Fargo West Rotary

SERVICE Above Self

Newsletter June 2009

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

President's Message

by Paula Grimestad

A year in the life of a Rotary President. Wow, what an incredible experience. I am proud and honored to represent and lead our club.

The members in our club care about their community and inspire others to care also. By being a member of Rotary we have the tools to make lives of people better all over the world. Through our clubs, individuals make a greater impact.

But the only way to do that is get involved in an aspect of Rotary you have an interest in. Try something new, challenge yourself to say yes to opportunities like hosting an exchange student, reading to ELL students, attending the District Conference.

The more involved you get, the more you'll understand Rotary, giving you the tools to make a difference in your community and the world.

Margaret Mead said it best: *"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

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Thank you from Ed's Family

Fargo West Rotary received a thank you for the memorial for Ed Stern. Since it was requested that all memorials go to the symphony, we also received a nice thank you from them.

On behalf of the Ed Stern family, we want to thank all of Dad's and our friends for your expressions of love and support in recognition of his life.
Your cards, letters, memories and memorials have been overwhelming. His spirit will live on in this community and in our hearts.

Decky Thornton, Susy Fineman, John Stern, Rick Stern & Jim Stern

FARGO-MOORHEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Bernard Rubenstein, Music Director

April 29, 2009

Fargo West Rotary
PO Box 9237
Fargo, ND 58108

Dear Fargo West Rotary,

Thank you so much for your gift of $200.00 received on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 given in memory of Ed Stern. We hope this memorial gift brings a good feeling to you and want you to know that it helps us greatly to continue our mission.

Your memorial will be recognized in our Masterworks concert program honor roll for the 2009 – 2010 season. We have a wonderful season programmed – one we truly hope you will enjoy.

Thank you once again for making a gift to support the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra.

Warm regards,

Sara J. Owens-Granger
Development Director

P.S. This letter will also serve as your receipt and verifies that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this gift, making the full value of the gift available for tax purposes according to IRS guidelines.

Not many families have the memories of John and his family of their father, Ed. This beautiful was photo taken last year of all of them. They all played a string instrument at some point. Family reunions would have been very enjoyable!

Happy Birthday!

6/14 Julie Kottsick
6/20 Jill Berg
6/24 Cory Badinger
6/26 Bruce Opheim
6/27 Deb Magnuson
6/29 Sharon Miller
6/30 Pam Freeland

Meet Our New Members

"I'm interested in joining Rotary to help serve and grow the Fargo-Moorhead community."

Kari Dick

Originally from Cavalier, ND, I attended Minnesota State University Moorhead and graduated with a degree in Health Services Administration & Gerontology.

Prior to becoming the Executive Director at Waterford, I was a nursing home administrator with the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society and served in various locations in Washington and North Dakota.

My husband, Eric, is a social studies teacher in Kindred. We live in West Fargo with our twin 2 year-old girls, Maggie and Brenna, and 7 month old son, Matthew.

I love to travel, read, and spend time with my family.

"I was looking for something to get involved with in Fargo. I want to meet new people and want to make a difference in the community."

Rick Larson

Rick was born in Sharon ND, graduated from Cooperstown High School and pretty much grew up a farm boy.

He is a graduate of both North Dakota State University and University of North Dakota with degrees in Accounting and Business Economics, respectively. Rick has been controller of Roers Development, Inc. and affiliates since 2002. He is responsible for developing and maintaining the corporate accounting systems and overseeing day-to-day financial management. In addition to his corporate duties, Rick is responsible for overseeing individual project budgets for both the development and operation phases.

Rick's past experience includes 13 years as the City Auditor/Administrator for the City of Cooperstown, North Dakota, 14 years as controller for Sheyenne Tooling and Manufacturing, Inc., and 19 years as business manager for the Cooperstown School District.

He has a daughter Natalie, a granddaughter Macy, and son-in-law Chris Murch.

He also operated a small tax service for the past 35 years.

His hobbies include golfing, hiking, boating, and most anything outside.

Rotary Shelter Boxes

I just saw a nice, but brief, story on the Shelter Box and its creator, Tom Henderson, on CNN. You can see the report at http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/world/2009/04/22/impact.shelter.box.kare?iref=videosearch

The Rotary logo appears on all the equipment. Many will have seen the Shelter Box at several of the recent RI Conventions.

If you don't know what a Shelter Box is, go to http://www.shelterbox.org/. Rotary clubs worldwide contribute boxes for disaster relief.

