



**SERVICE Above Self**

# Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter November  
2008

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



## President's Message *By Paula Grimestad*

### Gray Wolf Exhibit Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Gray Wolf Exhibit has finally happened! Despite the weather, over 150 people attended. That many people braving the weather with umbrellas and rain gear showed the level of enthusiasm there is for this incredible exhibit.

Construction on this project began in the fall of 2006, starting with the commitment of the Fargo West Rotarians. The first \$20,000 from the Harley Raffle started the "wheels" moving and it's been steadily moving ever since. It's finally finished, giving visitors a unique opportunity to see wolves up close.

The wolves themselves are quite remarkable; the more time visitors spend observing them, the more they will see their individual personalities. The exhibit is one of the best in the country and will provide an opportunity for people to see and appreciate wolves.

Our goal is to extinguish fears and myths about wolves and inspire people to care about wolves in the wild. The trapper's cabin will provide a year round cozy place for people to watch them in the winter too. The zoo's goal is to stay open all year round and this exhibit is a major step in that direction.

Thank you to all of you. It's because of your commitment to the Red River Zoo that made this exhibit become a reality.

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Rotary Theme 2008-09



## Wolf Exhibit Grand Opening

The grand opening of the gray wolf exhibit at the Red River Zoo was October 24. Fargo West Rotary donated the initial monies to start the exhibit and this year donated money to purchase and transport the wolves from Canada. The monies were raised through the annual Harley Davidson Raffle.

For an in depth look at the wolves and the exhibit, go to <http://www.redriverzooowolves.blogspot.com/>

Thank you, Arden Glanzer for photographing the grand opening and the Foundation Banquet.



# Rotary Foundation Banquet

By Bruce Hager, Public Relations Committee

I had the opportunity to attend the annual Rotary Foundation dinner on Thursday evening, October 23, 2008, with my daughter, Cindi, and my wife, Lori. In addition to being a very good time, it became a very proud evening for all us Rotarians who were humbled by the dedication, hard work, and humility expressed by Desiree Sempe. Desiree is Rotary's contact in Guatemala. She spearheads the volunteer efforts of Rotarians who donate their time and talents to various projects in Guatemala.

There was also a very enlightening report by Keith Brokke concerning the school projects in India that have been spearheaded by Daniel Ratnasamy. Our District Governor was there in his evening regalia and looked quite formal. The entertainment provided by members of the Fargo Moorhead Area Youth Symphony (all were Fargo North High students) made the evening quite enchanting. The Fargo Country Club outdid themselves with a fabulous meal and the service was excellent.

But I'd like to go back to discussing Desiree Sempe's expression of gratitude. She was able to provide such heartfelt thanks for the financial and volunteerism that has been provided through the Fargo-Moorhead Rotary Clubs. It is amazing what can be accomplished two worlds apart when a connection like this is formed. The Guatemala projects have involved schools, medical facilities, water, and other services that have brought joy to so many people in that region. With Desiree leading the charge and the continued support of the Fargo Moorhead Rotary Clubs, I am sure that the positive effects will continue to grow throughout that region.

I would like to encourage all of you to get to know the people involved and the projects better. I would especially like to encourage all Rotarians in the Fargo-Moorhead area to invite others to join in supporting with time, talent and treasure, the good works that have come out of these relationships in India, Guatemala, and others.

Thank you to the host club, the AM-FM Club, for organizing this event, and the committee who did a spectacular job in bringing this all together.



I look forward to many more of our club members attending next year's event.

## Rotary Day at the UN November 8

Each year, Rotary International and the United Nations celebrate their longstanding ties with a special day at the UN. This year it will be November 8th.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will give a special presentation to Rotarians and there will be special panel discussions and presentations on topics of particular interest to Rotarians. During the morning, there will be a program specially designed for youth.

Forty-nine Rotarians helped draft the United Nation's Charter and many Rotarians became international delegates to the UN. Rotary was one of the original 42 non-governmental organizations and that affiliation continues today.

Rotary members and their guests are invited to attend a landmark Rotary Day at the United Nations on 8 November in New York City, USA. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is slated to give a special presentation at the annual event. The meeting, scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UN Headquarters, will include presentations and panel discussions addressing key humanitarian issues such as water, health, literacy, and hunger.

In addition to Secretary-General Ban, other key presenters will include UN senior officials, representatives from key non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Rotary International leaders. The day-long event is sponsored each year by the RI Representatives to the United Nations in New York.

For the fifth consecutive year, there will be a separate youth program for students of high school age.

This year's program includes the unique opportunity for high school students to learn how Rotary International partners with the UN to do humanitarian work worldwide. They will learn how to immediately start to make changes in their own communities.

Twenty-two panelists from the four Rotary Youth Programs (Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, and RYLA) will showcase their successful projects that cover topics such as, Building Water Wells with Engineers Without Borders, Saving AIDS Orphans in Africa, Putting a Stop to Child Trafficking, and Making School Breaks into Meaningful Experiences.

