



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 106—Number 36

March 31, 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 31

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

Pride and Joy Rescue founders talk of horses' rescue and rehabilitation

President Tim Hiller welcomed Moorhead Rotarians May 31, a week after the regular service day held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. He reminded them of two deadlines: The deadline for registering for the Rotary International conference, March 31, and for submitting applications for the club's annual grant program on April 1.

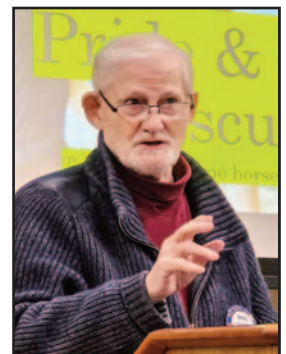
Sarge Ernie salutes St. Patrick on his day

Sergeant at Arms Ernie Simmons shared little-known facts about the saint whose name is carried on March 17. Patrick, he said, was a French 16-year-old brought to Ireland as a slave after his capture by Irish pirates. Eventually rescued and returned to his French family, he regarded enslavement as God's test of his faith. After attending seminary and becoming a bishop, he returned to the Emerald Isle to convert its people to Christianity.

March 17 isn't his birthday — it's believed to be the date of his death. The holiday originated in the U.S.

When Ernie called for happy ("and sad") dollars, Dave Sederquist and Jean Hannig both applauded the president's work in soliciting a wider range of applications for this year's grant funds. Tom Riley brought up St. Urho, "someone who doesn't really exist," who's become the patron saint of Finland.

Photos/Nancy Hanson: (Top) Connie Faulkner of Pride and Joy Horse Rescue. (Second row) Rob and Connie Faulkner. (Third row) President Tim Hiller. Sergeant at Arms Ernie Simmons. (Bottom) Chris Andreasen. Jon Benson and Dale Hetland.





Photos/Nancy Hanson:
Cindy Nolte, Kay Parries, Tom Riley
and Dave Sederquist.

Tom Riley



Created by Finns in northern Minnesota, he's known for saving the grape crop from grasshoppers or snakes. Finally, Violet Deilke asked for prayers for her stepson Skip, who's been diagnosed with aggressive brain cancer.

Pride and Joy Rescue saves and rehabs equine victims of 'invisible neglect'

Ernie introduced Connie and Rob Faulkner, who have established Pride and Joy Rescue northwest of West Fargo. Its purpose: To create meaningful connections between animals and people, and to rehabilitate horses and other farm animals suffering from severe neglect. "The name came from our own animals and our children," Connie said.

"I've spent my lifetime around horses, and have seen the powerful role they can have in someone's well-being," she explained. "They have a tremendous ability to heal, both physically and emotionally."

Large-animal neglect is mostly invisible, she told us — something we don't see in our own neighborhoods, like the abuse of domestic animals. That makes it "virtually impossible" to raise funds.



The Problem You Don't See

Large animal neglect is invisible.

Large animals don't run your neighborhoods, they are in fields, neglected, overlooked and not understood. The hooves, the weight, what they really need.

The rescue receives horses in all kinds of conditions, suffering from all kinds of diseases and injuries. Their first was Gunnar, the neglected horse who arrived 400 pound below a healthy weight. After good food and good care, Connie said, he is now stout and healthy.

A secondary purpose of Pride and Joy is to introduce young people to animal care, in Connie's words "getting them away from technology." The young people assist with the daily care, feeding, rehabilitation and training of Pride and Joy's horses, showing up "no matter what happened the day before."

The experience, she said, introduces them to all kinds of tasks, from communicating (with people as well as horses), first aid, budgeting and planning and repair work, to getting along and sometimes training others in a professional environment. "They learn how to stay calm in an emergency," Connie told us, "and sometimes how to mourn loss."

She pointed out that horses feel everything humans feel and mimic their handlers' state of mind — "even our blood pressure and heart rate."

For more information: prideandjoyrescue.com/

Looking Ahead

March 31

Sergeant at Arms Gary Nolte
Program Toato Kpor, Lumina Youth Empower

April 7

Sergeant at Arms Cindy Nolte
Program John Andreasen,
Recital with a Cause

April 14

Sergeant at Arms Chris Andreasen
Program Dr. Timothy Downs, MSUM

April 21

Sergeant at Arms Janelle 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 Arms Steve Astrup
Program Sue Baron, Golden Drive
Homeless Kids

May 19 — Tour of New Moorhead Library

May 26 — Rotary Service Day

June 23 — Rotary Service Day