

## Tim & Mary Waibel to receive Club's Service to Ag award

Tim and Mary Waibel were expecting neighbor Alex Schroeder to stop in to interview them for a paper he was writing for school Wednesday, December 1.

While Alex did arrive at the scheduled time, he was accompanied by four members of the New Ulm Farm City Hub Club. And, while the Waibels were interviewed, it was not by Alex, but by the Hub Club secretary.

The group arranged the visit to announce to the Waibels that they are the Hub Club's 2022 Service to Agriculture Award recipients. They will be honored at the club's January 24 banquet at the New Ulm Community Center.

The Service to Agriculture Award recognizes a person or persons who go above and beyond to serve the club and agriculture in general.

Tim and Mary have been members of the Hub Club since the mid-1990s and followed both sets of parents—Teddy and Helen Waibel and Robert and Alice Forst—into the club. It didn't take the rural Courtland couple long to get involved with the club's activities.

When the March 1998 tornado devastated the area, the Waibels joined the Hub Club's organized effort to clean up area farms that suffered heavy damage from the storm.

"We knew a lot of people that were affected and wanted to help," Mary said.

One thing led to another and, the next year, Tim stepped in to the club president's role when the elected president had to step back because of work changes. Waibel and 1998 president Diana Schaefer each took six months of the 1999 term, then Waibel continued as president for the year 2000. Tim went on to co-chair the club's biggest event of the year, the Farm Show, in 2013.

"Being Hub Club president was the first leadership position that I ever held," Tim mused.

It certainly wasn't his last as he's "moved up the ladder"



Mary and Tim Waibel, center, were surprised when Hub Club members came to their home to tell them that they'll receive the club's Service to Agriculture Award. Making the announcement were Randy Schroeder, Don Sanderson, and Michele and Alex Schroeder.

with various organizations. After the Hub Club presidency, Tim was on boards of the Nicollet County Pork Producers, Farmers Cooperative of Hanska, and Minnesota Pork Producers.

He now leads the 20,000 member Minnesota Corn Growers as chairman of the board, after being president last year. He's also chair of the government relations committee for the state Corn Growers and is one of four corn growers in the U.S. on the nominating committee for the National Corn Growers Board.

"If somebody would have asked me if I'd be president of a group with 20,000 members back then, I would have said 'no way,'" he recalled.

He continued, "I really like being on boards like this. You meet so many people and everyone has a story to tell. If you can tell that story yourself, it resonates better."

To tell that story, the Waibels have hosted many politicians and trade delegations, including some from China and Japan. Mary recalls a couple from Japan who visited when she was in the combine one fall. The husband and interpreter rode in the combine with her, but the wife—who wore slippers with real diamonds on them—stayed behind.

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## Hub Club Annual Meeting and Banquet Monday, January 24

Hub Club members are encouraged to join their friends as the club reviews the past year, salutes Service to Ag recipients Tim and Mary Waibel, and looks ahead at the annual meeting and banquet, Monday, January 24 at the Community Center in New Ulm, 600 N. German. Social hour is at 6:30 p.m., the meal at 7:00 p.m., and the annual meeting and roast to follow. Cost of the meal is \$25.00 per person.

Annual dues of \$25.00 are also typically collected at or before the annual meeting. Members are encouraged to mail their payment for the meal(s), as well as dues, prior to the meeting. This will help reduce the bottleneck at the registration table.

Your banquet invitation is on the back page of this newsletter. Please respond by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12.**

## 2022 Proposed Officer Slate

During the Hub Club's annual business meeting January 24, the 2022 slate of officers will be presented for election. Proposed officers are Randy Schroeder of Morgan, president; Marie Guggisberg of New Ulm, first vice president; Jason Schroeder of Courtland, second vice president; Ruth Klossner of Lafayette, secretary for a three-year term; Kelsey Brandt of New Ulm, director-at-large for a three-year term; Don Sanderson of New Ulm, PR director for a three-year term; and Julie Wilson of New Ulm, director-at-large for a one-year term. Additional nominations for all positions will be accepted at the annual meeting.

Continuing officers and directors are Garrett Freeman, membership director; Justin Gode, events director; Doug Schottle, director-at-large; and Shannon Hillesheim, treasurer.

Christina Schwab is completing her service to the board as a director the past year and president before that. Thank you, Christina!

