



THE COG



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

NOVEMBER 2020

November Programs

Brad Blaha -- Program Coordinator for November

Nov 3	..Gayle Seeklander.....	Brookings County Food Pantry
Nov 10	...Cathy Ching.....	Brookings Backpack Project
Nov 17	...Tracy Dahl-Webb.....	Rotary Foundation District Chair
Nov 24	...Joanne Matthees.....	Feeding Brookings

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Deb DeBates
5	Dean Kattelman
8	Lynda Pierce
9	Van Fishback
10	Steve Sewell
29	Don Norton

November Sergeant at Arms will be a continuation of Gregg Jongeling.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER

The Spirit of Giving

We frequently think of December as the month to demonstrate the “Spirit of Giving.” But the Brookings Rotary Club will celebrate that spirit at our meetings beginning in November. November is Rotary Foundation Month. Naturally, we will feature our District Rotary Foundation Chair, Tracy Dahl-Webb, at our meeting on November 17, talking about the good works of the Foundation to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

In Brookings, we translate the spirit of giving through the many outreach programs that help families daily to cope with poverty and hunger. Our program speakers will represent the Brookings County Food Pantry, the Backpack Project, and Feeding Brookings. We also can put the spirit into action by working at the Brookings County Youth Mentoring Project addressing envelopes. The CDC identifies mentoring programs as one approach communities can take to help kids *(continued on next page)*



Boys & Girls Club Thanks Brookings Rotary Club

The Boys & Girls Club of Brookings would like to thank the Brookings Rotary Club for their generous technology donation. The Club's technology needs have increased during the pandemic, and this technology purchase of multiple screens and monitors will be used to support the Club's academic success and virtual learning programs to ensure students of all ages continue to receive the engaging and valuable homework help they need.

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Reva & Jerome Johnson	Nov 8
Craig & Dee Johnson	Nov 14



To provide content for the COG please contact
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November Service Anniversaries



11-02-71 Alan Rogers	49 yrs	11-21-06 Dr. Dan Carlson	14 yrs
11-01-82 Wes Tschetter	38 yrs	11-24-09 Rich Widman	11 yrs
11-16-96 Dan Little	24 yrs	11-18-14 Jane Hennings	6 yrs
11-19-02 James Johnson	18 yrs	11-12-19 Rebecca Herman	1 yr
11-11-03 Stephen Pohl	17 yrs	11-12-19 Lynda Pierce	1 yr

BROOKINGS ROTARY OBSERVES WORLD POLIO DAY WITH GUEST SPEAKER:

Local author, teacher Mark Sternhagen relates personal experiences as survivor of virus

Mark Sternhagen, of Brookings, was uniquely qualified to discuss his personal experiences with members of the Brookings Rotary Club as the speaker for the club's virtual meeting this week, which focused on World Polio Day Oct. 24. Sternhagen contracted the disease in 1957 when he was just a baby.



The Salk vaccine that prevents polio was approved in 1955. "In December 1956, when the vaccine was being administered in my hometown of Scotland, South Dakota, I had a fever, so I wasn't vaccinated," Sternhagen told Rotarians via Zoom. "I got polio the following August, when I was 18 months old."

After many years of wearing a leg brace and using crutches, Sternhagen now navigates with the use of a wheelchair. An active spokesperson for those with disabilities, he serves as an advocate for fellow members of the Brookings Committee for People Who Have Disabilities, and is a board member for LifeScape in Sioux Falls – an organization from which he used to receive services as a youngster. He is the author of two books, and holds several college degrees, including a master's from SDSU in Industrial Management.

Brookings Rotarians have a passionate interest in learning more about a polio survivor's story. Rotary International through The Rotary Foundation plays a critical role in an international effort to eradicate polio worldwide.

President Norton delivered plaques recognizing our two newest Honorary Rotarians!!

Pictured below is Jill Fier from the Brookings Register. She was recognized for her outstanding



service in providing Rotary with access to the daily paper (Brookings Register). She was nominated by Kay Norton for service to our club.



(President's message continued)

through difficult times. The BCYMP needs volunteers to address envelopes this month for their year-end campaign, and Rotarians will be there to help.

Another demonstration of the spirit of giving will be on December 1st when Rotarians ring the Salvation Army bell at Lewis Drugs from 1 to 8pm. I have fond memories of Kay and our two sons ringing the bell together to welcome in the Christmas season. In a year when we could be tempted to lose our spirit, let's work together to bring the spirit of giving to the Brookings Community. That's what Rotary is all about – Service Above Self!

