

Fargo West Rotary Wheel



SERVICE Above Self

Newsletter April
2009

Fargo West Rotary, PO Box 9237, Fargo, ND 58106



President's Message

By Paula Grimestad

"When I got the call at the Zoo!"

I received a phone call Wednesday morning from the Humane Society asking to come out to the fairgrounds for a meeting about the owners and their animals in the community that needed help. I quickly went out there at 3pm for a 10 minute meeting and quickly decided that we would take any small exotic pets that the Humane Society couldn't do. When I arrived back at the Zoo we already had several calls from pet owners, we gathered for an all staff meeting and designed a plan to accommodate all possible animals (within reason). My staff was phenomenal, they all worked late that day setting up the area and inventorying all enclosures, kennels and supplies we had at the zoo and what items we needed. By the end of Wednesday we were set up and ready with both Petco and Petsmart ready and willing to get us anything we needed to house an animal comfortably during this crisis.

We ended up housing several snakes, a variety of birds, bunnies and a rat, with several on a list in case of an evacuation. My most memorable pet owner was Marge. She is a wonderfully big hearted woman who owned three small parrots. These birds



were her family and she was very distraught about having to be away from them. She was obviously frightened of being evacuated, not only for her birds, but also not knowing where she would be going.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Pres Message cont
25th Anniversary
Welcome Jordan Arnold
Attendance is up
- 3 Member's Flood Report
- 4 Flood Memories
- 5 Flood Memories cont
- 6 Flood Memories cont
- 7 Flood Memories cont
- 8 Flood Memories cont
- 9 Flood Memories cont
- 10 April is Magazine Month
Birthday & Programs

Pres Message *cont*

It was my pleasure to help her. Seeing how much it meant to her was worth more than anything else.

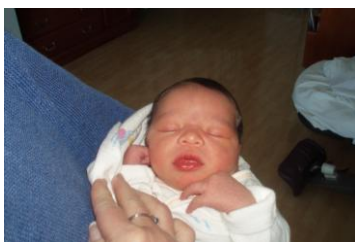
Difficult situations like this bring out the best in people. It is truly a wonderful feeling to see the strength and support generated by people doing whatever it takes to help each other.

Welcome Jordan Arnold

By Grandma Rhonda Ness

Well, Jordan has finally arrived!

At 2:30 AM on April 6th Dani & Micah went into the hospital followed by me at 2:50 AM! Hard labor started around 7:00 AM and an epidural soon followed which stopped any feeling of pain from contractions or delivery (best thing since sliced bread!).



Jordan Davis Arnold was born at 2:00pm. He was 8 pounds 1 ounce and 21" long.



Mom, Dad and Baby are all doing great.

My daughter, Nikki, and I were in the birthing room; what an amazing thing to watch your daughter give birth to your grandson!

He is absolutely beautiful...I am a little prejudiced...but, he really is!

25th Anniversary Coming Up

Fargo West Rotary is going to be twenty-five years old next month. We organized on April 20, 1984, with 21 charter members who met the constitutional requirements for membership in a Rotary Club. John Stern and Arden Glanzer were among the charter members.

Fargo West Rotary received its charter on May 30, 1984. Presentation was made to Club President William J. Kennelly by District Governor Wayne Mills of District 558.

The Charter Night was held at the Fargo, Holiday Inn: Rotary Club members from Fargo, N.D., Moorhead, MN and Wahpeton, N.D. attended to welcome Fargo West into membership of Rotary International.

Gourmet Club Anyone?

Are you interested in forming a Fargo West Rotary gourmet club?

Four to six couples would dine at the host home – depending upon the size of the host home. The host couple chooses the menu and distributes the recipes to the other couples. The host couple typically would provide the main course. The rest would be provided by the attending couples. The menu could be a theme such as Italian, French, autumn harvest, etc. Let your creativity run wild.

Ideally, we would meet quarterly, with the host home being rotated each time.

Bruce & I are in a club and have been in a couple others in the past. We enjoy the casual atmosphere of being able to share a good meal with friends and getting to know others better.

