



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 102—Number 28

January 18, 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

January Birthdays

Dovre, Paul	Jan 07
Astrup, Steve	Jan 10
Riewer, Jon	Jan 14
Finney, Tammy	Jan 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Brandt, Brent and Kristi	
Jan 01 2010	12 years
Johnson, Gregory and Kelley	
Jan 05 2012	10 years

Rotary Anniversaries

Kolb, Ronald	47 years
Jan 14 1975	
Farwell, Randy	21 years
Jan 23 2001	



By nature of their situation, refugees have to leave their homelands behind.
What would it feel like to leave **YOUR** homeland behind?

Coming Up Tuesday

Rotarian of the Day Dale Hetland introduces speaker Kriss Burns of PRO Resources, a human relations and payroll consulting firm in Fargo.

LIRS NoDak field director Dan Hannaher describes resettlement work with refugees

Acting president Jean Hannig welcomed Rotarians Tuesday, attending in almost equal numbers in person at the Moorhead Schools Operations Center and online via Zoom.

Sergeant at Arms Eric Wilkie opened the floor for happy dollars. Dale Hetland applauded the day's speaker, his neighbor Dan Hannaher, while Gary Nolte also saluted Dan's "great good work," both professionally and during his 25 years as a member of the club. Bill Woods offered a buck for just being happy. Jean's donation was in honor of Jerry Rogers, whose hip replacement surgery last week went well.

Hannaher explains the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services in ND

Rotarian of the Day Jon Benson introduced Dan Hannaher, our speaker, who has a long history with the club. Dan reported that he attended his first Moorhead Rotary meeting with his father, a longtime member, and his two brothers at the Moorhead Country Club. Dan, too, became a member, and continued for 25 years. "I was the first sergeant at arms to implement Happy Dollars," he noted. But when the office at which he worked moved to South Fargo — "a half hour away" — he had to drop out.



Photos/Russ Hanson: Speaker Dan Hannaher, director of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Jon Benson introduces our speaker to members attending in person and via Zoom.

Acting president Jean Hannig. Sergeant at Arms Eric Wilkie.



Rotarian of the Day Jon Benson.

Guest Dan Hannaher and Gary Nolte.

Bill Woods and Dale Hetland.

Russ Hanson snaps a photo of Benson. Photo/Brent Brandt.



Meetings

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

Participate via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/742305775?pwd=V0ZTMV11NldkY2xMMnIHNEdPdIRxdz09>
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

“It was this week one year ago when I and 200 other employees of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota learned we were out of a job at the end of the day,” he recalled. After the demise of the venerable charitable agency, he took over the services it had provided for New Americans.

“I had found my calling when I joined the New Americans team,” he reported. A family of refugees from the Congo had just arrived the day of the agency’s announcement. Despite the news, the staff “jumped in and helped anyway,” he said.

He called LSSND’s national partner in the resettlement program, LIRS. “Within the hour, their entire executive team was on a conference call with me ...ready and willing to get to work.”

The Fargo resettlement field office Dan now heads is the first LIRS has established. Normally their support of state efforts is limited to finances.

Dan rebuilt the old LSS team of 11 people. “I’m the only white guy,” he told us. “All of the others are from Liberia, Iraq, Nepal, Afghanistan and other nations where our New Americans come from.”

The Fargo office received authorization in March 2020 from the U.S. State Department to formally continue the resettlement that had been underway. Despite that, and due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, only 35 people were resettled here in all of 2020. Today that number has risen to 39.

“We have agreed with the State Department to resettle 250 individuals next year,” he said, “In addition to Afghans who are expected to resettle



here.”

Thirty Afghans have arrived so far.They are met at the airport. Over coming weeks the LIRS staff and volunteers help them find an apartment, acquire furniture, receive food and eventually find employment. The first stop is getting them Social Security cards so they can be hired.

“Most of our New Americans have been in harm’s way before arrival — often spending a long, long time in a refugee camp,” he said.Before they are approved to come to the U.S., eight agencies vet prospective immigrants, including the National Security Agency, the FBI and others.

He stressed the eagerness of many local employers to add the newcomers to their workforce. One Cardinal IG, has a manager who is an Afghan veteran. “He considers these Afghan refugees his brothers and sisters. He will likely join us when he retires,” Dan said.

Looking Ahead

January 18 ... board meeting

January 18

- Sergeant at Arms
- Rotarian of the DayDale Hetland
- Program.....Kriss Burns, PRO Resources

January 25

- Sergeant at Arms
- Rotarian of the DayTeresa Joppa
- Program.....Jennifer Illich, First Link