



# The Cog



A Monthly Publication of the Brookings Rotary Club

**DECEMBER 2022**

## December Programs

**Dr. David Reynolds -- Program Coordinator for December**

Dec 6...SDSU Choir.....Yuletide Favorites  
 Dec 13...Caleb Thielbar.....Life as a Minnesota Twin  
 Dec 20...Brookings Mayor Ope Niemeyer.....City Projects for 2023  
 Dec 27...Merry Christmas -- Happy New Year.....NO MEETING

December Sgt. at Arms will be the hard-working Rotarian Jim Gilkerson.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Jan Fjeldos  
 8 Teree Nesvold  
 10 Chad Vilhauer  
 15 David Reynolds  
 21 Bradley Blaha  
 21 Isaiah Crevier  
 26 Zeno Wicks  
 29 Don Crowe



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER

A Big Thank You to everyone who helped plan, host, invited their friends, or simply attended the Hope and Healing Ukraine Fundraiser last month. It was a great way to not only show Rotary cares but to share the power of Rotary International with our friends and neighbors. The net funds raised from Hope and Healing ticket sales, the dessert auction, gifts, and the Rotary Disaster Grant exceeded \$49,000. These dollars have been and will be used to make a difference in some of the many lives affected by this war, the largest war in Europe in nearly 80 years.

While our club is doing great things both locally and globally and will continue to do so based upon the quality of our members, we are none-the-less facing some challenges. The first and primary challenge is membership, we are simply losing ground on membership as people take on new careers, move away or simply retire from Rotary. If you were one of those many Rotarians who invited friends and family to the Ukraine fundraiser, invite those same people to a regular Rotary meeting some Tuesday. The people who supported that fundraiser are just the sort of people who have Rotary DNA, they just don't know it yet! *(continued on back)*

American supporters of the School of St. Jude in Tanzania can donate online, by check, or wire transfer via The American Friends of the School of St. Jude. The American Friends of the School of St. Jude, Tanzania, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity with federal tax-exempt status. Their EIN is 47-3077055. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible gift from American Friends. [Click here to make an online donation.](#) You will be redirected to **The American Friends of the School of St. Jude's website**, where you can make your tax-deductible contribution to the school.

## By check **SCHOOL OF ST. JUDE DONATIONS**

[Visit the donate page](#), select "check" option and fill out the form. Then make check payable to AF School of St. Jude and mail to:

AF School of St. Jude  
 PO Box 3994  
 Rapid City, SD 57709



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Chad & Ellie Vilhauer Dec 18  
 Robert & Pat Fishback Dec 26  
 Brian & Carla Gatzke Dec 27



To provide content for the COG please contact  
 Gregg Jongeling 605-691-4015  
[gjongeling@gmail.com](mailto:gjongeling@gmail.com)

## December Service Anniversaries



12-19-95	Brian Gatzke	27 yrs	12-16-10	Jan Fjeldos	12 yrs
12-15-09	Jennifer Olson	13 yrs	12-13-16	Jason Flaskey	6yrs

## November perfect attendance

Brad Blaha	Jim Gikerson	Millie Juel	Erich Olson
Kelly Beinhorn	Michael Gonda	Don Norton	Jen Olson
Steve Carnes	Del Johnson	Kay Norton	Chad Vilhauer
Lewayne Erickson	Gregg Jongeling	Dave Odens	Cathy Voelzke

### *(President's message continued)*

Other challenges are the student of the month program and Rotary youth exchanges. These programs got off track with Covid in 2020 and have not gotten back on track since. If anybody would like to help out or has some new ideas, I am sure Ben Hauck (student of the month program), and Toby Uecker (youth exchanges) would welcome the help.

Invite your friends to the programs in December as David Reynolds has a great slate of programs (see Page 1 of the Cog). Thanks for your continued support and for making Rotary part of your day!

