



SERVICE Above Self

# Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter June 2010

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

## President's Message

by David Wrolstad



*“End of the 2009/2010 Rotary Year:  
In Memory & Honor of Bruce Opheim”*

*“Blessed are those who expect nothing, for they shall not be disappointed”. My all-time favorite ‘David-ism’s’.*

This is my final ‘Presidential Message’ for the Rotary year as YOUR club President. I am not sure what expectations any of you had for me as I started the year as your club president, but I tried my best – within the framework of other life and work commitments. THANK YOU for the opportunity to ‘**Serve**’ you as President - I hope I did not disappoint any of you too much!?

Fargo West Rotary was represented at the Rotary District 5550/5580 Joint Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada May 13-16, 2010 with **David** (& Joan), **Jill** (& Jeff), **Betty** (& daughter Brenda) and **Heather** (& mother) in attendance. The Joint District Meeting was outstanding – it was great to see so many Rotarians from both Districts and get a chance to visit with many of them during this historic event.

A couple highlights of the Conference:

- Several outstanding presenters talking about the good works Rotary does in their communities and around the World.
- RI International President John Kenny’s address at the Gala on Saturday evening.
- Fargo West Rotary receiving many awards: three 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards, one 2<sup>nd</sup> place award and three 1<sup>st</sup> place awards including: ‘Best Newsletter - 60 members & over’, ‘Best Inter-Club Service – 60 members & over’ and ‘Best Club in District – 60 members & over’! Fargo West was also 1 of 2 clubs in District 5580 to receive the ‘Literacy Zone Award’

As I stated in my President Message for April when I completed the forms for the various possible awards, I was reminded of the busy, active year that WE have had and the impact WE have made locally and internationally with EACH MEMBER’S time, talent and monies! THANK YOU to all of YOU – to all Fargo West Rotary members – you are the lifeline and foundation of our Club! Each of YOU display: **Service Above Self!**

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## Thank you, David!

As **President David** mentioned, his year is over the end of June. David led us through a very eventful year. It seems it went as fast as his words per minute. And just try to keep up with his thoughts!

David, your leadership was much appreciated. Somehow, you managed to get us all involved and we had record attendance at our meetings as well as our socials.

Every president builds upon what has gone before. The past presidents have done a fine job of setting up the club for a topnotch year, and that's what we got. David's energy permeated the club and it culminated on receiving the Crème de la Crème of awards at the District Conference....Best Club in the District with over 60 members. That is a huge accomplishment because the competition is outstanding! We were up against clubs who are very much accustomed to receiving the awards.

Of course, none of David's accomplishments would have been attainable if our club members hadn't stepped up to the plate and done their part. That is truly the beauty of Fargo West Rotary: the president asks us to participate in an activity and we rise to the occasion. We saw it happen over and over this year.

As David also said, we now give our allegiance to Heather as she assumes her duties as our president. This will be another exciting year — who knows what we will accomplish this year?

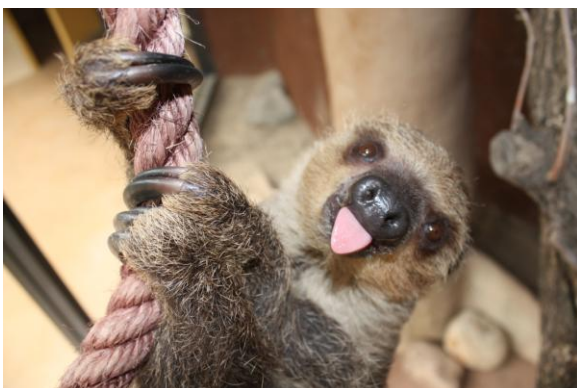
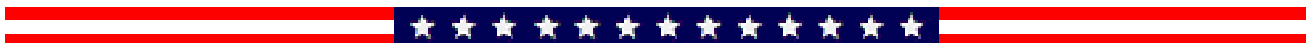
## Pres. Message cont

Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> was a special day for **Betty Opheim** & Family, Fargo West Rotary – and the Red River Zoo (one of OUR club's major benefactors). Betty planted a Pine Tree in 'Honor & Memory' Bruce – our fallen Rotarian & Friend. Now, each time you visit the Zoo, you can pass by '**Bruce Opheim** Pine Tree' and recall the many fantastic memories you have of Bruce. Thank you, Betty & Family, for allowing Fargo West to participate in the wonderful ceremony.

My time as Fargo West Rotary President is soon to come to an end – only 30 more days – and I know you are counting! (Maybe it is me who is counting?) Once again – THANK YOU for all your support over the past year! I hope I met most of your expectations and did not disappoint anyone too much!?

