



The Paddlewheel

Moorhead Rotary Club

Volume 107—Number 8

September 9, 2026

Moorhead Rotary Club 1405 District 5580

President Chris Andreasen
President-Elect
President Nominee
Treasurer Dave Sederquist
Secretary Alexander Aldrich
Past President Tim Hiller

Directors (2026) Nancy Hanson
& Tim Hiller
Director (2027) Kay Parries
Director (2028) Ernie Simmons
Director (2029) Jean Hannig
RYLA Coordinator Jon Riewer
Polio Plus Coordinator Cindy Nolte
Program Chair Jean Hannig
Paddlewheel Photographer/Editor
Nancy Edmonds Hanson



We're Gathering School Supplies for Golden Drive for Homeless Kids!

Donations will be presented
on October 13.

September Birthdays

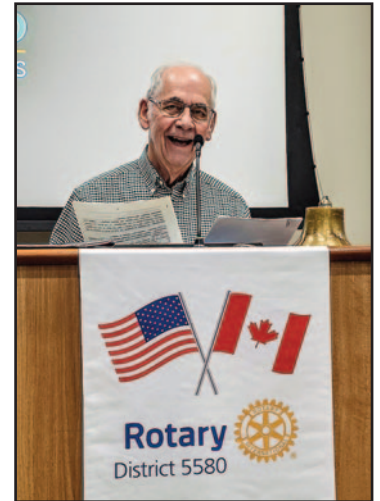
Schaefer, Steve September 1
Nolte, Cindy September 15
Simmons, Ernie September 19

Wedding Anniversaries

Andreasen, John & Carol Sue
54 years Sep. 02 1972
Deilke, Violet & Karl
51 years Sep. 12 1975
Hetland, Dale & Ruth
36 years Sep. 01 1990

Rotary Anniversaries

Nordin, Adam 11 years
Sep. 08 2015
Shockley, John 11 years
Sep. 21 2015
Remark, Rob 8 years
Sep. 18 2018
Hiller, Tim 4 years
Sep. 21 2022
Capistran, Jane 2 years
Sep. 17 2024



Coming September 8

We'll gather at the YWCA in Fargo at noon Tuesday for a tour of their facilities at 3000 S. University Drive. A box lunch will be served.

Golden Drive Service Project

Our club is collecting school supplies for the Golden Drive for Homeless Kids. Bring your donations of notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters or folders to any meeting between now and Oct. 13, when our donations will be presented to founder Sue Baron during our meeting.



YMCA Director Tells of History & Mission

President Chris Andreasen welcomed members Sept. 1 with a set of announcements, including introduction our newest member, Thomas Hill of YouthWorks. Among other updates:

- * Our club will be joining Fargo Rotarians as well as the Elks and Lions clubs in presenting dictionaries to Moorhead third graders.
- * Our school supply collection for Golden Drive for Homeless Kids has been extended to Oct. 13, when executive Sue Baron will present he program.
- * Our club social honoring Paul Harris Fellows is at



Photos/Nancy Hanson: (Top) Nikki and Chris Andreasen tossed candy at the Greater Moorhead Days parade, while Gary Nolte carried their kids in his sparkling clean classic Chevy convertible. (Top left) Sergeant at Arms John Andreasen. (Right) Jean Hannig introduces speaker Steve Smith of YMCA of the Northern Sky.



Moorhead Rotary

P.O. Box 72

Moorhead, MN 56561

Photo/Nancy Hanson:
Gary Nolte carried the Rotary
message in the Greater Moorhead
Days parade Sept. 4 in his 1956
Chevrolet Bel Air convertible.



4 p.m. on Sept. 22 at Junkyard Brewing.

- * All five FM Rotary clubs will stage a Walk to End Polio on Saturday, Oct. 4.
- * Janelle, Kay and Jean were on hand to welcome our new Brazilian exchange student Mauro. Host families are needed for the last two-thirds of his visit.
- * **Reminder:** Fill out the club survey! It's linked again in the email that carried this Paddlewheel.

Sarge Stresses Membership Importance

Sergeant at Arms John Andreasen focused on the importance of membership to the future of our club. He urged members to consider who among their contacts may be interested in taking part in our goal of supporting the community and broader issues.

He and Kay Parries are organizing a committee to consider routes to reach new Rotarians. Nancy Hanson and Brandon Lunak volunteered to serve with them; more are welcome to join. The first meeting is at 10:45 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, in Lunak's office at MAPS.

His call for happy dollars was answered first by Jean Hannig, who spoke of welcoming Mauro at the airport. Nancy was happy about the YMCA's inclusive policies throughout its history. Thomas Hill expressed pleasure that his kids arrived at school safely, and that he's joined Rotary. Kay spoke of her grandson's first day of school on

Aug. 31, and Chris added his daughter's first day of kindergarten. Gary announced his daughter recently got a promotion.

YMCA CEO Shares History and Mission

Program chair Jean introduced Steve Smith, who has been president and CEO of the YMCA for more than 30 years. A fellow Rotarian, he got his start with the organization by teaching swimming lessons, a priority he took on after a high school friend drowned. He is a national trainer and evaluator of trainers for the YMCA.

The organization now known as the YMCA of the Northern Sky after its merger with the Fergus Falls organization goes back 140 years. The local group's downtown location is known as the Fercho YMCA in honor of 103-year-old Dr. Calvin Fercho, a major donor.

The Y's mission, Smith said, is "dedicated to enhancing the spirit, mind and body of all persons through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility." That broad goal of serving the whole person is why, in his words, "the coffee hour at the end of the workout is as important as the workout itself."

A quarter of youth who use the Y receive scholarships. So do 40% of the children served by its day care and after-school programs. Smith noted that 632,750 is an important number. It's the number of meals provided by the YMCA in the year 2025 alone.

Looking Ahead

September 8 — Tour of YWCA

3000 S University Drive,Box lunches

September 15

Sergeant at ArmsJon Benson
ProgramAlicia Belay, GCA Thrive

September 22 — Club Social

Junkyard Brewing.....4 p.m.

September 29

Sergeant at ArmsBill Woods
ProgramMolly Greelis, RYLA Experience

October 6

Sergeant at ArmsEric Wilkie
Program

October 13

Sergeant at ArmsJanelle Leiseith
ProgramSue Baron, Golden Drive
for Homeless KidsDonation Presentation

Oct. 24 — 5-Club Walk for Polio @ The Loop