



Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

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

August 31, 2018

This Week's Program:

Aaron Putze
Iowa Soybean Association

Arranged By:

Beth Goedken

Greeter:

TBA

Invocation:

Brad Helgemo

Sergeant:

Wendi Wilson

Scribe:

Bill Grask

2018-19 Officers & Directors

Penny Luthens, President
Beth Goedken, President Elect
Bill W. Corwin, Treasurer
Dianne D-Nelson, Secretary
Wendi Wilson, Int' Service
Bill D. Corwin, Membership
Brenda AM, Youth Services
Kasey Vogel, Public Image
Ed Arnold, Club Svs & Programs
Leray Glendenning, Past President

Future Programs

9/7: Club Meeting

9/14: Mark Kuhn
Tennis Anyone

9/21: Golf Tournament

9/28: Andrea Hansen
Iowa Public Radio

Prez Sez

Penny Luthens



Thanks to all who showed up for the District Governor's visit. What a wonderful turnout we had and what a great presentation Tom and Carol gave to our Club! During the Board meeting, prior to our Club meeting on Friday, we discussed a number of initiatives that we will be lifting up in service this year. If you are reading this today, you are well aware of those areas of focus because I have highlighted them through the Prez Sez weekly newsletters.

One thought-provoking question that Tom asked during our Board meeting was what, as President, keeps me up at night when thinking about Rotary. This was a tough question to answer because we have such an active club with many members that are willing to step up and help out when asked. It was much easier for me to answer the question, what does not keep me up at night. Several of those things are our Foundation commitment, our accounting, and our service projects in the community. These are all key areas with devoted members who own their responsibilities and treat their commitment to Rotary in a way that I admire.

I did take some time this weekend to ponder what indeed does keep me up at night. In all honesty, it is the thought of me letting you Club members down. I bring this up, because the only sure-fire way I will not is if every one of you finds me approachable and are able to be as transparent with me about whatever you might have a concern or idea about. Please consider my note this week as an open invitation to express your concerns with me about what you want to do within the Club or what you need back from the Club. In yoga, I have a saying, "meet the student where they are, rather than where you think they are." I think that this can be particularly true in Rotary as well. We have hills and valleys of what our life service looks like. There are times that we have the capability to give more and there are times when we need to pass the torch, if only for a month or two.

Whatever you are able and willing to give to our Club is enough. Together we can make a difference.

Scribbles...

Tom Narak - District Governor

What could be better than District Governor Tom Narak presenting at your meeting? District Governor Tom Narak and his wife, Carol presenting as a team at your meeting. Last Friday we were pleased to welcome Tom and Carol as our guests, and to hear their thoughts on the present and future priorities for Rotary. Their "tag-team" presentation was engaging and gave a practical example of the cooperation and teamwork that marks their relationship and their service.

Tom began by carrying a message from Rotary International president Barry Rassin regarding



what he sees as current challenges and opportunities for Rotary as an organization. The first area of focus is sustainability for Rotary. With 1.2 million members, the organization has started to plateau, and as Barry said, existing members "will not be around forever." Members should be looking around for people who want to serve – to make the world a better place. Clubs can also promote Rotoract club involvement. Twenty-seven percent of clubs have Rotoract clubs. While traditionally thought of as a service

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Other Locations

Monday

West Polk County, Toyota of Des Moines, (Noon)

Tuesday

Ankeny, Ankeny Golf & Country Club, (11:45)

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, Prairie Meadows, (7:00 am)

Adel, Patrick's Restaurant, 211 S 7th St, #C, (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, Wakonda Club, (Noon)

Winterset, Pizza Ranch, (Noon)

Friday

Des Moines, AM, Wakonda Club at 3915 Fleur Dr. (7:00 am)

Upcoming Events

50-year Anniversary Celebration

founding of the NW Des Moines Rotary Club.

Thursday, October 11, at Hyperion Country Club.

Desert and coffee will be included!

Jolly Holiday Lights

Santa's Wish Shop, Monday, November 26. Details to follow.

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@emcnl.com

This & That

Trivia Question!

Rotarians: Last week we discussed the path to membership for women and the Supreme Court decision that ultimately allowed women to participate in the good work Rotary does. This week the question is a little more current. What are the three areas of emphasis for District 6000 this year? Email penny.luthens@dmymca.org to get an extra raffle ticket at our next meeting!



Giggles



"Kari won't let go of summer, and I end up with sand in my keyboard!"

Birthdays



Aug 26 Jim Lipscomb

Aug 27 Bill Grask

Future Information



Beth Goedken - Program Chair

<u>Program</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Invocation</u>	<u>Sergeant</u>	<u>Scribe</u>
Sept 7 - Club Meeting	Dianne D-Nelson	Doyle Sanders	Pat Arthur	Wyatt Earp
Sep 14 - Tennis Anyone	Jenifer M-K	Bill D. Corwin	Larry Sample	Beth Goedken
Sep 21 - Golf Tournament	Bob Moore	David Crandall	Laura Holmes	Jim Arthur

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



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Scribe Continued...

opportunity for college or university students, Tom pointed out that a community Rotoract club can be more inclusive, while still providing an opportunity to create change for the better without the expense of membership.

