



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 103—Number 52

June 27, 2023

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

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

Directors (2023) Chris Andreasen, Greg Johnson & Steve Schaefer
 Directors (2024) Tracey Moorhead, & Ernie Simmons
 Director (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

June Birthdays

Farwell, Randy June 17
 Joppa, Teresa June 27

Wedding Anniversaries

Dovre, Paul & Mardy 65 years
 Jun 03 1958
 Qualey, Neil & Carmen 55 years
 Jun 15 1968
 Tranby, Dave & Sharon 49 years
 Jun 22 1974
 Wai, Sam & Coralie 47 years
 Jun 20 1976

Rotary Anniversary

Deilke, Violet 27 years
 Jun 04 1996



Photos/Nancy Hanson: Markus Krueger, program director of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, brought early Moorhead history to life on June 20.

Looking Ahead — Tuesday, June 27
 The Gooseberry Park Players will present a special program at our meeting Tuesday. Jon Benson is sergeant at arms.



Above: Visitor Heather Ranck helps President Dave induct Carmen Escobar. (Right) Paul Dovre; Steve Schaefer, Dave Tranby & Austin Rund in background. (Below) President Dave. Heather Ranck.

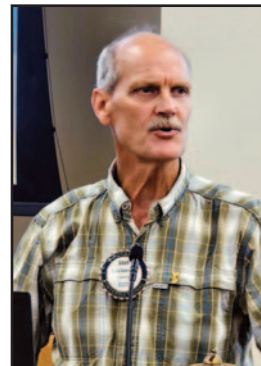
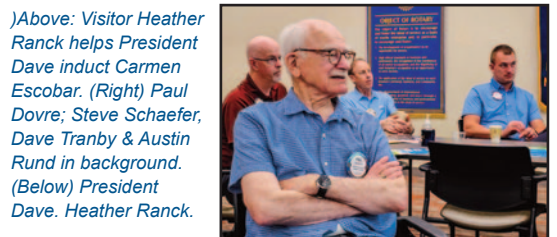
Clay historian Markus Krueger shares tales of Clay County's Wild West days

President Dave Sederquist welcomed Moorhead Rotarians to the second-to-last meeting over which he'll preside as his term ends and he hands the gavel over to Steve Astrup. His name, however, will remain on the club's roster of officers. He volunteered — and was quickly elected — to serve as the club's treasurer, the post recently relinquished by Emily Gess.

Jean Hannig re-introduced a special guest, Frieda, who spent a year in Moorhead in 2019-2020 as a Rotary international exchange student. The Finnish woman came back to thank host families Rick and Danelle Dauner and Dave and Gina Monson. She is taking a gap year after graduating high school to travel.

Heather Runck of Fargo Rotary, who has spearheaded the campaign to build the Rotary Natural Play Hill and Bike Park in Riverfront Park just north of downtown Moorhead, reflected on the successful ground-breaking June 15. About 100 Rotarians and community leaders were on hand for the project kick-off.

The Rotary Foundation still needs to raise \$215,000 to complete all the features planned for the development. She distributed sponsor packets and urged members to contact businesses that have not yet had a chance to support the project. More than \$1 million has already been received in cash gifts and pledges.





Photos: Sergeant at Arms Randy Farwell.

Trivia master Brent Brandt.

Katie Fredericksen.

Former exchange student Frida Lehtonen of Finland.

Gary Nolte; in background, Carmen Escobar and Dale Hetland.

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

Board approves club contributions

President Dave announced that the club’s board of directors has approved a grant of \$1,000 to help Moorhead elementary schools continue to develop their inventory of books on diverse cultures — the project originally launched by the club as one of its major centennial projects.

A check for \$500 has also been contributed to the Moorhead Business Association for support of the fireworks display called “5656OOOH AAAH.”

Sarge Randy tells story of Juneteenth

Sergeant at Arms Randy Farwell gave a brief history of Juneteenth, the day the last slaves were freed in Texas. He collected happy dollars in honor of Frida’s visit and Carmen Escobar’s induction as our newest member. Several expressed gratitude for all the work Heather Ranck has done to make the Rotary Natural Play Hill a reality. Dave Sederquist shared his good news: a new grandbaby.

In early days, Moorhead was a wild spot

Jean Hannig introduced guest speaker Markus Krueger, who picked up the story of Moorhead and Clay County where he left off earlier this year during the club’s meeting to view the HCSCC exhibit “Ihdago Manipi” at the Hjemkomst Center.

He told about the first known white settler in Clay County, Randolph Probstfield, who established a farm with his wife as early as 1859. When the Northern Pacific Railroad was closing in on the

Red River in 1871, speculators assumed it would cross the Red River at that point, prompting an encampment of squatters that was dubbed Bogusville. Their hopes of getting in on the ground floor of the new town were thwarted, however, when the true site — Moorhead — was revealed.

Markus focused on the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Duluth to Seattle. Begun at Duluth in 1870, it reached here in 1871 and was completed in 1883. The government gave the railroad 40 million acres of land, which it sold to finance the project.

In 1860, the Homestead Act had been passed, giving settlers the opportunity to file for 160 acres of free land; if it was farmed for five years, title passed to them. Much of the region was acquired by homesteaders, but an equal amount was purchased from the NP, which owned every other section between 20 miles north and south of the tracks.

Many Clay County towns were named for board members and executives of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which runs along Highway 10. The railroad built spur tracks every six miles along the route to refill the water tanks of the steam-powered engines. A grain elevator was usually built at these spots so that farmers could sell grain that could easily be shipped to distant markets. Towns grew up around them.

Moorhead was a wild and wooly town in the beginning. A notorious gunfight spurred the first two county commissioners, Harty and Wilson, to appoint Jim Blanchard as the first sheriff and David Grant as the first justice of the peace. An attorney who had come west to work on the railroad, Solomon Comstock, became the first county attorney and, ultimately, one of the most prominent names in Moorhead history.

Markus also talked about the monument to the Felix Battles, a black civil war soldier, which he designed. It’s being fabricated now, and will be installed on the grounds of the Center for Business at Minnesota State University Moorhead. The HCSCC is working to raise \$10,000 to cover the cost of fabrication and installation.

Looking Ahead

June 27

Sergeant at ArmsJon Benson ProgramGooseberry Park Players

July 4 — No Meeting

July 25 — 14th Annual Rotary Foundation Golf Scramble

1:30 p.m.Moorhead Country Club



14th Annual Golf Scramble

Tuesday July 25, 2023 – Moorhead Country Club

Shotgun Start: 1:30 pm – Dinner and awards: Immediately following

Registration begins at 12:30 and Includes: Greens fees, cart, range, dinner and awards
(Brats available for purchase during registration)

Complete the form below or register online at:

<https://fm-rotary-foundation-golf-scramble.perfectgolfevent.com/about-us#!>

Golf and Sponsorship Registration:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foursome with Hole Sponsor: | \$650 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Foursome: | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hole Sponsor: | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Golfer: | \$125 |

Golfer 1 Name _____ Phone _____

 Email _____

Golfer 2 Name _____ Phone _____

 Email _____

Golfer 3 Name _____ Phone _____

 Email _____

Golfer 4 Name _____ Phone _____

 Email _____

Please make checks payable to **FM Rotary Foundation** and mail to:

FM Rotary Foundation, PO Box 684, Fargo, ND 58107-0684

Email or text questions to Dick Larson at larsonpilot@yahoo.com or Jay Borland (701-552-1289) at borland927@gmail.com