



Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

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

Prez Sez

Kelly Peterson

What a difference a week makes! Cooler temps made our time cleaning the trail tolerable. The mighty force of four - Both Bill Corwin Sr. and Jr., Jack Bell and myself - made short work of cleaning our adopted trail. I will say that the most collected items were from people's bad habits (food, drinks and other vices...). The social afterwards was a gathering of the Presidents, Bill, myself and our "dates" for the event. Good conversation and fellowship was had by all. I know it was a busy weekend with the fair - thanks to those helping the WDM United Methodist booth which will benefit Rotary. I also know some were away at the last of summer get-away trips before we head into Fall. I have always hated the fact that by this time of year some stores have Halloween decorations and candy out and one store has



started with Christmas already! Certainly not fair, my "summer" does not start until camp is over which this year is August 19th. The first day of fall isn't until September 22nd, so just slow your roll and let me enjoy my summer. Planning a little get-away to Harper's Ferry, IA (my first road trip since I've moved here) and looking forward to exploring a little of the state I now call home.



As we prepared for Governor Steve Wieneke and his wife Brenda's visit, he asked for us to prepare some questions and was interested in the "branding" of Rotary through service projects in the area. Although our sign is still in process on the trail, that will be a daily reminder that Rotary is serving the community throughout the year. For our clean-up on Saturday, we put up the Rotary tent so those passing by would know who was caring for the trail. I am told there are trail markers from a past project, we put stickers in the books we distribute and cards in the coats that deserving school children receive. All are reminders of the good we do, especially for the children within the community (our trail just happens to be in front of a school). Even in my job, I am reminded of the impact Rotary service projects has on our community. Every week, the Rotary Rosie Reader Van came to my day camp program at Pioneer Community Center and provided books and literacy activities for our campers. It's crucial for children to not to experience the "summer slide" in literacy skills.



I also look forward to exploring a cooperative project with other service clubs in our area because I agree, we can be better together.

The Rotary year is young and I encourage each of you to find a way to engage in the service projects of this Club. That each of us look how best to put "service above self."

Yours in Service,
Kelly

August 19, 2022

This Week's Program:

Steve Wieneke

District Governor

Arranged By:

Kelly Peterson

Greeter:

Mark McAndrews

Invocation:

Donna Larson

Sergeant:

Jake Heston

Scribe:

Shannon Heinen

2022-23 Officers & Directors

Kelly Peterson, President

Jack Bell, President Elect

Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer

Dianne Downing, Secretary

Ed Arnold, Board Member

Eric Idehen, Board Member

Donna Larson, Board Member

Tim Olejniczak, Board Member

Kyle Pieper, Board Member

Larry Sample, Board Member

Bill D. Corwin, Past President

Future Programs

8/26: Aline Costa
Vote Smart

9/2: TBA

Upcoming Events

Annual Golf Tournament
Friday, September 16, 2022
Urbandale Golf & Country Club

**Iowa Wolves Polio Plus
Basketball Night**
Saturday, February 4, 2023
@ 7:00 PM

Birthdays

August 11 **Bill D. Corwin**

August 12 **Julia Taylor**



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

**Jenifer Mercer-
Klimowski**

Phone: 515-490-3539
elliottspudmom@yahoo.com

Kimberly Hansen Rebuilding Together

Our speaker, Kimberly Hansen, the Executive Director of Rebuilding Together ("RT"), led off her presentation by reminding the Club that "...there is always a story behind the door." RT is a mainly volunteer organization that rehabilitates homes of veterans, older adults, individuals with disabilities and lower-income families with dependent children. RT has its origins in Midland, Texas and began in 1995 as "Christmas in April." While there are 165 chapters throughout the US, RT Des Moines is its own 501(c)3 and raises funds locally to help carry out the mission.

Volunteers, many – but not all - with professional certifications and backgrounds in carpentry, electricity, HVAC and general construction assist with everything from plumbing issues to broken windows, adaptations to increase the safety, security and independence of the living environment for seniors and improving energy efficiency of homes. Kimberly emphasized that "...we love to help families stay in their homes."

In 1995 RT helped rebuild/repair 3 homes in Iowa; this increased to over 250 homes each year just before COVID, and Kimberly attributed this growth primarily to volunteers (more than 300 per year, many with specific credentials and skill sets, as noted above) and to the generosity of the local community (foundations, corporate and individual giving). She also noted that the need for RT's services will only increase given the trends in the national data for low income and aging populations.

The presentation wound up with Kimberly going through a list of ways we can all be involved, including volunteering for a rebuilding day – both as a general volunteer and as a skilled volunteer - making referrals for individuals who may qualify for assistance and/or making a tax-deductible donation. There were plenty of questions, as normal, and Kimberly stayed after the meeting officially ended and continued to chat with us.

Jack Bell, Scribe

Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

Greeter

Invocation

Sergeant

Scribe

Aug 26:	Jenifer M-K	Larry Sample	Brad Helgemo	Eric Idehen
Sep 2:	Bob Moore	Doyle Sanders	Bill Grask	Ntwari Gakunzi
Sep 9:	Bill D. Corwin	Julia Taylor	Tim Olejniczak	Marv Johnson

Can't complete your assigned duty? Please assist Kelly Peterson by finding your substitute!