



# The Paddlewheel

## Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 101—Number 39

March 23, 2021

### Moorhead Rotary Club 970 District 5580

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

Directors (2022) Chris Andreasen  
& Steve Schaefer  
Directors (2023) Tammy Finney  
and 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

### March Birthdays

Rogers, Jerry Mar 13  
Wilkie, Eric Mar 13  
Hendrickson, Chuck Mar 23

### Rotary Anniversaries

Wai, Sam 20 years  
Mar 01 2001  
Lunak, Brandon 4 years  
Mar 28 2017



### Coming Up Tuesday

Mayor Shelly Carlson and city manager Dan Mahli are our guests Tuesday. Rob Remark is sergeant at arms, and Teresa Joppay is Rotarian of the day.

Join us in person (if you're comfortable with precautions) at the Moorhead Schools Operations Center at 1313 30th Ave. S. or online via Zoom.



### Moorhead Rotarians again meet in person!

After a full year of meetings held online via Zoom, some Moorhead Rotarians saw each other in person Tuesday. While others — still not ready for in-person attendance — logged in on Zoom, a dozen members gathered in the board room of the Moorhead Schools Operation Center, lunching on boxed sandwiches provided by the Concordia Food Service. Thanks to the school system and Rotarian Brandon Lunak, the spacious room was set up with enough tables to accommodate everyone at their own. The district's excellent video technology also made Zooming a breeze, with one screen showing members online and another mirroring the view in the meeting room. Thanks, Brandon!



*Photos/Russ Hanson: Last week's meeting combined 12 Rotarians who attended in person at the school operations center with another eight who continued to join via Zoom. If you plan to attend in the future, be sure to make your lunch reservation by noon on the preceding Wednesday at the link in your email.*

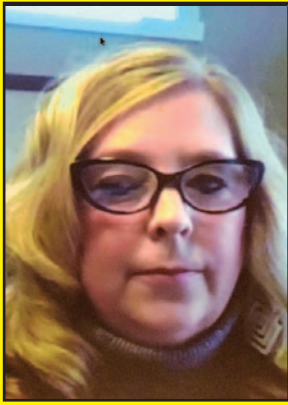
### Sergeant Vi asks for pluses and minuses

Sergeant at Arms Violet Deilke asked members to share what they liked — and disliked — about the year of Covid. Some volunteered the pluses: More home time and less winter driving. The minuses, though, far outweighed the positive responses: Too much time on their computers. No visits with grandchildren, the elderly and other family members. And no Rotary exchange student!

She continued, "What have you learned?" Among the responses:

- Despite all our science, pandemics and plagues still can occur.
- To appreciate health care, scientists and families.
- A campaign and election can be held in a pandemic.
- It's a huge learning curve.
- Rotary's infrastructure has been so useful in combating other diseases and disasters.
- Appreciate our families and the little things in our lives!

Members volunteered happy dollars for their own



Cheri Gerken, Presentation Partners in Housing



and their friends' good news. Among them: Eric Wilkie celebrated Dave Sederquist's new granddaughter and his own appreciation of being together again, with a big "bravo" to our schools. Several others echoed his kudos for the school system and its new facility. Jean Hannig, participating via Zoom, said she was happy to be in Arizona. Treasurer Emily Gess noted that all the Rotary bills have gone out. Teresa Joppa shared her pleasure in having daughter Lydia home from the Air Force for a visit.

**Presentation Partners in Housing aims to help F-M families avoid homelessness**

Cheri Gerken, executive director of Presentation Partners in Housing, joined the club via Zoom to talk about her organization's mission to prevent homelessness. Formed by the Sisters of Presentation, the organization started out with a study in 1988 to research the area's need for adequate housing. They began by providing homes themselves, but quickly realized that preventing homelessness was a more effective means of providing assistance than undoing homelessness and its effects.

Cheri was named executive director of Presentation Partners in Housing in 2014. A graduate of Moorhead High School, where she participated in gymnastics and diving, she has a

masters degree in marriage and family therapy.

PPIH carries on the work of Nano Nagle, who founded the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the 1700s. Known as the "Lady of the Lantern," Nagle shed light on the plight of the poor. PPIH today diverts people from homelessness by finding safe housing alternatives that do not involve stays in homeless shelters.

Preventing homelessness, she said, starts with targeting households at imminent risk of homelessness with a light touch in support and case management. It often involves financial support. During 2020, the organization assisted 508 households (totaling 1,361 individuals) with a total of \$872,000, averaging \$1,717 per household. That included \$708,000 in rent and mortgage subsidies, \$48,000 in deposits and other fees, and \$116,000 in catching up with utility payments. Among its other services are mediation with landlords and family members, budgeting guidance and referrals to mental health, wellness and recovery resources.

She said, "The need is far greater than the available resources." Requests tripled in 2020, totaling \$4 million, but PPIH's budget was \$800,000. Funding comes from the United Way, corporate and individual donors, and Sisters of the Presentation, along with other charitable groups.

**Looking Ahead**

**March 23 — Hybrid, live and Zoom**

Live meeting at Moorhead Schools Ops Center, 1313 30th Ave. S.; also streamed online

Sergeant at Arms .....Rob Remark  
Rotarian of the Day .....Teresa Joppa  
Program.....Mayor Shelly Carlson & City Manager Dan Mahli

**March 30**

Sergeant at Arms.....Russ Hanson  
Rotarian of the Day .....Randy Farwell  
Program.....Sheri Larson, Moorhead Business Association

**April 6**

Sergeant at Arms.....Cindy Nolte  
Rotarian of the Day .....Cindy Nolte

Program .....Jason McCoy, "Beyond Smoke & Mirrors — Marijuana Prevention"

**April 13**

Sergeant at Arms .....Eric Wilkie  
Rotarian of the Day .....  
Program .....Erin Prochnow, YWCA Transitional Housing

**April 20**

Sergeant at Arms .....Bob Hanna  
Rotarian of the Day .....Steve Schaefer  
Program .....Amina Falkhulkova, Tajkistan Well Project

**April 27**

Sergeant at Arms.....Steve Schaefer  
Rotarian of the Day .....Dave Sederquist  
Program.....Jon Eisele, Enbridge Energy