## Upcoming Events

- January Board Meeting—Tuesday, January 4, 5:15 pm., Don Sanderson's State Farm Office
- Banquet, Annual Meeting & Service to Ag Presentation—Monday, January 24, 6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. dinner, New Ulm Community Center
- February Board Meeting—Tuesday, Feb. 1, 5:15 p.m., Don Sanderson's State Farm Office
- Farm Show Committee Meeting—Tuesday, January 18, noon, Bank Midwest, Center &

## A message from our president, Julie Wilson

It's an understatement to say that it's hard to believe that a year has passed for me to be president of this great club!

I want to thank each of you for your time—and your patience—as we worked through everything that transpired in 2021. We're hoping that 2022 can get back to some normalcy and that it all starts with the annual banquet—as well as the 2022 Farm Show which is being planned as you read this.

I invite everyone to the annual banquet on January

24. Please look for all the details in this newsletter. We'd love to see you there as we gather again as a whole to celebrate our accomplishments and a new inductee into our Service to Ag Award family.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president this past year. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you along the way.

Everyone have a safe and Happy New Year—and let's look forward to a great 2022!

Julie

## Service to Ag award recipients...continued

"It turned out that she was the CEO of one of the largest fertilizer companies in the world," Mary said. "We've met a lot of unique people."

To which Tim added, "Too bad that Covid ended that."

The Waibels have been interviewed by the *New York Times* and have been on the front page of the Minneapolis *StarTribune*. While they try to be careful to represent agriculture in the best possible image, not everybody understands production agriculture and doesn't realize that much of it is family farms.

The Waibel farm is definitely that—a family farm—with sons Justin Rewitzer and Jonathan Rewitzer farming full time with Tim and Mary for almost 20 years. Together they farm 2,200 acres of owned and rented land, do some custom farming, and custom raise about 25,000 hogs, weaning to finish, annually for Wakefield Pork. They've raised hogs since 1994.

Mary and the boys are in charge of the barns, with Mary usually handling the nursery pigs.

"I'm in the barns every day of the year, except for maybe a week," Mary said. "I treat those pigs like they're my own."

Mary is also active in the field—doing all the planting and combining until Justin started to take it over. She now runs the grain cart—and she drives semi.

With a laugh, Tim said, "Somebody has to stay home and

do the work when I'm out for my meetings."

Mary is also a member and past president of the Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild and served on the Blue Earth-Nicollet County FSA board. She's very involved in church and played organ for many years at St. George, St. Mary's, and New Ulm Cathedral Catholic churches. She also has a big garden, big flower garden, and does a lot of canning—much of which she gives away.

The Waibels have five children. Sons Justin Rewitzer and Jonathan Rewitzer and wife Katie and their three kids all live in Courtland. Daughter Rebecca, husband Anthony Mathiowetz, and daughter live in Hanska; daughter Anna, husband Derek MacHolda, and three kids live in Morgan; and daughter Clarissa, husband Teil Glaus, and three kids live in Chamberlain, South Dakota.

Mary and Tim are honored to be chosen for the Hub Club award.

"The Hub Club is looked at as a great organization. It's been around a long time," Tim said. "I looked up to a lot of the members over the years. I had Frank Stuckey as a teacher. He was a role model and very instrumental in the Hub Club."

Mary added, "I remember when the club was formed. My mom and dad were in it back then—it was a big deal."

## Contact information for 2021 Hub Club Officers & Directors

President	Julie Wilson—Phone: 507-276-1105; Email: juliesell@hotmail.com
1st Vice President	Randy Schroeder—Phone: 507-233-4797(W); Email: rschroeder@frandsenbank.com
2nd Vice President	Marie Guggisberg—Phone: 507-276-8615; Email: mariieg@nutelecom.net
Secretary	Ruth Klossner—Phone: 507-240-0048; Email: cowladyruth@gmail.com or hubclub@newulmtel.net
Treasurer	Shannon Hillesheim— Phone: 507-276-0716; Email: shillesheim@bankmidwest.com
Membership Director	Garrett Freeman—Phone: 507-276-0648; Email: garrett_freeman@hotmail.com
Events Director	Justin Gode—Phone: 507-228-8283 (W) or 507-276-6597 (Cell); Email: jgode@citizensmn.com
Pub. Rel. Director	Don Sanderson—Phone: 507-354-8524; Email: don.sanderson.b5k0@statefarm.com
Director-at-Large	Christina Schwab—Phone: 507-354-5922; Email: cschwab@live.com
Director-at-Large	Doug Schottle—Phone: 507-217-6186; Email: dschottle@ummc.co
Director-at-Large	Kelsey Brandt—Phone: 507-995-7084; Email: kbrandt@newulm.k12.mn.us

## Meeting Minutes—New Ulm Farm-City Hub Club Tuesday, December 7, Don Sanderson's State Farm Insurance Office

President Julie Wilson called the December 7, 2021 Hub Club board meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. at Don Sanderson's State Farm Insurance Office. Also attending were vice presidents Randy Schroeder and Marie Guggisberg, treasurer Shannon Hillesheim, secretary Ruth Klossner; and directors Doug Schottle, Don Sanderson, Kelsey Brandt, Justin Gode, and Garrett Freeman.

