



SERVICE Above Self

Fargo West Rotary

Newsletter June 2008

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

Betty Opheim, Editor

President's Message

By Jill Berg



The Big Wrap Up

Last month's President's message recapped the Big Roundup at the District Conference in Dickinson. Since this is the final President's message for my Rotary year, I am going to give you the *Big Wrap Up*. What a rewarding Year!! Thanks to all of you for your support and active participation during this past year. I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of Rotary service. Although I prepared for the task and relied on the Board of Director's guidance throughout the year, it is each of you that inspired me to sustain the obvious momentum.

At the beginning of the year, 55% of the Club volunteered their service; and as I write this message, **75% of you are active participants for a 25% increase!** With an **average weekly attendance of 80%**, it is evident that the value and commitment is high.

Here is a recap of the accomplishments from 2007-2008:

- **Survey:** A Club survey was conducted at the beginning of the Rotary year. The compiled results were clear that the majority of members were satisfied with the Club activities and direction.
- **Membership:** With Bruce Karevold leading the charge to attract new members, we had a **net gain of 5 new members to bring the total to 65, plus one more who hasn't been inducted yet.**
- **By Laws:** Under John Stern's leadership, the By Laws were revised and updated to reflect the dynamics of our Club today and set the stage for the future.
- **Retention Committee:** Steve Shark and his committee ensured that all new members and inactive members were contacted by a Rotarian at regular intervals to ensure a positive Rotary experience.
- **Public Relations:** The first 4-Club Public Relations Committee was formed, chaired by Kim Kemmer. To create community awareness for Rotary, a joint Business After Hours event was held in October 2007 with another one scheduled for December 2008. Deb Magnuson, Bruce Hager and Kim Kemmer are all focused on consistent brand awareness for Rotary. Carol Rogne for coordinating the event on behalf of Fargo West.
- **Wine/Beer Tasting Social:** A first ever joint social and fundraiser was held at the Plains Arts Museum to enjoy camaraderie and introduce the Rotary concept to prospective members. Thanks to Carol Rogne for coordinating the event on behalf of Fargo West.
- **Website for FM Rotary Clubs:** Although still under construction, Betty Opheim and I provided web content and worked closely with Randy Long, webmaster. We will continue this endeavor until it is completed.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Meet Our New Member
- 3 New Board of Directors
- 4 Fellowship Month

Cont on Page 2

Meet Our New Member



Jennifer & Gromit

"I am so excited to be joining Rotary. Over the past several years I have enjoyed helping Brad out with everything from stuffing envelopes and selling tickets to the Harley Davidson raffle; being part of the literacy program and lugging a few peaches around. I know how much time is required and put in by many members and know how rewarding it can be to make a difference even if it is just in one person's life."

Hello Fargo West Rotarians!

My name is Jennifer Dahl, your new secretary; I was born and raised in Fargo, where I still reside with my husband, Brad. We have two labs — Gromit, yellow lab and Cinder, black lab.

I have one brother who lives in Fargo with his wife and son and daughter; one sister who lives in Norway with her husband; and both of my parents who are still living and in Fargo.

I work for a small locally owned company, CertiRestore, as the bookkeeper/office manager.

In my free time I enjoy reading, cooking, gardening and home repair? (We live in an older home.) Weather permitting, every spring and summer weekend we spend at a family cabin in Minnesota boating and swimming. Since marrying Brad I have a few new hobbies too; learning how to pull a water skier, riding and site-seeing on the back of a motorcycle. I also go pheasant hunting as this will be my third season.

Thank you for inviting me into your club,

Jennifer

President's Message

Cont from Page 1

- **RYLA**: Fargo West is sponsoring 3 RYLA students this year thanks to Penny Crowder, who saw the need and asked for additional financial resources to support a 3rd student.
- **Foreign-Exchange Student**: Dani Ness's persistence has paid off and we will have both an outbound (Max Monda to Italy) and an inbound student (Leo Boas from Brazil).
- **MSCTC Scholarship**: A special thanks to John West for facilitating scholarships for 3 MSCTC students at \$600.00 each.
- **Newsletter**: Reinstatement of a monthly Club newsletter thanks to Betty and her ability to capture member happenings and design an aesthetically appealing publication. She was even successful at gently nudging me to remind me that the President's message was due! Get ready Paula!
- **Literacy Program**: A total of 20 folks participated in the three month tutoring of new Americans at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School. Yvonne Kroll's enthusiasm and persuasion contributed to an enormously successful Literacy year.