*"The Future of the Fargo West Rotary Club.....IS STILL IN YOUR HANDS."* Now you need to give all your support to OUR incoming President, **HEATHER JOHNSON-KJOS** as she begins her Rotary Year as OUR President! I know each of US will give her our full support!! Best of everything, Heather!

CP Other People's Money – 'ES' & 'BO' out (for the last time).



*One of the newest residents of the Red River Zoo — the two toed sloth. Is she expressing an opinion about being here?*

*She is right there to greet you in the new geo-thermal entrance building. If you miss her, check Paula's desktop on her computer.*

## Meet New Member Daphne Meyer



*“I look forward to getting to know all of you and giving back through service with the Fargo West Rotary.”*

Hello! I have been given the opportunity to introduce myself to my new Rotarian friends.

I recently have joined the Holiday Inn of Fargo as the Director of Sales. This is a new adventure for me, as I have only ever worked in a hotel when I cleaned rooms when I

was 14. In those years in between, I did a few things. I graduated from high school in Glendive, Montana where I grew up. I then went on to graduate from Jamestown College. For six years, I lived and worked in Philadelphia.

I returned to North Dakota by moving to Fargo so my then husband could take a job with Great Plains Software. I was very fortunate to also start working for them after a year at PRACS. At Great Plains and later Microsoft, I was an Event Planner. During my years there, I managed large conferences and meetings for customers, partners and employees. I also earned my Global Certification in Meeting Management (CMM) for which I am very proud of. Think “mini-MBA” for meeting planners.

After I left Microsoft in November 2004, I started my own consulting company called Red Barn Group. I worked with clients to plan events. I also starting teach Events Planning at MSUM (which I still do) and many speaking and trainings engagements. The speaking was my favorite part, so be careful if you give me a microphone! One of my favorite annual engagements is to speak a Rotary Youth Leadership Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. My best friend and her husband are members, and they got me involved with this group three years ago. I am so inspired by this young people and their eagerness to learn. And just today I got a great opportunity to speak to two groups of 9<sup>th</sup> graders that are new Americans. Again, to see the diversity and growth of our young people always leaves me awestruck.

In the past few years, I have gotten more involved in my Meeting Professionals International Chapter in Minneapolis. I am just completing my two years of service as a board member. I am currently the Vice President of Leadership Development. This opportunity has afforded me many opportunities to give back to my industry, as well as, a monthly trip to the Twin Cities.

Personally, I no longer have the aforementioned husband, but we do have a son together that we share custody. My son Jacob is 9 and in third grade at Central Cass in Casselton. He is the sheer joy of my life and I treasure every minute I have with him. I also have a secret (not so secret now) that he will marry Molly Miller (daughter of Rotarian Sharon Miller). They would make the best in-laws!! Most of my personal time (what is that??) is spent doing what Jacob chooses, so there are a lot of kid’s movies, dinners at Space Aliens and recently swimming at the Pirate Ship (he thinks my new job is AWESOME)!



**Happy Birthday!**

6/14	Julie Kottsick
6/14	Sharon Mazaheri
6/20	Jill Berg
6/24	Cory Badinger
6/27	Deb Magnuson
6/29	Sharon Miller

## Meet New Member Melvin Whitney



*“I can’t wait to get started with the Fargo West Rotary and developing friendships that can last a lifetime, while being involved in a great community.”*

I’m originally from Chicago (that’s where most of my family lives). I moved to the small town of Thief River Falls, MN in 1996 to play sports. After completing my 2 years there and a brief stop in Bemidji, I moved to the FM area, where I was the Kitchen and Service manager at the Lonestar Steakhouse. After leaving the restaurant industry, I took a position at Cable One as a Customer Service and Sales Representative in 2001. With my love of sales and the desire to be outdoors, I then pursued a career at Sprint, as an Outside Business Account Executive. They say that life will take you full-circle, and for me that’s true because I am now back working with Cable One as the Business Account Representative in the Fargo-Moorhead, and West Fargo area.

I’ve been fortunate enough to be blessed with a beautiful wife Sara, and a 1 year old son, Michael Steven, who is the joy of my life. Sara is a Speech and Communications teacher over at M-State (Minnesota State Community and Technical College), and has been there for close to 10 years.

Initially I thought that I would only be in the FM area for a short period of time, but the closeness of the community and the willingness of the people to help each other out in a time of need, has made me call this area my home.

I play, Softball, Flag Football, and love watching movies.

## Recital Update

Remember the *Recital With A Cause* on April 24<sup>th</sup>? It was a fundraiser for PolioPlus.

The people in attendance were thrilled by the performances of the high school and college aged musicians. They just kept getting better and better. Each one showed skills well past what we would expect from that age.