Let me know if you are interested – Betty

Member's Flood Report

Obviously, the Red River flood has taken over our lives. Meetings and schools were cancelled and businesses closed so we could do our part in protecting Fargo/Moorhead and surrounding areas.

I thought it would be interesting to document our own member's stories. Each of us has a story, although, not everyone wrote theirs. If you have not, and would like to share your story, I will put it in the May newsletter — which I hope to publish the first of the month.

I would like to offer a sincere thank you to everyone who helped with the flood effort. Some worked tirelessly to save their own homes. Others, who were more fortunate, volunteered their time to help others. You've heard it said many times, but *it does us proud!*

BettyO — Since I am limited in what I can do, I thought the best way I would help out is by manning the phones at FirstLink. I called them to see if they needed help (duh!) and asked which times they needed it the most. The answer was easy — 2:00am to 6:00am. No one was scheduled for that time. So I volunteered Bruce & I. (You don't think I would do this alone, do you?) We took our afternoon nap so we could stay up through the night. The first night we were on duty was the night of the big blizzard when roads were closed due to no visibility and drifting. You can believe the weather report. I am still amazed we took the minivan instead of the Yukon. Thankfully, we made it to the FirstLink center off 15th Avenue & 45th Street North. We arrived to find half a dozen people working from earlier shifts. They were so dedicated and pumped, they didn't want to leave. One couple had come down from Grand Forks and couldn't leave even if they had wanted to. We worked through the night, mostly fielding calls from volunteers. People called us from Minneapolis to Grand Forks and west. They were on their way to help fight the flood. We also volunteered the following Saturday night. Same hours. We found out we just aren't the party animals we used to be — but it sure felt good!

Our grandson and son-in-law sandbagged up to 13 hours a day for a week straight. He's an animal — but is very proud of his volunteering. I believe his attitude started when he was five years old and helping Rotary with the I-94 Adopt-A-Highway. Rotary has helped forge his life, so volunteering was second nature to him.

Our son, who lives north of Moorhead, had to be evacuated by a very large tractor. The water wasn't even over the road in front of their house, and within 45 minutes, it came over the road and was 4' deep in his yard. And rising. He said the noise was deafening as the water rushed over the road for a quarter mile. The farm next door has never had water in its yard and the water was in the basement and filling it and reaching the first floor.

Penny Crowder — March 27th: Two of the days I went with a group from Atonement Lutheran Church to sandbag for our members and others south of Fargo who were outside city limits. One day I went to Assembly of God where I got bussed to neighborhoods where I sandbagged. I went to the dome the other days where I helped with various sandbagging jobs.

To be honest I don't know what to say. It was all deeply personal; since it was my first flood I was really new to it all. I had the hardest time at one development south of Fargo off University when we were bagging and the water was visibly rising fast and the neighbor of the person's house we were bagging decided to walk away from his house. He loaded belongings in his vehicle and drove away. It was heartbreaking. For me I think the surreal thing was that I left the war-zone-like areas around Fargo and headed to life-as-normal West Fargo. Such a short distance separated my house from theirs but they were in chaos and I was unaffected by waters.

Jill Berg — April 13: I am using \$500 of my President's Fund to donate to the Fargo Flood Relief through the Impact Foundation, where they will double it.

Pam Schaefer — March 31: I drove with the Salvation Army to deliver food and refreshments to those who were sandbagging. I helped Olivet set up as a shelter for the National Guard.



Flood Memories

Rhonda Ness — March 28th: I didn't do anything until a few days ago because I've had the flu for the past week, so, I haven't been much use and have felt really bad about not doing my part (it's the Norwegian in me). SO, two days ago I started baking chocolate chip cookies. Yesterday my sister, my mom (88) and I put six cookies in a lunch bag and drove around finding the National Guard (not interfering with the sandbagging, etc.) and giving them a bag of cookies and a bottle of water. We were over by the Moorhead Center Mall and saw a news crew (not from here) setting up and I got out with my arms full and asked them if they'd like homemade cookies and water. The reporter asked why I would give it to them since they weren't fighting the flood. I said just because they were doing something!

