

Doug Schottle to receive Hub Club’s Service to Ag award

Doug Schottle was attending one of his last meetings as a Hub Club board member Tuesday, December 6 when the meeting was interrupted by a number of people carrying balloons. When Doug recognized the group as past recipients of the club’s Service to Agriculture Award, he looked around the room to see who the newest award winner might be.

Schottle was taken by surprise when Michele Schroeder stepped forward and handed him the balloon cluster, announcing him as the 2023 recipient.

He will be honored at the club’s January 23 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.

Doug has been a member of the Hub Club since 2009 when he started working for Jim Thomas at Upper Midwest Management. Not only did he become a member—but, as the firm’s accountant—Thomas talked him into being the club’s treasurer.

Doug held that position for five years, then continued on the club’s board or directors through 2022. Now retired and with other things drawing his attention, he has opted to leave the board in January, when his current term expires.

Monthly Hub Club board meetings were held at Upper Midwest Management until recently, so it was convenient for Schottle to set up the room and stay for the 5:15 p.m. meetings.

An active worker for the club, Schottle is comfortable in that role.

“I’m a good worker, I don’t want to be in charge,” Schottle said. “I don’t want a job like Don Sanderson has, heading the Farm Show.”

Doug especially enjoyed working for the club at the Bavarian Blast food stand, the club’s annual Farm Show, the Cash Wise brat stand, and at the Farmfest food stand, which the club operated for decades. When members voted to discontinue their involvement at Farmfest, Schottle was given the task of selling the food stand building, which he did.

Schottle grew up at Sleepy Eye. Though the family moved



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off the farm when Doug was six, he picked up some farm experience—walking beans and baling hay—as his grandfather, aunts, and uncles farmed.

After graduating from Sleepy Eye High School, Doug attended the University of Minnesota for a year, but “didn’t like school,” so got a job at Del Monte. After meeting his future wife, Terry, Doug earned a two-year accounting degree at Mankato Vo-Tech. After marriage, they moved to Minneapolis—but came back to the area when they decided they didn’t want to raise their family in the metro.

“It’s easier to raise kids in a smaller town,” Doug commented. “We came to New Ulm in 1984 and I worked for Biebl-Ranweiler for 13 years, for Wakefield Pork for 10 years, then we moved to California to work for Terry’s brother. When the economy went to heck in 2008, we came back and I got the job with Jim as an accountant right away.”

Doug and Terry have three children and three grandchildren. Son Mark lives in Hopkins. Son Alex is in New Ulm, as is daughter Amanda.

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Hub Club Annual Meeting and Banquet Monday, January 23

Hub Club members are encouraged to join their friends as the club reviews the past year, salutes Service to Ag recipient Doug Schottle, and looks ahead at the annual meeting and banquet, Monday, January 23 at the Community Center in New Ulm, 600 N. German. Social hour is at 6:30 p.m., the three-meal 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 11.**

A message from our president, Randy Schroeder

Happy 2023 to all!

The next big event for the Hub Club is the annual meeting and banquet, where we will honor Doug Schottle with our 2023 Service to Agriculture award.

Doug has been a member of the Hub Club leadership team for many years, and is always among our best volunteers. He has been actively involved in agriculture during his working career. Thank you and congrats, Doug!

The annual meeting will again include our election of officers. While not dictated by our constitution, we have been following a protocol for these elections that seems to work out nicely. Our second vice president generally becomes first vice president; our first vice president becomes president; and our president becomes a director-at-large for one year.

So each year we need a new second VP and this year we also need a new director to replace Doug, who has decided not to run again.

Our new candidates for second VP and director-at-

large are Ken Reckard and Randy Reinarts, respectively. Our other officers and directors have agreed to serve again, or else have not yet completed their terms.

It has also become protocol to suggest only one candidate for each open position. This tends to reduce the mud-slinging, TV debates, and endless advertising that otherwise accompanies a Hub Club election!

We will still call for other nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. If YOU would like to play a more active role in club leadership, or you know someone who would be a great officer, please let one of the officers know. There's a high likelihood of this working out for you in a future year!

We have over 200 members (including joint members and business memberships), so we may not always be asking the right people if they would like to serve, but we always like fresh faces on the officer team!

Looking forward to seeing you at the banquet!

Randy

2023 Proposed Officer Slate

During the Hub Club's annual business meeting January 23, the 2023 slate of officers will be presented for election. Proposed officers are Marie Guggisberg of New Ulm, president; Jason Schroeder of Courtland, first vice president; Ken Reckard of Courtland, second vice president; Shannon Hillesheim of New Ulm, treasurer for a three-year term; Randy Reinarts of Sleepy Eye, director-at-large for a three-year term; Justin Gode of New Ulm, events director for a three-year term; and Randy Schroeder of Morgan, 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; Don Sanderson, public relations director; and Ruth Klossner, secretary

Leaving the board will be Julie Wilson and Doug Schottle. Julie is completing her service to the board as a director the past year and president before that. Doug has been a director the last eight years and was treasurer for five years before that. Thank you, both!

