



The Cog



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

FEBRUARY 2023

February Programs

Erich Olson & Tere Nesvold --- Program Coordinators for February

Feb 7...Vasile Pintille...(by Zoom).....Barlad Romania Rotarian
 Feb 14...Allie Teesdale.....Brookings Youth Mentoring Program
 Feb 21...Bob Hill.....Brookings County Emergency Manager
 Feb 28...Mike Cartney.....Freedom's Haven for New Americans Workforce

February Sergeant at Arms will be the always cheerful Cathy Voelzke.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Roger DeGroot
- 12 Victoria Blatchford
- 15 Stephen Pohl
- 21 Larry Janssen
- 22 Robert Fishback
- 23 Keith Bartels
- 25 Gerard Moriarty

We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR FEBRUARY

Valentines Day

The feast day of St. Valentines is for both St. Valentine of Rome and St. Valentines of Turni – both of which martyred for their Christian faith in the 3rd Century. Their February 14th feast day, “feast day: not a banquet, but instead an annual religious celebration, a day dedicated to a particular saint, most often a martyr” was celebrated for about a millennium before it became associated with romantic love in the 14th century. By the 18th century it had already become commercialized in England and by the 19th century they were mass producing greeting cards for February 14th. Makes one wonder what the original namesakes of St. Valentine’s Day would think of the commercialized spectacle, which we in the USA alone spent \$24 Billion dollars on in 2022? The \$24 Billion we spent on candy, flowers, gifts, and dining out is greater than the annual GDP of 83 other countries!

While my intent is not to get any of you to get in trouble with your spouses or significant others this month, I would challenge you as members of Rotary to also make a gift, a gift made in love to the Rotary Foundation or any one of the many great charities out there making a positive difference in our community or world this month.

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ROTARY THIRSTY THURSDAYS

On the first Thursday of each month Brookings Rotarians gather at various establishments to socialize. Some of these functions may coincide with Rotary Projects. Last Thursday Rotarians gathered at Boss’ Pizza and we hope you were able to attend. Steve Sewell is coordinating these “gathering opportunities” so if you have suggestions for locations let him know. Also, if you are aware of a project that may be tied to a social, please share it with Steve. Bring a friend, bring your spouse, bring a potential Rotarian and join in the camaraderie!!

To provide content for the COG please contact
 Gregg Jongeling 605-691-4015
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February Service Anniversaries



2-01-76	Douglas Miller	47 yrs	2-22-11	Don Evenson	12 yrs
2-14-84	David Odens	39 yrs	2-05-19	Lisa Hager	4yrs
2-17-87	Gregg Jongeling	36 yrs	2-18-20	Laura Hasselquist	3 yr

(President's message continued)

On February 28th we will have a very special guest speaker, not that all our speakers aren't special, but Mike Cartney the former president of Lake Area Tech will be presenting on Freedom's Haven for New Americans' Workforce. Freedom's Haven is an initiative to bring Ukrainian refugees to South Dakota to not only help them out but also to augment our aging workforce in this era of very low unemployment. If you are a business owner or have friends who own businesses that you could invite, this should be a very interesting meeting.

Thank you, Erich Olson

Current Rotary Officers

President is Erich Olson. Don Norton serves as Past President. Michael Gonda has agreed to be President Elect and we are still looking for a Rotarian to step up to serve as President Nominee. The Directors are Ann Volin (1 year remaining), Jennifer Olson (2 years remaining) and Deb DeBates (3 years remaining) along with Secretary Del Johnson, Treasurer Chad Vilhauer, and Sergeant at Arms Gregg Jongeling. These nine voting "Board Members" conduct the "business" of the Brookings Rotary Club so bring your suggestions, questions, or concerns to any member of the Board at any time. Their charge is to **SERVE** the club and its members and they need and appreciate your input.



GET THEE TO A THIRSTY THURSDAY

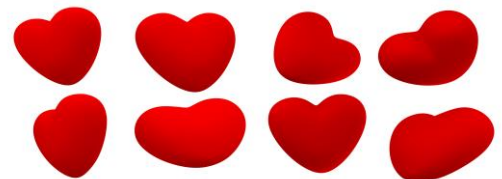


"BACK IN MY DAY, I DROVE 10 MILES TO THE MALL IN THE SNOW, UPHILL BOTH WAYS, JUST TO GO BROKE BUYING A VALENTINE'S DAY CARD, FLOWERS + CANDY!"



Wedding Anniversaries for February

Feb 12Jim & Gayle Klinker



The following Rotarians had perfect attendance in January

Brad Blaha	Don Norton	Chad Vilhauer
Deb DeBates	Kay Norton	Ann Volin
Lewayne Erickson	Dave Odens	Cathy Voelzke
Jim Gikerson	Erich Olson	
Del Johnson	Steve Sewell	
Gregg Jongeling		

February Meal Schedule

Feb 7Sub SandwichSoup
Feb 14 Chicken dinner	from Boss'
Feb 21 Hy-VeeTaco Bar
Feb 28 PizzaIce Cream

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Sarah Woodard was born in Galveston and grew up in Houston. She attended Incarnate Word Academy and then the University of Houston, before transferring to the University of Tulsa, where she completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Finance. During and after obtaining her degree, Sarah worked as a paralegal in estate planning for a large law firm in Tulsa.

