



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 24

December 9, 2025

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

President Tim Hiller
President-Elect Chris Andreassen
President Nominee
Treasurer Dave Sederquist
Secretary Teresa Joppa
Past President Steve Astrup

Directors (2023) Chris Andreassen, 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
Andreassen, 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



Coming Up December 9

Moorhead's new chief of police, Chris Helmick, joins us Tuesday. Dave Sederquist is sergeant at arms.

MAPS Special Services head Duane Borgeson discusses district's special ed programs

President Tim Hiller welcomed Moorhead Rotarians Tuesday, Dec. 2, along with an unexpected guest — Duane Borgeson, the school district's executive director of learner support services. He joined us to present the day's program when the scheduled speaker gave very short notice that she could not be with us. Program chair Jean Hannig offered special thanks to Supt. Brandon Lunak for finding a substitute at the last minute.

Tim started the meeting with several special announcements. He noted that the five local Rotary clubs are sponsoring a booth at the FM Area Chamber of Commerce's upcoming Business After Hours. It's a chance, he said, for clubs to make contact with potential members and explain the benefits of Rotary. He asked for volunteers to represent Moorhead at the event.

He also said that applications to attend RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, are now available. He asked members to help find students to represent the club.

Finally, he noted that more directors are needed for the current year. "We need the Class of 2027," he quipped, asking members to nominate others ... or themselves ... to serve on the board.



Photos/Nancy Hanson: (Top) Duane Borgeson explained Moorhead's special services. Dale Hetland announced December raffle winners, with Dave Sederquist providing a drum flourish. (Above) Sergeant at Arms Brandon Lunak. (Below) Bill Woods. Jerry Rogers and Tom Riley. (Bottom) Secretary Teresa Joppa and Violet Deilke offer their happy dollars.





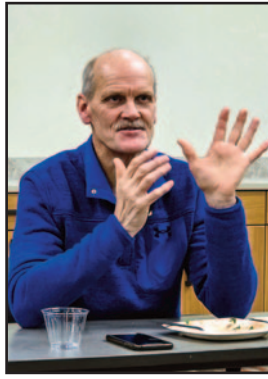
Photos/Nancy Hanson:

President Tim Hiller.

Dave Sederquist.

Dave Tranby/

Paul Dovre draws a card in the weekly raffle. No luck!



Finally, participants are welcome to sign up for the Guatemala service project Feb. 21 through March 2, in which local men and women will use district grant funds to build a school in Joyaba. To step forward, contact John and Donna Johnson of Fargo AM Rotary, 701-371-5326.

Sarge Brandon quizzes on holiday movies

Sergeant at Arms Brandon Lunak focused on holiday movies — both those watched over Thanksgiving (“Planes, Trains and Automobiles”) and Christmas favorites. One surprise: the 8th most-loved is “Gremlins”!

Happy dollars were collection for holiday travel and guests, the MHS performance of “Frozen,” the U of M Gophers’ win, Dave Sederquist’s new grandson (after the birth of six granddaughters), Teresa’s upcoming move to the Black Hills, and Steve Schaefer’s support of the MAPS referendum. Bill Woods: “I’m happy to be here **after a hospital stay for a broken rib!**”

MAPS learning services addressed

Brandon introduced speaker Duane Borgeson, the district’s executive director of learning support services. Duane detailed how the district supports students who qualify for special education, complying with the 50-year-old federal IDEA mandate — the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

IDEA requires schools in all 50 states to provide “free and appropriate education” to students with disabilities, from kindergarten through grade 12 and extending to the age of 22. According to a

decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2017, that means must make “meaningful progress in light of their circumstances.”

Borgeson noted that Minnesota took measures to support special education well before passage of the nationwide legislation and continues to exceed the mandatory minimum. This affects, he said, the number of special education students the district serves

Both state and federal governments offer financial support for these services, but they fall far short of the total cost to the school district. The original federal bill passed in 1975, for example, promised the U.S. would provide 40% of the cost of the services it was requiring. “The reality is that the district has received only 10 to 12% of those costs,” he said.

The balance left after support from the two levels of government — the “cross subsidy” — must be covered by the district’s general fund. In the most recent year, that funding was \$1,380,000. The services’ actual cost was \$4,282,061 ... leaving a funding gap of \$2,902,061.

The number of special education students has risen dramatically from 90 in 2010 to 265 in 2024. Borgeson explained the increase is due in large part to changes in definitions of children on the autism spectrum — not an increase in the condition’s frequency. The greatest number of students qualify due to speech and language issues, as well as “special learning disabilities;” the autism spectrum ranks third in frequency.

Overall, 16.22% of MAPS students receive special services — up from 12.35% in 2010.

Looking Ahead

December 9

Sergeant at Arms.....Dave Sederquist
Program.....MPD Chief Chris Helmick

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

Sergeant at Arms
ProgramAna Beatriz Prata,
Rotary Youth Exchange