



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 105—Number 45

June 12, 2025

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

President Steve Astrup
President-Elect Tim Hiller
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
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

May Birthdays

Andreasen, Christopher	May 2
Hannig, Jean	May 9
Tranby, Dave	May 14
Moorhead, Tracey	May 27

Wedding Anniversaries

Matthees, Charles and Barbara	
46 years	May 26 1979
Joppa, Teresa and Norwig, Richard	
35 years	May 05 1990
Schaefer, Steve and Terese	
33 years	May 30 1992



Tuesday, June 10

Sam Schaefer, son of Rotarian Steve, joins us to talk about making the documentary "Speak." Alex Aldrich is our sergeant at arms.

Rotarian Eric Offers Overview of FM Area Foundation & philanthropy

President Steve Astrup welcomed Moorhead Rotarians to the fourth-to-last meeting of his term of office June 3. Our very special guest was Austrian exchange student Elie Zimmerman, attending her final gathering of a year spent in here in Moorhead as she prepared to leave for a tour of the West Coast.

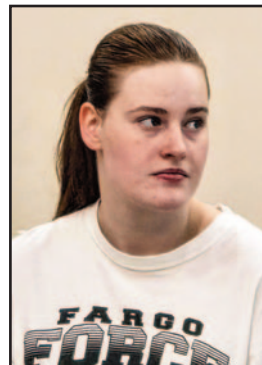
Steve called Janelle Leiseth to the front, then inducted her as the newest member of Moorhead Rotary. Janelle is executive director of the Legacy Education Foundation, which supports scholarships and the needs of Moorhead's public schools.

He announced that the FM Rotary Foundation is once again sponsoring its annual golf tournament. Following the experiment of last summer, it will again forsake outdoor golf for an event at Suite Shots in Fargo. It's scheduled Monday, Sept. 15.

Two meetings, on June 24 and July 1, have been scheduled for the evening instead of at noon. The club will meet at 5:30 on Tuesday, June 24, at Sanders Flats, 1710 7th St. S. On July 1, Gary and Cindy Nolte will host a gathering at their home at 117 38 Ave. Circle, where incoming president Tim Hiller will accept the gavel from Steve, who has served the club



Photos/Nancy Hanson: Eric Wilkie. Steve Astrup & Janelle Leiseth
Sergeant at Arms Jean Hannig.
Exchange student Elie Zimmerman. Tim Hiller.
Jon Riewer. Teresa Joppa.





Photos at right:
President Steve Astrup.
Dave Tranby.

for the past two years.

Sarge Jean focuses on Juneteenth

Sergeant at Arms Jean Hannig confessed she did not learn about Juneteenth in grade school, high school or college ... like most, if not all, of the Rotarians. She offered a remedial session on what the holiday commemorates — bringing word of the Emancipation Proclamation to enslaved people in Texas in 1865, among the last to learn of it. That’s when 2,000 Federal troops arrived to proclaim that all slaves were now free, effectively ending the Civil War.

Jon Riewer came up with five “happy dollars” in honor of his recent trip to Washington, D.C. Nancy Hanson’s “virtual happy dollar” supported her announcement that she’d competed in the Fargo Marathon — no, not the 26.5 km version, and by walking, not running, in the Friday 5K event. Gary Nolte’s happy five honored our district governor Kay and Act Up Theater’s upcoming “The Sound of Music,” in which daughter Angie plays the baroness. Janelle shared her pride in two recent grads, one from MHS and the other from college. Steve Schaefer thanked Jerry and others who helped at the marathon water station. Finally, Jerry Rogers wished Elie well, telling her she’s welcome to come back any time.

FM Area Foundation includes 550 charitable funds, \$130 million in assets

Eric Wilkie, a native of Pembina and MSUM graduate, heads the FM Area Foundation. It manages \$126 million in assets, releasing from \$7 to \$10 million each year in grants to various causes. About half of that amount is controlled by its board, currently headed by Gary Nolte; the balance is distributed as advised by donors.



According to Eric, the foundation includes 523 component funds. About three-fourths are endowed funds — that is, long-term investment funds designed to generate income for the funds’ missions over time. Since its inception, the area foundation has received \$233 million in total gifts.

The amounts of its grants vary. In 2022, the foundation awarded \$9,537,391; in 2023, \$7,393,118; and in 2024, \$7,013,497. Since its establishment in 1960, the FM Area Foundation has awarded grants of \$96.1 million. The organization plans to celebrate its 65th anniversary from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 12.

Looking Ahead

June 10
Sergeant at ArmsAlex Aldrich
ProgramSam Schaefer, “Speak”

June 17
Sergeant at ArmsLaura Lobo
Program.....Emily Kaiser, Down Home

June 24 — Evening Meeting
Sanders Flats,1610 Seventh St. S.5:30 p.m

July 1 — Change of Gavel Social
5:30 p.m.....Nolte Home, 117 38th Ave S Circle