



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 100—Number 14

April 14, 2020

New Members 2019-2020

Zach Heuring
Josh Jaster
Megan Wiesneski
Dylan Connell

Moorhead Rotary Club 970 District 5580

President Steve Schaefer
President-Elect Jerry Rogers
President Nominee 2021-2022 Gina Monson
Treasurer Emily Gess
Secretary Teresa Joppa
Past President John Andreasen

Directors (2020)
Gina Monson, Pat Gulbranson and
Greg Johnson

Directors (2021)
Dave Sederquist, Kevin Heazlett and
Tracey Moorhead

Directors (2022)
Tammy Finney and Steve Astrup
RYLA Coordinator Randy Farwell
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Sergeant at Arms Team
Dave Sederquist, Eric Johnson
& Jean Hannig

Pianist Sharon Fangsrud
Song Leaders Bill Schwandt,
Bob Hanna
Photographer Russ Hanson
Paddlewheel Editor
Nancy Edmonds Hanson

Rotary Exchange Student
Frida Lehtonen, Finland

Meetings are held at 11:50 a.m. every
Tuesday in Birkeland Lounge at
Concordia College's Memorial
Auditorium.

Other F-M Rotary Meetings

Monday: FM/PM Rotary
5:30 p.m., Lucky 13 Pub
Monday: Fargo West Rotary
Noon, Holiday Inn
Wednesday: Fargo Rotary
Noon, Radisson
Thursday: FM/AM Rotary
7 a.m., Ramada Plaza



Coming Up on Zoom

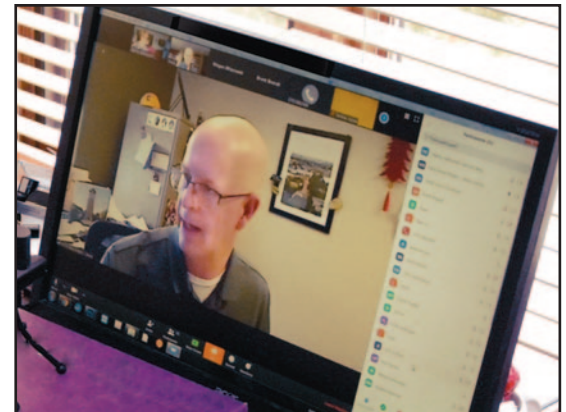
Moorhead Rotarians will learn more about Moorhead's Inspire Innovation Lab from founder and director Carrie Leopold at this week's meeting ... held online via Zoom. Eric Wilkie serves as our virtual sergeant at arms. To join this and all of the club's meetings through May, click the link in the Paddlewheel email. The same link can be used every week.

Exchange student Frida Lehtonen reports on her year in Moorhead

Moorhead Rotary made history April 7 with its first-ever "virtual meeting." After missing several weeks due to restrictions on group meetings because of the coronavirus pandemic, the club took to the internet Tuesday. Its vehicle was Zoom, a group meeting application that has become a primary tool for bringing people together from multiple locations. Treasurer Emily Gess set up the online meeting, which allows members to click a URL provided by email to join the interactive session.

President Steve Schaefer noted at the start that 31 members and several guests were aboard — not unlike attendance at a typical meeting. Most were visible through video links, though several also made an audio-only appearance (so to speak) through their cellphones.

President-elect Jerry Rogers shared the slate of



2020-2021 officers, on whom members will vote at a future meeting. They include Gina Monson, president-elect; Dave Sederquist, president-nominee; and new board member Ernie Simmons. Emily Gess will continue as treasurer and Teresa Joppa as secretary; board members continuing to complete terms include Pat Gulbranson, Greg Johnson, Kevin Heazlett, Tracey Moorhead, Tammy Finney and Steve Astrup. Brad Donabauer will fill the remainder of Dave's term.

