



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 100—Number 11

March 17, 2020

New Members 2019-2020

Zach Heuring
Josh Jaster
Megan Wiesneski
Dylan Connell

Moorhead Rotary Club 970 District 5580

President Steve Schaefer
President-Elect Jerry Rogers
President Nominee 2021-2022
Gina Monson
Treasurer Emily Gess
Secretary Teresa Joppa
Past President John Andreasen

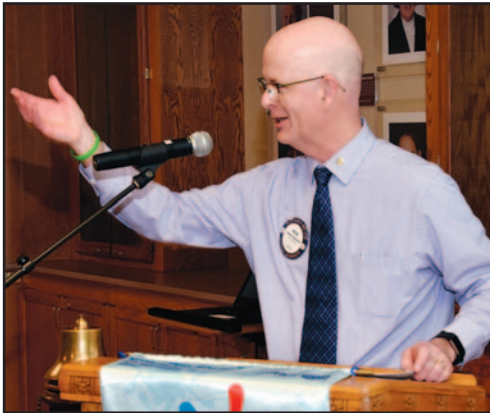
Directors (2020)
Gina Monson, Pat Gulbranson and
Greg Johnson
Directors (2021)
Dave Sederquist, Kevin Heazlett and
Tracey Moorhead
Directors (2022)
Tammy Finney and Steve Astrup
RYLA Coordinator Randy Farwell
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Sergeant at Arms Team
Dave Sederquist, Eric Johnson
& Jean Hannig
Pianist Sharon Fangsrud
Song Leaders Bill Schwandt,
Bob Hanna
Photographer Russ Hanson
Paddlewheel Editor
Nancy Edmonds Hanson

Rotary Exchange Student
Frida Lehtonen, Finland

Meetings are held at 11:50 a.m. every
Tuesday in Birkeland Lounge at
Concordia College's Memorial
Auditorium.

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



No Meeting for Next Two Weeks
As you learned in President Steve Schaefer's email last Friday, Moorhead Rotary will not be meeting on March 17 or 24. Concordia College has cancelled all meetings, as Gov. Tim Walz urged in his peacetime emergency declaration last week. As the situation develops, Steve will be in touch with members with additional updates.

Rotarian Eric Johnson talks of years in Navy JAG and role at Concordia

President Steve Schaefer welcomed members and guests to what would become Moorhead Rotary's last meeting for the next several weeks — though at the time the effects of the escalating COVID-19 pandemic were only beginning to be felt in Minnesota.

Ben Jagim of FM PM Rotary invited members to join the club for its Bowling for Books event March 21 at Sunset Lanes ... which has since been cancelled.

Dave Tranby announced that the annual FM Rotary Golf Scramble is scheduled for July 28 at the Moorhead Country Club. Registration and hole sponsorship forms will be coming soon.

District 5580 continues to look for applicants for the Rotary Peace Fellowship; application deadline is March 31. The application can be downloaded from Clubrunner; or visit district5580rotary.org.

John Andreasen said the FM Rotary Foundation's Recital for a Cause committee still needs several more members. This year's event at First Lutheran Church on April 21 will be preceded by a dinner featuring speaker Ann Husy.

Photos/Russ Hanson:

President Steve Schaefer.

Sergeant at Arms Bill Craft.

Rotarian of the Day Jon Benson (at right)

(Below) Rotarian Eric Johnson talked about his career in JAG before coming to Concordia.



Board members needed!

The club has several open seats on its board. Interested? Talk to Steve or President-elect Jerry Rogers.

Sarge Bill does what comes naturally: Gives members a quiz

Falling back on "what comes naturally to an educator," first-time sergeant at arms Bill Craft



Photos/Russ Hanson

Jill Baldwin, guest Shelly Carlson and Kevin Heazlett dish up.

Eric banter with Chris Volkens and Shelly Carlson.

Gina Monson and Ernie Simmons.



Guests — March 10

Shelly Aasen Carlson, guest

Visiting Rotarian

Ben Jagim, FM PM Rotary

March Birthdays

Rogers, Jerry	Mar 13
Wilkie, Eric	Mar 13
Volkens, Chris	Mar 18
Ackerman, Stacey	Mar 20
Hendrickson, Chuck	Mar 23

Rotary Anniversaries

Wai, Sam	19 years
Mar 01 2001	
Filler, Doreen	6 years
Mar 11 2014	
Belcher, Barb	7 years
Mar 19 2013	
Lunak, Brandon	3 years
Mar 28 2017	

quizzed Rotarians on Daylight Saving Time ... its origins, when it was adopted, and whether it should be abolished.

Happy dollars piled in. Tracey Moorhead was happy for newspaper coverage of the new choir conductors. Gina celebrated her friend's winning the March travel giveaway the day before her 50th birthday. Eric Johnson applauded his family's new puppy and their visit to New York City, with a coronavirus report on their return. Sue Koesterman was thankful for the Food Share Challenge this month. Bill's were *unhappy* dollars because of the cancellation of the writers conference due to travel restrictions. It will be rescheduled, he promised.

'Criminal justice is heartbreaking profession'

Rotarian of the Day Jon Benson reported problems in googling member Eric Johnson: *Which Eric J.? Was he the interim head coach for various schools? Was he the graduate of Wayne State University? The husband of head women's coach Amanda? No, no and no.*

The correct Eric Johnson — the one who is director of alumni relations and advancement at Concordia. Born in St. Paul, he attended Concordia, graduating in political science, then worked for Common Cause before enrolling in law school at the University of Minnesota. "I hated law school," he said. "My Concordia experience made me understand learning has value in and of itself. Law school was all about getting the biggest and best job making the most money."

He joined the Navy, entering the Judge Advocate General legal corps, JAG. "I didn't want to go where I'd been, and at least the Navy would send me near an ocean," he quipped. His active duty took him from San Diego to Spain and much more. He spent six years of active duty and 17 in the reserves.

He said, "I might be advising the base commander one day and serving as prosecuting or defense attorney the next. ... I know all about what you can legally blow up, when you can blow it up, and who you can — and cannot — kill."

Eventually he was back in Ramsey County as a prosecutor, then in the U.S. Attorney's office. Finally he went to work, after 9/11, with Homeland Security.

By 2005, he said, he was ready to be done with it all. "Criminal justice is a heart-breaking profession. It's hard to see the terrible and awful decisions people make."

He returned to Moorhead and Concordia, where he filled a variety of roles before landing in the Office of Alumni Relations. "I realized I want to help develop young people and improve the world," he said. "The legal career was about advocacy — doing this thing for this important purpose. I still do that at Concordia."

Eric and his wife Kirsten have three beautiful children. "It's all good," he said. "And I've never been to Wayne State."

Looking Ahead

March 17 — CANCELLED

March 24 — CANCELLED

March 31

Sergeant at Arms.....Zach Heuring
Program ..NDSU's "Engineers without Borders,"
Alena Pringle
GreetersJon Benson & Cindy Nolte

April 21 — Recital with a Cause

Dinner at 7 followed by concert at 8 at First Lutheran Church, Fargo

April 23-26 — District Conference, Brainerd

To register, go to www.rotary5580.org

July 28 — F-M Rotary Golf Tournament