

The Weekly Newsletter of the
Only Normal Rotary Club in the World
Chartered June 17, 1949



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Normal Spoke

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Link to Rotary International <http://www.rotary.org/>
Normal Rotary Website: <http://www.normalrotary.org/>
District 6490 Website: <http://rotarydistrict6490.org/> (The District Newsletter is on the left side of the main page)

November Birthdays – Please bring a gift for the Birthday Auction



Vandana Naik	9
Gordon Bidner	28
Rod Weigelmann	29

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Greeters: Steve Dobski & Art Drake
Lottery: Rod Weigelmann & Matt Wyss
Program: Club Business & Birthday Auction

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Greeters: Paul Enchelmayer & Ryan Fleming
Lottery: Drake Zimmerman & Bayo Adanri



Reporter: Bruce Bergethon

Photographer: Tom Gibson

Editor: Art Drake

President-Elect Sherry Hawkins, standing in for President Hank Campbell, opened the Oct. 25 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at 12:10 p.m. Bill Semlak gave the reflection/invocation, and (though leaderless) we managed a spontaneous and loud version of “My Country ‘Tis of Thee.”

Sherry gave a brief update on Oktoberfest, which raised almost \$4,400 for the Club (\$250 from the raffle, \$1,750 from our three-way split for the plastic steins, and \$2,500 in sponsorships.) She predicted an improved strategy for sponsorships, including an earlier organizational structure, next year.

Guests: Visiting Rotarians were Assistant District Governor Neil Shah, and from the CU/Illini After Five Club, ADG Coordinator George Johnson. Former Normal Rotarian Nancy Gibson, now of Lantana, TX (about 40 miles north of Dallas) was introduced by Gordon Ropp.

Students of the

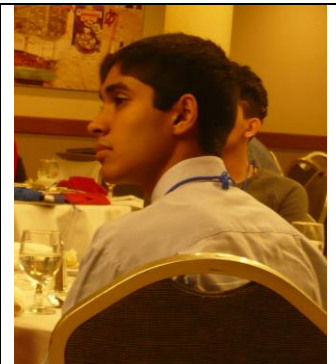
Month: This month’s students gave their final assessments of their experience with our club. Alok Kamatar from U High thanked Vandana Naik and Gene Jontry, and wished us success with the Veteran’s Day One on One and our



Grace Magnuson



Rebekah Hagberg



Alok Kamatar

poinsettia sales. Cesar Sandoval of NCHS thanked all of us, and especially his fellow students. Rebekah Hagberg, of NCWHS and the Bloomington Career Center, admitted to having “no clue” about Rotary, but said “more people should know” about our devotion to both community service and fun. Grace Magnuson from NCWHS, said it was “nice to see bright people spreading love in a dark world,” and recited the 4 Way Test from memory, prompting a well-deserved ovation.

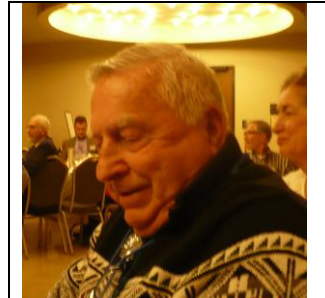
Mystery Host: Larissa McIlvain gave the \$2 bill to Tom Gibson for his cheerful willingness to take on the responsibility for photographing the meetings in October.

Lottery: It must have been Tom Gibson’s day; he not only had the Mystery Bill, but won the lottery as well, for \$18. His luck stopped there, however, drawing the 6 of Spades, rolling the pot to well over \$700.



Sherry Hawkins and Linda Healy

Judge: Linda Healy fined Surinder Sethi for having his picture taken at the opening of the new Best Western, sans pin. She then began the happy fines with a dollar for the heartening response of listeners to a WGLT series on landlords and tenants. Other happy fines included:



The light makes Gordon look angelic, doesn't it?



Ray was happy to touch base with Old friends.

- Bill Semlak, celebrating ISU’s stunning Homecoming football victory
- Neal Shah, for “being energized” by his visit to the Normal Club
- Gene Jontry, who met 6 teammates from 60 years ago at Homecoming
- Ray Ropp, just off a reunion of friends from 53 years ago
- Gordon Ropp, who shared a recording of his grandson singing “Go Cubs”
- Surinder Sethi, anticipating a visit with four of his grandchildren

Announcements:

- Steve Rasmussen, newly appointed as acting Bloomington City Manager (and also a member of the Bloomington Rotary Club), talked about the Veteran’s Day One on One, Nov. 9. He passed around several sign-up sheets.
- Jim Rosenlund stood in for Andy Copenhaver, urging us all to get started selling poinsettias.
- President-Elect Sherry reminded all November birthday celebrants to bring auction items for next Wednesday’s meeting!



