



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter December
2009

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

President's Message

by David Wrolstad

"December - Family Month For Rotary"



It's Sunday evening and I just got back from a great Thanksgiving Weekend at my in-laws farm in Southwestern North Dakota. The bad news is I know that our Club Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, Betty O., is patiently (?) waiting for my December President's Message. The good news is that I now have something to write about after the 6 hour drive home. Rotary has a 'theme' for each calendar month - December is 'Family' month.

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The older I get (and, yes, I am getting older at 50), the more I realize how important Family, Friends & Health are in life. I am very thankful that my family and I have been blessed with good health to date (knock on wood). I am also very thankful for all my Family & Friends. Holidays are meant to be shared with Family & Friends.

Since I began hunting again a few years ago after 28 years (I can either thank or blame Jed Krieg who invited me on my first pheasant hunt), Thanksgiving has become my favorite Holiday with the annual pheasant hunting weekend with Family. "The wife", Joan, comes from a large family with 8 brothers and sisters. The family Thanksgiving includes a weekend of hunting pheasants around the farm with: parents and parent-in-laws, fathers and sons/daughters, brothers and brother-in-laws, uncles and aunts, and cousins. The number changes from year-to-year as schedules allow.

This year the weather was extremely nice; 40's & 50's, light wind, sunny and lots of birds. I do not think the pheasant count is down around the farm - unlike other parts of the State. Most importantly.....are the experiences and the memories for each family member as we share common experiences hunting together. These are the things that I will remember most as I continue to age - I am sure my two sons, Matt & Aaron, will remember them also.

We each have many different 'Families'. The families we were born into, the families gained through marriage, the families formed through work and, finally, our 'Family' made through Rotary. *Continued on Page 2*

Reminders:

*Thurs, Dec 10 6-8pm
Christmas Social at
Sharon & Steve
Hilger's new home
434 6th Ave S #302*

*Monday, Dec 14
Christmas Lunch &
25th Anniversary*

Meet Our New Member



Dave Gross

"I joined Rotary for a chance to give back to the community that has given so much to me. I am excited to meet new people through membership and community service."

I was born and raised in Fargo, ND, and graduated from Fargo North High in 1995. Upon graduation, I played Junior A hockey in Helena, MT. From there I played at Concordia College before transferring to MSUM where I graduated with a degree in Business Administration.

My wife, Anna, teaches 9th and 12th grade English at Barnesville High School. Our daughter, Kennedy, is almost 10 months old.

I work for Country Financial as a Financial Representative. We provide financial security to our clients through insurance and investments. My background is banking/lending. My previous three years was with Bank of the West in Ramsey, MN, **where I was a proud member of the Ramsey Rotary.** Prior to Bank of the West, I was a loan officer here in Fargo for 3 years.

It is great to be back home. We have 2 dogs: English Springer Spaniel 5.5 years old and an English Brittany Spaniel 2.5 years old.

As a family, we love spending time at the lake: skiing, swimming, pontoon rides, and relaxing. I am also an avid golfer. I still manage to play some hockey, too.

Pres. Message *cont*

December is a very busy month for our 'Rotary Family'! We have the F-M Rotary booth at the F-M Chamber Business After Hours event. We have our Holiday Social at Sharon & Steve Hilger's home (thank you in advance). And we have our Christmas & Fargo West Rotary 25th Anniversary Celebration luncheon. Please try to take part in as many of these activities as you can. Let each of us create some experiences and memories with our 'Rotary Family'.

"The Future of the Fargo West Rotary Club.....IS IN YOUR HANDS." How can YOU make a difference as a member:

1. Come to weekly meetings
2. Invite a friend to a meeting
3. Invite a friend to join
4. Get involved.....ASK (You only get out what you put in)
5. Read.....the monthly club newsletter (Thanks, Betty), the monthly district newsletter and The Rotarian magazine
6. Fargo-Moorhead Rotary Booth @ Chamber of Commerce 'Business After Hours' – Thursday, December 3rd, Ramada Plaza Suites, 4:30 – 6:30 pm
7. Fargo West Rotary 'Holiday Social' – Thursday, December 10th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm @ Sharon & Steve Hilger's home
8. Fargo West Rotary '25th Anniversary Lunch' – Monday, December 14th @ noon
9. *"Eat Chili – the rest will become history."*

CP Money – 'ES' out.

