

Noon Meeting – Tuesday, October 27, 2009



Our speaker for the day was Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney – he was introduced by member Shane Lebahn.



Sheriff Paul Laney giving us an update on his background and an overview of his nearly three years in office.



Members Joe Watzke, Al Nelson, Larry Weil, Fred Selberg, and Bruce Redington before our noon meal was served.



Member Arland Rasmussen and his guest Byron Sieber, Director of the Red River Regional Dispatch Center.

Kevin Skoog opened the meeting with some announcements – Todd Nankivel will coordinate the Salvation Army Bell Ringing on November 28th at SunMart and that our meeting on November 10th will be in the Speedway Restaurant as compared to the Event Center. Shane Lebahn introduced our speaker – Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney. Sheriff Laney is a WFHS graduate – class of 1984 – having grown up between West Fargo and Horace – a proud Packer. He has a passion for and is privileged to serve the people. Paul was in the Marines for four years and then on the Fargo Police Force for 17½ years. His latest position on the force was the Commander of the SWAT team. In 2006, he ran for the Sheriff position feeling that the Sheriff's office as compared to the Police Force was more of a fit for his personality. Arland Rasmussen has been a role model and mentor of leadership for Sheriff Laney. The Sheriff's Office has about 170 employees – 133 Fulltime, 25 Reserves, 8 Nurses, and 4 Office Staff. It has been a busy three years. The first year was highlighted by the Ozzie Osborne incident when he came to the community to perform, the second year included the train derailment in Cass County which involved hazardous materials spills, and the biggest event happened in this third year where the record Flood occurred. He gave huge thanks to the WFPD for providing a home for a number of agencies that coordinated the flood fight and rescue efforts. Sheriff Laney coordinated the efforts of more than 450 people that were put under his command. During his tenure, Sheriff Laney has restructured the Department, has set up consistent training and backup throughout the department including field readiness for all members of the department, and has not asked for additional manpower until a critical need. All of these were campaign promises Paul made when he ran for the office. His motto that he lives by is a quote by Herb Brooks – "Great Moments are born from Great Opportunities". Thanks Shane for a very interesting program.

Attendance – 18 Members and 2 Guests
Meal – Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes, and Corn.
Dessert – Apple Walnut Cake
Program – Shane Lebahn
Meeting Leader – Kevin Skoog

