



**SERVICE Above Self**

# Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter March  
2009

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

Betty Opheim, Editor

## President's Message *By Paula Grimestad*

### Mount Rushmore....Here we come!



Here we are in Rapid City. We just arrived last night and are on our way to see Mount Rushmore. Leo, Nora, Max and my girls, Samantha and DJ, are very excited to see, as they refer to them as, the "Faces". The drive was very entertaining — lots of laughter, singing and scenery. We saw lots of pheasants and Mule deer along the way. The new snowfall made the hills and valleys very beautiful. At one point, we took a wrong turn and ended up on a county road. Not a car or house in sight for miles, the kids couldn't believe how desolate it was. It reminded them of the movie Fargo, so we had a good laugh about that and then they wanted a photo of themselves with the background, so we stopped the car, all piled out and stood in the ditch taking pictures. Of course while we were doing that a car came by, slowed way down as the people inside gave us a curious look, just like in the movie Fargo, so we had another good laugh about that.

As I'm typing this we are just about to head to Mount Rushmore. Part two of our adventures will be in the next newsletter.

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## Meet our newest member



Dave Zieske

*"I've always been involved in organizations and Rotary is one that I heard is very strong in the community. I was very involved in the Lions in Montana, and now I am a Rotarian."*

I was born in Kenmare North Dakota, and attended elementary and high school in Kenmare. I attended Dickinson State University where I played football and received a BS degree in Business Administration and Education.

I taught and coached for four years at Plentywood High School, Plentywood Montana. Plentywood, close to both the Canadian and North Dakota borders has approximately 2,000 residents. It is home to the largest high school in the county.

Then I purchased a partnership with Gaffaney's of Williston and opened a location in Plentywood Montana. Soon after, I acquired a third Location in Glasgow Montana.

We moved to Fargo in 2003 to manage GR Graphics Inc.

I took time off after a heart attack in 2007. I had a heart transplant in May of 2008. I am happy to say I am in good health and life is good.

I was recently hired as manager of Marco Inc. for the Fargo Location.

## International Newspapers Link

Do you enjoy reading newspapers from around the world? I do. Our local newspaper doesn't begin to report international news to its fullest. I like conversing with my international friends and find if I read their newspaper, we have more to discuss.

This is one of the most interesting sites for newspapers:

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>

Click your mouse on a city anywhere in the world and the newspaper headlines pop up. Double click and the page gets larger. You have the option to read the front page or the whole newspaper.

Also, if you look at the European papers, the far left side of Germany will pop up as The Stars & Stripes. The site changes daily with the publication of new editions of the paper.

Expand your horizons — read what other countries are saying about us. Find new recipes. Learn about the country whose newspaper you are reading. Literacy is a wonderful thing!

### Happy Birthday!

- 3/5 Kim Kemmer
- 3/5 Betty Opheim
- 3/7 David Wrolstad
- 3/10 Penny Crowder
- 3/11 John Bennett
- 3/26 Melinda Kinzel
- 3/29 LaVonne Langord

## The Next 100 Years

Rotary International Past President, Cliff Docherman discussed his thoughts for Rotary's second hundred years, noting that few, if any, of us will be around to celebrate if his predictions are accurate.

A reasonable estimate of three to four million members will be reliable, especially if the Chinese government opens the doors freely to Rotary.

He said "Education may be our greatest contribution to the peace of the world in the next century".

Cliff also states that it is a critical necessity for Rotary to return to one of its basic roots: vocational Service. "Rotary," he said, "was built on the belief that business and professional persons must be honest, ethical and responsible individuals. The lack of ethical principles and self-serving deals has destroyed and continue to erode the economic and leadership fabric of the world." The world will expect Rotary to provide even greater service because of Rotary's success in polio eradication. Hundreds of NGOs will seek the support and partnership of Rotary to achieve monumental humanitarian goals.

We can expect "a clamor for Rotary to take up the eradication of malaria; the defeat of water-borne diseases; the urgency of basic education, especially for girl children; the elimination of measles; and defeat of persistent hunger." Rotary can take the lead in ridding the world of HIV/AIDS. Rotarians will declare war on illiteracy, cancer, avoidable blindness, and child abuse. We will exercise our official status in the UN far more vigorously in the future, as we become even more effective ministers of humanitarian and educational services.

The real future on TRF is promoting the potential of the Permanent Fund. Cliff sees RAGs becoming "the primary means for delivering humanitarian service in this next century." "Our challenge is to dream great dreams—then make dreams real. What we actually do is far more significant than what we say we do. "It's up to us to make these predictions true, or just make up our own list, he concluded.

## 2009-10 RI Theme



The 2009-10 RI theme acknowledges the important role individual Rotary clubs will play in shaping the future of Rotary.

RI President-elect John Kenny says, "The future of Rotary will not be shaped at RI headquarters — it will be shaped in each and every Rotary club," Kenny said, "because it is for each of us — as Rotarians — to do what is necessary to keep Rotary strong."

"Each one of us is standing on the shoulders of generations of Rotarians past, and it is our responsibility to determine Rotary's future," Kenny said.

Kenny emphasized that every Rotary club is and must be autonomous.

"Everything begins and ends with our clubs," he said. "Our clubs can and do work together; they work through their own districts, in cooperation with other clubs and districts, and with the support of our Foundation.

"But at the end of the day, everything that we accomplish is done through the strength of our clubs. And so each club must have autonomy to serve where and how it can serve best."

## March is Literacy Month

It seems literacy, or lack of, is the root of most of the world’s problems. Unemployment, ignorance in all forms, health issues, and wars all have a common thread running through them – the inability to read, write and understand.

Rotary is about world peace and understanding. Yet, Rotary hits roadblocks often while trying to reach out to third world countries to help. Children are not schooled; instead, they often times live by superstition and centuries old prejudices.

PolioPlus is a good example – the Taliban told villagers not to allow the children to be vaccinated because it was poison and going to make the children sterile, or worse. If the villagers had been able to read and comprehend, they would have understood this was not the case. The same story played out in countries in Africa.

Good hygiene would decrease diseases. It is hard to reach each person one-on-one. If they were able to read, they would know how to care for themselves and their children. Agriculture would improve if methods were followed.

Unfortunately, too often, women and girls are not taught to read or write. Their countries are missing out on the talents of millions of people who could contribute towards its wealth.

The United States isn’t exempt from a literacy problem. Approximately 14% of American adults are illiterate. Yet, we expect them to earn a living, support a family, pay their taxes and contribute to society.

There is an enormous need for people to learn to read and write – locally, nationally and internationally. We participate in the ELL program at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School. It is only a drop in the bucket, but as the saying goes, “Baby steps.”

Let’s do what we can to change the world!

## Important Rotary Info

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**March Meetings – Literacy Month:**

**Greeter: LaVonne Langord**

3/2 Kelli Sasse— Literacy Center

3/9 MSCTC — Vocational Scholarship Recipients

3/16 Steve Sly — Flood Plan update

3/23 Barbara Oleska — The Art of Listening

3/30 Administration Day

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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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of every month at the Winery

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