



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 102—Number 15

October 19, 2021

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

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

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

October Birthdays

Wai, Sam Oct 03
Hanson, Russ Oct 23
Johnson, Gregory Oct 28
Kolb, Ronald Oct 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Gess, Emily and David Oct 04 2008
13 years
Hannig, Jean and Jeff Oct 24 1972
49 years

Rotary Anniversaries

Andreasen, John 29 years
Oct 01 1992
McLaman, Rod 39 years
Oct 05 1982
Benson, Jon 14 years
Oct 09 2007
Donabauer, Brad 8 years
Oct 22 2013
Wiesneski, Megan 2 years
Oct 22 2019
Andreasen, Christopher 3 years
Oct 23 2018
Simmons, Ernest 3 years
Oct 30 2018



Photos: (Left) Children in Moorhead's Spanish immersion program show off the dictionaries they received from the Rotary Club. Books were delivered to the schools, then distributed by teachers (due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Coming Up Tuesday

Maureen Kelly Jonason, director of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County, is our guest this week. Jean Hannig is sergeant at arms, and Russ Hanson is Rotarian of the day.

Moorhead native Ben Dille talks of U.S. State Department talks about Afghanistan

Acting president Jerry Rogers welcomed members Tuesday and introduced Brent Brandt's guest, Scot Hagen of the Moorhead Massage Academy.

Following a recording of the national anthem sung by a Navajo woman in her language, Russ Hanson announced that all of the dictionaries purchased by the club have been distributed to every third grader in Moorhead, Dilworth, Glyndon, Hawley and Barnesville. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, members could not present them individually in the classroom; instead, they were delivered to schools and handed out by teachers. The books include an insert this year explaining a little about Rotary. "We've heard from many teachers about how much they appreciate the dictionaries and use them in their classrooms," he said.

Many of the books purchased through the Cultural Literacy Project, the centennial project funded jointly by the club and a grant from District 5580, have arrived. Members took part in presentations on Thursday and Friday at S.G. Reinertson, Dorothy Dodds and Robert Asp Elementary Schools and Horizon West. Another opportunity to participate will come up when the final shipment to Ellen Hopkins Elementary arrives.



Photos/Russ Hanson: Acting president Jerry Rogers. Guest speaker Ben Dille of the U.S. State Department. Travel Raffle chair Dale Hetland and committee member Violet Deilke. Sergeant at Arms Gary Nolte. Rotarian of the Day Teresa Joppa.

Meetings

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

Participate via Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/742305775?pwd=V0ZTMV11NldkY2xMMnIHNEdPdIRxdz09>
Meeting ID: 742 305 775
Password: 630851



Books purchased as part of the club's centennial Cultural Literacy Project were delivered to several Moorhead schools this week. These were presented at S.G. Reinertson Elementary on Thursday.



Travel Raffle ticket deadline approaches

Travel Raffle chair Dale Hetland reminded members that the tickets they've sold (or not sold) must be returned by Tuesday, Oct. 19. Prizes were announced for those who have sold eight or more. About 40 tickets — \$4,000 in value — remain to be sold in the final week. Violet Deilke suggested members check past sales and former Rotarians for prospects.

Ben Dille tells of service in Afghanistan

Rotarian of the Day Teresa introduced Ben Dille, a Moorhead native who has spent 30 years with the U.S. State Department, most recently in Afghanistan. With the embassy in Kabul closed, he is presently posted to Washington, D.C., awaiting a new assignment.

Ben is a member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of minister counselor for management affairs. He assumed the position in Kabul in 2020; before that, he was executive director of the Bureau of African Affairs and was sent as charge d'affaires to Khartoum and Freetown. He joined the diplomatic service in 1991 and has also served in Managua, Shanghai, Mexico City and Caracas. He holds a BA from Macalester College, a JD from the University of Minnesota, an LLM from Exeter University on a Rotary scholarship, and a PhD in international and comparative law from the London School of Economics.

Dille was in charge of a large community in Afghanistan, including police, firefighters, apartments and many who lived in industrial



containers. Knowing that withdrawal was planned in the near future, he said all assets had been identified, among them, 500 fully armored vehicles in the compound in the international zone. At the time of his arrival, 5,000 employees were on the books, half of them locals. Of the American contingent, two-thirds worked in security.

Initially, he said, they thought they might leave at Christmas, then after the inauguration, and finally by Sept. 11. That changed. Much of the military was gone by July, which changed exit plans in many ways. In April the consular service told all Americans to go home.

By the end of July, the Taliban was rapidly advancing. Once the determination was made to get out, 1,500 embassy staff were moved in 24 hours by six helicopters, accompanied by 200 troops and the embassy's own security. Ben said he believes he was on the final helicopter to the airport Sunday night. On Monday, one of the final days of the evacuation, he was flown out of Hamid Karzai International Airport on a C-17 cargo plane.

Looking Ahead

October 19

Sergeant at ArmsJean Hannig
Rotarian of the DayRuss Hanson
Program.....Maureen Kelly Jonason,
Clay County Historical & Cultural Society

October 26

Sergeant at ArmsJohn Andreasen
Rotarian of the DayDave Sederquist
Program.....Martha Wheeler, "Be Smart" Gun Safety

November 2

Sergeant at ArmsRandy Farwell
Rotarian of the DayCindy Nolte
ProgramSanford Health update

November 9

Sergeant at ArmsSteve Astrup
Rotarian of the DaySteve Schaefer
ProgramF-M Symphony Orchestra