I am traveling that I never thought I would like, I end up enjoying it. So a challenge that comes with that thought is try to step out of your comfort zone sometime is this next month. Maybe it's volunteering somewhere that isn't in your comfort zone, I know for me volunteering and doing something with homeless is out of my comfort zone, but my personal goal is to go do some volunteering for the homeless before the year! Whatever it is let's continue to push ourselves!

Second, Take the leap of faith. Something I am sure not many know about me is I am not a good swimmer, but while we were on a boat ride on the Adriatic Sea I jumped off the front of it and into the water. Like a mentioned above with comfort zone, I think it's an amazing feeling when you just take a risk. That risk maybe: Starting a new job, moving, asking someone a question that could be rejected, but whatever it maybe let's not let fear get in our way of living. So my challenge with this thought would be, If there is something that you have been nervous to take the risk on go take the leap of faith. Or, if there is someone you have been nervous about asking to join us for a Rotary meeting take the leap of faith and ask them!

Last thought, Life is short don't take it for granted. While I was away I received the news about Trump being shot, and about Biden getting ill and dropping out of the race. I am not here to get into a political discussion, but seeing the news on the both of them made me think about my own loved ones and how you truly don't know what day maybe their last so don't take that time for granted. So, If you have been thinking about calling a brother, sister,

Continued...

# Prez Sez Continued...

# Scribbles

grandchild, or whoever it maybe and you haven't for a while my challenge would be to pick up the phone and make that call sometime this week just to let them know you love them, because life truly is way to short and can change at a moments notice.

Now, a couple real quick things when it comes to Rotary. First off, I want to say I am sorry that I haven't been around the last couple of weeks as I have had some things on my calendar for a long time. I have one more meeting this summer I am going to miss then I will be around for a awhile and anything going forward I am going to do my best that it won't interfere with my Rotary attendance. But, with that being said I want to say a thank you to everyone who has helped me while I was gone. Second, The golf tournament is right around the corner so please reach out to Ed or myself if you or someone you know would like to play, donate door prizes or be a sponsor. Lastly, you all are going to get sick of hearing this by the end of the year but, if you know of anyone who maybe a good member please invite them to a meeting. The big goal this year for Rotary is membership and my goal is to see our club have net positive growth during this next year.

I hope everyone is having a great week, and I can't wait to see you this Friday!

## Steve Cannon - Adventure Photographer



Steve Cannon, a childhood friend of our fearless leader Jack, joined us for our meeting this week.

Steve Cannon is a seasoned adventurer with 30 years of experience, transitioning from hunter to celebrated wild-life photographer and conservation advocate.

A published author and filmmaker, Steve's work spans extraordinary feats like a 1,037-mile run around Lake Michigan for charity, a near-fatal kayaking attempt on the Yukon River, and a gripping documentary on a winter journey along the 1,000-mile Iditarod trail.

Steve shared with us his latest adventure to Ellesmere Island. This northernmost island is in the Canadian Arctic and has a population of 144. He wanted to get a shot of a polar bear in its natural habitat. He spent 9 days out on the arctic sea ice in polar bear country. Getting there was an adventure, staying there was survival, and making it back with all of his digits was almost a miracle in the -40 degree temperatures.

His guide, his guide's son, and Steve set out on a 10 hour trip to first find the empty weather station. Travelling was by snowmobile and a komatik. The komatik was like an unheated shed on runners that carried supplies and Steve to the weather station. Thank goodness the son had his cellphone with him to help them pinpoint exactly where it was (after getting lost first). Each day they would travel 4 hours into bear country with all of the cameras and supplies. Finally on the 4th day they saw a mother and cub. They were able to make it within 40 meters of the pair to snap just 2 pictures. (Cold weather snaps all of the life out of camera batteries) A few days later they saw a male bear but he charged them so no picture but plenty of excitement getting out of the way!

Steve has a unique blend of artistic mastery with the thrill of the photographic hunt. If you'd like to see more of his work you can....[stev Cannonphoto.com](http://stev Cannonphoto.com)

Scribe, Wendi Wilson

## Upcoming Events

Board Meeting - July 26

Trail Clean-Up - August 16 at 11:45 am

NW Rotary Golf Tournament - August 29

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

**Tim Olejniczak**

[timolejniczak7@gmail.com](mailto:timolejniczak7@gmail.com)

## Future Information

Ed Arnold - Program Chair



	Greeter	Invocation	Sergeant	Scribe
Aug 2	Mark McAndrews	Tony Hunt	Bob Moore	Bill D. Corwin
Aug 9	Julia Taylor	Joe Kobes	Jack Bell	Bill Grask
Aug 16	Wendi Wilson	Mark McAndrews	Dan Boes	Tony Hunt
<i>Can't complete your assigned duty?</i> Please assist Tim Olejniczak by finding your substitute!				