Cont on Page 3

Happy Birthday!

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



2008-09 Board of Directors and Officers

President's Message

Cont from Page 2

Nominating Committee Meeting met Tuesday, May 13th, 2008 to elect the Board of Directors of Fargo West Rotary. All persons listed below were elected at the general assembly on May 19th.

Nominating Committee: John Stern, Chair, Jill Berg, Paula Grimestad, Dave Wrolstad

Club Secretary Nominee:

Jennifer Dahl

Officers: Elected in December 2007

President: Paula Grimestad

Past President: Jill Berg

President Elect: Dave Wrolstad

Vice President: Heather Johnson-Kjos

Treasurer: Cory Badinger

Retiring Board at Large:

Brad Dahl - ex-officio Harley Chair
Dan Thomas

Bruce Opheim - ex-officio Foundation Chair

Betty Opheim - Club Administrator

Dianne Mondry (06)

Up for Re-election for a two-year Term:

Arden Glanzer

Bruce Karevold

Yvonne Kroll

Steve Shark

Existing for Board at Large:

Carol Rogne

John Trombley

New Nominees for Board at Large: 2008

Sheldon Emil

Deb Magnusson

Ryan McManus

Pattie Middendorp

Dani Ness

Pam Schaefer

Total: 6 Directors/Officers and 12 Directors-at- Large (not to exceed 20% of membership)

- **Rotaract Club:** With the chartering of a new Rotaract club meeting twice-monthly at MSUM, current Presidents were able to provide mentoring opportunities to eager new Rotarians.
- **Car for Guatemala:** The generous donations from Fargo West members matched with President's Happy Dollars allowed us to donate \$2400 for transportation to Desiree Sempe, our Guatemalan project coordinator.
- **Toys for Tots:** Bruce Karevold, Steve Shark and volunteers collected over \$2000 in toys for those less fortunate. This represented the best effort for this second year project.
- **Peach Sale:** Paula Grimestad and the many committee members and club volunteers raised \$11,000 for charitable donations.
- **Harley Raffle:** Brad Dahl, Cory Badinger, Pattie Middendorp, John West along with other volunteers pulled out a nail biter raffle by selling just shy of 400 tickets and raising approximately \$17,000 for the Red River Zoo. Thanks Rachel for buying the winning ticket!
- **District Awards:** The Presidential Citation, Zone Literacy Award, Attendance Award and Newsletter Award were presented at the District Conference. These awards reaffirmed our success; and I could not have been prouder as I accepted the awards on behalf of Fargo West.

As evidenced above, we achieved greatly due to our collaborative efforts during the 2007/2008 Rotary year. As your President, I am proud of our advancement; however, when you are in the business of sharing the Rotary spirit, there is always more to do. I encourage you to continue your enthusiasm and tireless service.

Speaking of service, I would like to extend a special thank you to Betty Opheim, Club Administrator, who selflessly put her life on hold throughout the year to assist with urgent tasks.

As we look forward to the new Rotary year, we can be confident we have the Club structure and talent to build on our momentum as Paula launches her year. Let's keep that energy and Rotary spirit as we progress into the 2008/2009 Rotary year!

Sad to say Goodbye

John West, a very active member, has moved to Watertown, South Dakota. He promises to visit us — and we will hold him to it! He was a great member and will be missed. Our Secretary, Diane Briggs, resigned for personal reasons. We thank both of them for their dedicated service.

June is Fellowship Month

Fellowship is one of the pillars upon which Rotary stands. Rotary was founded on fellowship, a concept that has been expanded internationally through the Rotary Fellowships. Fellowships 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.

Important Rotary Info

June Meetings – Fellowship Month:

6/2 Brian Walters — GFMEDC

6/9 Vern Hunter — Northern Plains Botanic Garden Society

6/16 Daniel Ratasamy — India

6/23 Brad Putney — 3H Grant of children in Katmandu

6/30 Changeover Meeting

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 Make-up Meeting is 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Radisson Hotel lounge

Rotary International websites:

www.rotary.org

www.district5580.org

For a complete list of Rotary Fellowships, go to:

<http://www.rotary.org/EN/SERVICES/CEANDFELLOWSHIP/FELLOWSHIP/GLOBALNETWORKINGGROUPS/Pages/FellowshipsResults.aspx?k=FellowshipsInterest%3a%221%22>