Yours in Rotary, President Don

The following Rotarians had perfect attendance in October

Keith Bartels	Marcia Janssen	Erich Olson
Brad Blaha	Del Johnson	Rod Schaefer
Steve Carnes	Gregg Jongeling	Steve Sewell
Michael Crinion	Millie Juel	Jennifer Soma
Don Crowe	Jim Klinker	Della Tschetter
Jim Gikerson	Don Norton	Cathy Voelzke
Michael Gonda	Kay Norton	Vern Voelzke
Larry Janssen	David Odens	

November Meal Schedule(HyVee) (this was one year ago!!)

Nov 3..Soup & Sandwich
Nov 10.....	Burgers & Brats
Nov 17.....	BBQ Beef Sandwich
Nov 24.....	Turkey

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROTARIANS IN NOVEMBER

A few service opportunities for Rotarians are listed below:

1) The Brookings County Youth Mentoring Program is seeking volunteers to help address and stuff envelopes for their end-of-the-year letter campaign. The BCYMP requests each volunteer address and stuff 50-100 envelopes between November 7 and 14th.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Darla Biel (bcymentoring@gmail.com) and include the dates and times you would be available to help! This service project can be completed while social distancing!

2) We are ringing the bells for the Salvation Army! Rotarians will ring the bells outside **Lewis Drugstore** (Brookings) from 1-8 PM on **Tuesday December 1st**. (Possibly a morning shift; will keep Rotarians updated.) If you can help with this project, please sign up for the shift(s) you would like to help with at the website below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044baca629a46-ring>

You can also email me (Michael.Gonda@sdstate.edu) and I can add you to the timeslots you request, if still available. Each shift will be a minimum of one hour, but feel free to sign up for multiple shifts if you are available! This project cannot be socially distanced, unfortunately.

Thanks to Darla Biel and Jennifer Soma for helping organize these service projects. I'm just the messenger. :) **SERVICE ABOVE SELF** All the best, Michael Gonda

NEWS FROM THE BROOKINGS ROTARY RESTART COMMITTEE

The Brookings Rotary Club Restart Committee met by ZOOM and it was their consensus that in-person Rotary meetings will not be possible for the foreseeable future. **That being said, the group is inviting any Rotarian (and spouse/guest) to gather in-person at Wooden Legs at 5PM+ on Monday, November 2 just to socialize.**

This is an opportunity for those who are comfortable getting together with others to share the camaraderie of Rotary. Drinks and food are on your own. See you there if you choose!?!? If this is deemed successful, we will plan on doing this monthly. Questions?? Call or text Gregg Jongeling at 605-691-4015. gjongeling@gmail.com



President Norton delivered plaques recognizing our two newest Honorary Rotarians!!

Bob Wayne from KBRK radio was honored for his commitment for providing Rotary with a forum on the station. He was nominated by President Don. They have a Rotary conversation, one radio personality to another, each Tuesday morning at around 9:30 AM. Be sure to tune in to this stimulating exchange of trivia, life experience and a little Rotary. Highly entertaining and well worth your time.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER CALISTA CLAY

I am a divorced woman and proud mother of one adult daughter, Katelyn Engelstad. She and her husband Ben have been married three years and live in Astoria, SD. I am eagerly awaiting grandchildren!!

I have managed the Joann store here in Brookings since it opened almost three years ago. It is a perfect fit for me as it allows me to do two things I love: be creative, and work with people, in both employee management and customer service perspectives. I have been in customer service in some capacity since I started working at age 14. (back in 1990.....30 years ago??...really???) A lot of people know me from when I owned and operated my flower shop, BloomingVilla, from 2002-2008. (Editor's note: BloomingVilla supplied the roses for the Rose Sale project that Rotary did as a fund raiser in those years!!)

Being a native of Brookings, I can remember back to my middle school years-hearing about the activities and community projects being done by the Rotary club and I was intrigued. A few years later, when I was a sophomore, our family hosted a Rotary exchange student from Brazil. I now call that young lady my sister, Bia, and I truly have the Rotary club to thank for that introduction. Also, I should thank my parents for agreeing to host her, although I do remember pointing out what an *excellent educational and cultural experience it would be for our family.....ah yes, ever the negotiator!* I guess I am my father's daughter.

Speaking of my father, Larry Fjeldos, he may have suggested once or twice over the years that I consider joining. Well, I am so happy to finally be a member. I look forward to meeting each one of you, and working on projects together.

The picture is of myself (on right) and my "sister" Bia on our family vacation in northern Minnesota, June 2019.

