



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 29

January 27, 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

January Birthdays

Dovre, Paul January 7
Astrup, Steve January 10
Riewer, Jon January 14
Finney, Tammy January 29



No Meeting on Jan. 27

January 27 is a Rotary Day of Service at Churches United for the Homeless. We'll meet as a group again on Feb. 3.

Rotary exchange student Ana Beatriz Prata talks about life in her native Brazil

President Tim Hiller welcomed Rotarians and two special guests Tuesday, Jan. 20 — exchange student Ana Beatriz Prata, who presented the day's program, and Minnesota State University Moorhead President Tim Downs.

He opened the meeting with several announcements:

The Jan. 27 service opportunity at Micah's Mission begins at 11 a.m.

The next club meeting will feature the annual Club Assembly. Don't miss it!

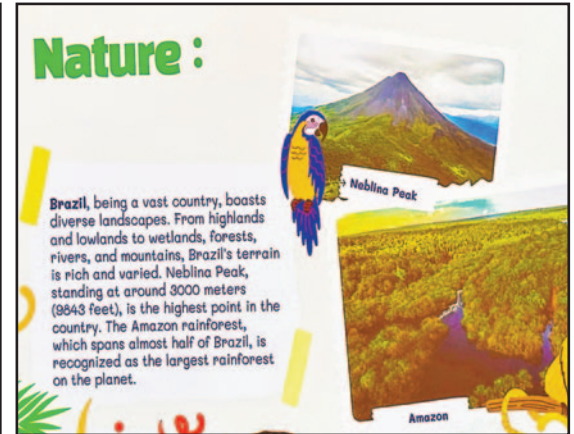
Fargo PM Rotary is selling raffle tickets, with an e-bike as the top prize.

FM Rotarians can still sign up to assist packing for Feed My Starving Children, after the Fargo PM club already filled the first 30 spots. To volunteer, go to <https://fmssc.org/join-group?joincode=B26913>.

The FM Rotary Foundation's Recital with a Cause takes place April 30 at First Lutheran Church, preceded by a dinner at the Sons of Norway.

Sarge Jerry salutes MLK Day

Sergeant at Arms Jerry Rogers addressed Martin Luther King Day, observed on Monday. He



Photos/Nancy Hanson:

Photos: (Top) Ana Beatriz Prata tells about her homeland, Brazil.
(Above) Sergeant at Arms Jerry Rogers.
(Below) MSUM President Tim Downs. Dave Sederquist.
(Bottom) Jean Hannig with happy \$. Gary and Cindy Nolte.

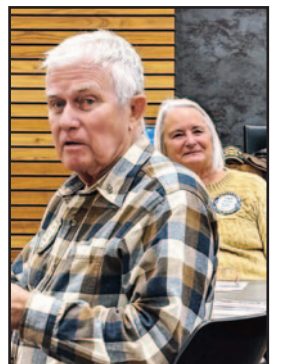
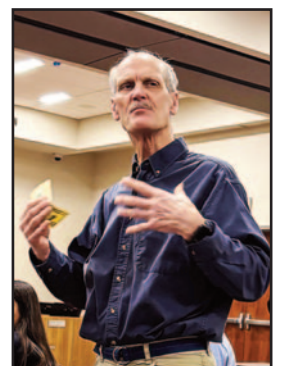




Photo: Rotary exchange student Ana Beatriz Prata describes her native land, Brazil, to Moorhead Rotarians.

mentioned both father and son were original christened Michael King, but later changed their names to Martin Luther King. He recommended the book *Civil Rights Trail* for more of the story.

Members contribute Happy \$\$\$

Dave Sederquist responded to Jerry's call for happy dollars with news both sad and happy. His father passed away Monday at age 92. "The happy part," he said, "is that now he is in Heaven with Jesus, who saved him." He added, "We were able to say goodbye as a family."

Kay Parries' dollar was in appreciation for our exchange student joining us. Gary Nolte was thankful for winning a raffled trip this month. Jean Hannig submitted an apologetic dollar for double-booking the meeting speaker, while Tom Riley threw in a book for the victorious Hoosiers.

MSUM president reports on strategy

MSUM President Tim Downs passed out information on the university's Strategic Framework. He noted that last year the campus saw a 30% increase in enrollment, with another 6% this year.

MSUM's strategic pillars are academic relevance, student experience, investing in place, and regional engagement. He mentioned the ongoing renovation of Weld Hall and the Moorhead Scholars program: If Moorhead seniors graduate with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, they receive free tuition. Last year, 45 MHS graduates enrolled. This year, that number has risen to 135. He affirmed that the program permits young people who couldn't before have afforded college achieve an education.

Questioned by a member, he said that his toughest challenge in 2026 is the national narrative that college isn't worth it. "I disagree," he said. "You learn how to learn and how to ask questions, as well as master transferable skills."

"However, we need to control the cost. Our mission is to see that students leave college with little to no debt."

Tim will be back for a longer program March 10.

Ana Beatriz shares glimpse of Brazil

Ana Beatriz then took the podium to initiate Rotarians into the beauty of her country. "Brazilians are warm, welcoming people," she began.

Her nation is very large, bordered by as many as 10 other countries, and with a population of 213 million. Her home city, Campos dos Goytacazes, has a population of 519,000. It was founded by the Portuguese in 1835. She lives there with her parents, her younger (but bigger, she noted) brother and their dog.

She does not have a middle name, she told us; Ana Beatriz is her entire "first name." The practice of first names consisting of two is common in Brazil.

Ana Beatriz has already graduated from high school at home. This American sojourn is, she said, "for fun and to learn about American culture." Her favorite foods are feijoada (beans and sausage) and moqueca bahiana (a chicken dish).

She plans to attend college on her return,

Looking Ahead

January 27 — Rotary Service Day

February 3

Sergeant at Arms.....Nancy Hanson
Program.....Cani Aden, New Roots Midwest

February 10

Sergeant at ArmsJon Riewer
Program

February 17

Sergeant at ArmsDale Hetland
ProgramErin Shapiro, Plains Art Museum