Adopt-A-School

by Ryan McManus

The Adopt-A-School program matches individual schools with area businesses and other organizations. The partnerships bring business employees and community organization members into the schools to assist with reading programs, tutoring, career awareness presentations, special events, mentoring, extra-curricular clubs, joint community service projects, field trips and other activities.

Fargo Public Schools recently held a reception recognizing Adopt-A-School partners. We received a very nice print for our commitment from the FPS that was drawn by a first grade student. We were presented this by Steve Backsen, Executive Director of the Fargo Public Schools Development Foundation. Steve said, *"We are grateful for all the club members do at Carl Ben Eielson to assist the students and staff. Please let me know if there is ever anything I can do to support your efforts."*

Fargo West Rotary is committed to assisting ELL (English as a Learners Language) students at Carl Ben Eielson. We placed volunteers in the school on Fridays for a three month period. We read books, played games and helped with homework. "Who ever thought that going back to school could be so much fun and rewarding? I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and looked forward each week to going and helping the students who looked forward to our arrival."

President Paula and Ryan receive recognition for Fargo West Rotary's involvement.

We started the year with a kickoff event in August, and also assisted with Orientation for the first time this year. I have been told by Carl Ben Eielson staff that Fargo West Rotary has the best volunteers. We are the most consistent and have the best attendance, in addition to keeping them informed of who will be in attendance each week.

I would like to thank my 23 club members who volunteered their time for this project this year; many of these individuals volunteered every week. Your generosity of time is what makes this project successful. Besides the rewarding experience for us as volunteers, the students as well look forward to our arrival each week. If you have not had the opportunity to assist with this project you will have another opportunity next year as we have been asked to assist again. Thank you again volunteers, keep up the great work.

***Our thanks to Ryan McManus for his leadership and dedication to this rewarding program. He has inspired us to do great things.*

Close-up of picture presented to Fargo West Rotary — note the word Love embedded in it.

Flood Relief Donation

Have you ever wondered what happens to the Happy Dollars we collect weekly? The fund was set up as a reward to the person serving as club president. The president has the gratification of choosing how to spend the money.

Immediate Past President, Jill Berg, is donating $500.00 from the 2008/2009 Happy Dollars fund to the Fargo Moorhead Rotary Foundation for the Flood Relief effort. Local Rotary Clubs are accepting donations via the FM Rotary Foundation for the Flood Relief effort using the United Way as the fiscal agent. There is a Memorandum of Understanding signed between FM Rotary Foundation and the United Way. These Foundation dollars will be a part of the United Way's Long Term Recovery Fund. Using the United Way as our fiscal agent allows our dollars to be the dollars of "last resort" for those with the greatest need after other United Way agency services have been exhausted.

The Rotarian dollars are designated to go outside Clay and Cass County for projects for the elderly, the disabled, water projects and hunger. There are 26 counties in ND and 14 in MN whom could be potential recipients of these dollars. The United Way Unmet Needs Committee, Chaired by Judy Green, will be represented by two Rotarians, Tom Riley and Tom Thompson.

There is also potential to match funds depending on where the funds are utilized.

Julie's Trip to D.C.

by Julie Kottsick

This article is submitted by Julie Kottsick — Fargo West Rotary member who has ALS.

"Hi everyone! I am sending you all a note about our most recent trip to Washington DC. We left Fargo Saturday morning and returned Wednesday evening. While there we celebrated Mother's Day and our 14th wedding anniversary. Bud, the kids and I attended the ALS Advocacy conference for the 3rd year in a row. I cannot tell you how thrilled we are that I remain strong enough to attend.

The conference was a success, the weather was nice and we saw ALS "family" both old and unfortunately many, many new ones. Our congressional delegation is very supportive of our mission and the Obama stimulus plan fortified our budget; an all-around good trip.

Grand Forks hosted their first walk and raised an amazing 25,000. Bismarck hosted their first walk on May 16th. The Fargo/Moorhead walk is August 22nd at Gooseberry Park It is a 3 mile walk. I hope you will join us this year. It's a fu event and greatly needed fundraiser.

Thank you all for your prayers, friendship and continual support. I love you, Seize the Day!"

There is an ALS garage sale fundraiser weekend of June 19th.

Do you have anything to contribute? We need items to make this a success. Call Mary Sue Ohlhauser at 235.2156 or hlhauserk@ideaone.net.

