



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 32

February 17, 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
RYLA Coordinator Jon Riewer
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Paddlewheel Photographer/Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

February

No birthdays or anniversaries!



Coming Up February 17

Erin Shapiro joins us to talk about the Plains Art Museum, its exhibits and its program. Dale Hetland is slated to be our sergeant at arms.

Speaker Cani Adan addresses immigrants' challenges, concerns, mental health

President Tim Hiller welcomed Moorhead Rotarians to the MAPS Operations Center, our regular space, on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Two guests were present — Cani Adan, a local activist of Somali descent, and immigration attorney Anna Stenson.

He reminded members that the five FM Rotary clubs are hosting a social at Brewhalla at 5:15 p.m. Thursday. It's a follow-up to the member recruitment event at last month's FM Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. All members are invited, along with potential recruits interested in joining the club.

The Rotary board will meet at 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at Sanders Flats.

Tim also reported that the club has received seven grant applications so far. If you'd like to suggest a recipient, please complete the application included in last week's Paddlewheel. The app is also posted on our ClubRunner website.

Sarge Steve focuses on Giving Hearts Day

Sergeant at Arms Steve Astrup took the podium to share highlights of the success story called Giving Hearts Day. Coming up on



Photos/Nancy Hanson: (Above) Speaker Cani Adan.
(Below) President Tim Hiller. Dave Tranby.
(Bottom) Bill Woods and Chris Andreasen.





Photos/Nancy Hanson: Dave Sederquist, Dale Hetland, Ernie Simmons, Chuck Matthees, Bill Woods and Chris Andreasen.

Violet Deilke.

Steve Astrup and Kay Parries.

Dave Tranby picks a card — the wrong card — in the weekly raffle.



Thursday, Feb. 12, the annual event — now in its 18th year — has gathered tens of millions of dollars for participating charities in Fargo-Moorhead and the surrounding area.

Giving Hearts Day originated with the Dakota Medical and Impact foundations. Thirty-nine nonprofits participated in 2008, its first year, drawing contributions totalling \$480,000. By 2010, total receipts topped \$1 million.

Nonprofit organizations in Bismarck and Minot joined in subsequent years. In 2015, some 250 charitable groups were taking part. Contributions were first tallied from all 50 states in 2020, when the New Life Center became the first participant raising over \$1 million.

Steve's call for happy dollars was answered by Dale Hetland, who won free chicken sandwiches watching the Minnesota Timberwolves not once, but twice. Dave Sederquist applauded his wife's winning a ski race ... and Steve Astrup, who became the first Rotarian in history to pay his dues via the club's new Venmo account. (Our top raffle-ticket sellers applauded that innovation, too.) Finally, Gary Nolte thanked local firefighters, who arrived at Trinity while he was at work there; a leak in his shop vac had spewed dust, setting off alarms.

Cani Adan tells of immigrant concerns

Steve introduced Cani Adan, a Somali immigrant and founder of New Roots Midwest. Adan has been active in the Afro American Development Association since arriving in Moorhead.

Adan arrived in Moorhead in 2015. His first job was as a custodian with Moorhead's Horizon School. He often found himself working with



students and families and helping translate for them and the staff. This fall he began a new role as English language liaison for the district's substantial number of Somali enrollment.

Adan told of his first activism. At 17 in his hometown of Huddur, Somalia: He realized that, while parents encouraged boys to go to school, they didn't do so for girls. As the brother of five sisters, he protested by refusing to go to school until they, too, could go. The organization he formed had built a school there, which he continues to run today from his new home town.

"I loved my home town in Africa, and I never thought I would leave," he explained. "But when my friends and co-workers were killed for no reason, I realized it was time for me not to be there."

He spoke of his difficulty adjusting to life in America, where every aspect of life is different, and of the similar challenges that face other immigrants. Asked about the current ICE activity so nearby, he acknowledged that immigrants are living in great fear. He urged more unity and understanding between all peoples, talking more about "all that's great and good in America."

Looking Ahead

February 17

Sergeant at ArmsDale Hetland
ProgramErin Shapiro, Plains Art Museum

February 24 — Rotary Service Day

March 31 — Rotary Service Day