Yours in Rotary, Erich



Music playground at Larson Park



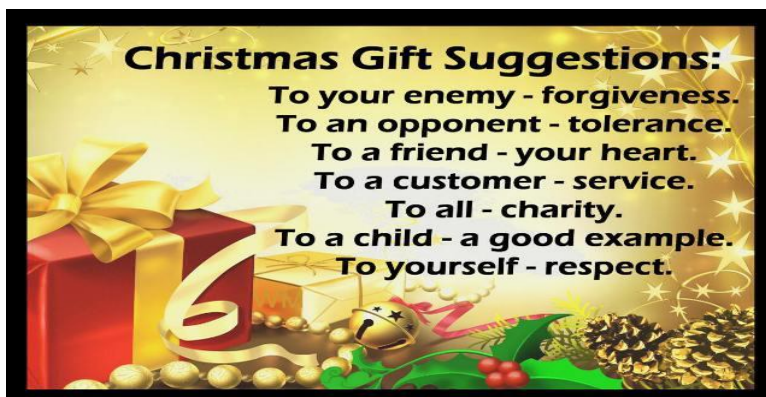
Planting the Garden



Thirsty Thursday potato drive

In the past months Brookings Rotary has been involved in several successful volunteer activities. With continued enthusiasm Brookings Rotary intends to complete many more in the next year!

## RINGING THE BELLS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY



### THIRSTY THURSDAY – DEC 8

Brookings Rotary will have a social gathering at 5 PM at Pints & Quarts (313 Main Ave). Bring spouses and potential Rotarians!! Theme is \$\$\$ to Salvation Army



### December Meal Schedule

Dec 6...Sub sandwich and soup  
 Dec 13.....Pizza and ice cream  
 Dec 20.....Qdoba Hot Bar  
 Dec 27.....NO MEETING.....

## BROOKINGS ROTARY WELCOMES BACK LTC STEVE SEWELL



Steve Sewell was born on 10 November 1974 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is a graduate of Webster High School, Webster, South Dakota. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Radio, TV and Film in 1998 from South Dakota State University. He holds a Master's Degree in Strategic Leadership from Black Hills State University.

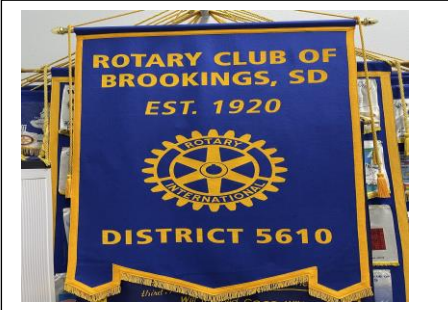
PVT Sewell enlisted in the SD National Guard in 1992 as a member of A Co 153rd Engineers, Brookings, SD as a 52D, Power Generator Repairer until 1993 at which time he transferred to HHB 147th Field Artillery and worked in the Maintenance Section until he contracted with SDSU ROTC in 1997. He was commissioned in the Active Army as a Transportation Officer in May 1998. He attended the Transportation Officer Basic Course and was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in Ft. Stewart, GA for three years. 1LT Sewell served as a Medium Truck Platoon Leader and a Battalion Adjutant. While stationed at Ft. Stewart, he married Chris Pack from Savannah, GA and was honorably discharged from Active Duty in May 2001. Returning to South Dakota, CPT Sewell was assigned to the 196th RTI and held the position of Senior TAC Officer for the Officer Candidate School at Ft. Meade, SD. In August 2002 CPT Sewell returned to the 147th and was hired as the Brigade Personnel Officer. During that time, he was also assigned numerous staff positions at the Brigade including commander of HHB 147th Field Artillery Brigade. In March 2006, CPT Sewell was hired as the SIDPERS/PSB Chief in Rapid City, SD. In June 2007, MAJ Sewell returned to the RTI when he was selected as the Regimental S-1. In January 2008, he deployed to Afghanistan as a member of Coyote One Embedded Training Team. He returned in 2009 and was assigned to numerous positions in the South Dakota Army National Guard to include command of the OCS/WOCS Company at Ft Meade. In May of 2018 LTC Sewell was given his dream assignment as the 53<sup>rd</sup> Professor of Military Science at South Dakota State University. In 2021 LTC Sewell returned to Camp Rapid where he is currently serving as the State Partnership Program Coordinator. Mr. Sewell now serves the South Dakota National Guard as the state's Labor Relations Specialist in Brookings, SD. He still serves as a member of the National Guard.