Of course, this also provides ample opportunity to consider Rotary membership, possibly as a future commitment.

Tom also mentioned the need to remain concerned with the sustainability of Earth, itself. Rotarians should be good caretakers of the planet.

Tom then shared Barry's emphasis on the need to keep up with new ways of communication and information sharing, like social networking. Tom's advice was, "If you don't know what you're doing, get help from a kid." Young people who use the technology daily are a great resource for some of us who might be stretching a bit more to use it.

Above all, of course, is to keep looking for ways to help make the world a better place.

Carol took her turn at the microphone next, beginning with a bit of biographical background. Her life and work experience, including work as a teacher and as a librarian, have shaped and been an outlet for the things she cares deeply about, and that she would talk more about later, children and literacy. Then Tom took his turn and shared some of his story, emphasizing the fact that he and his wife have always functioned as a team, including in his career and in their work with Rotary. Tom was also a teacher, as well as a principal and a superintendent in various school districts before becoming a lobbyist for School Administrators of Iowa.

Carol took the podium again to introduce three areas of focus: literacy, preventing child abuse, and polio eradication. The first two are a community-based emphasis, while polio eradication will remain an international project. Our Club leadership has been provided with information and ideas for both literacy and child abuse prevention activities. We are partnering with Preventing Child Abuse Iowa on the issue of child abuse prevention, and Carol reminded us that April is "Prevent Child Abuse Month," and might be a good time to address this emphasis, particularly. She also reminded us that child abuse and literacy problems often go hand in hand, and addressing one can help change the other.

Tom gave some practical suggestions and details after that, recognizing that Northwest Rotary is already involved in literacy projects and encouraging us to continue, and noting that immigration has brought many people into our community who we have an opportunity to help in this way.

Preventing child abuse can start with inviting speakers who will educate the Club about the issue and specific ways to help. We can all be the eyes and ears of our community, and if we see or hear something that doesn't seem right, we should speak up. If you don't know who to call, Tom suggested calling local school administrators for help. Your state tax form also includes a check-box to donate money to the Prevent Child Abuse Iowa fund, and this is an easy way to make a difference. Noting that financial stresses on families are a factor in abuse, Tom mentioned service opportunities like diaper drives and help for food banks as two simple ideas that will have an impact.



DG Tom presenting Mark McAndrews with his RI Major Donor, Level 1 award.



DG Tom with Mark McAndrews, and NW Rotary Foundation chair Doyle Sanders with Mark's Major Donor Award.



DG spouse Carol, President Penny, and DG Tom with the "Hospitality gift" recognizing the District Governor's visit.

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Scribe Continued...

When it comes to the drive to end polio, remember that October 24 is World Polio Day – a great day to focus our efforts and events. There is also the Ride to End Polio event coming up, and we should be getting information in November about this. Don't forget the Iowa Wolves event, and of course, the Rotary Foundation is a safe and responsible way to have a great impact on these and other issues.

After reminding the Club of upcoming events including the Rotary Leadership Institute, the District Conference in May, the International Conference with events livestreamed and plans for a District Video, Tom concluded with an inspirational story about a boy named Angel. Angel's family came to see the visiting Rotary group because their little boy needed eye surgery or he would go blind, and his family could not afford it. After promising the family that they would get the help they needed, Tom spoke with his group of mostly High School and College students and before the end of that night, over half the total cost of the surgery had been raised. This was a beautiful reminder of the kind of heart that drives the Rotarian, and the kind of difference that we can make as part of Rotary.

Greg Hartley, Scribe

***Warmest Thanks to
District Governor
Tom Narak & his
wife Carol for
joining our group!***

Tip of the Day

Are You Ready for Fall?

Here are just a few tasks to get your home clean, warm and ready for the cool days to come.

Fix cracks in concrete and asphalt

Depending on where you live, these may be the last weeks this year when it will be warm and sunny enough to repair driveway and sidewalk cracks.

Turn off outdoor plumbing

Drain outdoor faucets and sprinkler systems, and cover them to protect them from the freezing weather to come.

Clean outdoor furniture and gardening tools

It may not yet be time to put them away, but go ahead and clean your outdoor furniture and gardening tools so they're ready for storage over the winter.

Plant bulbs for spring-blooming flowers

Plant bulbs in October, as soon as the soil has cooled down, to reap big rewards next spring. If you've never planted bulbs before, select a spot in your yard that gets full sun during the day.

Keep the warm air inside and the cold air outside

Inspect your windows and doors. Check weatherstripping by opening a door, placing a piece of paper in the entryway and closing the door. The paper should not slide back and forth easily. If it does, the weather stripping isn't doing its job.