She was absolutely amazed by the people she had encountered. She told of being at a place the night before between midnight and one and a woman who was being evacuated was outside with a cup of coffee in her hand and the reporter was talking to her and the woman asked the reporter if she'd like a cup of coffee. The reporter could not believe that someone evacuating their home would offer a cup of coffee to her. Oh, they were from Winnipeg.

So, today I'll be baking more cookies, bagging them and delivering them. It's has been such a heartwarming experience to do even that little bit and to see all the people out working for a common cause and smiling while doing it!

Oh, I filled the back of my Outback with twelve packs of pop, individual bags of chips, etc, and bags of candy from Bernie's and brought them to the Community Theater where they were making barbecue's, etc. for the Red Cross to distribute.

Clif Hamilton— March 28: Yvonne & I were still in Hawaii, but John Stern made the HON2 News in Hawaii. He looked like he had been working very hard.

Lesley Crawford —March 28: We have been following the flood stories on the news in Minneapolis. John Stern was featured in one of the reports. It was nice to see John again, but not under those circumstances!

Steve Shark — March 29: Was involved in a number of activities in flood support. I did do a stint at the Fargodome. There were a number of stories that people all over have shared from there and I had just a few observations myself: I did a graveyard shift on the last day- started at 2AM checking volunteers in. It was really something to see the number of folks who were volunteering at that hour! One man left about 3:30AM walking with what appeared to be a permanent crutch, said he'd been there for 10 hours. Another thing I witnessed was a young man being taped up from some injury to his hand at the Red Cross table — Then seeing him going back down to the floor to go back to work. Five teenage boys left together about 3AM, complaining because one of their mom's told them she would pick them up "early", at 3, and they had wanted to stay. Just a few tidbits!

For us an assortment of things. Cooking for the National Guard troops at Olivet. Going out to the pet rescue at the Fairgrounds and getting some supplies for them. Helping out some friends in Meadow Creek with dike building and meals. Tonight or should I say tomorrow morning, I've volunteered to be one of the check-in people at the Fargodome from 2-6AM.

LaVonne Langord —The little I was able to do was assist in making sandwiches at my church for a few hours, then making sure my house was dry! My husband, Rich, had a day off on Monday, 3/30 and he sandbagged for 4 hours - since he works for the post office and they didn't believe in not delivering the mail, this was his only chance. I'll be anxious to see all the amazing stories!



Flood Memories *cont*

Rachel Clarke — April 15: This year's flood has impacted our family in a number of ways. We live in North Fargo, just two houses down from an earthen levy on 29th Ave NE/Lilac Lane. In 1997 our house was high and dry and there was no levy in place, so this was a big change and we had a perfect vantage point to watch the water rise higher and higher. The week of the flood was interesting. I was home on maternity leave with a then 8 week old son along with our 4 ½ year old daughter. The Sunday before the crest, the night of the heavy rain, my husband decided he wanted some ice cream from the basement. This was at about 9:45pm. He came up from the basement with no ice cream, but with news that there was water in the basement coming in through two different window wells. As he went out to pump the water from the outside, I went down to do damage control on the inside. Unfortunately, I learned the hard way that bare feet, a cement floor, and water are not a good combination – I fell and sprained my ankle something fierce. I actually thought it was broken at first. Well, you can imagine the fun of yelling for help with your husband outside...thankfully he heard me and came to my rescue. A trip to the ER at 11:30pm ensued, and we made it back home a 2am. Josh then went back to pumping water and I pretty much laid in bed. Crutches and a wheely-walker chair were now my mode of transportation – which is so fun with a newborn. Needless to say, I was unable to assist for the duration of the flood. However, my husband is full time in the Air National Guard in the Security Police Squadron. He was activated to full time flood duty and began working 12+ hour shifts up at the Army Reserve Center in the command center. As the water kept rising and the predictions became more serious my family determined it would be best for the kids and I to retreat to higher ground. Thankfully my parents took us first to their house in West Fargo for a night and then to their lake home near Fergus Falls, MN. I don't know what I would have done without their help as I was not very mobile and Josh was only home to sleep...so we took a "vacation" for a week at the lake. This was also good for Josh as he could come home and sleep without being interrupted when the baby was awake in the middle of the night. We returned home when the coast was clear,