You can read the day's agenda at [http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/ri\\_un2008.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/ri_un2008.pdf)

## Dan Durkin Update

Dan Durkin served as President of Fargo West Rotary 2000-01. His quick wit and generosity made him a favorite of the club. He moved to Anchorage around 2003 as the JC Penney store manager.

He has since been promoted to the Seattle store, which is the eighth largest in the system. His daughter is a freshman in college and his son is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He still misses Fargo

Dan sends his greetings to Fargo West Rotary — his favorite Rotary Club.

Happy Birthday!

11/2 Heather Johnson-Kjos  
11/10 Reed Stigen  
11/20 Belinda Forknell  
11/26 Jed Krieg  
11/28 Steve Shark

## Meet our new members



*"I have had much admiration for this group and its support of the local area. It's now my great pleasure to join and put my energy into these efforts as well."*

*Belinda Forknell*

Greetings, I am Belinda Forknell, a North Dakota native that grew up in Mandan / Bismarck. I graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1993 with a Bachelor's degree in marketing. I have since been fortunate to spend the majority of my career in positions promoting either community support services or products that support a better environment. Currently, I am the Marketing and Public Relations Specialist for DMI Industries at the corporate offices in Fargo.

In 1995 I married Jon Forknell (Atlas Business Solutions, Fargo) and we moved to Fargo in 1997. We have a daughter, Jenna (9), and a son, Jesse (7), who both attend Bennett Elementary and participate in a number of sports. We are an active family that enjoys spending time together on the golf course or tennis court, watching football, playing board games, and traveling. With three family pets, we also spend a great deal of time together walking the dogs and playing other "backyard" games.

I believe in community stewardship and have frequently been a member of various committees to help with awareness or fund-raising events and activities.



*"I joined Fargo West Rotary to give back to our community and to learn from the many talented people in our organization."*

Jodi Baumgartner

I grew up in Halstad, Minn., the youngest of six kids. I graduated from Norman County West High School and went on to attend Minnesota State University Moorhead, receiving a B.S. in communications.

I have worked in marketing in Fargo for the last 13 years. In August I joined Athletic Republic as their Sales and Marketing Director.

I'm married to Paul Baumgartner and we have two girls, Cassie and Anna. We also have two pets - a cat named Copper and a fish named Bill Cosby. We lived in Harwood for 11 years, until last December when we moved to Osgood.

In my free time I like to workout, especially running, biking and weight training. I also love watching my kids' sporting events and NFL games. My passion for fitness and athletics is what lead me to work for Athletic Republic. Seeing a person complete our program and grow as an athlete is very inspiring!

My other interests include camping, attending concerts, riding motorcycle, traveling, reading and spending time with family.

I am a member of Red River Runners, an Area Manager with Arbonne International and a volunteer for the American Heart Association.

## November is Rotary Foundation Month

RI general secretary, Ed Futa, addresses impact of U.S. financial crisis:

Given the troubling news from Wall Street over the past several weeks, we have received many inquiries about the impact these events will have on Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Although our investments have lost value in the short term, we believe they will recover when the financial markets stabilize. In addition, Rotary maintains a diversified portfolio that includes investments outside of the markets that were adversely impacted by recent events. Rotary's investment policies have proven to be sound through past down markets. This prudent management should allow our programs and projects to continue as planned.

Many Rotarians have asked specifically about our investment holdings, insurance coverage, and reserves, so I would like to note the following:

- Both The Rotary Foundation's and RI's investment portfolios have only minor exposure to the companies that were taken over by the U.S. government (Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and AIG), purchased by other financial institutions (Merrill Lynch and WaMu), or declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy (Lehman).
- Although RI has some insurance coverage placed with AIG, AIG's insurance businesses are safe in that they are separate legal entities closely regulated by both state and federal agencies.
- Both RI and the Foundation have strong cash balances, and year-to-date revenues from sources other than investments are ahead of last year.
- All money in the PolioPlus Fund is invested in U.S. treasuries, the safest securities available.
- Both RI and the Foundation have adequate reserves to operate without having to sell investment securities at a loss.

Last week, The Rotary Foundation Investment Advisory Committee met with Rotary's independent investment consultant and several money managers for its regular investment review. The committee confirmed that the current investment policies set by the RI Board and Foundation Trustees continue to be appropriate for the long term. The committee advised the Trustees continue to be appropriate for the long term. The committee advised the Trustees

## Important Rotary Info

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### **November Meetings – Rotary Foundation Month**

#### **Greeter: Brien Krank**

*11/3 Sharon Johnson —  
Traveling with Elderhostels*

*11/10 Jennifer Miller — Meth in  
Fargo Area*

*11/17 Thanksgiving Dinner —  
Tessie Jones, Miss ND*

*11/24 Syl Melro, Leroy Anderson  
— The Bobcat Story*

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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  
7:00 a.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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of losses in any particular market.

You can be assured that Rotary's senior leaders, the general secretary, the Financial Services staff, and Rotary's investment consultant are monitoring this situation very closely. We are confident our investment and reserve policies will allow the good work of Rotary to continue around the world.