



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 103—Number 1

July 5, 2022

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

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

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

July Birthdays

Benson, Jon Jul 06
Erbes, Roger Jul 16
Qualey, Neil Jul 17
Parries, Kay Jul 22

Wedding Anniversaries

Koesterman, Sue & Michael
Jul 05 1960 62 years
Rogers, Jerry & Sue
Jul 18 1970 52 years

Rotary Anniversaries

Dovre, Paul 42 years
Jul 01 1980
Wilkie, Eric 11 years
Jul 01 2011
Schaefer, Steve 20 years
Jul 02 2002
Qualey, Neil 30 years
Jul 21 1992

Guests 6/28/22

Deb Dawson, speaker
Doug Hamilton, past president
Brett Oertli, State Farm, prospective
member



No meeting July 5 — Social on July 7

There will be no noon meeting on July 5. Instead, Gary and Cindy Nolte host a club social at their home on Thursday, July 7, beginning at 5. It will include the passing of the gavel to 2022-23 President Dave Sederquist. Please let the Noltes know whether you can make it!

Deb Dawson tells story of her program African Soul American Heart

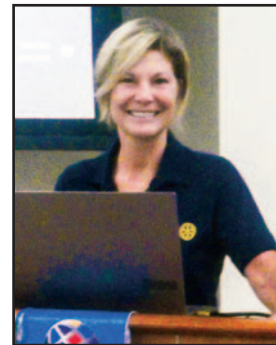
President Gina Monson welcomed members and guests to the final meeting of Moorhead Rotary's 2021-2022 year. Among guests were prospective member Brett Oertli of State Farm Insurance, our speaker Deb Dawson, and past club president Doug Hamilton, who introduced her.

Members learned that longtime member Ron Kolb's wife Judy passed away June 23. Her funeral was last Friday.

Gina reminded members of the Moorhead Business Association's annual Moorhead Proud 5656OOH & AAH fireworks extravaganza on Monday. VIP lots operated by the Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation and The Lotus Center open at 7:30, offering food trucks and activities for the kids.

Secretary Teresa Joppa announced that she will be ordering badges soon. If you need a new or updated badge, please email or text her at 701-361-7052.

Sergeant at Arms Eric Wilkie shared words of encouragement from Theodore Parker 150 years ago, especially apt in these troubled and divisive



Photos/Gary Nolte & Teresa Joppa. (Top) Deb Dawson, founder of African Soul American Heart. President Gina Monson, Sergeant at Arms Eric Wilkie. (Above) Dan Markert helps Deb set up her presentation.

Meetings

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

Participate via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/742305775?pwd=V0ZTMVl1NldkY2xMMnIHNEdPdIRxdz09>
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

times: “I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one, and my eye reaches but a little way. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can only divine it by conscience. But from what I can see, I am sure it bends toward justice.”

‘Protect. Educate. Empower.’

Past president Doug Hamilton joined us to introduce his good friend Deb Dawson, founder of African Soul American Heart. He recalled how, 25 years ago, Gary Nolte and Roland Barden brought him into the club, which years later elected him president. He told how he first heard about “this amazing local woman” who had gone to sub Saharan Africa to assist orphan girls. He met and interviewed her, became a donor, and “was stunned and amazed by this beautiful woman.”

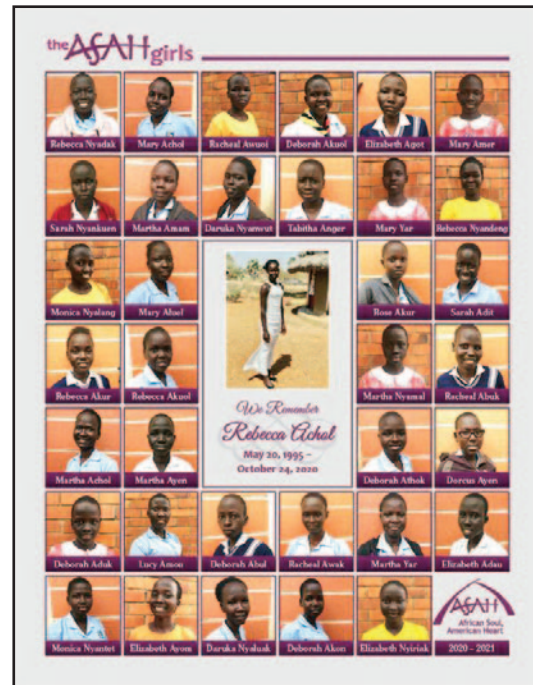
Deb is the oldest daughter of the founder of Dawson Insurance and handled its crop insurance until the family sold the business. She was always fascinated by international adoption. She and her first husband adopted an Asian daughter; later she became the mother of two Russian teen-agers.

After John Marks introduced her to one of the Sudanese Lost Boys, she was called to help girls be educated and have a home in the young man’s home town in South Sudan. Out of that came African Soul American Heart, a boarding school that had graduated 40 young women. But war came again, and the school was destroyed.

Later her program was able to bring the girls back from the three countries to which they had fled and reestablish the program in neighboring Uganda. She said 17 girls are now about to graduate; no new girls are being accepted into the program.

She described Uganda’s main industry today as “dealing with refugees.” The nation — the size of Minnesota — has a population of 45 million, bolstered by the overwhelming influx of people fleeing South Sudan. “One longtime camp built for 10,000 refugees now holds 50,000,” she noted.

Two staff remain at ASAH. Both have their own families but continue to look after the girls, to whom they have become father figures. “These girls will have many more opportunities than most girls in Uganda,” she asserted, “because of their education. They live out our mission: Protect. Educate. Empower.”



The girls of ASAH

Looking Ahead

July 5 — no noon meeting

July 7 — Social & Passing of the Gavel
5-7 p.m.....Nolte Home, 117 38th Circle Ave. S.
Food & drink. Installation of new president.

July 12

Sergeant at ArmsJohn Andreasen

July 19

Sergeant at ArmsJon Riewer

July 26

Sergeant at ArmsAnne Blackhurst

July 26 — FM Rotary Foundation Golf Scramble

1:30 p.m.....Moorhead Country Club