although our basement furniture is still on the main floor, and will be until the second crest has come and gone. The one image that I will never forget from this experience is when there were 6-7 big military trucks lined up outside my house waiting to drop off the dirt for the levy. It was surreal to see the camouflage and made me wonder if I would ever see something like this again. Under other circumstances it would have been very unnerving to have such a strong presence of military – as in a war zone. Which it truly was as we were at war with the river and Mother Nature. This certainly spiced up my maternity leave like nothing else could! It will be a memorable time for our family for a number of reasons. I just hope that our community doesn't have to fight this battle again anytime soon.

Pattie Middendorp — I write this after a full night's sleep, one of few, lately. I live on West Country Club Drive. The photos are ones of the dikes protecting behind our home and many in our neighborhood from the Red River.

These photos show the effort of sandbagging and dike building on both sides of the Fargo Country Club; 26th Ave S. and Southwood Dr. I have one regret and that is that I didn't take the time to take photos when we were sandbagging; too much of a sense of urgency to sandbag; all the wonderful people were just Awesome!

Personally, daily efforts in sandbagging, making sandwiches, and baking for the National Guard that patrolled our neighborhood; also for the guard staying at a local church that helped in the efforts. We took in a family (friends) for 2 nights, until they could get their 3 small children to safety. After sandbagging was completed; made meals for the residents on Southwood Drive affected by flood waters, for about 4 days. Our oldest daughter is a nurse and after the efforts of evacuated Merit Care; she volunteered with Red Cross in W. Fargo.

Our youngest daughter is a CNA (HS Student) at Waterford; after evacuation efforts she went to Valley City to help with residents.



Flood Memories cont

Paul Hannaer — March 27: Last night the dike protecting our house (which I can see from my bedroom window) developed a breach and they evacuated the immediate neighbors and patched the leak and all is reported to be well in that area at this time. We are protected by the dike and a back up dike which happens to be University Drive in south Fargo. The road has been fortified with another 2 feet of clay. I remain confident that we will be in good shape when all this ends.

Many thanks to the Coast Guard, their helicopters and the air boats from Lake Michigan. I spoke to a co-worker today who was evacuated from his house last night by an air boat. He said it was one of the worst noises to hear approaching his house followed by a knock at the door. The message was leave with us now; we are not making any more rescue trips.

March 29: This morning the military was going to place 1 ton sand bags along the Mighty Red River just across University Drive from our home. They delayed that operation and moved it to the Oak Grove area which sustained a tragic blow last night from a geyser that opened up on the dry side of their flood wall. Before they moved the 1 ton sandbag operation, there was a flurry of activity with the local and national media clamoring for position on the dike at Riverview. The Governor was there along with General Sprynczynatyk of the North Dakota National Guard. As Mike Dahl and I were walking back to his house (I have to get my internet there for the time being) there was a camera crew filming the sign we made. It turns out they were from NBC News and Mike's interview should be on the national news tonight (Sunday 3.29).

With things the way they are the Mayor has asked that all non-essential businesses remain closed on Monday. Even though office furniture is vital to business operation we will comply with the request.

Brother Dan is at Oak Grove, as I type, assisting in a rapid response cleanup operation to try and get water off the floors and remove anything that can be carried, they were allowed in for a very short time to do whatever damage control they could manage. Oak Grove had built a contingency dike just in case the neighborhood dike failed. As it turns out the dike they built to protect the school actually ended up protecting the houses on the other side. The administrator at the school called it God's intervention. I think he was right.

