



# Nor'Wester

Rotary Club of Northwest Des Moines

[www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines](http://www.clubrunner.ca/northwestdesmoines) / Fridays @ Noon - UGCC 4000-86th St. Urbandale

## Prez Sez

Jack Bell

It was on a warm August morning last year when I found myself waiting at a gate in the Madrid (Spain, not Iowa) airport, with my gaze focused on a young woman wearing a blue blazer and clutching a parka. For obvious reasons I looked a bit closer and then, for even more obvious reasons I decided to introduce myself. She was decked out in Rotary attire, including buttons, pins, and her shirt and blazer and seemed pleased to meet me. At first, because it was a bit difficult to follow her discussion, I thought that maybe it was her English, but then realized it was her excitement...she was headed to Wisconsin to spend her junior year in high school. That reason for the parka became clear. After a short discussion we both knew that her life was about to change, all because of Rotary.

A few months later I was at PETs in Newton and heard Taylor Sung and Greg Probst present the Rotary Youth Exchange Program in District 6000 and, after a discussion with Rick Stammer of the DSM AM club, decided to sign up as a host parent (this was after disclosing to Rick that my culinary skills consist of peeling bananas and opening cans of La Croix).

After some Facetimes and emails over the summer I finally met our student, Juan Toledano-Roman, last Sunday evening in the Des Moines airport. Juan was born and raised in Vigo, Spain, which is in the far northwestern section of the country, in the autonomous region of Galicia, not far from Santiago de Compostela, the ultimate destination of El Camino.

Juan's older brother Yago just spent his junior year on a Rotary Youth Exchange in Cincinnati and enjoyed it so much that it motivated Juan to sign up. Juan just spent his first few days as a junior at Roosevelt, has already attended a high school (American) football game and his first soccer practice is on Monday. He is interested in architecture, enjoys math and is excited to join the soccer and basketball teams at school. In addition to being inspired by his brother's experience, he's looking to make friends, learn about another culture – he's already discovered that I eat dinner a bit earlier than 11 pm – and, in accord with our Fifth pillar of the Four Way Test, have fun. Juan will visit our club soon!

Thank you for Creating Hope in the World,

Jack

## Scribbles...

### Emily Easton - Four Oaks Family Connection

Emily Easton provided an informative program about recruiting and retaining stable, nurturing, and diverse foster and adoptive parents to provide safe home for children, keeping them from further trauma and assisting their transformation to permanency. Four Oaks covers the Eastern two thirds of Iowa, helping to connect foster and adoptive parents with the training and licensing services and support to assist on fostering and adoption journeys. Four Oaks also provides Community-based services to allow children to remain safely in their home, preventing the need for follow up treatment and puts at risk children and families back on the track to success. There are more than 1,000 foster parents in the Polk County area, and more are needed. Four Oaks works closely with the Department of Human Services to provide safe temporary and permanent homes for children. They also provide proactive services for



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September 8, 2023

*This Week's Program:*

**Ryan Arnold**  
Drake University

Arranged By:

Jack Bell

Greeter:

Dan Boes

Invocation:

Julia Taylor

Sergeant:

Joe Kobes

Scribe:

Jake Heston



### 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

Kyle Pieper, Board Member

Kelly Peterson, Past President



### Future Programs

**9/15:** Leo Landis  
Iowa's Emancipation Events

**9/22:** Leo Landis  
Iowa's Emancipation Events

**9/29:** No Meeting  
Golf Outing

## 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)  
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)

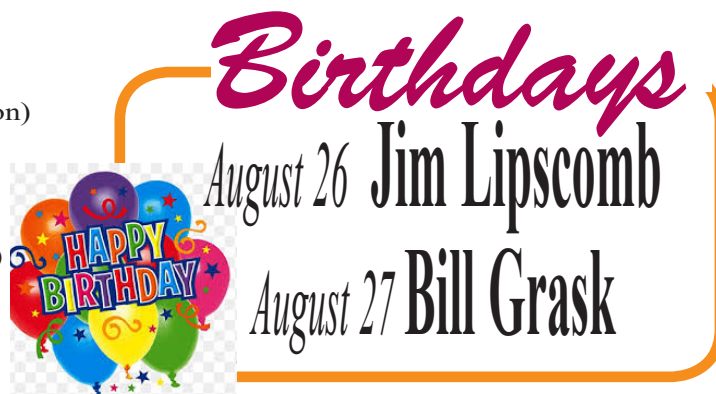
### Friday

Des Moines, AM, Downtown Holiday Inn – Mercy, (7:00 am)

## Scribe Continued...

parents and children to alleviate potential future problems. Emily stressed the need for additional foster parents and from personal experience, reassured prospective parents that Four Oaks could and would provide the necessary resources to protect vulnerable children in Iowa. More information is available at [www.Four-oaks.org](http://www.Four-oaks.org)

Ed Arnold, Scribe



Items for the Nor'Wester should be submitted  
by end of the day each Monday. Please send to:  
**Jack Bell**  
[jackbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jackbell@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

**Trail Cleanup**  
Sunday, September 17

**Annual Rotary Golf Outing**  
(no formal club meeting)  
Friday, September 29

**Urbandale Uplift Project**  
Thursday, October 12

## Future Information



Ed Arnold - Program Chair

	Greeter	Invocation	Sergeant	Scribe
Sep 15	Bill D. Corwin	Wendi Wilson	Donna Larson	Tony Hunt
Sep 22	Leray Glendenning	Kelly Peterson	Mark McAndrews	Marv Johnson
Sep 29	Bill Grask	Dan Boes	Bob Moore	Joe Kobes
Can't complete your assigned duty? Please assist Jack Bell by finding your substitute!				