The meeting agenda was approved on a motion by Guggisberg and second by Schroeder; motion carried. The secretary's report, as published and reviewed, was approved on a motion by Sanderson and second by Schroeder; motion carried. The treasurer's report, as presented by Hillesheim, showed a checking balance of \$44,499.62. Klossner motioned and Guggisberg seconded approval; motion carried. The club received \$270 from friends and \$20 from a club member in memory of Barbara Baumann; the money will be used for youth causes.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership. 2022 membership renewal will be done with banquet sign-up.

Public Relations. Sanderson reported that the Farm Show committee is moving ahead with plans for the 2022 show. He is looking for someone to do social media sales.

Events. Brandt reported that the FFA Chapter can go

ahead with the February 23 FFA Week breakfast at the school so plans will be made.

### OLD BUSINESS (none).

### NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Plans. The board selected two meats (meat balls with gravy and chicken breast) and set the price at \$25.00. Sign-up will be in the January newsletter.

Board of Directors/Officers. Jason Schroeder has agreed to be a candidate for second vice president. The terms of board members, secretary, and treasurer will be aligned with a three-year schedule so some will be on the ballot each year.

Food Stand at Autofest. The club was approached to have a good stand at Autofest in late June. Sanderson motioned and Freeman seconded doing so; motion carried.

Chamber Window. The club has usually put a display in the Chamber window in February; Klossner will check with Michele Schroeder (who arranges it) to see if we are on the schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m. on a motion by Sanderson and second by Guggisberg.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 4.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Klossner, Secretary

## Family suffers tragic loss

Carter Brandes, 19, son of Hub Club members Jeff and Sue Brandes of Courtland and grandson of club members Kenneth and Shirleen Beranek of New Ulm, passed away Sunday, November 28. Funeral service was Saturday, December 4, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Ulm.

*Delbert Fischer, Jr., is collecting door prizes for the annual meeting. If you have something to donate, please call him at 507-359-9493*

## Scholarship applications available

The Hub Club will award five or six scholarships—with a total value of about \$5,000—to current seniors at NUHS, NUC, or MVL, or the son or daughter of a Hub Club member (attending any school)—and planning to study ag, ag business, or natural resources at the post-secondary level. Students must have a 2.0 GPA.

Applications are available from school counselors or can be requested from Duane Laffrenzen at Citizens Bank (dlaffrenzen@citizensmn.com) or from hubclub@newulm tel.net. Application deadline is March 15.



Dear Farm-City Hub Club Members,

Please join us for the Hub Club’s Annual Meeting and Banquet at the Community Center in New Ulm (600 N. German), Monday, January 24. Social hour is at 6:30 p.m., with a two-meat buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost of the meal is \$25.00 per person. Non-members and friends are also invited to attend and require reservations.

Our new Service to Agriculture recipients, Tim and Mary Waibel, will be honored after the dinner.

Door prizes will be awarded. If you have a door prize to donate, please contact Delbert Fischer, Jr., (507-359-9493) prior to the meeting.

Hub Club annual dues of \$25.00 per membership (couple, single, or business) are also due at this time. We ask that you RSVP in writing by Wednesday, January 12, and include your payment for meals and dues. This will speed things up at the registration table the evening of the banquet. We will have an “express line” for members who have already paid for their meals and dues. **Please remember, if you tell us that you will attend, we include you in the count, and the Hub Club is charged for your meal, whether you come or not.**

There’s a special bonus for those who pay dues early! We’ll have a drawing at the annual meeting for all who pay dues by January 12. The winner will get a refund of their membership dues for the year.

You can mail your RSVP and check (payable to Farm City Hub Club) to:  
Garrett Freeman, 518 Center Street, Suite B, New Ulm, MN 56073

Or you may drop it off to Garrett’s attention at his office at 518 Center Street in New Ulm.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ # of banquet tickets at \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues (\$25.00 per membership) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send to Garrett Freeman, 518 Center Street, Suite B, New Ulm, MN 56073 by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12** or drop off to Garrett’s attention at his office at 518 Center Street, New Ulm