The wrap-up report from President David is in:

We just had our FM Rotary President’s meeting today and John Andreasen gave a brief update. With sponsors & ticket sales, it looks like the Recital should net a donation of approximately \$4,000 to PolioPlus with another \$1,000 'seed money' towards the Recital again next year.

Job well done – **Leann Wolff, Kathleen Toft** & the rest of the Committee. (**Leann & Kathleen** - you represented yourselves & Fargo West proudly - THANK YOU for your dedicated, hard work!!!)

Since the Recital made money, John stated the Committee relaxed the '\$600 commitment' by each of the 4 Rotary Clubs to the actual amount of tickets sold.

Be sure to attend next year’s recital. You will not be disappointed.



## Key West Weddings — Congratulations!



*l to r:* Michah & Jordan Arnold, Dani Arnold, Megan Ness, Bride Nikki, Paul Berglund, Rhonda, Bernie Ness

**Bernie & Rhonda Ness'** daughter Nikki was married to Paul Berglund in Key West, Florida on March 20<sup>th</sup>. As Rhonda reports: *"The weather was absolutely perfect; a little windy, but, no rain. They were married in a gazebo on a pier at the hotel where we were all staying. Paul's two brothers and their families, Paul's parents — Pat and Duane, and Bernie and I and our family were the present at the wedding. It was really a lot of fun to get to know Pat and Duane's family. We've known Pat and Duane for years, but, never really knew the kids. We went to the same Church and had seen them on Sundays; we got to know Pat and Duane better after the kids were out of the nest. It's so nice to see a wedding where the couple is so much in love and you know it was meant to be."*

To see all the photos of the wedding, go to <http://robo.zenfolio.com/p166357351>



all four Perkins kids are in this photo — Courtney the bride, Alyssa center left, Cole center right and Connor far right

**Chuck & Nancy Perkins'** daughter, Courtney, was also married in Key West! She married Mark Buckholz on May 8th.

As Chuck reminisces: *"Wonderful wedding at South Seas — great weather, beautiful people in a beautiful setting!"*

Courtney works at Cole papers, Mark builds and manages apartments here in the Fargo-Moorhead area with his dad. The couple will live in Moorhead. The photographer was from Moorhead and is a personal friend of the bride and groom.

If you would like to see the wedding video, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHttqN4djN8>

## Harley Raffle Thanks

Congratulations, **Brad** and **Jen** on a successful Harley raffle. You deserve our gratitude for all your efforts with the Harley raffle, as well as what you do for Fargo West Rotary!

This article was in the Forum:

[http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/279400/publisher\\_ID/1/](http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/279400/publisher_ID/1/)

Published May 22 2010

### Rotary group raises funds for Red River Zoo

Dr. Edward May was the winner of this year's Fargo West Rotary annual Harley raffle, which was a fundraiser for the Red River Zoo in Fargo.

May contributed the value of the new motorcycle to the zoo. The second prize winner also donated the prize to the zoo. This year Fargo West Rotary will be able to donate approximately \$45,000 to the newest zoo exhibit.

The group has previously supported the creation of three exhibits at the zoo, most recently the wolf exhibit.

Every year, **Brad** and **Jen** worry about how many tickets will be sold, and every year the club rolls up their sleeves and get the job done. I can't help but think of this quote by Thomas Jefferson when I think of Brad and Jen worrying:

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." That knot is Fargo West Rotary....we won't let you down.

\*The rest of these photos will be on our website soon.

## Harley Raffle Wrap-up

*By Brad Dahl*

I want to thank the Harley Raffle Committee and a special thank you to my better half, **Jennifer**, for her bookkeeping and keeping us on track.

I want to thank our club members for volunteering their time at our events, the business owners who allowed us to park a Harley in their businesses and to all of you who supported the raffle by buying tickets. We sold 472 tickets!

The winner of the bike is Dr. Ed May who said to me over the phone "I never win anything" and told Tom Fellman who sold the winning ticket, "The zoo needs the money more than I do and the community has been very good to me." Ed is selling the bike and the proceeds will go to the Red River Zoo.

The 2nd place prize of \$1000 went to Geoff Hall, past Fargo West Rotarian and Past Executive Director of our RRZ. He also is donating his winnings to the RRZ.

The 3rd place prize of \$500 went to Douglas Kuruc from Colfax ND.

It's a good feeling to wrap up our 11th annual Harley raffle fundraiser with a nice donation to the zoo to build the "Wings of Orient Exhibit".

Thank you very much!