Steve Rasmussen

Program: Our own David Taylor gave a presentation about “United Way 2017.” He began by giving away Live United t-shirts to those who could connect UW and 1) Monopoly (Bill Caisley with “Community Chest”) 2) “I gave at the office” (Dale Strassheim with employee contributions) and 3) “Kodachrome” (Greg Anvick.) Taylor used Kodak as an example of a company that created a technology, survived the first wave of change, but was unable to transition to the digital (post Kodachrome) era.



David Taylor

United Way began in 1887 with the idea of a “community chest” bridging various social services, and grew strong with the help of employers and unions in the 20th century both contributing to workplace-driven contributions. It is now facing major challenges in the era of both digital philanthropy and millennial behaviors. According to Taylor, the well-documented major decrease in the local United Way campaign had much to do with a single change to “employee choice” at State Farm. He spoke of the difficulty of non-profits adapting to such changes created by policy shifts outside of their control.

David also addressed what he called 3 myths about giving to United Way (that donors can’t designate their charities, that

UW is “just a middleman,” and that UW contributions “leave the community.”) He talked about how United Way provides a framework and a kind of hidden staff to the agencies to whom it distributes funds. He also described their new public relations campaign, aimed at new and sustaining donors, built around the “180 United” website and the concept of “Give local. Live United.”

Thought For the Day:

“Don’t make excuses – make improvements.”
 --Tyra Banks

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**ROTARY:
 MAKING A
 DIFFERENCE**

**Rotary International
 President**
 2017-2018
 Ian Riseley
 Member of the Rotary
 Club of Sandringham,
 Victoria, Australia

Jontry, Mark PHF

Schultz, Dianne

Adanri, Bayo PHF* HH PP	Drake, Art PHF* HH PP	Koos, Chris HM	Schultz, Mel PHF HH PP
Alexander, Kathy PHF* HH PP	Enchelmayer, Paul	Lindsay, Jeff	Semlak, Bill PHF* PHS HH
Anderson, Todd PHF	Fleming, Ryan	McClellan, Stephanie B.	Sethi, Surinder PHF* PHS HH PP DHH DRY GWRY PDG MD
Anvick, Greg PHF	Fulton, Angie	Mclivain, Larissa	Smith, Kevin PHF
Bergethon, Bruce PHF* HH PP	Garret, Thomas	Mesdag, Elleke PHF*	Smith, Lindsey
Bidner, Gordon PHF* PHS MD BS GWRY HH PP PDG DHH	Gentry, Connie PHF HH	Naik, Vandana PHF*	Springer, Ron, PHF*
Bishop, John A. PHF* PP HH	Gibson, Tom	Pacha, Ron PHF* HH PP	Strassheim, Dale PHF* PP HH
Bishop, John E. PHF	Glover, Rob PHF HH	Petrini, Michael	Tanton, Ed PHF* PP H
Brokaw, Nancy PHF*	Goeckner, Becky PHF* HH PP	Porter, Robert	Taylor, David
Brown-Nielsen, Dayna PHF	Gudeman, Gene PHF* HH	Radhakrishnan, Radha PHF* PHS HH	Timmerman, Ron PHF* HH
Caisley, Bill PHF* HH PP	Haugo, Ann PHF	Raper, Lyle PHF* HH PP	Varner, Carson PHF*
Campbell, Hank PHF HH DRY	Hawkins, Sherry	Riehle, Matt	Varner, Iris PHF*
Chambers, Jason PHF	Healy, Linda PHF* HH PP DRY	Rolley, William	Wagner, Dick PHF* PHS MD BS HH PP DHH PDG
Chapman, Alan PHF* PHS HH GWRY DHH	Houtsma, Rebecca	Ropp, Gordon PHF* HH PP	Wagner, Heather (Beal) PHF
Copenhaver, Andy PHF PP	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Ropp, Ray PHF* HH PP DHH PDG	Weigelmann, Rod PHF HH
Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRY PP DHH	Ice, Scott	Rosenlund, Jim PHF	Widmer, Rob HM
Dennis, Marcia PHF* HH PP DNRY DHH GWRY	Jontry, Gene PHF* HH	Runyon, Art PHF* HH	Wyss, Matt
Dietz, Larry PHF		Rutledge, Don PHF* HH PP	Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH PP DHH
PHF – Paul Harris Fellow HH – Hall of Honor PHF* - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone PHS – Paul Harris Society	DHH - District Hall of Honor HM – Honorary Member MD – Major Donors PP – Past President	DNRY- District New Rotarian of the Year PDG – Past District Governor	BS – Bequest Society Member DRY-District Rotarian of the Year GWRY – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year