Happy Birthday!

12/1	Rodger Mohagen
12/2	Clif Hamilton Jr
12/5	Paul Nelson
12/13	RoxAnne Friese
12/15	Brad Dahl
12/26	Bruce Karevold

Fill The Dome

President David Wrolstad rose to the challenge to help Fill the Dome with food for the food pantries. He donated his Happy Dollars for three weeks and raised \$427.

Congratulations, Fargo West Rotary for sharing your bounty with those less fortunate — you make our club outstanding!

A little history on Fill the Dome:

Since 2007, Fill the Dome has filled the dome three times and raised over 200 tons of food and 150,000 in donations to be donated to the local food pantries.

Goals for Fill the Dome 2009 include:

Raise \$75,000

Collect 75 tons of food

Engage 7,500 volunteers

97.1 tons of food were donated

\$96,000 donated (and counting)

2311 food bags were purchased by community members at Hornbacher's.

The Fill the Dome Project not only exceeded their goals for 2009 by a wide margin but also exceeded the total of the two previous years combined.

The Great Plains Food Bank distributes food to local pantries and shelters. Of money raised, 30 % goes to local groups and 70 % goes to a mobile food pantry to help in rural western North Dakota. Many of our members are from the western side of the state. They can be very proud of our efforts to help their hometowns. This is the spirit of Christmas at its best.

Thank you, everyone, for your support. It wouldn't happen without you.



Bruce Opheim presents a check for \$427 to Shannon Rud, a Fill the Dome volunteer.



The floor of the dome a week before the deadline.



Festival of Trees

Fargo West Rotary donates a \$1,000 purchase of a tree every year for the Festival of Trees. This is the ninth year of the festival, and we have been part of it since the beginning. The Festival provides monetary support for Fraser, Ltd for the many services they provide. These trees are purchased by a business, individual or service club. Then they are decorated and put on display at the Fargodome from Nov 12 – Dec 5. At the end of the display time the trees will be given to area families that would not otherwise have a tree for the holiday season. There were 140 trees on display this season. Eight different events were held at the Fargodome and thousands of people toured the Festival of Trees.

Rotarian Cathy Hanson and Joan Thomas (Dan's wife) have decorated our tree for years. Bruce and Betty Opheim went to the Fargo Dome, where the trees are displayed and took photos of the various trees our members donated. Of course, Fargo West's tree was the prettiest! Thank you, Cathy and Joan, for your talent and time! You are great representatives for our club!



Fargo West Rotary



Bernie's Wine & Liquors



Smith Barney



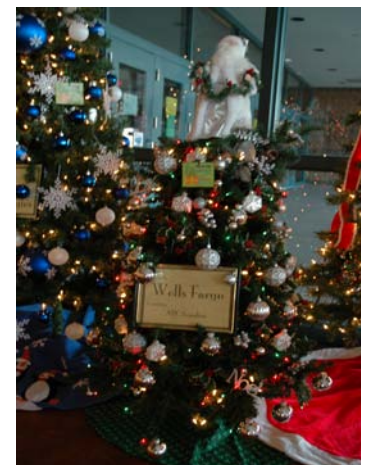
Union State Bank



Choice Financial



State Bank & Trust



Wells Fargo

Festival of Trees cont.



Gate City Bank



Olaf Anderson & Sons



Scheels



Fargo West Rotary tree with friends



Liberty Business Systems



Dawson Insurance



Beautiful trees everywhere!



View through the window

If you have the opportunity to take your family to the Fargodome, do so. It's a fun fantasy-land of trees. It's free to get in and you don't have to pay for parking.

I hope I found all the trees donated by our member's businesses. They are great!

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

December Is Family Month

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. December is Family Month.

It's befitting that this time of year should be devoted to our families. This includes our personal families and our Rotary family.

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 Rotary's commitment to family in December.

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;
 - 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.

Reprinted from an RI article from Nov. 1995. Some needs just don't change.

Important Rotary Info

December Meetings

Greeter: Paul Hannaher

12/7 David Wrolstad — This Running Life

12/14 Christmas Lunch & 25th Anniversary

2/21 Shirley Dykshoorn — Habitat for Humanity

12/28 Open

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 7:00am in the Overture Room at the Ramada Inn & Suites

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

