



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 25

December 16, 2025

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

President Tim Hiller
President-Elect Chris Andreasen
President Nominee
Treasurer Dave Sederquist
Secretary Teresa Joppa
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
RYLA Coordinator Jon Riewer
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Paddlewheel Photographer/Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

December Birthdays

Lunak, Brandon December 4
Andreasen, John December 5
Deilke, Violet December 20
Hanson, Nancy December 24

Wedding Anniversary

Sederquist, Dave and Jane 41 years
Dec. 08 1984

Rotary Anniversaries

Nolte, Gary 37 years
Dec. 13 1988
Parries, Kay 37 years
Dec. 13 1988
Finney, Tammy 10 years
Dec. 08 2015
Escobar, Carmen 3 years
Dec. 23 2022



MPD Chief Chris Helmick



Coming Up December 16

Our own Paul Dove shares his annual Christmas message Tuesday — a tradition that goes back 40 years.
Cindy Nolte serves as sergeant at arms.

MPD Chief Chris Helmick tells of department achievements, state of crime in 2025

Moorhead Rotary president Tim Hiller welcomed a hardy — though smaller — contingent of Rotarians who attended on a bitterly cold and stormy Tuesday, Dec. 9.

He noted that our next meeting on December 16 spotlights Dr. Paul Dove, who will deliver his annual Christmas message. That session is the final one of the year. Regular meetings will resume on January 6.

Time also mentioned that the five F-M Rotary clubs have a table at the F-M Chamber of Commerce's holiday Business After Hours Thursday, Dec. 11. He invited members to share the word about our club at that event at the clubs' joint presentation.

Sarge Dave says he's getting 'too soft'

Sergeant at Arms Dave Sederquist stepped up with a confession that he might be getting "too soft." The avid bicyclist — known for riding his two-wheeler to meetings — described the creature comforts in the truck he'd arrived in: heated seat, heated steering wheel, temperature-controlled cab heat, and warm coffee at his side. He added a few "How cold is it?" quips to add a little humor to the snow and cold.



Photos/Nancy Hanson



Photos/Nancy Hanson: (Above) Cindy Nolte and Violet Deilke. President Tim Hiller.
(Below) Sergeant at Arms Dave Sederquist. Bill Woods.



Moorhead Rotary

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Moorhead, MN 56561



Photos/Nancy Hanson:

Brandon Lunak

Violet Deilke

Cindy Nolte

Tim Hiller

Chief Helmick draws a (losing) card in the weekly raffle.



Happy dollars included his and wife Jane's 41st wedding anniversary. Cindy Nolte reminded members of her and Gary's first date after meeting 56 years ago while dragging Broadway. Nancy Hanson noted that his Dec. 16 program will be Paul Dovre's 40th consecutive Christmas message to Moorhead Rotarians.

Dave wrapped up with an apt quote for that miserable day: "There's no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."

New Moorhead police chief offers update

Dave introduced Chris Helmick, who took the reins of the Moorhead Police Department in April. The new chief, a longtime Moorhead resident who'd put in almost 25 years with its Fargo counterpart, started out with some good news. After several years of acute shortages, the city's sworn police force is nearing full employment.

The shortage of officers — a problem plaguing nearly all departments in the wake of the George Floyd killing in 2020 — has nearly been remedied. Nineteen officers have been sworn in since August. Only three openings remain, with several candidates already identified.

The force currently stands at 63 sworn officers (patrol officers, detectives, supervisors, commanders and chiefs) and 19 civilian employees (community service officers, records specialists, a crime analyst and support staff).

He detailed the roles of some with special assignments. The MPD supplies three school resource officers to Moorhead High and Horizon Middle Schools. The third SRO is newly assigned to the Career Academy, with additional responsibilities for elementary schools. He noted the debate over whether these officers should

wear street clothes or uniforms. "We wear our regular uniforms," he explained, "because we want young people to feel comfortable talking with police officers, both in school and on the street."

He added information on the MPD's youth services coordinator, who specifically reaches out to young people and builds relationships. Among his responsibilities is coordination of youth-focused programs and events, educational workshops and recreational activities. He also works with crisis intervention and prevention.

A community resource navigator identifies people who frequently call 911 or interact with police due to mental health issues, substance abuse or "housing instability" (homelessness). She provides support after crises, connecting these individuals with appropriate services in the community. She also tracks and monitors outcomes to reduce repeat calls for service.

He reported that neighborhood safety and crime statistics are trending in the right direction — downward. During the first 10 months of 2025, burglary calls are down 12.6%; vandalism, down 20.8%; theft, down 5%; fraud, 34.2%; and arson, down 90%. Only robbery shows an increase of four incidents over the eight recorded in 2023. Overall, that a decrease of 16.4%.

All major crime stats are static or down for the same period: homicide, -33%; assault, -3%; kidnapping, -20%. Sex offenses (41) are the same as 2023. The overall decrease is -3.2%.

Chief Helmick emphasized that our role as Moorhead residents is to be "the eyes and ears of the community." Citing the oft-repeated advice, 'See something? Say something,' he noted that reporting incidents builds trust.

Looking Ahead

December 16

Sergeant at Arms.....Cindy Nolte
ProgramPaul Dovre's Christmas Message

December 23 — No Meeting

December 30 — No Meeting

January 6

Sergeant at Arms
ProgramTravis Christopher,
Sanford Peltier Lodge

January 27 — Rotary Service Day

February 10