LTC Sewell is a graduate of both the Field Artillery Captains Career Course (resident), Ft. Sill, OK, and the Transportation Officer Basic Course, Ft. Eustis, VA, the Intermediate Level Education Course and the Advanced **Operations** and **Warfighting Course**.

Some of LTC Sewell's awards include two Meritorious Service Medals, six Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO medal, the Instructor Badge, the Combat Action Badge and selected as a member of the Honorable Order of St. Barbara.

LTC Sewell served as the Executive Director for the National Guard Association of South Dakota for over five years and is currently the Area V Membership rep at the national level. He resides in Brookings, SD with his lovely wife, Chris, their beautiful daughter, Brooklyn and Leo their cat. Steve is an alpine ski guide for visually impaired athletes for Black Hills Ski for Light, a graduate of Leadership Rapid City Class of 2015, an Eagle Scout and a life member of the Webster, SD VFW and an active member of The Brookings Rotary Club.





# \*\*\*\*\*USE CLUBRUNNER APP TO CHECK YOUR ROTARY PROFILE INFORMATION\*\*\*\*\*

Download ClubRunner from your APP store. To log in for the first time do the following:

**USERNAME** FirstLast10595 (Your first name plus last name plus 10595 – no spaces)

**PASSWORD** initial password is 10595, which you should change after logon,

To change password in the Member Settings Tab, go to MyClubRunner, then My Profile, then Settings Tab

Once you are in ClubRunner please update and fill in your contact information to insure that you receive Rotary updates.

In case this is not your forte just alert Gregg or Del if you wish to make changes in your information such as email address change or phone number to be contacted at. Contact Gregg Jongeling ([gjongeling@gmail.com](mailto:gjongeling@gmail.com) 605-691-4015) or Del Johnson ([johnson4del@gmail.com](mailto:johnson4del@gmail.com) 605-695-4115.)

## Rotary Club News

### 'Hope & Healing' fundraiser exceeds goal

With a capacity dinner crowd of 250 at Peace Lutheran Church, and generous donations from even more supporters, the Brookings Rotary Club's "Hope & Healing" fundraiser exceeded its goal by \$10,000, raising a total of \$50,000 for Ukrainian relief and medical supplies.

Seeded with a private gift of \$10,000 from Rotarian supporter Keith Kerruish, of Isle of Man, and a \$25,000 disaster grant from The Rotary Foundation, the local club raised another \$15,000 from ticket sales, private and corporate donations, and a Dessert Silent Auction that alone raised more than \$3,200.

Keynote speaker VJ Smith drew a standing ovation for his inspirational and personal comments supportive of the cause,

and Ukrainian native Polina Helder, of Volga, spoke eloquently and passionately about her homeland's history and current situation. Helder, who provided authentic Ukrainian recipes for preparation by Midwest Fresh Catering, noted her father is a retired general in the Ukrainian army, but has been recalled to active duty in his war-torn country.

More than 30 desserts were donated for the silent auction, several selling for hundreds of dollars each.

"We are overwhelmed by the support we received from our community for this fundraiser," said Rotary Club President Erich Olson, who noted that the proceeds will be used to distribute needed medical supplies in Ukraine through the connection the local club has with a Rotary Club in Barlad, Romania. "Thank you to everyone who donated, attended, or otherwise supported this critically important effort."



**Top:** More than 30 donated gourmet desserts were sold at the silent auction, garnering more than \$3,200 for Ukrainian relief.

**Middle:** A sold-out crowd of 250 filled the room at Peace Lutheran Church for Rotary's "Hope & Healing." The event raised \$50,000, far surpassing its \$40,000 goal, to be used for Ukrainian medical supplies.

Keynote speaker VJ Smith, right, addressed a sold-out crowd for Rotary's "Hope & Healing" fundraiser, while Ukrainian native Polina Helder, left, of Volga, told the audience about the history of her homeland and its current situation.

Courtesy photos



The above story was printed in the Brookings Register November 17 thanks to Kay Norton.