



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter December
2008

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



President's Message *By Paula Grimestad*

December is family month. It's fitting for this time of year. The holiday season can get a bit hectic, but don't let the chaos and pressures become so overwhelming that you forget what it's really all about – spending time with family and caring about others. It's the time of year for people to look for ways to help others. It could be adopting a local family and purchasing gifts for them; donating toys, so less fortunate kids receive a gift for Christmas. Donate food to our local food pantry or be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army.

As Rotarians, we practice "Service Above Self" year-round. That's what we stand for and that's why I'm so proud to be a Rotarian. It doesn't have to be a certain time of year for a Rotarian to be reminded to care about others. We are always looking for ways to improve the lives of people; in our community and all over the world.

This may be a busy time of year, but stop, look and remind yourself of all the blessings you have in your life and all the wonderful things you do as a Rotarian.

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District Governor
Tully Chambers
visits Dec 1

BOD Meeting at the
Ramada Inn
12/5/08 at noon

Christmas Social at
the Winery at
6:00pm.
Hors d'oeuvres &
Cash Bar

Please Note:

CHISTMAS IS CANCELLED

Apparently, YOU told Santa that
you have been GOOD this year ...



He died laughing

Dictionary Project

The three Rotary clubs of Fargo have joined together to purchase dictionaries for all 3rd graders in Fargo. Moorhead Rotary has done this for years for the Moorhead students. The West Fargo School District purchases dictionaries for their students. The dictionaries are very popular with students as they are excited to get their very own dictionary.

There are 1,050 third grade students in the Fargo. This includes the parochial schools, which are also part of the project. The cost to our club is between \$875 and \$1,000. It's a small price to pay for such a valuable gift.

Legacy Leader Award

It is a great joy to brag about our very own **Ed Stern** receiving the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo Moorhead's 2008 Legacy Leader Award! Ed was recently recognized at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting. Ed is a member of the Stern family who has over 100 years of retail clothing in North Dakota. Ed started with Straus in Valley City.

Ed still shows up at Straus to make sure the 'boys' are doing the job they were trained to do.

To read an in depth article about Ed and the Stern family, there is an excellent article in the Prairie Business magazine at <http://www.prairiebizmag.com/articles/index.cfm?id=151§ion=News>.

We may have to pay attention to the good-natured razzing we give Ed since he is a celebrity now.

Congratulations, Ed! We are very proud to know you!!

Judy Pearson Receives Award

From the Fargo Forum:

Judy Pearson, North Dakota State University associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, is the 2008 recipient of the Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award.

The award is presented annually to a National Communication Association member who has given outstanding cumulative research, teaching and service to both the association and the profession.

Way to go, Judy! We know how involved you are and the travelling you do for your career. This award is well-deserved....Congratulations!

Hassan's Daughter

Hassan Ghazi's daughter, **Najla Ghazi Amundson**, wrote a beautiful article titled "Wearing the Hijab for the First Time." She wrote it for the NDSU Magazine, Fall Issue. It is her personal story about being Muslim. You can read it at http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsu/news/magazine/vol09_issue01/wearing_hijab.shtml

Najila is a beautiful woman, inside and out. She was a TV anchor for years, and many of us remember her work.

Hassan is one of our treasured sergeants-at-arms and a popular member of our club. You can be very proud of your daughter!



GSE to Japan

Sponsored by the Rotary Foundation, GSE is a five-week vocational and cultural exchange program. This unique opportunity is designed to develop professional and leadership skills of young people. GSE team members are between the ages of 25 and 40, are non-Rotarians, and currently employed with 2 or more years of experience in their chosen professions, and are not lineal descendants or spouses of Rotarians. Each GSE team also includes one Rotarian team leader from the sponsoring Rotary district.

GSE teams travel between cities in an exchange district, usually staying two to three nights in each location. They stay in private homes giving them the opportunity to experience life in that country in a way that cannot be experienced as a tourist. Strong bonds are made in very short times between the hosts and the team members. The hosts highlight their areas in ways a tourist would never experience. Who better knows the area than people who live there? Team members return with a host of new experiences, attitudes and thoughts.

