



Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all Concerned? Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships? Will it be Beneficial to all Concerned?

### Future Editors

**December 17**

Michael McMahan

**December 24**

Milton Miller

**December 31**

Ron Merritt

### Greeters

**December 14**

Jo Khalifa  
Mike Klier

**December 21**

Kim Krohn  
Alan Kurth

**December 28**

NO MEETING

### Upcoming Programs

**December 14**

John Kutch  
Trinity Health CEO

**December 21**

Dawn Freeman and  
the Minot High  
Change of Pace Singers

**December 28**

NO MEETING

## New Judge in 2010

by Bill McLees

The Northwest Judicial District will have a new look in 2010, as recently-appointed District Judge Todd L. Cresap begins his duties at the Ward County Courthouse in Minot.

Judge Cresap's position is one of two new judgeships created by the North Dakota Legislature in 2009, with the other being in the Southeast Judicial District, chambered in Jamestown. Long-time Jamestown lawyer Thomas Merrick was appointed by Governor Hoeven to fill that slot.

These two judgeships are the first "new" positions for the judiciary in our state since the abolishment of the county court system at the end of 1994 and the statutorily-mandated reduction in judge numbers—from 53 county and district judges to 42 district judges—which followed.

The North Dakota Supreme Court was able to reach the target number of 42 judges by the end of the year 2000, primarily by not filling positions when sitting judges retired.

However, the number of 42 was somewhat of an arbitrary figure in the first place and it became increasingly apparent over the past several years that more judicial resources were needed—at least in certain areas of the state—for the most effective administration of justice.

The need for more judges was confirmed by the most recent Weighted Caseload Study commissioned by the

North Dakota Supreme Court, which showed, based on a comprehensive analysis of the judicial workload in our state, that we were approximately five judges short heading into 2009—with 40% of this shortage (i.e. two judges) existing in the Northwest Judicial District.



While the new Minot judgeship does not entirely fill the void revealed by the Weighted Caseload Study, nor does it return us to the pre-1995 level of nine (9) judges in the Northwest Judicial District (we will now have seven (7) judges in this district), the judges in this district very much appreciate the efforts of our local legislators, community leaders and members of the Ward County and Upper Missouri Bar Associations in securing the passage of this important legislation.

With a new judge on board, it is anticipated that we will finally be able to build some much needed opinion-writing time into our calendars. While a court's criminal docket generally receives more media attention, it is on the civil side where judges are often called upon to issue detailed opinions on complex issues.

Having another judge on the bench will also enable us to devote more time to "problem-solving" courts, such as the

# Secretary's Corner Om Madhok

12/7/09

**PRESENT MEMBERSHIP:** 104

**ATTENDANCE:** 54.1%

**VISITORS:** Robin Gordon, guest of the club.

**STUDENT ROTARIANS:** Kaithylin Sivertson, Rob Wagoner, Kyler Held, Erica Schmidt, Taylor Campbell, Crystal Mae Babcock, MHS Students

**NEW MEMBER:** Robin Thompson Gordon  
McHenry County States Attorney

## We Missed You!

Dan Albertson	Terry Hoff	Milton Miller
Kit Baker	Robert Horne	Teal Myre
Mike Berg	Kathy Holte	Darrell Olson
Richard Campbell	James Jenson	James Olson
Adam Cichon	Mary Keller	Doug Pancho
Lisa Clute	Mike Klier	Doug Pfau
Donald Davison	Kim Krohn	Chester Reiten
Blaine DesLauriers	Alan Kurth	Alison Reknow
Alicia DesLauriers	Dan Langemo	Alan Reynolds
Sara Dufner	Linda Langmaack	Larry Schaffer
David Ellingson	Fred Lien Jr.	Claude Sem
Betty Fedorchak	David Looyesen	Dean Somerville
Joel Feist	Jarid Lundeen	Rita Sommers
Jennifer Guidinger	Jay Lundeen	Roscoe Streyle
Jaime Haalan	Brent Mattson	Kelly Turneau
Kevin Harmon	Michael McMahon	Tim Vallely
Daryl Hodnefield	Wesley Magaster	Thomas Wentz Jr.

## New Judge in 2010 cont'd from page 1

juvenile and adult drug courts - as well as family law and mental health courts which could well be implemented in the future.

Further, we should also have more time for obtaining continuing judicial education credits, participating in committee work at the request of the North Dakota Supreme Court, serving as substitute justices on the North Dakota Supreme Court,

handling out-of-district judicial assignments, performing administrative duties and doing community outreach (i.e., guest lecturing at local schools and universities). Finally, and very importantly, having more in the way of judicial resources will help us do a better job of providing judicial services in the non-chambered cities of Bowbells, Crosby, Stanley and Watford City.

**The Prairie Flower** is the official publication of Rotary Club of Minot, Minot, North Dakota. It is published every Thursday. Annual membership dues for the year 2009-2010 in the Rotary Club of Minot, ND are \$588. 6/28/09 Om Madhok, Secretary.

**John Kenney** of Grangemouth Central, Scotland— President, Rotary Int'l  
**Ajoy Chatterjee** of Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada—Governor District 5580

The Rotary Club of Minot meets 12:00 to 1:10 p.m. every Monday at the Grand International of Minot.

**Board of Directors:** Reed Argent, President; Teal Myre, President-Elect; Ron Merritt, Vice-President; Om Madhok, Secretary; Dave Lehner, Treasurer; William McLees, Past President.

**Directors:** 2009-Jen Guidinger and Dusty Zimmerman; 2010 -Robert Dick and Brent Mattson; 2011—Mike Berg, Ron Merritt and Tom Will

**Standing Members:** Peter Hankla, Exchange Students, Ken Kitzman, Scholarship Fund; John MacMartin, and Rotary Foundation.

## Birthdays

**December 16**  
Robert Dick

**December 19**  
Linda Langmaack



## Anniversaries

**December 18**  
Bryan & Susan Thomas

**December 19**  
Fred & Sue Crist  
Bruce & Diane Walker

**December 20**  
Alan & Janet Kurth

## Fines

**\$5.00**

Dave Lehner

**\$2.00 each**

Reed Argent, Om Madhok  
John MacMartin's Table

**\$1.00 each**

Non-Viking Fans,  
Non-Veterans, who have not  
baked Christmas cookies,  
who have not put up Christmas  
trees yet, who did not wear  
Rotary pins or logowear,  
Dave Lehner's Table

**TOTAL FINES:**

**\$144.00**