



Nor'Wester

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

September 27, 2024

This Week's Program:

TBA

Arranged By:

Ed Arnold

Greeter:

Bill Grask

Invocation:

Jack Bell

Sergeant:

Wendi Wilson

Scribe:

Julia Taylor

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

10/11: Emily Roeder
Hoyt Sherman Place

10/18: Tour Waterworks
Park

Prez Sez

Tim Olejniczak

Hope everyone had a great weekend! Crazy to think that October is here! I am not sure if anyone else is in the same situation but I am sure at some point this month I will be getting taken to the pumpkin patch so that we can have our front door look festive for about 4-6 weeks before having to start prepping for Christmas decorations which is crazy to think, but will be here before we know it!



Last Thursday I attended what is called the Ted Jones Summit. It is a once a year meeting for all the Edward Jones advisors in the Des Moines area, and this year we had it at the Botanical Gardens. What stuck out the most to me on that day was the speaker that they brought in to talk to us. His name was Craig McFarlane and he is a blind man with an absolutely incredible story and mindset. His speech to us was about "Finding your Flame" and he has also written a book about it as well. I plan on buying his book after hearing his speech and would at least recommend looking him and his story up online. Anyways, he had a couple different messages in his speech to us. First, was obviously "Finding your Flame" and in that what are we passionate about, what gets us up in the morning, but also when we are feeling down or like we can't do something how do we reignite that flame. The part of his story and I admire was that because of his blindness he could've easily used that as an excuse and not done anything with his life, but instead he didn't let that be a set back for him. He has done so much with his life instead from wrestling, to down slope skiing, to meeting high up athletes and celebrities, created music and no does motivational speaking. It just amazed me at how much he has done with his life while being blind. It truly was a wakeup call to me and gave me a spark in both my personal and business life as to what my flame is and why I do what I do, but also what I still want to accomplish in life.

So, why do I share that story or how can that apply to Rotary? It's because at times I think we need to re find our flame even as Rotarians, and remember what lead us to join Rotary. Then, I am sure we all know someone that has that same passion for helping others out or has that same passions as you. Let's try to reach out to some of those people we know in our lives that have the same passions as us and invite them to join and do good for others with us. So whether it's in Rotary, Life, Work, Ect. My challenge to everyone this week is to find your flame!

Scribbles...

Matt Hill - Boy Scouts

Matt Hill, CEO of the Mid-Iowa Boy Scout Council, is originally from Arkansas & East Texas. He is an Eagle Scout who spent his early years in scouting. After college, he took a position in scouting in Alaska. Since then, he has been Director of Scouting in the Pacific headquartered in Hawaii and has served in Wisconsin, Kansas City, and now 6 years in Des Moines. The Mid-Iowa Council serves 27 counties in Iowa.

He discussed the struggles that scouting has gone through & recent scouting successes.

In 2019, he first heard about limited cases of child abuse nationally. It was not presented as being a big deal. No funding comes from national. Instead the local offices fund the national office by paying dues. National thought that they could handle the situation, but it ballooned



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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, Community State Bank, (Noon)
 West Des Moines, DM Golf & CC, (Noon)

Wednesday

East Polk County, Lutheran Church of the Cross (7:00 am)
 Adel, Adel Public Library, 303 S. 10th St. (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)

Upcoming Events

Tour of Waterworks Park - October 18th

Magic of Giving Gala - November 15th

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

Tim Olejniczak

timolejniczak7@gmail.com

Scribe Continued...

to the point that the national organization was being threatened and Matt actually became worried about his own personal well-being. National needed more money than it had and assessed local Councils based on a formula. Mid-Iowa's assessment was \$2.5 million. The Council decided to pay their assessment from their endowment fund which they were lucky to have. The final resolution was to give it protection from suits for events occurring before 2021.

During the pandemic participation dropped from 10,000 to 5,000. But since then, they have worked to build back 4.5% per year.

The Mitigwa Scout Reservation is their camping headquarters. The derecho downed 2,000 trees making the camp nearly inaccessible. Through Matt's leadership they raised \$1.2m to recover and rebuild. It was the only camp in the nation open during the pandemic.

This year and this fall, the tide seems to be turning. Critical areas of the state are deciding that they need scouting, especially certain rural areas and the city of Des Moines through the school system.

Since 2019, girls are allowed to join scouting - be members - be eagle scouts - participating in every way. They allowed girls because time is such an issue. It is much easier for families if they can make one stop. They still have mostly gender segregated troops.

They have a new national leader, and have rebranded the organization to Scouting America.

As to the future on the local level, they have rebuilt the camp and have 7 (soon to be 8) new storm shelters to withstand an F5 tornado. The entire camp can be in the shelters in 5 minutes. They have rebuilt the shooting sports area and have fixed the 1952 pool.

Leaders are roughly 50-50 men to women and are vetted with applications and criminal background checks. They take youth protection training and are not allowed to be alone with only one child.

Doyle Sanders, Scribe

Future Information

Ed Arnold - Program Chair



	Greeter	Invocation	Sergeant	Scribe
Oct 11	Tony Hunt	Dan Boes	Bill D. Corwin	Kelly Peterson
Oct 18	Joe Kobes	Dianne Downing	Leray Glendenning	Doyle Sanders
Oct 25	Mark McAndrews	Bill Grask	Tony Hunt	Julia Taylor
<i>Can't complete your assigned duty?</i> Please assist Tim Olejniczak by finding your substitute!				

