



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 39

April 21, 2026

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

President Tim Hiller
President-Elect Chris Andreasen
President Nominee
Treasurer Dave Sederquist
Secretary Alexander Aldrich
Past President Steve Astrup

Directors (2023) Chris Andreasen, Greg Johnson & Steve Schaefer
Directors (2024) Tracey Moorhead, & Ernie Simmons
Directors (2025) Tammy Finney & Jean Hannig
Directors (2026) Nancy Hanson & Tim Hiller
Director (2027) Kay Parries
RYLA Coordinator Jon Riewer
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Paddlewheel Photographer/Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

April Birthday

Woods, William April 30

Wedding Anniversaries

Parries, Kay and Dan 37 years
Apr. 08 1989
Wilkie, Eric and Rebekah 19 years
Apr. 14 2007

Rotary Anniversaries

Sederquist, Dave 34 years
Apr. 01 1992
Matthees, Charles 33 years
Apr. 13 1993
Hetland, Dale 24 years
Apr. 16 2002
Astrup, Steve 8 years
Apr. 16 2018
Leiseth, Janelle 1 year
Apr. 22 2025



Coming Up April 21

Dayna Del Val shares her inspirational talk, "Discover Your Spark," at Tuesday's meeting. Janelle Leiseth is sergeant at arms.

MSUM President Downs details innovations and progress on campus

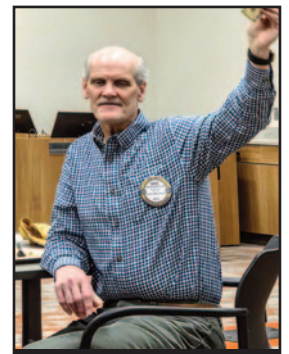
President Tim Hiller welcomed an enthusiastic bunch of Moorhead Rotarians to April 14's meeting, along with four guests: speaker Dr. Tim Downs, prospective member Paul Nelson, Barbara Mathees (Chuck's wife), and former Rotarian and Global Refuge manager Dan Hannaher plus Kendra Hernandez from the group's Baltimore office.

Tom Riley reminded the group that FM AM Rotary is still taking orders for its barbecued rib sale at rotaryribs.com. FM PM Rotary is selling raffle tickets for an e-bike, \$10, while Fargo West is raffling off a Harley-Davidson, with tickets priced at \$100.

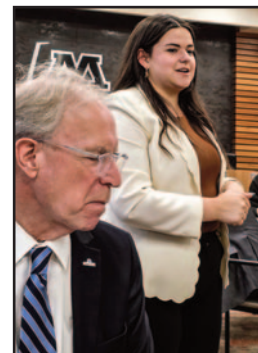
John Andreasen urged members to send in their contributions to the Recital with a Cause for listing in the program. The concert at 7 p.m. April 30 will be preceded by the Foundation Banquet at Sons of Norway; reservations may be made now.

Tim reported that MHS student Molly Grellis will represent the club at this summer's RYLA camp. She's one of 84 from around the district.

Jean Hannig noted that she has prepaid the \$2,500 fee so that our exchange student Ana can go on the Rotary-sponsored trip at the end of the school



Photos/Nancy Hanson: (Top) President Tim Downs of MSUM. Sergeant at Arms Chris Andreasen. (Above) President Tim Hiller. Dave Sederquist. (Below) Guests Dan Hannaher and Kendra Hernandez. Gary and Cindy Nolte. (Bottom) Janelle Leiseth.



Moorhead Rotary

P.O. Box 72



Photos: Nancy Hanson:

(Top right) Jon Benson & Eric Wilkie

(Below) Dale Hetland

Jon Riewer

Violet Deilke



year. Happy dollars, fines and the weekly raffle proceeds are going toward the trip. Jean is hoping for additional donations from other members to help cover the cost.

Sarge Chris hosts ‘Moorhead Jeopardy’

Sergeant at Arms Chris Andreasen introduced the club to a new game based on his curiosity about the name of the school near his home, Ellen Hopkins. Just who was she? Members competed in a contest based on the TV game show, with categories for Moorhead parks and schools. The underdogs came from behind to win.

Dale Hetland was first to answer the call for happy dollars, thanking Tim for announcing the travel raffle winners while he was absent last week. Jon Benson and Jon Riewer added two bucks in honor of the reason for his absence — competing in the national weight-lifting contest. The latter called him the club’s “Clark Kent.” Other donations came from Dave Sederquist, who has a new granddaughter; Jean, who thanked Dr. Downs for coming back after her double-booking a previous program; Violet Deilke, who’s looking for a home for her son Skip’s old cat Stella; and Chris himself, pleased with his recent training for next year’s club presidency.

Minnesota State Moorhead is looking up

Chris introduced Dr. Tim Downs, who assumed the presidency of Minnesota State University Moorhead last year. (Several members noted his very slick pair of Nike sneakers that matched his red-and-black color scheme.)

The president said that “just like individuals are



never done learning, neither is MSUM as an institution.” Referring to the community as the “Moorhead-Fargo” area (“I’m invested in Moorhead!”), he went on to detail progress on the campus as well as a variety of innovations.

One big step, he said, will be the grand reopening of Weld Hall on Oct. 7. After a years-long remodeling project at a cost of \$23 million, the venerable building will, he said, “be returned to its former grandeur.”

He also described two new programs, the Applied Institute of AI and the Moorhead Scholars Program. Since artificial intelligence is clearly here to stay, it’s being made a part of every area of study. The honors program is drawing a corps of elite scholars to campus. “It was developed to invest in Moorhead,” he said. “We want our people to stay here and help this community grow.”

MSUM, he said, is built on four strategic pillars, including academic relevance, student experience, investing in place, and increasing regional engagement.

Student retention has become one of MSUM’s strengths. Downs said 93% of the freshman class who enrolled last fall returned after Christmas, a percentage significantly higher than most other Minnesota colleges. He added, “We’re growing toward our goal of 6,000 students.”

Jean asked a question about the perceived retreat from the arts. Only the theater program — with only 12 students — was discontinued, he answered. Other arts programs, including music and visual arts, are strong and growing stronger.

Looking Ahead

April 21

Sergeant at ArmsJanelle Leiseth
Program...Dayna DelVal, “Discover Your Spark”

April 28 — Rotary Service Day

May 5

Sergeant at Arms.....Kay Parries
Program.....Julie Christianson, Landon’s Light

May 12

Sergeant at Arms.....Steve Astrup
ProgramSue Baron, Golden Drive
Homeless Kids

May 19 — Tour of New Moorhead Library

May 26 — Rotary Service Day

June 23 — Rotary Service Day