



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 104—Number 33

February 20, 2024

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405
District 5580

President	Steve Astrup
President-Elect	
President Nominee	
Treasurer	Dave Sederquist
Secretary	Teresa Joppa
Past President	Dave Sederquist

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

February Birthdays

Sederquist, Dave	February 23
Elmer, Corey	February 23

Rotary Anniversaries

Elmer, Corey	21 years
Feb. 11 2003	



Kevin Wallevand of WDAY TV accompanied Rotary and church volunteers on a mission to Haiti, with Gary Nolte as one of the mission volunteers.



Next Meeting — Tuesday, February 20

Carrie Carney of Eventide Senior Living introduces us to its new Sanders Flats apartment complex. Bob Hanna is sergeant at arms.

Gary Nolte shares documentary, memories of mission to Puerto Rico

Fresh from vacation in Montana, President Steve Astrup thanked those who covered for him for the past two weeks and welcomed members on Feb. 13, including prospective member Jessica Bergum. He reported on the successful Rotary Super Bowl party Sunday.

Sarge Jon quizzes on valentine trivia

With Valentine's Day coming up on Wednesday, Sergeant at Arms Jon Riewer quizzed members in that spirit. How many Americans buy valentines for their pets? Nine million. How many cards are exchanged? One billion!

He noted that 64% of partnered men don't preplan a valentine for their partner — a revelation that seemed to surprise few, female or male, in attendance.

Dave Tranby led off the collection of happy dollars with news of his retirement in two days; a new dentist, he said, is taking over his practice. Dave Sederquist's father turned 91. Paul Dovre added a buck in honor of the Kansas City Chiefs' win. Teresa Joppa sent best wishes to the Spud girls hockey team, which was to face Roseau in the section final the next day. (Sadly, they lost.)



She's really happy she's grateful for it



Photos/Nancy Hanson: President Steve Astrup. Sergeant at Arms Jon Riewer. Tracey Moorhead, Tim Hiller and Dale Hetland. Teresa Joppa.

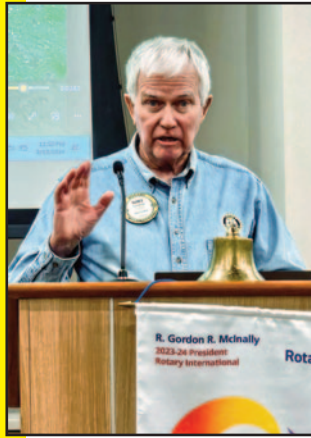




Photos/Nancy Hanson: Cindy Nolte introduces her husband, speaker Gary.

Kay Parries.

(Below) Steve Astrup, back from Montana.



Service mission lent helping hand to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria

Cindy Nolte introduced a speaker even more familiar to her than to the rest of Moorhead Rotary, her husband Gary.

Gary, a past district governor and regional leader of Polio Plus, has participated in service missions annually since 1996 — some organized primarily by Rotary, others by his church.

Hurricane Maria was a deadly Category 5 hurricane that devastated the northeastern Caribbean in September 2017. The U.S. territory of Puerto Rico experienced 2,975 of the 3,059 deaths, the deadliest and costliest hurricane ever to strike the island, and the worst in the Atlantic since Hurricane Mitch in 1998 — the tenth worst Atlantic storm ever.

Some 300,000 homes were said to be destroyed due to high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, wave action and landslides. Millions were left homeless. Gary noted that recovery from a hurricane of this scope usually takes at least ten

years. Even now, many Puerto Ricans are still trying to recover, living in homes “roofed” with blue plastic tarps. Local officials estimate storm damage on the island of 3.4 million people totaled more than \$8 billion.

Kevin Wallevand of WDAY TV accompanied the 18 volunteers from Fargo-Moorhead and Park Rapids, Minnesota, who traveled to the island in October 2018 to help rebuild one of the thousands of homes destroyed by the storm.

The contingent included half a dozen Rotarians, including Gary and five from Fargo AM Rotary, along with members of Park Rapids Rotary and Calvary Lutheran Church there. The mission trip was one of hundreds organized since the storm occurred by Lutheran Disaster Relief.

Electrical service was spotty or nonexistent even more than a year after Maria took down the entire power grid. The volunteers brought along a battery-operated portable water purification system that could produce 500 gallons per day. The \$20,000 military-grade unit was one of the first provided to any organization outside of the armed forces.

Looking Ahead

February 20

Sergeant at ArmsBob Hanna
ProgramCarrie Carney
Eventide’s Sanders Apartments

February 27

Sergeant at ArmsRob Remark
ProgramKay Parries, Rotary Int’l Assembly

March 5

Sergeant at ArmsErnie Simmons
ProgramDon Kinzler, Pollinator Gardens

March 12

Sergeant at ArmsDale Hetland
ProgramAnna Sather, Farm in the Dell

March 19

Sergeant at ArmsEric Wilkie
Program4-Way Test Essayists

March 26

Sergeant at ArmsPaul Dovre
Program

April 2

Sergeant at ArmsCindy Nolte
ProgramMayor Shelly Carlson & Dan Mahli,
Moorhead City Update

April 9

Sergeant at ArmsBrandon Lunak
Program

April 11-13

District 5580 ConferenceFargo

April 16

Sergeant at ArmsJerry Rogers
ProgramKemink, Africa Project