



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 35

March 17, 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
Director (2027) Kay Parries
RYLA Coordinator Jon Riewer
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Paddlewheel Photographer/Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

March

Birthdays

Rogers, Jerry March 13
Wilkie, Eric March 13

Rotary Anniversaries

Riley, Thomas 33 years
Mar. 01 1993
Lunak, Brandon 9 years
Mar. 28 2017



Coming Up March 17

Toato Kpor of Lumina Youth Empowerment joins us to talk about his youth leadership program. Eric Wilkie is our sergeant at arms.



Photos/Nancy Hanson: Sergeant at Arms Steve Astrup. Angie Walswick and Kailyn Allen of Family Resource Center. (Below) President Tim Hiller. Kay Parries. Janelle Leiseth. Jon Benson. Cindy and Gary Nolte.

Angie Walswick & Kailyn Allen detail year-old Resource Center goals, services

After calling Moorhead Rotary's regular meeting to order on March 10, President Tim Hiller turned the podium over to Sergeant at Arms Steve Astrup.

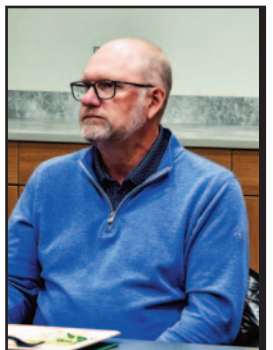
Steve went into plans for the upcoming Fargo Convention Center. Funded by a 3% lodging tax approved by the voters in 2024, the proposed center will fill a gap for space large enough and designed well enough to host large regional and national conventions — a venue that Fargo-Moorhead currently lacks. "It will put the FM area on the map for large gatherings," he said.

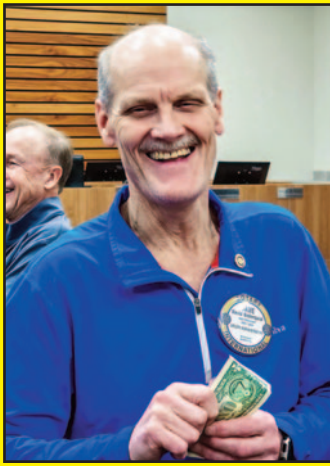
The center will be funded by proceeds of the lodging tax. However, privately funded development is anticipated in the area around the center.

Four sites are under final consideration — the FargoDome, near the Scheels Arena, near Brewhalla on First Avenue North, and downtown, where it would incorporate the grounds and some of the structure of the 60-year-old Fargo Civic Center.

The ultimate decision on the location will be decided in April.

Gary Nolte was first to answer Steve's call for happy dollars. Following up on last week's





Photos/Nancy Hanson:

Dave Sederquist.

Eric Wilkie.

(from left) Bill Woods, Ernie Simmons, Jon Benson and Paul Dovre..



presentation on roundabout, he told of experiencing his first on a service trip to Nicaragua, where he got stuck in the inside lane and circles six times before escaping.

Ernie Simmons fined himself for missing his date as sergeant at arms last week. Janelle Leiseth reported another successful phone-a-thon by MHS students on behalf of the Moorhead Legacy Education Foundation — its 33rd year of raising money for scholarships. Paul Dovre reported the Concordia women's swim team is headed to the Sweet 16, while Jon Benson brought up the MHS Spuds' second victory as the Minnesota state hockey champions. Dave Sederquist observed the anniversary of running the first 4-minute mile in MSUM history. Dave Tranby mentioned his upcoming family trip to see the national parks of Utah.

Family Resource Center aims to offer help before interventions are needed

Steve introduced Kailyn Allen and Angie Walswick of Clay County's year-old Family Resource Center.

The goal of centers like this one is to serve families by connecting them with community

resources in the hope of ultimately preventing interventions by Child Protective Services. Led by a board made up of family members, the organization provides referrals to other agencies to help individuals find assistance with housing, care crises and other challenges.

Among its protective factors are increasing caregivers' knowledge of child development and parenting skills; the social and emotional competence of children; caregiver resilience; concrete support for caregivers; and social connections.

The Family Resource Center hosts drop-in hours at convenient locations like the library, Moorhead schools, Micah's Mission and M State. It partners with the Lakes and Prairies Community Action Agency, Village Family Services, Family Health Care and others.

The center's funding has come from the state of Minnesota and private grants. Rather than being a freestanding nonprofit, its support is split between CAPLP and Clay County. It was among the first of its kind established in the state; now more than 20 counties have done so. Housing, transportation and childcare are the most frequent problems with which it deals. More info: ClayCountyFRC.org.

Looking Ahead

March 16 — Board Meeting

Sanders Flats4 p.m.

March 17

Sergeant at ArmsEric Wilkie
ProgramToato Kpor, Lumina Youth Empower

March 24

Sergeant at ArmsGary Nolte
Program.....Connie Faulkner, Pride
and Joy Rescue

March 31 — Rotary Service Day

April 7

Sergeant at Arms.....Cindy Nolte
ProgramJohn Andreasen,
Recital with a Cause

April 14

Sergeant at Arms.....Chris Andreasen
ProgramDr. Timothy Downs, MSUM

April 21

Sergeant at ArmsJanelle Leiseth
Program...Dayna DelVal, "Discover Your Spark"

April 28 — Rotary Service Day

May 5

Sergeant at Arms.....Kay Parries
Program.....Julie Christianson, Landon's Light

May 12

Sergeant at ArmsSteve Astrup
ProgramSue Baron, Golden Drive
Homeless Kids