



# The Paddlewheel

## Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 102—Number 30

February 1, 2022

**Moorhead Rotary Club 1405**  
**District 5580**

President	Gina Monson
President-Elect	David Sederquist
President Nominee	Steve Astrup
Treasurer	Emily Gess
Secretary	Teresa Joppa
Past President	Steve Schaefer

Directors (2022)	Chris Andreasen & Steve Schaefer
Directors (2023)	Tammy Finney & Steve Astrup
Directors (2024)	Tracey Moorhead, Ernie Simmons & Megan Wiesneski
RYLA Coordinator	Randy Farwell
Polio Plus Coordinator	Cindy Nolte
Sergeant at Arms Team	Dave Sederquist, Eric Johnson & Jean Hannig

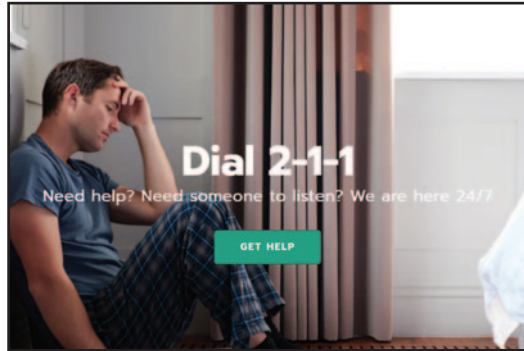
Program Chair	Jean Hannig
Pianist	Sharon Fangsrud
Song Leader	Bob Hanna
Trivia Master	Brent Brandt
Photographer	Russ Hanson
Paddlewheel Editor	Nancy Edmonds Hanson

### February Birthdays

Dave Sederquist	Feb 23
Corey Elmer	Feb 23

### Rotary Anniversaries

Cater, Alma	34 years
Feb 02 1988	
Elmer, Corey	19 years
Feb 11 2003	



**Coming Up Tuesday**

Cindy Graffeo, director of Fargo's Downtown Community Partners, joins us this week. Violet Deilke is sergeant of arms.

### Speaker describes how FirstLink's phone line saves lives & helps people in crisis

Acting president Steve Schaefer welcomed members and three guests on Jan. 25 — two prospective Rotarians, Alex Elliot and Chris from the Fargo Freeze and Epic Promotions, both guests of Kay Parries, and speaker Kesha Sauvageau of First Link.

He described a Rotary "friendship tour" of clubs in Texas coming up in April, inviting interested members to contact him for more information. He also reminded Rotarians to submit their imaginative "treehouse project" — built of toothpicks and marshmallows — for the contest sponsored by the Natural Playground.

He also announced that the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy, which was shelved in recent years due to Covid-19, is back this summer. The club is looking for a chairperson and help getting the program for high school students up and running again.

### Sarge John addresses Polio Plus

After trivia master Brent Brandt quizzed the group on major league baseball movies, Sergeant at Arms John Andreasen updated members about progress of the worldwide campaign to eliminate polio. Several cases of the wild polio variant have popped up in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Citing an article in the current Rotarian magazine, he said that people in Karachi are asking about providing



*Photos/Russ Hanson: (Top) First Link operates a crisis telephone line, including a 24-hour suicide helpline accessed by calling 2-1-1.*

*(Top right) Speaker Kesha Sauvageau.*

*(Right) Acting president Steve Schaefer.*

*(Below) Sergeant at Arms John Andreasen.*

*Rotarian of the Day Teresa Joppa.*



help beyond vaccine, including water and sewer systems to prevent the disease's spread. "Because Rotary is doing just that, the people trust ;us more, and then they vaccinate their children," he said.

He also announced that the Recital With a Cause is coming up again in 2022! Organizers are looking for committee members.

Steve Schaefer donated the first "happy dollars" in honor of dentists and good advice. Dave Tranby expressed thanks for seats at "Come Fly Away" he received from Brent. Dave Sederquist's donation



was in gratitude for the forecast for warmer temperatures and resumption of the recital.

34%; and referrals, 19%. “Some callers just want to talk about having a bad day,” she noted.

### FirstLink: More than suicide prevention

Rotarian of the Day Teresa Joppa introduced Kesha Sauvageau of FirstLink. It goes back 55 years to Volunteers for Community Service, with its original mission supporting the Holiday Clearing Bureau as well as offering help over the telephone. Reorganized over the years, it’s now a subsidiary of the United Way of Cass Clay and handles 2-1-1 suicide prevention calls from all of North Dakota and western Minnesota.

Calls to the Helpline may request information on rent and electric service payment assistance, food pantries, clothing vouchers, gas money and general counseling services. As a subsidiary of the United Way, those who answer FirstLink calls refer people to those services in the community.

FirstLink’s mission, Kesha explained, is to assist people in identifying, accessing and making effective use of community and volunteer resources. “Our vision it to be the first link in linking people and resources 24 hours a day,” she said. All calls on 2-1-1 or 235-SEEK, as well as texts to 898-211, are free, non-judgmental and offer emotional support. The phones are answered 24 hours a day.

In 2021, FirstLink fielded 13,000 calls more than in 2020, which itself set a record with 10,000 more than in 2019. Kesha explained FirstLink doesn’t automatically call law enforcement dispatch, and they maintain no personal information about callers unless the caller himself provides it. “We have only called law enforcement about suicides 91 times over the years,” she reported. “Crisis intervention goes a long way towards preventing harm.”

Major sources of funding, she said, include grants, the Impact Foundation, Giving Hearts Day, the Dakota Medical Foundation and the United Way.

Crisis intervention calls account for 9% of those received over the course of a year. Information seekers make up 38%; listening and support,

Thanking her for her presentation, Steve Schaefer reminded Rotarians that Giving Hearts Day is coming up Feb. 10.

### Meetings

Tuesdays — noon  
Moorhead Schools Operations Center, 1401 30th Ave. S.

### Participate via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/742305775?pwd=V0ZTMV11NldkY2xMMnlHNEdPdIRxdz09>  
Meeting ID: 742 305 775  
Password: 630851

### 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

## Looking Ahead

### February 1

Sergeant at Arms ..... Violet Deilke  
Rotarian of the Day ..... Violet Deilke  
Program ..... Cindy Graffeo, Fargo, Downtown Community Partners

### February 22

Sergeant at Arms ..... Steve Astrup  
Rotarian of the Day ..... Dave Tranby  
Program ..... Abe Tomayo, Salvation Army

### February 8

Sergeant at Arms ..... Bob Hanna  
Rotarian of the Day ..... Emily Gess  
Program ..... Sally Jacobson, Red River Zoo

### March 1 — Mardi Gras Social

Social at Nolte home — no noon meeting

### March 8

Sergeant at Arms ..... Steve Schaefer  
Rotarian of the Day ..... Randy Farwell  
Program ..... Police Chief Shannon Monroe

### February 15

Sergeant at Arms ..... Brent Brandt  
Rotarian of the Day ..... Chris Andreasen  
Program ..... Deb Dawson, “African Soul/ American Heart”

### March 15

Sergeant at Arms ..... Ernie Simmons  
Rotarian of the Day ..... Steve Schaefer  
Program ..... Kellie Hamre, Gigi’s Playhouse