As a GSE team leader, I will tell you it is an experience of a lifetime. My team went to Australia in 1998, and I am still in regular contact with many of the people I met there. Two of the hosts have returned to our district to visit people they hosted. ***If you are interested in being a team leader, please apply.***

Do you know a young professional who would benefit from this type of an experience? Talk to that person to find out if that is a possibility. Then bring the name to Betty Opheim who will help fill out the form and send the application to the District. I am not sure of the deadline, so time is of the essence.

Festival of Trees

Cathy Hanson and Joan Thomas volunteered their time to decorate the Fargo West Rotary tree for the Festival of Trees. Not being biased, it is the prettiest out of 140 trees. All the trees are on display at Innovis Hospital on the main and lower floors. It's well worth a trip to the hospital just to see the beautiful trees. It's like a winter wonderland.

Happy Birthday!

- 12/1 Rodger Mohagen
- 12/2 Yvonne Hamilton
- 12/5 Paul Nelson
- 12/11 Denise Drake
- 12/13 RoxAnne Friese
- 12/15 Brad Dahl
- 12/26 Bruce Karevold



Thank you, Cathy and Joan! We appreciate your artistry and dedication. You have done this several years now. For more photos, visit the Fargo West Rotary website. They will be online shortly.

Send a Soldier a Card

There is an email going around asking recipients to send a Christmas card to A Recovering American Soldier. The e-mail also provides the address for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I'm sure many of you have seen this message. And, I'm sure many of you would like to brighten Christmas for our soldiers. Unfortunately, the e-mail message isn't accurate. It is true that you can send a Christmas card to wounded soldiers. However, the information provided in the e-mail is incorrect. Cards should be addressed to:

Holiday Mail for Heroes
 P.O. Box 5456
 Capitol Heights, MD 20794-5456

Cards sent to the address in the e-mail won't be delivered. So why not brighten the holidays of a soldier who was wounded fighting for our freedom and our right to celebrate holidays as we wish.

December is Family month in Rotary, and I am sure our soldiers would rather be home with their families rather than doing what they have been commissioned to do.

If you would like to do something for the soldiers still serving, go to <https://www.uso.org/donate/custom.aspx?id=1100&>



RI 2008-09 theme

Board Highlights

I think the club should be aware of some of the items the Board of Directors face and make decisions on, so I have added this column to our newsletter. I will put various subjects in it, but not the minutes. So here goes...this is from the November board meeting.

Paula Grimestad will be contributing her president's dollars to the Student Exchange account for the year. (As you know, the Happy Dollar monies collected are for the president to use however that person wishes. If the president is involved with an organization, the money can go there. Or, perhaps the president feels passionately about a cause, and wants to contribute the money to that. It is a very small thank you to the president for being willing to serve in this capacity.)

Meal prices have been going up and there may need to be an adjustment to dues during 2009-2010 year.

The following members were proposed for the 2009-2010 year:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| ◆ President | David Wrolstad |
| ◆ President Elect | Heather Johnson-Kjos |
| ◆ Vice President | Pattie Middendorp |
| ◆ Treasurer | Cory Badinger |
| ◆ Secretary | Jennifer Dahl |

The election of officers will take place on December 8th at the regular Monday meeting.

Bruce Hager and **Sherri Arnold** submitted their resignation to the club. We have 64 members at the end of November.

Remember, you are welcome to attend any board meeting. This counts as a make-up for you. Plus, you can participate in the discussion. Some of us attend the meetings, but do not have voting rights. It is an interesting experience which you would enjoy. The board meets the first Friday of every month.

Mentor List *By Steve Shark*

Fargo West Rotary has started a mentoring program for our new members. Below is a list of the new members and their mentors. We thank the members who have volunteered to help our new members navigate Rotary.

