



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 92—No. 7

Aug. 13, 2013

Dirac Moorhead Rotary
Chartered May 1, 1921
Club 970
District 5580

President Warren Wenner
President-elect Jon Benson
Secretary Vern Goodin
Treasurer Don Meidinger
President-Nominee
Past President Kay Parries

Director, 2013, Rotary Foundation Gary Nolte
Director, 2014, Administration Russ Hanson
Director 2014, Community Service Dave Wahlberg
Director, 2014, New Generation Eric Wilkie
Director, 2015, Club Service Jill Baldwin
Director, 2015, International Service Eric Johnson
Program Chair Russ Hanson

Photographer Russ Hanson
Meeting Reporter Teresa Joppa
Paddlewheel Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

The Moorhead Rotary board of directors meets the second Wednesday of each month.



International President Ron Burton, Norman OK
District 5580 Governor David Smette, Jamestown
District Governor-Elect Tim Kaminski, Hibbing
District Governor-Nominee Craig Loughery, Ely

Other F-M Rotary Clubs

Monday: Fargo West
Noon, Holiday Inn
1st & 3rd Tuesdays: FM/AM
5:15 p.m., Lucky 13 Pub
Wednesday: Fargo
Noon, Radisson
Thursday: FM/AM
7 a.m., Ramada Plaza

If you attend meetings of any of these clubs, just check in. We have a reciprocal agreement.

Moorhead Rotary
P.O. Box 72
Moorhead, MN 56561



Aug. 13 Rotarian Newzad Brifki shares story of his coming to America as a Kurdish refugee

Kay Parries filled in for vacationing president Warren Wenner on Tuesday, welcoming Rotarians and two prospective members brought to the meeting by Eric Wilkie and Nick Tunheim. She announced that the monthly board meeting originally scheduled for the next day will be held Aug. 21.

Gary Nolte reported that Monday's Rotary golf tournament was a great success.

Teresa reminds club of 'membership month'

Sergeant at Arms Teresa Joppa reminded members that August is Rotary International's Membership Month.

She quoted District President Dave Smette, who writes: "Rotary is about Services. Without active, engaged members, we cannot provide all of the serve that Rotary is capable of in this world. There are new members in your communities, but they must be asked! That is up to each and every Rotarian to actively seek out new members."

His goal is that district clubs show a net gain of at least 66 members. "If each club pushes for at least two new members net, we should be able to attain our goal," he concludes.

Bikers to ride to benefit Miracle Field

Teresa discussed the FM Rotary Miracle Field's Rotary Ride, a distance biking event Sept. 21



Kay Parries presided on Tuesday. Sergeant at Arms Teresa Joppa. Rotarian of the Day Tim Beaton introduces Newzad Brifki's program.

co-sponsored by all five local clubs. Riders can choose between two routes of 11 or 43 miles. The whole family is invited to participate. Following their return, a bike rodeo will be held to help educate children in proper bicycle safety.

Entry fees — \$10 for the shorter and \$20 for the longer ride — benefit the Miracle Field. For more information and to register, call chair Marc Vein, 701-212-5224, or go to www.FMMiracleField.org.

District's Rotary Goodwill Weekend in DL

The 88th annual Rotary Goodwill Weekend for District 5580 is scheduled Sept. 13-14 in Detroit Lakes. The agenda includes golfing and other fun Friday, with a workshop titled "Nonviolent Peace Force" on Saturday. A banquet that night tops off the weekend.

The event is at the Holiday Inn. You can register online: <http://tinyurl.com/Goodwill2013>.

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Guests

Austen Schauer, Park Christian School (guest of Nick Tunheim)
Jeff Conant, Oak Grove Lutheran School (guest of Eric Wilkie)

Make-Ups

Gary & Cindy Nolte, Governor's meetings in Grand Rapids, MN, 8/9-10



(Photo, left) Bill Schwandt leads the club in "America the Beautiful." (Center) Roland Barden watches as Newzad signs the book "Peace" for the Moorhead Children's Library. (Right) Guest Austen Schauer with Newzad.

Newzad recounts his journey to America

Rotarian of the Day Tim Beaton reintroduced our member Newzad Brifki as the day's speaker. Born in Kurdistan, Newzad came to the United States as a child in 1992.

Like many thousand Kurdish families, the Brifkis were forced to flee after the Iraqis attacked with chemical weapons. It was the climax of a long internal conflict between Iraq and the Kurdish people who live in its mountainous northern territory, as well as adjacent areas of Turkey, Iran and Syria.

The youngest of five children, he walked with his widowed mother and siblings for three or four days to reach the Turkish border ... where they were turned away. After the U.S. pressured Turkey to admit the fleeing Kurds, they were housed in refugee camps with scant food, water or other amenities. They lived for four years in unheated tents in a climate similar to ours.

He described the culture shock of coming to Fargo-Moorhead, facing a new language, blocks of homes and bustling traffic. He had been in an automobile only once before his arrival. Yet it was a safe haven for the family. Two Lutheran host families taught him, took him places, bought him shoes and provided school supplies.

"I appreciate all the opportunities I have been given," he says. He worked at Smokey's in West Fargo as a teenager, graduating from high school and then Minnesota State University, where he's now completing a master's degree in business administration.

He is the founder of Kurdish Community in America, a national organization created to help others who've experienced the same challenges. And now he is running for a seat on the Moorhead City Council.

Raffle pot rises to \$307, keeps growing

Jeff Conant's lucky raffle ticket was in vain ... winner once again of the club's weekly raffle!

August Birthdays

Cater, Alma Aug 1
Lanning, Morris Aug 27

Wedding Anniversaries

Nolte, Gary & Cindy 44 years Aug 1, 1969
Baldwin, Jill & Jerry 44 years Aug 2, 1969
Skatvold, Paul & Linda 40 years Aug 03, 1973
Leiseth, Robert & Marilyn 56 years Aug 04, 1957
Moorhead, Tracey & Richard 49 years Aug 14, 1964
Beaton, Tim & Joan 2 years Aug 17, 2011
Myrvik, Donald & Rhoda 56 years Aug 17, 1957
Johnson, Eric & Kirsten 1 year Aug 21, 2012
Riewer, Jon & Kristine 17 years Aug 24, 1996
Schwandt, Bill & Cheryl 32 years Aug 29, 1981

Club Anniversaries

Skatvold, Paul 25 years Aug 2, 1988
Hannig, Jean 17 years Aug 6, 1996
Blackhurst, Anne 1 years Aug 14, 2012
Nolte, Cindy 13 years Aug 15, 2000
Fischer, Noah 1 year Aug 28, 2012
Hutchins, Scott 30 years Aug 30, 1983

Looking Forward ... to Upcoming Rotary Meetings

Aug. 20 Sergeant at Arms Dave Sederquist
RDO Gary Nolte
Program Keith Brokke, "Rotary – Manoa, Working Together in Bolivia"
Greeters Hagemann & Moore

Aug. 26 Sergeant at Arms Gina Monson
RDO Warren Wenner
Program Rotary Training Program
Greeters Hanna & Myrvik

Sept. 3 Sergeant at Arms Russ Hanson
RDO Mark Peihl, Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County
Program Hannig & C. Nolte
Greeters