Roxana's Rotary Connection

by Gary Nolte

You already know the incredible story of Roxana's arrest, imprisonment in an Iranian jail and her consequent release. But you may not know her Rotary connection.

She is a former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fargo. Saberi was selected as a 1999-2000 Ambassadorial Scholar to attend the University of Cambridge, where she studied journalism.

As I watched the events unfold this winter with the Roxana Saberi story, I thought back to 1999 when we were interviewing ambassadorial scholarship applicants in Brainerd. Roxana was among them and was an easy selection. Over the years I have followed her career with pride as she broadcast from Iran on the BBC and PBS radio.

I was shocked when I read that she was arrested. I contacted the secretary general's office of RI and got some wheels turning. Joel Fremstad, President of the Fargo Rotary club, started writing letters to the Iranian officials and Bert Riskedahl, a retired judge from Bismarck and a long time Rotarian, made an important phone call to US Rep Earl Pomeroy a former scholar himself.

In the interim, I received phone calls of support from Roxana's Ambassadorial classmates and several communications with RI, detailing what we doing. Contact was made with a group of Rotarians in countries around Iran that do business in Iran. The Iranian ambassador to the UN was contacted by RI.

I am not sure what part we played in obtaining her release, but it shows that there is a large network of people around the world who think like us, Rotarians. Yours, in Rotary — Gary

Stephanie's Update

If you were at our off-site meeting at the Plains on May 4th, you heard Stephanie Simonson giving us an update on her life.

Fargo West Rotary has every right to be proud and share in Stephanie's success. Judy Welton, member of FWR who moved to Texas, got to know Stephanie when both of them were volunteers at Youth Court. Stephanie was a sophomore in high school. Judy, being a teacher at South High recognized the potential in Stephanie if she were given a chance.

The problem Stephanie faced was one of being homeless. Judy found out they were living in a tent in Lindenwood Park and then a church basement. Judy marshaled the club, and we raised enough money to pay for an apartment deposit. Club members donated furniture and household items to furnish it. They were even given a used car. Tom Fellman helped get her badly needed braces.

We sent Stephanie went to RYLA that summer and she blossomed. She came back very excited and believed she had a future.

Then she entered the Fargo Teen beauty contest and won. Judy helped her apply for numerous college scholarships, which she did obtain.

Granted, a lot of people (including Gary & Cindy Nolte) helped Stephanie in her personal journey. But we can be very pleased with our efforts, too. She's going to Des Moines to work for Midwestern Energy and will be a Customer Service Specialist in Wind Power working with local governments and land owners. She just graduated college with a degree in Spanish and Communications.

Cindy, Stephanie & Gary Nolte

June is Rotary Fellowship month

by Betty Opheim

Isn't enjoying fellowship what drives us to attend our weekly meetings? I know it is mine. As much as I enjoy our programs, meetings and the direction our club is going, it is the club members themselves who attract me on Monday noon. I have 22 years of perfect attendance for a good reason. *It's you*.

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. June is Rotary Fellowship Month.

> *" Fellowship is wonderful; it illuminates life's pathway, spreads good cheer, and is worth high price."*
> Rotary Founder Paul Harris

Officially, Rotary Fellowships are groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses and Rotaractors who unite to:

- Share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities (sports, hobbies, etc.)
- Further their vocational development through acquaintance with others of the same profession
- Make new friends around the world
- Explore new opportunities for service
- Have fun and enhance their experience in Rotary

If you are interested in Rotary Fellowships, go to http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/index.htm. There's a list of fellowships as well as some changes in how fellowships are managed.

You've heard me talk about ROTI or Rotarians on the Internet. It's an international fellowship of Rotarians who are on the internet. If you need a make-up meeting, you can use them as your meeting. There's a ton of information about Rotary within this fellowship. There are club members and district officers as members of ROTI. This is the group to whom I turn for information about what is happening in the Rotary World. There is a fellowship for almost every interest of hobby you have — fishing, running, skiing, musicians, dog lovers — you name it, it's there. New fellowships are always being added.

Take a moment and check out the website. You will learn more about Rotary and the many offerings to you as a member.

Important Rotary Info

June Meetings

***Greeter:* John Trombley**

6/1 Nukhet Hendricks — Humane Society

6/8 Hassan Ghazi— Trip to Syria

6/15 Maureen Jonason — Hjemkomst Center

6/22 Laura Dvorak-Berry — Girl Scouts

6/29 Changeover Meeting

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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

Make Dreams Real

RI 2008-09 theme