New Member	Mentor
Jodi Baumgartner	Jennifer Dahl
Doug Burchill	John Bennett
Belinda Forknell	Jill Berg
RoxAnne Friese	Mary Johnson
Jill Henning	Paul Nelson
Melinda Kinzel	Cathy Hanson
Joyce Linnerud Fowler	Deb Magnuson
Sharon Miller	Carol Rogne

Visit John West's Home

Fargo West Rotarian, **John West**, moved to Watertown, South Dakota this summer. John is missed, so **Bruce** and **Betty Opheim** decided to take a drive to see him. John and Carolyn are doing very well and enjoying their home on Lake Pelican. We had a Sunday brunch at the Ramkota Inn and then journeyed to their home. Their house is built into a hill with open north & south exposure. They have quite a bit of land and butt up to a nature preserve. John is in his heaven! We had to take photos of them for the newsletter...so enjoy!



John misses Fargo West Rotary and sends his greetings to all of you. He will stop in from time to time when he is in Fargo. Just to make sure we are keeping the faith.

John West's Photos



John's new toy — he has a Segway which he rides all over his land, down the driveway to get his mail, and around the neighborhood. He's met his neighbors — primarily because seeing someone 6'4" going down the road a foot higher than he should be draws people to him!



As if John isn't tall enough!



Miss ND Speaks at Thanksgiving Lunch

Fargo West Rotarians were treated to a very special Thanksgiving lunch this year. Miss North Dakota, **Tessie Jones**, was the special



program. She took time out from her busy schedule to prepare a beautiful Thanksgiving message for us.

It was very apparent to all who heard her why she was selected Miss ND. She has true grace and poise. We wish her well as she goes onto the Miss America contest.

Special thanks to **Bruce Opheim** for substituting as our photographer. Be sure to check our website for more Thanksgiving photos.

We had the largest group ever for a special luncheon. It was so packed that extra seating had to be arranged. In fact, Betty had the distinct opportunity of sitting with all her friends.



We had a full house for this meeting, which made it very special for all of us. Sharing a good meal with our friends is what Rotary is all about. Our club is very blessed to have so many wonderful members. Many members brought guests, which made the occasion very lively. You know people are having a good time when the noise level is high! We have much to be thankful for. Check our website for more photos <http://www.fargowestrotary.org/>. They may not be up yet, but will be soon. Be sure to check our website often for new items.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



December is Family Month

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. Rotary International recognizes the importance of family by declaring the month of December Family Month.

Family is very important, and we can never get enough time together. Our families grow with children, grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Our extended families are as important to us as are our immediate families.

It is often said that children are the future of the world. Healthy and happy children are key to achieving Rotary’s goal of building international understanding and peace in the world. There is no better place to nourish a young mind than in a family whose basic needs have been met and who can spend time together.

Celebrate your extended family in December – the Family of Rotary! Remember to recognize the contributions of members of the Family of Rotary. The support of our families allows us to donate more time to Rotary. Often times, the spouses are right there with us, serving others. They believe in the Ideals of Rotary, too. Have you considered proposing your spouse as a member of Fargo West Rotary? It’s a very rewarding experience for the couples who are in the club. Any time you have common goals and purposes, your marriage strengthens.

The RI Board has adopted the following statement on family:
The Board, recognizing that

- ❖ the family, which is the basic unit of society in the community, is struggling with a host of complex social and economic problems that are attacking its structure;
- ❖ in many parts of the world, this breakdown of the traditional structure is, in turn, threatening the fabric of community life;
- ❖ Rotary’s longtime commitment to Community Service makes it imperative for Rotarians to actively address the crisis in the family today;
- ❖ Encourages Rotarians, Rotary clubs, and districts worldwide to:
 - a) bring their power to bear through existing programs on the most formidable problems facing families today, including but not limited to domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, gang activities, child-care needs, and underemployment;
 - b) instill the importance of universal human values in the homes, schools and communities of the world;

Important Rotary Info

December Meetings – Family Month

Greeter: Rachel Clarke

12/1 District Governor Visit

12/8 Afton Braseth — Youth Court

12/15 Christmas Lunch — Fun Personality Survey

12/22 Laura Dvorak — Girl Scouts

12/29 Administration Day

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

- c) continue current projects and undertake new ones that strengthen the family structure and make it a secure anchor for the larger community;
- d) demonstrate their commitment to family and community through projects, activities, and events in celebration of “Family Month” each year.