Brad Dahl — March 30: The days seem to run together but I believe it was a week ago that we started to help a friend of ours on South River Drive and 3rd Street now in a mandatory evacuation. The cooperation from that neighborhood along the river has been great we started out by shoveling snow away to make a path for sand bags with levels of 42 feet for water to get to. We felt pretty good about where it was at then the city came out with a different predication and we hit it again piling on more sandbags to 43 feet. Without the volunteers it could not be possible to achieve these kinds of levels in this short of time. There were people that I talked to from Mpls, Cambridge, Alexandria Hockey team, Wisconsin; some were unemployed and had nothing going on and wanted to help. It shows you that Midwestern attitude of roll up the sleeves and hit it. It made you feel good that you are from here. Our friends had to move out of their home Friday at 3:00am. They packed what they could and left because of a crack in the earth dike that the city built just south of where we were sand bagging. They have repaired that spot but feel it's too unstable to allow residents back in.

We did work in the Woodcrest area as well, helping family members there.

Chuck Perkins — March 29: Doing ok, we had a "code red" at 2am last night at Joyce's house where the water started making a river "under" the dike next to and touching her house!!! The National Guard was there in a heartbeat and dumped 300+ more sandbags on the spot. I went over to install another sump pump in the small pond between her house and the neighbor's. The neighbor has 2-3 ft of water in his basement but Joyce only has a very small amount. We are headed out this Sunday morning to buy 2 more sump pumps for backup.

Thanks to *Paul Nelson, Paul Hannaer, Dave Zieske, and John Stern* for volunteering to serve on the committee to oversee district-donated funds for the flood. This committee has representation from the local Rotary clubs. They will develop criteria and present it to United Way and Dakota Medical Foundation, so they understand how we want the Rotary donations dispersed.

Flood Memories *cont*

John Stern — March 27: I'm supposed to be evacuated, but I just turned out the lights and am keeping very quiet. Who's going to man the pumps if I'm not here? We will beat this, but I'm at peace with however it turns out. It's a marvelous battle!

John Stern — March 29: This has been quite a battle. I have no doubt at this moment that we will be successful in our marvelous fight. I haven't had a chance to see much of the media on our flood, but I understand from those of you who have sent e-mails that it has been very extensively covered. I've been told I even made the national news. I haven't seen it yet (can't make it work for some reason), but there is a link at the bottom of this e-mail to the clip.

This flood has been expected for a long time, just not to this level. I decided to get flood insurance on March 2, thinking that our floods usually come the 2nd week in April. Well, the insurance doesn't kick in until 30 days after you buy it. Let me see...that would be next Wednesday! Not very good planning on my part. Well, the river will still be at flood stage on Wednesday, so maybe I will be covered after all. We'll just have to wait on that one.

Sherri and I flew standby to Nashville last weekend to visit her son and his family. Just a quick 3 day visit. While we were sitting in the Denver airport trying to get a flight, my neighbor Jim Papacek called in a panic, saying the flood was coming and I should get home asap. I didn't believe the river would rise from 15 feet to 30 feet in 3 days, and tried to reassure Jim that we had plenty of time and not to get so concerned. We had a great time in Nashville and were fortunate to catch both the flights back that we needed, arriving back in Fargo at 2:30 PM. Sherri went to work, and I headed home to begin our battle with the Red River. Jim Papacek was glad to see me, but a little miffed that I had arrived after he'd done most of the work getting his dike built. My neighbor on the other side did a little carpentry on our deck, putting plywood all around it because the sandbags would need to sit on top of our clay dike, and back up to the deck. (This is Saturday night as I type this. I'm not supposed to be in the house, as the Chief of Police has called for another mandatory evacuation of the neighborhood. I didn't leave on this first one Thursday night, and I'm not leaving tonight. I have a canoe ready in the garage. But all of a sudden, there is a lot of activity outside, next door at Jim's and down the street, which gives me a bit of concern. A big payload, 2 big Army trucks loaded with sandbags, 3 or 4 trucks and Humvees. Lights flashing. Wish I knew what was going on! But I can't very well go and ask since I'm not supposed to be here.) Where was I...I don't remember much of Monday, as I was kind of a walking zombie.

I did get the pumps out, worried about the big gas pump (that I used in 1997 but haven't started since), checked the hoses, shoveled off the top of the clay dike to make it ready for sandbags. We went to bed really early, and got up Tuesday ready to put out sandbags.