After moving to South Dakota, Sarah worked for the South Dakota Newspaper Association for several years, before beginning her long and rewarding career as a realtor with Best Choice Real Estate in Brookings. She has been able to

combine her business and financial expertise with her enthusiasm for helping her clients find the right homes for their practical and personal needs, and many of her clients have also become her friends. In recent years, Sarah has also become more involved in commercial real estate, which she finds to be especially challenging and interesting.

Sarah has been a member of various groups and organizations through the years, and she has been very active in her church, St. Paul's Episcopal, serving on the vestry and working with the youth in various ways. Like her father, Sarah was very active as a tennis player for many years, and like her mother, she is strongly committed to her family. Her husband Chuck is retired from SDSU, and they have three adult children and four young and very lively grandchildren. The family enjoys spending time fishing and swimming and boating at their cabin on Lake Cochrane.



Sarah Woodard

From The School of St. Jude in Tanzania about our sponsored student Lidia Elias Mzumbwe

Dear All at Brookings Rotary Club,

We hope this email finds you well. We have excellent news. Our Form 4 results are now out. Form 4 students sat for the national exams at the end of last year, and we are glad to inform you that the results have been released by the Government.

In these results, Lidia achieved an Outstanding Division I.

As you are probably aware, the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) ranks students through a division system. For your reference, the table below shows the performance scales used by the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) to score examination results:

Division I	Outstanding Performance
Division II	Excellent Performance
Division III	Very Good Performance
Division IV	Poor Performance
Division 0	Fail

This result means Lidia performed well and is well positioned to pursue her chosen path as one of the latest graduates completing their O Level studies at St Jude's.

As the A Level scholarship selection process has yet to be completed, we will let you know her scholarship status in the coming months. We are all very proud of this wonderful achievement, which is largely due to the support you have provided towards Lidia's academic scholarship at St Jude's.

Our students would not have come this far without your generous support and commitment to our vision of educating the future leaders of Tanzania.

Rick Wahlstrom

2-13-23

1-23-23



Brookings Rotary

62 year member



Richard Carl "Rick" Wahlstrom was born February 13, 1923, on a farm near Craig, Nebraska, the son of Carl Hugo and Edna (Erickson) Wahlstrom, who were children of Swedish immigrants. The farm kid, war hero, PhD, Rotarian, church leader, and SDSU icon passed away quietly in Brookings, SD on January 23, 2023 with family at his side. Rick was just three weeks shy of his 100th birthday.

Rick enrolled at the University of Nebraska in 1941, but his education was interrupted when Uncle Sam called him to serve in the US Army from 1943 to 1946. He was a gunner in the 492nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 11th Armored Division in Europe under the command of General George Patton, notably participating in the Battle of the Bulge. Rick exemplified the Greatest Generation.

In the fall of 1946, he re-enrolled at the University of Nebraska where he was a leader in Alpha Gamma Rho and top member of the Livestock Judging Team, which often won National Honors.

It was there, too, that he met his soulmate and the love of his life. On a hot August 17, 1947, he and LaRayne Frances Steyer were married at Exeter, Nebraska. Rick and LaRayne shared nearly 71 years together before her death in 2018. They were blessed with the birth of three sons: Richard Kent (1950), Mark Willard (1954) and Ronald Eric (1956).

In 1952, Dr. Wahlstrom joined the Animal Science Department staff at South Dakota State University, beginning a career of teaching and research that spanned 36 years until he retired in 1988. He served as the Department Head of Animal Science from 1960 to 1968, and again from 1987 to 1988.

Rick was active in the Brookings community and the First United Methodist Church, where he served on and chaired numerous boards and committees. Following his retirement, Rick was active leading multiple Volunteer in Mission work teams to Haiti (Solar Oven Project) and Zimbabwe (Africa University).

Rotary International was special to Wahlstrom. He served as president of the Brookings Rotary Club, District Secretary from 1969 to 1977, Rotary District 5610 Governor in 1979-1980, and District Treasurer from 1988 to 1998. Rick served on the Rotary International Legislative Councils in 1980, 1989 and 1998. He was recognized multiple times as a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow.

Preceding him in death were his beloved LaRayne, his parents and his older brother, Lee. Survivors include his sons Richard (Catherine) of Rapid City, Mark (Nancy) of Sioux Falls and Ron (Shirlee Speed) of Portland, OR; grandchildren Marcel (Sherry), Dane, Bryan, Dustin (Laura), Aaron (Melisa), and Chelsey (Anthony Virgilio) Wahlstrom; great grandchildren Mikah, Kahmali, Isla, Charlotte, and Matthew Wahlstrom; and sister, Barbara Davis. Extended family members include Reinhard and Sally Jahns, Lucia Luond, Hilary Kowino, and Christopher Wagner.

A funeral and celebration of life will be held at the First United Methodist Church in Brookings on Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2:00PM. Visitation will be Saturday, February 11, at Eidsness Funeral Home from 3pm to 5pm. Condolences may be sent to the family at P.O. Box 286, Brookings, SD 5700. Rick's Rotarian friends are encouraged to attend. At the visitation the Family will be wearing SDSU Yellow and Blue and they encourage visitation attendees to also wear SDSU colors for Rick!!