Service to Ag award recipient...continued

Doug retired in April 2022 and Terry in June. Together they do full time daycare for Amanda's two-year-old.

In his free time, Doug likes to golf and fish. He takes his older grandkids to Sleepy Eye Lake to fish and also fishes with his brother in Canada when he comes here from California.

Doug's golfing interest recently led to his being elected treasurer of the Sleepy Eye Golf Course.



The newest Service to Agriculture recipient, Doug Schottle, with previous award recipients—Pete Neigebauer, Tim Waibel, Linda Neigebauer, Don Sanderson, Randy Schroeder, Michele Schroeder, and Ruth Klossner.

Upcoming Club Events

- Board Meeting—Tues., Jan. 3, 5:15 p.m., Don Sanderson's office
- Farm Show Meeting—Tues., Jan. 17, 11:45 a.m., Bank Midwest
- Annual Meeting & Banquet—Mon., Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m., New Ulm
- Board Meeting—Tues., Feb. 7, 5:15 p.m., Don Sanderson's office
- Farm Show Meeting—Thurs., Feb. 23 11:45 a.m., Bank Midwest

50th anniversary in 2024!

Board members are starting to think about the Hub Club's 50th anniversary in 2024. They'd like to display club memorabilia and are looking for a Hub Club belt buckle and/or other old club items that we can borrow. Please contact Michele Schroeder or Ruth Klossner if you have any items for a memorabilia display.

Contact information for 2022 Hub Club Officers & Directors

President	Randy Schroeder—Phone: 507-353-7437 (W); Email: rschroeder@frandsenbank.com
1st Vice President	Marie Guggisberg—Phone: 507-276-8615; Email: mariieg@nutelecom.net
2nd Vice President	Jason Schroeder—Phone: 507-766-3263; Email: schroederholsteins@yahoo.com
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	Julie Wilson—Phone: 507-276-1105; Email: juliesell@hotmail.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 — Tuesday, December 6, 2022

President Randy Schroeder called the December 6, 2022 Hub Club meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. at the Civic Center Conference Room. Also attending were vice presidents Jason Schroeder and Marie Guggisberg, secretary Ruth Klossner; and directors Doug Schottle, Don Sanderson, Julie Wilson, Kelsey Brandt, Justin Gode, and Garrett Freeman. Civic Center building superintendent Ryan Weier joined the meeting later.

The meeting agenda was approved on a motion by Guggisberg and second by Brandt; motion carried.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved, as published and summarized, on a motion by J. Schroeder and second by Wilson; motion carried.

Doug Schottle presented the treasurer's report which showed a checking account balance of \$51,700.27. His report was approved on a motion by Freeman and second by Gode; motion carried.

At this point, several other Hub Club members joined the meeting, carrying balloons, to announce that Doug Schottle is the 2023 Service to Agriculture award winner and will be recognized at the January 23 annual meeting and banquet. Present for the announcement were previous winners Pete and Linda Neigebauer, Tim Waibel, Michele Schroeder, Don Sanderson, Randy Schroeder, and Ruth Klossner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership. Freeman reported that recruiting efforts will kick off for the new year in January. Information will be in the January newsletter.

Public Relations. No report.

Events. Annual meeting is coming up, will share more later.

OLD BUSINESS

Farm Show. Building superintendent Weier discussed logistics and layout changes for the 2023 Farm Show. Sanderson

shared that registrations have been sent out and early registration ends January 15.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting. After discussion, it was decided to offer the same menu at the banquet as last year. Price for the banquet will also be the same at \$25 per person. Schroeder will contact Delbert Fischer to see if he is willing to organize door prizes.

Officer Candidate Slate. Board members will continue making contacts for open positions.

Chamber window, February. R. Schroeder will connect with Michele Schroeder to see if she is willing to help with the display.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on a motion by Guggisberg and second by Schroeder.

The next meeting is Monday, January 23 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Acting Secretary Kelsey Brandt

Hub Club scholarships

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 and ag teachers or can be requested from Duane Laffrenzen at Citizens Bank (dlaffrenzen@citizensmn.com) or from hubclub@newulm tel.net. Application deadline is March 1.

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

Farm Show notes

Grain Bin Safety will again be the major topic of the 2023 Farm show. Our club is known for its strong volunteerism and it is especially apparent and appreciated throughout the show—from set-up to tear down and with the many hours of planning by the committee.



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 23. Social hour is at 6:30 p.m., with a three-meat (meatball/chicken breast/roast beef) 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 recipient, Doug Schottle, 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 11, 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 11. 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, 21 North Minnesota St., Suite B, New Ulm, MN 56073

Or you may drop it off to Garrett’s attention at his office at 21 North Minnesota 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, 21 North Minnesota Street, Suite B, New Ulm, MN 56073 by
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11
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