By 8:30, there were about 300 volunteers working up and down the street, helping lay the bags. At my house, I had students from Concordia (including a Junior who really knew how to lay the bags properly), the NDSU women's soccer team, a bus of UND students who drove from Grand Forks, teachers, Rotary friends, a few state legislators playing hooky from the current session, and a fun group of high school kids from South High, who had more fun than anyone. By the end of the day they were covered head to toe with mud. I was so grateful for the volunteers; I provided all the pop they wanted. The \$560 worth of pizza didn't last 20 minutes, but was very much appreciated by the kids. When we went to bed Tuesday night, most of the neighbor's work was done, and part of ours. I was getting nervous about ours, and called brother Jim in Minneapolis. He drove up on Wednesday with his son Jacob, and they went to work immediately laying sandbags. It was a miserable day, snowing off and on all day, eventually as much as 10 inches of fresh new snow, very much not needed. By noon we had a dike up to 42 feet, anticipating a 39-40 foot flood. Then, we learned that the crest had been raised to 41-43 feet. So we had to add 3 more feet to the dike. We had to re-marshal volunteers to build it up. Then we had to pull the carpet in the basement. In 1997, there was significant seepage, and dry carpet is lots lighter and easier to take up, than soaking wet carpet. There has been less seepage this year, but it is still significant. We vacuum it up every 30 minutes or so. Some of the seepage came from our neighbor, an inexperienced flood fighter, who disconnected his sump pump hose because he was afraid it would freeze in the 18° nighttime temp and burn out the pump. So all night long, his sump pump dumped hundreds of gallons of water between our two houses. Much of that water ended up coming through our walls and onto the floor. Today, for some reason, the pumps were not handling the water as well as they had yesterday. I got really anxious, and decided I'd better get the gas pump ready. Water came into the basement as one or another pump malfunctioned. By sheer luck we happened to be there when the float on one of the pumps stuck in the off position. We fixed that. Then we discovered leaks in the hoses. We fixed that. I sent Michael to the store for more pumps and attachments for the gas pump. While he was on his way, I figured out what was wrong with the main pumps (I forgot they needed to be cleaned periodically of twigs, leaves, etc) and suddenly, everything was back in balance and working the way it should. My peace returned and with it a renewed optimism. I'm really rambling here, but I'm running on adrenaline, and have been for 19 hours. Michael is going to relieve me in a bit. He's been so helpful. When I initially talked to him about coming to help with the flood, I said the weekend around April 15. When I called him Thursday, he readily agreed to come Friday afternoon, and he arrived at 6:30, with 2 bottles of very good European beer. After supper, I showed him how to check the pumps, I took a shower, and went to bed. I'd had 6 hours of sleep over 2 nights. I was asleep in 5 minutes. Maybe less. Didn't wake up until 4:30 this morning, very refreshed and raring to go.

Flood Memories cont

David Wrolstad — Looks like the Gate City Bank family saved a co-workers farmstead north of town by Gardner due to overland flooding – little scary getting out there as the roads started to be washed out – some high school students from Gardner helped as we worked in 3 feet of water to build a ring dike around the home.

Been working on helping the folks on the river and in Timberline by our Fox Run development each day since. Thought I better come into the office for a short to check what I missed last week.

Email from family Gate City helped: “My husband and I just want to say thank you again for helping us out on Monday. If it wasn't for the dike built around the house, we would have lost the basement for sure!! That water came up an addition 8 inches or more between Monday night and all day on Tuesday. We had four sump pumps going all day Tuesday to keep the water low inside the dike. We ended up with some water in the basement, but our sump pump was able to keep up. The water is going down, and we are now able to drive into our yard. Things are starting to look good for us, but our thoughts and prayers are with everyone else. I pray they can win this battle too!

Again, thank you for all your support and hard work!!
Your Friends, Tyler, Christine, Simon, and Owen”

Deb Magnuson — I was sent to the lake by my husband so he could focus on managing the flood fight in our town home addition at Sundance Square in south Fargo. On the way out of town I felt I just had to call my good friends in Moorhead after I heard about the evacuation of their area. Within three hours most of the family was able to join me. Larry & Dawn Papenfuss, their two children Luke & Hannah, and Dawn's mother Becky Thompson (evacuated from Waterford) have been on the "sleep over" at our lake place near Lake Park. We even have Hannah's service dog Britta!

