



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 103—Number 15

October 11, 2022

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

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

Directors (2023) Chris Andreasen, Greg Johnson & Steve Schaefer

Directors (2024) Tracey Moorhead, Ernie Simmons & Megan Wiesneski

Director (2025) Tammy Finney

RYLA Coordinator Randy Farwell

Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte

Program Chair Jean Hannig

Trivia Master Brent Brandt

Photographer Russ Hanson

Paddlewheel Editor Nancy Edmonds Hanson

October Birthdays

Wai, Sam	Oct 03
Hanson, Russ	Oct 23
Johnson, Gregory	Oct 28

Wedding Anniversaries

Gess, Emily & David	Oct 04 2008
14 years 1	
Elmer, Corey & Brenda	Oct 05 1996
26 years	
Hannig, Jean & Jeff	Oct 24 1972
50 YEARS	

Rotary Anniversaries

Andreasen, John	30 years
Oct 01 1992	
Benson, Jon	15 years
Oct 09 2007	
Gjerde, Mike	1 year
Oct 18 2021	
Donabauer, Brad	9 years
Oct 22 2013	
Andreasen, Christopher	4 years
Oct 23 2018	
Simmons, Ernest	4 years
Oct 30 2018	

Meetings

Tuesdays — noon
Moorhead Schools Operations Center, 1401 30th Ave. S.



Coming Up Tuesday, October 11

Capt. Abe Tomayo of the local Salvation Army unit is our speaker this week. Rob Remark is sergeant at arms, and Dave Tranby is Rotarian of the day.

District governor addresses ways to combat general decline in Rotary membership

President Dave Sederquist welcomed Moorhead Rotary members and two very special guests — our Chilean exchange student Sergio, and

District 5580 Gov. Kay Biga. Kay was spending two days in Fargo-Moorhead to visit all five local clubs. She applauded the F-M groups as setting an excellent example for other areas with multiple Rotary units, citing the ways in which we work together on community-wide projects like the Natural Playground, the Lindenwood Inclusive Playground, Miracle Field, the Recital with a Cause and other opportunities. Later Tuesday, she was the guest of honor at a five-club social at Drekker Brewing.

Travel Give-Away sales mark milestones, but have a ways to go to reach 400

Travel raffle chair Dale Hetland reported that 160 tickets have been sold so far — good results, but falling far short of our goal of 400. He urged members who have already sold their five allotted tickets to come to him to obtain more. He also suggested ways in which successful sellers have been nabbing interest among their prospects, including email, the postcards mailed to past



Photos/Nancy Hanson: Exchange student Sergio and District Governor Kay Biga. President Dave Sederquist. Sergeant at Arms John Andreasen.

(Below) Gov. Kay shares new idea for growing clubs. Travel Raffle chair Dale Hetland reports on sales as Tracey Moorhead looks on. Dave and Rotarian of the Day Kay Parries set up the AV presentation.





Photos: Gov. Kay Biga. Sergio and Violet Deilke dish up their tacos. RYLA chair Randy Farwell. Tim Hiller and Tammy Finney.

Other F-M Rotary Meetings

- Monday: FM/PM Rotary
5:30 p.m., Lucky 13 Pub
- Monday: Fargo West Rotary
Noon, Holiday Inn
- Wednesday: Fargo Rotary
Noon, Radisson
- Thursday: FM/AM Rotary
7 a.m., Ramada Plaza

buyers by the committee, and use of social media.

Two members qualified for the week’s incentive drawing. Violet Deilke’s prize was tickets to the upcoming Concordia Christmas concert, while Jean Hannig received tickets to MSUM’s Straw Hat Players.

Sarge John shares inspirational letter

As sergeant at arms, John Andreasen focused on Rotary’s worldwide polio campaign, then read a letter written by a young student at the Anne Carlsen School in Jamestown back in 1942. The boy talked of the inspiring teacher he had during his education there — a woman born in Wisconsin without forearms or functioning lower legs. As a teacher and principal of what was then called the Crippled Children’s School, she dedicated her life to preparing students with other handicaps to live the fullest and most successful lives they could imagine. She was, of course, the legendary Anne Carlsen.

Gov. Kay almost didn’t join Rotary

Rotarian of the Day (and governor-nominee) Kay Parries introduced Kay Biga of Duluth, who heads District 5580 this year. The Duluth Kay is an attorney who recently retired as associate professor of management and business law at the University of Wisconsin – Superior.

Kay told the story of how she almost missed becoming a Rotarian. In the late 1980s, when

women were newly included in Rotary membership, she was invited — and her mother discouraged her. She was asked again and, with her mother’s advice in the back of her mind, declined. Finally she did attend a meeting and signed up. Weirdly, now her mother — the one who dismissed the club — is also a Rotarian.

“Don’t prejudge whether or not someone is right for the club or the club is right for them,” she summarized the moral of her story. “Ask, and ask again.”

Rotary membership is generally in decline in the United States, she observed, though it’s booming in some other nations, especially those in India and throughout Asia. That follows the trend being experienced by all service organizations. She said that should prompt self-examination and reviews of the way clubs have operated over the years (as the Moorhead club is doing right now). Are the dues at the right level? Do you have the right number of meetings — perhaps something other than weekly? Are you focusing on issues that motivate younger potential members? Are you committed to increasing diversity, inclusiveness and equity?

She spoke of the efforts to increase the number of women in Rotary through the current campaign, along with some clubs’ choice of specific focuses among Rotary’s seven causes — promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, saving mothers and children, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. Her own club in Duluth is the first-ever Eco Rotary, with the environment as its primary focus.

Looking Ahead

October 11

- Sergeant at ArmsRob Remark
- Rotarian of the Day.....Dave Tranby
- ProgramAbe Tomayo, Salvation Army

October 18

- Sergeant at ArmsJean Hannig
- Rotarian of the DayTBD
- ProgramSteve Iverson, Moorhead Public Works director