

Great Seal of the United States

While sitting at a meeting at the Rourke Art Museum, I noticed the Great Seal of the US on the door of the safe. The building was originally as a US Post Office so it had a couple large safes. I found it interesting, so did some research. The seal was first used in 1782. The major part of the seal is an eagle holding a bundle of 13 arrows in its left talon referring the 13 original states and an olive branch in its right talon, together symbolizing that the United States has a strong desire for peace, but will always be ready for war. In its beak, the eagle clutches a scroll with the motto E pluribus unum (Out of Many, One). Many people do not know that this is the official motto of the United States. Above the eagle are 13 stars arranged in a six-pointed star. The obverse (flip side) of the Great Seal is the national coat of arms and is officially used on documents such as US passports. Until I did this research, I did not know we had a national coat of arms.

Election 2018 is upon us, in case you've missed all of the political ads on the air. As a reminder, candidates for offices in the city of Moorhead and Clay county will be at candidates' forums as follows: 27 Sept City officers, 4 Oct MN House and County officers and 11 Oct Moorhead School board. You may exercise your right to vote on election day, 6 November. There have been some polling place changes, so please check on your polling location. You may also vote early starting Friday 21 September at the Clay County courthouse. You may vote early until Monday 5 November. You may register to vote at the same location. You must have proof of residence. The rules may be found at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website – www.sos.state.mn.us.

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Clay County recently was awarded funds jointly with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Fargo to be able to provide funds to end Veterans' homelessness in our area. As a HRA board member representing Moorhead, we are working on the details of how this program will operate. I'll have a future article on details.