Larry is a member of the Moorhead Rotary club, which is entirely incidental, but a nice story of Rotarians banding together!

Larry is making daily trips into Moorhead. He is the Athletic Director at Concordia, and is working to protect his house, support the Concordia, efforts, and help his neighbors.

During the day we watch every news cast we can. I fall asleep with the radio on, waiting for news. This is the first time in my life I am grateful for my cell phone and its ability to connect me to loved ones and friends.

God bless us one and all.

Joyce Linnerud Fowler — April 1:

As far as my involvement in flood efforts — About 11pm last Thursday we received notification that we needed to evacuate Bethany Homes. We had spent the previous days and weeks planning and hoping to stay at Bethany but were also preparing in the event we needed to evacuate.

We began the process of evacuating 375 nursing home, assisted living and independent living residents on Friday morning. Many of our Assisted Living residents and independent folks went with family. Approximately 240 residents were relocated to facilities across the tri-state area.

I came with my staff & 54 Assisted Living Residents to Casselton. We started out the first night in a Red Cross shelter. After learning that we could be here up to a week, we were fortunate to be able to move to St. Leo's Catholic Church.

I have been here at St Leo's with my staff. Residents are staying in the Sunday school rooms on the lower level of the church; staff are being shuttled between Fargo and Casselton (I've been at my sister-in-law's next door to the church). Bethany also has 45 of our Memory Care residents in the community room on the upper level of the church.

Our residents have been remarkably resilient they have even considered this quite the adventure! The people of Casselton have opened their homes to our staff; they have brought treats, furniture, all sorts of things to help us out. They set up cable TV for us, helped rig up a shower, volunteers come throughout the day and visit with residents, serve meals, play games, etc.

Father Miller and St. Leo's parish have been remarkable to open up their church to us and continually offer assistance us as comfortable as possible.

The Casselton volunteer fire department helped secure cots, to relocate from the shelter & have provided unbelievable support to us. Cass County Sheriff Deputies have helped to provide a secure environment for our residents, they have even helped entertain and care for people.

Though some pretty harrowing times, the people from our community have brought many blessings to us!!! We are in the process of returning to Bethany Thursday, everyone is looking forward to returning home but we have made some great friends here who will be dearly missed by all of us.

I do not know how we will ever be able to thank everyone enough!

Think Spring!

Flood Memories cont

Jodi Baumgartner — March 28: Looking to help yesterday, Cassie and I went to West Fargo High to catch us bus which would take us where we were needed. Fargo had all the volunteers required so we asked if we would be willing to go to an evacuated part of Moorhead. There were 200 of us and we all wanted to go.

It may sound strange, but sandbagging is pretty fun. You meet all sorts of people, you talk and joke to pass the time, and it's really good exercise. My forearms ache - I am certain Popeye got those pythons from throwing sandbags. This was a little different. When we drove into the south Moorhead neighborhood, the bus got really quiet. Nearly every home had a sign posted in the window or a ribbon tied to the front door. It was both a ghost town and a hub of activity with sand trucks, semis loaded with sandbags, and firefighters from all over Minnesota on site. We worked on contingency dikes on Rivershore Drive. You could see some river dikes had failed and the water was being held back by a second dike. We were actually diking in front of the homes in case the second river dikes gave way. The thought was the homes would be a loss, but the neighborhood would be spared. We threw these sand bags faster than any we had ever thrown before. The sense of urgency was strong and although the mood was not heavy, there was no time for banter. The temperature was in the teens, but we were working up a sweat. We had finished up the dike in front of one of the homes and had just started working at the house next door when river dike behind the home gave way and water began gushing into the home and around the dike. The firefighters working at the base of the dike began yelling for us to get out (they were running, too!) It was a very tense situation. We left as fast as we could and the National Guard came to shore up the breach as quickly as possible. I heard that they were eventually able to contain it, but we all know this poor family lost their home. The kids on the bus had a lot of questions about what this all means for the neighborhood. Today they are diking along 8th street from 24th Ave. S. to 40th Ave.S. in case the dikes along the river where we were working (about 8 blocks back) fail.

