



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 101—Number 37

March 9, 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

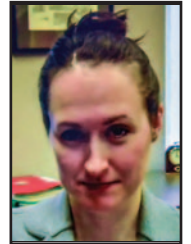
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Pianist Sharon Fangsrud
Song Leader Bob Hanna
Trivia Master Brent Brandt
Photographer Russ Hanson
Paddlewheel Editor
Nancy Edmonds Hanson

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 via Zoom

Sean Coffman presents a program on the Human Family Project at this week's Zoom meeting. Bill Craft is our sergeant at arms, and Rob Remark is Rotarian of the Day.

Legal Services provides free legal help in civil matters for low-income MN residents

President Jerry Rogers welcomed 17 Moorhead Rotarians to the club's weekly Zoom gathering, citing one of March's highlights: It's Water and Sanitation Month for Rotary International.

March travel raffle winners announced

Violet Deilke, who chairs the committee that manages the club's biggest annual fund-raiser, announced the month's winners of the Travel Raffle.

She sold tickets to the two top winners herself — David Ebinger, who nabbed a trip to Hawaii, and Mike Sherman (editor of Area Woman magazine), who won \$200 in cash. Jerry Rogers won the \$100 dining certificate to Rustica in the name of his wife Melinda.

The final drawing in April will award a trip to Portland, Maine.

More Zoom ... or in the same room?

Membership chair Steve Schaefer reported that 25 members completed last week's survey on future

Rotary meetings. As the pandemic ebbs, thanks to greater availability of COVID-19 vaccine, members were asked their opinions about returning to in-person meetings.

Steve reported that 17 of the 25 respondents said they are comfortable returning in person for hybrid sessions, which would also include on-line video for those not attending in person. Eight wanted to wait before doing so.

Steve and Jerry are checking out meeting spaces (possibly at the Moorhead School Operations Center) and video services that might be available there, as well as catering from Concordia, which has provided meals in the past.

Steve noted that something is possible as soon as March 16. Members will be notified of plans well in advance. The next board meeting is also scheduled for March 16.

Play ball! Er, trivia

Trivia master Brent Brandt challenged members on a pair of topics ... Broadway musicals and the Minnesota Twins' game 9 lineup back in 1997.

Dave gathers reasons to celebrate

After sharing highlights of the new Rotarian magazine — did you know Warren G. Harding was a big Rotarian? — Sergeant at Arms Dave Sederquist issued the weekly call for happy dollars. Gary Nolte kicked it off: He had had the chance to receive his COVID vaccination. Dave Tranby expressed glee that he hasn't had a chance to use his snowblower yet this year. Steve Schaefer was

Rotary Clubs unveil plan for Natural Playground



This artist's rendering of the "treehouse" or several play structures, shows the various materials used in equipment for free, unstructured outdoor play in the FM Rotary Foundation's Natural Park. Construction is planned for 2022.

The FM Rotary Foundation's Natural Playground project was featured on the front page of the Extra newspaper on March 4. You can read the story online at www.thefmextra.com/rotary-clubs-unveil-plan-for-natural-playground/

Nancy Edmunds Hanson
The five Rotary clubs of Moorhead and Fargo have their work cut out for them putting the "play" back in "playground." The clubs' charitable foundation is launching a project designed to bring back the freedom and fun of unboarded outdoor recreation — the kind of free-time activity that today's parents and grandfathers remember from their own childhood. Today, children's time is closely scheduled among organized, coached activities. When they're not in school, they're often staring at a digital screen. The hours of free play their fathers remember from childhood have been largely replaced by regimented activities and video games.

"We want our playground to give kids a really unique experience," says Treasurer Frank, who chairs the committee laying plans for the playground. "The more we learn about it, the more excited we get." Plans for the Rotary Natural Park have been in the works for almost two years. The new park is expected to reside against the walking and biking trails along the Red River in Moorhead's Riverfront Park. The public fund-raising campaign and beginning construction is projected for 2022. Like other children's facilities funded by the service clubs in Lindenwood Park in Fargo and at Southwest Regional Park in Moorhead, the new playground is a cooperative project, with one Rotarian raising the funds among businesses and individuals in the community and the local park district providing land and taking over maintenance of the area when it's complete. Holly Helbohm, director of Moorhead park department, told the Extra, "Moorhead Parks

Playground on Page 8

delighted by having had his first Dairy Queen blizzard of 2021 on Monday.

Emily Gess shared news that her daughter Lauren qualified for the state swim meet. Chris Andreasen thanked members for their kind wishes since the death of his wife Nikki's mother. And Dave reported that Rob Remark and his wife welcomed a new daughter on March 1, adding to their family of two boys.

Legal Services of NW Minnesota helps low-income Minnesotans with civil matters

Rotarian of the Day Dave Tranby introduced Anne Hoefgen, the executive director of the Moorhead-based nonprofit Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota, who moved here from the Twin Cities 17 years ago.

The independent organization serves 22 Minnesota counties through three offices staffed by 10 attorneys, as well as outside attorneys who assist as volunteers.

Minnesota, Anne said, is the first state with "legal kiosks." Located in 60 cities around the state, they provide an easy access point into the court system for residents who qualify for their services.

The group is retrofitting a "Justice Bus" that will help bring its services to people in rural areas.

Legal Aid focuses on cases involving children's safety and stability. They also work in other areas where problems commonly arise, such as housing law, which may involve evictions, repair issues, housing discrimination and other matters; and income and consumer issues ranging from public benefits and unemployment to garnishment and licensing.

To be eligible for its services, clients must have income of 200% or less of the federal poverty level and limited assets. Legal Aid works with area social service agencies, Community Action, homeless coalitions, public housing, senior program and crisis centers to help clients sort out their issues and obtain needed help. "Sometimes it takes all these partners to solve the client's problem," Anne pointed out.

Education is another aspect of the agency's work, she added: "Sometimes our largest goal is to keep problems from arising by educating people about their rights and responsibilities." By educating potential clients, she said, the agency can help keep meritless cases out of the courts.

Looking Ahead

March 9 — via Zoom

Sergeant at Arms.....Bill Craft
Rotarian of the Day.....Rob Remark
Program.....Sean Coffman,
Human Family Project

March 16 — via Zoom

Sergeant at Arms.....Violet Deilke
Rotarian of the Day.....
Program.....Cheri Gerken, Partners in Housing

March 23 — via Zoom

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

March 30 — via Zoom

Sergeant at Arms.....Russ Hanson
Rotarian of the Day.....
Program.....

April 6 — via Zoom

Sergeant at Arms.....Cindy Nolte
Rotarian of the Day.....
Program.....Jason McCoy, "Beyond Smoke
& Mirrors — Marijuana Prevention"

April 13 — via Zoom

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