**Brad Dahl**

Chair of the Harley Davidson Raffle

*And the winner is...*

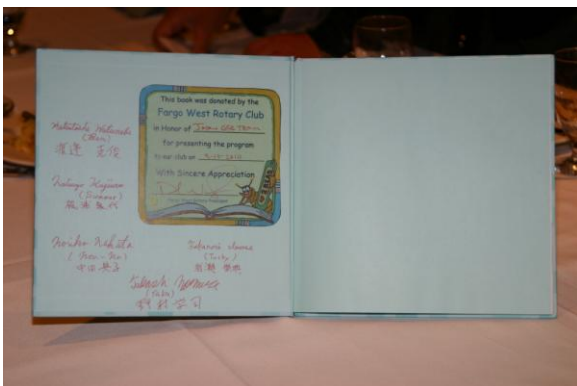


## Japanese GSE Team Visits



The Group Study Exchange team from Japan visited Fargo West Rotary on May 10. The Rotarian team leader was Noriko Nakata, the principal of the Joshin School of Foreign Language. The team members were Natsuyo Kajiura —or Dancing Queen, a supervisor at Aviva Co. Ltd; Katsutoshi Watanabe, design center engineer with OSG Corporation; Takashi Nomura, an engineer with Nagoya Tokushuko Co. Ltd; and Takanori Iwase, quality control manager with Hakusoh Co. Ltd.

They gave a very informative program about themselves and Aichi, Japan. The GSE program introduces us to areas of the world we will probably never see on our own. Talking to the team members and getting their perspective of their tour was great fun. Thank you to our members who hosted these wonderful people.



They signed the book for Madison Elementary in both English and Japanese.

\*The rest of these photos will be on our website soon.

## Bruce's Tree Dedication

May 25<sup>th</sup> was the planting and dedication of the memorial tree for **Bruce Opheim** at the Red River Zoo. Our family bought 5 trees — four of them are in the back and Bruce's tree is along the path. He's right when you pass the sign for the Spirits of the Forest on the pathway to the wolf exhibit.



I want to extend a sincere thank you to all of you for your support during this difficult time. We continue to struggle in our acceptance, but it is made easier because of our many friends.

\*The rest of these photos will be on our website soon.



## June is Rotary Fellowships Month

Rotary International sets a theme for each month and year. June is Fellowship Month. The following excerpts are from the Rotary Fellowship Handbook:

Rotary was founded on fellowship, a concept that has been expanded internationally through the Rotary Fellowships — groups that bring together members from different countries and cultures to enjoy a shared interest. In addition to fostering lifelong friendships, Rotary Fellowships keep members active in Rotary, sustaining their interest and further inspiring commitment.

The nearly one hundred Rotary Fellowships encompass a variety of vocations and avocations, ranging from sports and hobbies to professional interests — all of which serve as a way to extend international fellowship, friendship, and service. In addition to offering members an opportunity to share their passion for a particular interest with like-minded Rotarians, many individual fellowship groups enable members to use their hobbies or skills to serve others. For example, the Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians has organized cleanups of polluted rivers, and members of the International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians conduct training sessions for Rotarians and other people in their community on how to use electronic media. Members of the International Fellowship of Rotarians with Repaired Hearts — or the “Zipper Club,” as they call themselves — have provided life-saving surgeries to disadvantaged children with severe heart defects.

Rotary Fellowships began informally in 1928 when Rotarians with a shared interest in Esperanto joined together. In 1947, a group of Rotarian boating enthusiasts began flying the Rotary flag from their crafts, calling themselves the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians; this fellowship now boasts the longest continuous existence. The scope of Rotary Fellowships has changed much over the years, but today their common purpose is still to unite Rotarians in friendship and provide venues for enjoying their favorite recreational or professional activities.

One of the best known Rotary Fellowship is the Friendship Exchange. There are 3 types of this exchange: Visitor program — Individual Rotarians, who may be accompanied by family members, spend a few days in a Rotarian’s home abroad. Team program — Rotarian couples (typically four to six) visit several communities in a host district for up to one month. Vocational — Rotarians of the same occupation observe how their job is done in other countries.

View the complete list of Fellowships at <http://www.rotary.org/EN/SERVICEANDFELLOWSHIP/FELLOWSHIP/GLOBALNETWORKINGGROUPS/Pages/FellowshipsResults.aspx?k=FellowshipIsInterest%3a%22%22>

## Important Rotary Info

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### June Meetings

***Greeters: Jennifer Dahl***

*6/7 Gary Wolsky— History of the Village*

*6/14 Teresa Huff — ArtSage: Creative aging*

*6/21 Jarret Brachman— Homeland Security*

*6/28 — 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 7:00am in the Overture Room at the Ramada Plaza Suites*

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

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RI 2009-2010 theme