Rotary taps clubs for COVID-19 relief

John Andreasen reported on Rotary International's request that each club contribute \$1,500 to an international COVID-19 relief fund. He suggested funds be transferred from those raised for the annual Recital with a Cause, which has been cancelled,

Moorhead Rotary

P.O. Box 72

Moorhead, MN 56561

Guests — April 7

Frida Lehtonen, Rotary exchange student — speaker
Dave Monson, husband of Gina
Sylvia Kloster, prospective member
Jordan Nichols, Frida's host sister
Graham Gess, son of Emily

April Birthdays

Woods, William Apr 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Parries, Kay & Dan Apr 08 1989
31 years
Wilkie, Eric & Rebekah Apr 14 2011
9 years
Hanson, Russ & Nancy Apr 19 1975
45 years

Rotary Anniversaries

Sederquist, David 28 years
Apr 01 1992
Fangsrud, Sharon 6 years
Apr 09 2014
Johnson, Gregory 8 years
Apr 10 2012
Matthees, Charles 27 years
sApr 13 1993
Ackerman, Stacey 18 years
Apr 16 2002
Astrup, Steve 2 years
Apr 16 2018
Hetland, Dale 18 years
Apr 16 2002

and that the club raise a matching donation of \$1,500. Those funds, he suggested, could be used for local relief efforts. The proposal will be discussed by the board at its next meeting.

April travel raffle winners announced

Committee member Zach Heuring announced the winners of April's travel raffle drawing — especially good news for two members who supported the raffle themselves. Barb Belcher received the top prize, four days in Santa Barbara, California, and Sharon Fangsrud won \$200 in cash. Dave Sederquist sold the third winning ticket to Brad Larson, who was chosen for the \$100 dining certificate at Rustica.

Sarge Jean shares 'Peep show'

In honor of the upcoming Easter holiday, Sergeant at Arms Jean Hannig shared a slide show focusing on one of the season's most venerable traditions — Peeps marshmallow chicks.

Members chipped in "happy dollars" by offering IOUs to be redeemed when the club next gathers in person. They included Jean herself, for the opportunity to teach online; Barb, whose computer lock-up caused her to miss the moment she won the trip; Jerry, in honor of his colleagues in health care "trying to keep people alive;" Paul Dovre, for the day of sunshine; and Gina Monson for Frida Lehtonen's friendship with her family.

Jean ended with a timely reminder from Ken Keyes: "To be upset with what you don't have is to waste what you do have."

Frida shares highlights of Moorhead year

As her year in Moorhead nears an unorthodox close, Rotary International exchange student Frida Lehtonen reflected on the rewards and challenges of taking a year out of her education to live and learn in the U.S. She was inspired, she

said, by her mother and her aunt, who both traveled abroad as exchange students.

Her home is in Vantaa, a safe and growing community 20 minutes from Helsinki, Finland. She has two older brothers, one of them living in New Zealand. While she is in Moorhead, her family has hosted a Minnesota exchange student in her place.

She says, "Moorhead High was overwhelming." Her school at home has 150 students, including just 40 in her grade. She'll finish the last year after she returns this summer. "I love all the opportunities at Moorhead High," she notes, including sports, choir and art. Schools in Finland focus on academics and lack the extracurriculars she has enjoyed here.

She enjoyed participating in her host families' typical American pastimes. "My first family, the Monsons, introduced me to so many fun new things: baseball, football, Thanksgiving. I loved living in the country," she says. She celebrated Christmas with her second family, the Dauners, and now is joining the Nichols family.

"I love Rotary and all the good they do in the world," she says, adding that she looks forward to our meetings Tuesdays. She also loves the other exchange students whom she's met — "my new friends from all around the world." Jean noted that, while most returned home at the start of the pandemic, Frida chose to remain here for the rest of her year.

"It's been a hard year and not what I expected," she confesses. "But I've had such a good time. I'm so thankful for all the Rotarians and strangers who are now friends.

"It has changed my life. Thank you, all, for making this possible for me." She left us with a quote: Exchange isn't a year in your life. It's a life in a year.

Looking Ahead

April 14 — via Zoom

Sergeant at ArmsEric Wilkie
SpeakerCarrie Leopold
Inspire Innovation Lab

April 21 — via Zoom

Sergeant at ArmsBof Hanna
SpeakerThan Baardson, Unseen (tentative)

April 21 — Recital with a Cause

CANCELLED

April 23-26 — District Conference, Brainerd

CANCELLED

May 5, 19 and 28 — via Zoom

July 28 — F-M Rotary Golf Tournament