



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 105—Number 31

March 4, 2025

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

President Steve Astrup
President-Elect Tim Hiller
President Nominee
Treasurer Dave Sederquist
Secretary Teresa Joppa
Past President Dave Sederquist

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
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 Anniversary

Riley, Thomas 32 years
Mar. 01 1993
Lunak, Brandon 8 years
Mar. 28 2017



Tuesday, March 4

Dan Hannaher joins us for an update on resettlement of refugees in Fargo-Moorhead and the U.S. Ernie Simmons is sergeant at arms.

Isaac Lundberg explains challenges facing school district in boosting attendance

President Steve Astrup welcomed members and two guests to Moorhead Rotary's Feb. 25 meeting. Mohamed Matarneh is working with the committee planning the Recital with a Cause, while Brianna Gibbons — who will tell us more on March 11 — invited members to refer girls in grades 2 through 6 to the new season of BIO Girls, a program to their increase self-confidence.

Hannig receives Paul Harris Society award

Gary Nolte presented a certificate of membership in Rotary's Paul Harris Society to Jean Hannig. Membership is awarded to Rotarians who contribute \$1,000 per year to the international foundation and its projects.

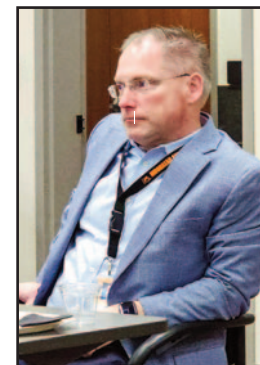
Sarge Dale looks effects of U.S. leaving WHO and defunding USAID

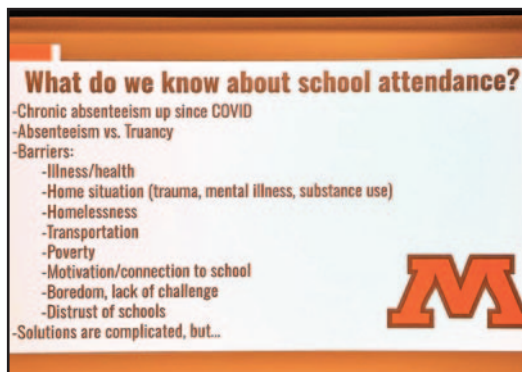
Sergeant at Arms Dale Hetland shared an update on the effect of the administration's cancellation of WHO membership and funding of USAID on Rotary International's Polio Plus and other projects.

He quoted the Rotarian Minute News of Feb. 16: "Rotary remains committed to eradicating polio, despite the U.S. decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization, a key partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. As a founding



Photos/Nancy Hanson: Isaac Lundberg, MAPS. Gary Nolte and Jean Hannig. (Above) Steve Astrup. Sergeant at Arms Dale Hetland. (Below) Tracey Moorhead. President-Elect Tim Hiller. (Bottom) Brandon Lunak. Kirk Scott.





partner, Rotary has worked for decades with governments and organizations to reduce polio cases of 99.9% since 1988. The organization remains dedicated to protecting every child, even in the most remote and challenging regions. Rotary is confident that GPEI will continue to adapt, innovate and ensure vaccine accessibility worldwide.”

The stop-work order for USAID affects other projects, including water and sanitation projects. The international service club is working to find alternative funding solutions to support ongoing efforts.

MAPS seeks solutions for absentee problem

Supt. Brandon W introduced Isaac Lundgren, who is working on solutions to improve absenteeism and truancy in Moorhead Area Public Schools, a former social studies teacher and cross country coach who now serves as supervisor of federal programs.

Moorhead is one of 12 Minnesota districts chosen or a pilot project for studying solutions for the problem of students who are frequently absent. The district received a \$350,000 grant, part of the \$4.5 million appropriated by the 2024 Legislature.

Chronic absenteeism has been substantially greater, he said, since the COVID pandemic. He explained the difference between absenteeism — due to illness, health problems, lack of transportation, homelessness, home situations and poverty — and truancy. The latter, he said, can stem from lack of motivation or a connection to school, boredom, lack of challenges, and distrust of the education system.



One of the first challenges of the project was to simply track data across the system. School periods themselves vary at different level, with no common system for recording system. A data visualization system has been acquired to gather data into a consistent form in which it can be reviewed and studied ... an essential first step in moving toward solutions.

The district’s Attendance Review Board is partnering with the county attorney’s office, social services and probation office to find ways to get kids back in the schools.

Solutions may be complicated, but in some cases they may be far simpler. Isaac pointed to the Alternative Learning Center as an example. He told of an 18-year-old who was on the verge of graduation when her car battery died. A new battery was provided and, three days later, she graduated.

Isaac urged us to use common sense to counteract false information. “Our schools are stuck in the middle when politics enter the picture,” he said. “We all need to turn the

Looking Ahead

March 4

Sergeant at ArmsErnie Simmons
Program.....Dan Hannaher, Refugee Program

March 11

Sergeant at ArmsDale Hetland
ProgramBrianna Gibbens, BIO Girls

March 18

Sergeant at ArmsEric Wilkie
ProgramKory Wolden, Family Health Care

March 25 — Club Social (TBA)

April 1

Sergeant at Arms
ProgramGary Nolte, Salvaging New Orleans