Our crest is expected to come tomorrow. We are now at 40.9 feet. All Fargo dikes are at 43 feet. Contingency dikes are going in as a second line of defense in Fargo as well. We have 300,000 sandbags in reserve. The major volunteer effort is over as of now, unless the crest is raised. We will be holding our breath for many days as the river is expected to stay at crest for at least five days and we have rain coming next week.

Some lighter moments....when making bags at Sandbag Central, I ended up with black lips and black corners of my mouth. I was putting the ties in my mouth in order to keep up with the flow. Not a good idea. We also got a good laugh when Cassie asked if all this sand came from the ocean. A major highlight for me was when the college junior I was throwing bags with asked me what school I went to.

Harley Raffle Update

As you already know, we were not able to sell tickets at the Topper's Antique Car Show because it was cancelled due to the flood. Also, the open house at the Harley Davidson dealership was cancelled, leaving us to hustle to sell tickets.

On April 2nd Paula, Randy Long, Leo & Maks (exchange students) Brad & Jen, Bruce & Betty got together to mail out flyers as a last-ditch effort. Patti Middendorp has secured a mailing list of Harley owners that we used. There is a long story here, but won't bore you with it. Suffice it to say, the work was quick and we were able to get the mailing out. It has paid off, as we can credit many tickets to that mailing list. Of course, we met at the zoo during one of the snowstorms when no travel was advised.

Jill Henning, Tom Fellman, Jill Berg, Brad & Jen, Paula & Randy, Bruce & Betty met at Jill Henning's office on April 13 to call our past customers. The evening paid off handsomely. This last push at sales has put us around the 350 tickets sold. I believe we were around 275 Monday noon.

The drawing is April 18. Hopefully, we will sell a few more tickets between now and then. Come out to the Harley dealership for the drawing at 2:00pm. It should be fun!

Here are a few of the photos.



April is Magazine Month

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. August is membership and extension month.

RI produces a wealth of informational and promotional materials, many of which are available for download. Rotary’s flagship publication is *The Rotarian* — the official monthly magazine. All Rotarians receive *The Rotarian*. Rotarians also receive the *Rotary World*, a newspaper for RI leaders published five times a year. Our District has the District Governor’s newsletter.

These magazines will introduce you to many aspects of Rotary you may not have experienced. They are well worth reading and learning what your organization is doing worldwide. These magazines also inform you of how your donations are spent through the world community service projects.

Don’t just read your magazines. Donate them. Share them with others so they know what you are doing for this world. It’s a great way to educate the general public. Most people have no idea what a service club is or what it does. What better way is there than to share professional publications? Who knows? You may sponsor one of these people for membership in Fargo West Rotary.



Happy Birthday!

- 4/6 Keith Freeland
- 4/9 Jim Thompson
- 4/13 Brenda Boland
- 4/15 Mary Johnson
- 4/21 Jill Henning
- 4/21 Joyce Linnerud-Fowler
- 4/25 Mark Hulbert

Important Rotary Info

Greeter: LaVonne Langord

April Meetings - Magazine Month:

4/6 Pam Gruchalla — Ecuador Mission Trip

4/13 Athletic Republic Off-site

4/20 Red River Zoo Off-site

4/27 Leo Boas — Fargo West Rotary Exchange Student

Make up meetings at any of these local clubs:

Fargo West Rotary meets Monday noon at the Holiday Inn

Moorhead Rotary meets Tuesday noon at the Moorhead Country Club.

Fargo Rotary meets Wednesday noon at the Radisson Hotel.

FM/AM Rotary meets Thursday at 7:00a.m. at Seasons at Rose Creek Golf Club

FM/PM Make up meeting is at 5:15pm the 1st & 3rd Wed of every month at the Winery

