



# 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*

I've often referred to Rotary as my "portal to service" when giving my elevator-pitch/question-generator. I can't even begin to think of how many people and organizations I've met and issues I've learned about through Rotary.

A recent example of "the portal" was at an Urbandale Chamber meeting - which I became aware of through Rotary. I met Jason Parkin, who I understand is a weatherman for a local station, who spoke to me about Avenue Scholars (AS). AS is based in Omaha and has been operating here in Des Moines for less than two years. Essentially, it is an organization that supports eligible students in the classroom by helping them prepare for their next steps - whether it be further study or straight into the workforce - and also provides life-guidance and support that augments what the student already receives. AS has its own classroom period and meets like a normal class, but from my experience it is anything but normal.

I've sat in on 5 classes now, held at East, North and Roosevelt, and have watched the students create a podcast on a specific career of their choice and learn and discuss topics associated with personal wellness. I've also stayed after class a bit and listened to the teachers talk in more detail about how they can spend more time, one-on-one, with the students given their classroom sizes.

I'm yet not certain of how I might be able to assist in the classrooms but that will come.

Yet another example of how Rotary, in addition to all the service performed by members, also serves as a conduit to many other avenues in the community.

This is the last newsletter before the holidays and the New Year, so best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Rotary Creates Hope, Jack

## Scribbles...

### *Food Pantry Grantees*

We had four visitors this week to speak about the foundations that we support for "service above self."

#### **Salvation Army- Tamara Harrison**

She thanked us for ringing the bell this year, but said that so far they are only up to 30% of the 1.2 million that they raise each year. They have a Christmas toy shop every year that 855 families have signed up for this year. They are looking for volunteers on December 18 and 19th. The money that they raise helps pay for things like meals and Christmas shopping for families in need. The phone number to call if you would like to volunteer is 515-282-3599.

#### **DMARC-Leslie Kisting**

She made sure that we all need to know that anyone can make a difference. They are nonprofit has been around for 70 years. They require \$6 million an operation cost. The goal of DMARC is to fill in the gap. There are 14 area pantries, Food truck, and provide for other pantries around the area. 2600 people visited DMARC last year. Most people that visit are employed. Ation has created a bigger problem this year. Faith community leaders are involved, but no longer run the program.



**December 15, 2023**

### *This Week's Program:*

**Alex Barker &  
Jori Nieman**

Iowa Wolves

Arranged By:

Ed Arnold

Greeter:

Wendi Wilson

Invocation:

Mark McAndrews

Sergeant:

Bill Grask

Scribe:

Kelly Peterson



### *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

Kelly Peterson, Past President



### *Future Programs*

**12/22:** No Meeting  
Merry Christmas

**12/29:** No Meeting  
Happy New Year

Continued...

## This & That

## Scribe Continued



1,786 lbs

**We Need A New GOAL!**

Clothes Drive  
Goal: 1,000 lbs!

**Upcoming Events**

Christmas Dinner - Wednesday, December 20

**NO MEETING**

December 22nd & December 29th

President Elect Orientation

District Annual Meeting - February 17, 2024

**Happy Holidays**

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

**Jack Bell**

jackbell@yahoo.com

### Urbandale Food Pantry-Party Kisting

The Urbandale food pantry provides for 82 different ZIP Codes and they need more space to hold all of their supplies. There are more than 2100 families and it averages around \$1600 a month to keep everything going. Most families only visit 3 to 4 times a year on average. Normally families visit due to a life event. There are 630 seniors on average per month but during the month of November, there were 820 seniors. Food rescue has been some that they have started utilizing. That is when they go and take food from restaurants and stores and re-utilize the food to feed the hungry. The food pantry just had their 15 year anniversary and was small business of the year

### Clive Community Services-Annabelle White

36 families came in just one month. They provide food, a clinic, and clothing. They have been serving the community since 2016. They are not affiliated with the city of Clive. They need more volunteers for the medical clinic mainly for school physicals. Their goal this year is to keep the volunteers and receive more donations. One of their bigger services is also providing English classes..

Our rotary club donated \$750 to each business that spoke today that serves our community.

Scribe, Wendy Kriegshauser



## Future Information



**Ed Arnold - Program Chair**

**Greeter**

**Invocation**

**Sergeant**

**Scribe**

**Dec 22**

No Meeting

No Meeting

No Meeting

No Meeting

**Dec 29**

No Meeting

No Meeting

No Meeting

No Meeting

**Jan 5**

Wendy Kriegshauser

Bob Moore

Jake Heston

Dan Boes

*Can't complete your assigned duty? Please assist Jack Bell by finding your substitute!*



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**