
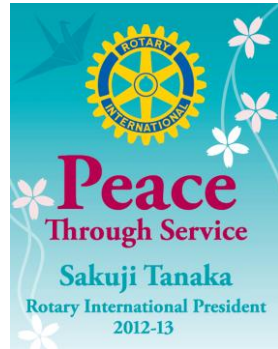




**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

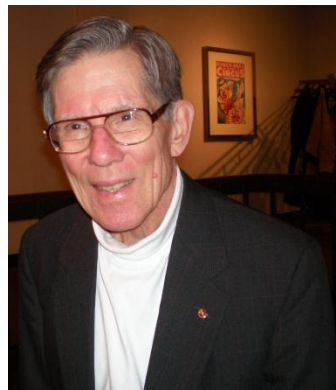
*The Normal Spoke*

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490  
 February 20, 2013 Volume No. 63 Issue No. 32  
 Link to Rotary International <http://www.rotary.org/>  
 Normal Rotary web site: <http://nrcspoke.com/>  
 Link to District 6490 Website: [www.Rotary6490.org](http://www.Rotary6490.org) (The District Newsletter can be found on the left side of the main page)

<p><b>Wednesday, February 27, 2013</b>  <b>Head Table:</b> Students of the Month  <b>Greeters:</b> Bruce Bergethon &amp; Carson Varner  <b>Lottery:</b> Ann Haugo &amp; Linda Healy  <b>Program:</b> Glen Hoffmann, Director, Regional Alternative School "Facts, Fiction and Future of the RAS"  <b>Judge:</b> John E. Bishop</p> <p><b>March Birthdays – Please remember to bring a gift for the Birthday Auction.</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>6</td><td>Mel Schultz</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>Gary Wilson</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>Mark Comadena</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>Al Bowman</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>Surinder Sethi</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>Becky Goeckner</td></tr> </table>  <p><b>Wednesday, March 6, 2013</b>  <b>Head Table:</b> John Morris &amp; Elleke Mesdag  <b>Greeters:</b> John A. Morris &amp; Iris Varner  <b>Lottery:</b> Connie Gentry &amp; Rob Glover  <b>Program:</b> Club Business &amp; Birthday Auction  <b>Judge:</b> Marcia Dennis</p>	6	Mel Schultz	10	Gary Wilson	16	Mark Comadena	16	Al Bowman	26	Surinder Sethi	27	Becky Goeckner	 <p><b>Sustaining Members: 23</b>  <b>Club RI Contributions: \$19,266.68</b></p>
6	Mel Schultz												
10	Gary Wilson												
16	Mark Comadena												
16	Al Bowman												
26	Surinder Sethi												
27	Becky Goeckner												
<p><b>Reporter:</b> Cynthia Kukla</p>	<p><b>Photographer:</b> Frank Matsler</p>	<p><b>Editor:</b> Becky Goeckner</p>											



Greeter Todd Anderson



Secretary Ralph Dude



Marcia Dennis with Lottery Helpers Katie Camp & Cayla Cardamone

President Art Drake opened our February 21, 2013 meeting. We had another inspiring and informative meeting with Students of the Month in attendance and a presentation from Margie Jordan of CASA, McLean County.

Our President asked us to begin by greeting someone we have not spoken to yet. A reflection was given by Mark Comadena. Following was the Pledge of Allegiance and the first verse of America.

Our visiting Rotarians were introduced: Deb Skillrud of the Bloomington Club and Linda Myette of Champaign. Becky Goeckner gave us some details about Linda's role with the Cunningham Children's Home there and the capitol campaign being launched. Marcia Dennis re-introduced her daughter Heather.

**Guests:**



Linda Myette & Becky Goeckner



Heather & Marcia Dennis

Our Students of the Month were re-introduced and each spoke briefly about their specific service work:

1. Rob Cranston introduced Emily Spychalla of Normal West.
2. Marcia Dennis introduced Katie Camp of Normal West/Bloomington Area Career Center.
3. Becky Goeckner introduced Jasmine McDowell of U High.
4. Gene Jontry introduced Cayla Cardmone of Normal Community.

We are always pleased to hear of young people already dedicating themselves to service work and are pleased they make time to be Students of the Month.



Emily Spychalla



Katie Camp



Jasmine McDowell



Cayla Cardamone

**Announcements:**

President Art had several announcements. First, he attended last Thursday's Daybreak meeting where they announced that they had enough members to get their charter. Thanks to Ray Ropp, Dick Wagner, Lyn Landon, Hank Campbell and anyone else who devoted a lot of time in getting Daybreak off the ground.

He urged us to becoming a sustaining member, which means a \$100 per year donation to the Rotary Foundation, or at least donating something to the foundation every year. We only have 23 sustaining members, down from 53 several years ago. Half-sheet fact sheets were on each table. Make a check to the Rotary Foundation and give it to Rod or mail it to our PO Box 333 in Normal. You can also donate online through the RI website.



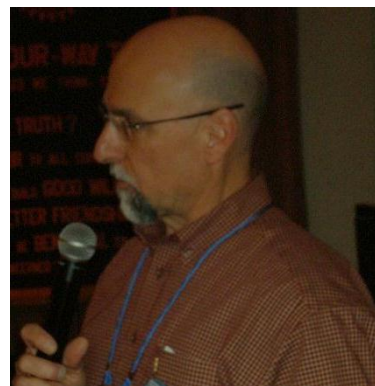
The Daybreak Club is holding its first major fundraiser, the Cajun Craze 5-10 p.m. April 13 at Lakeside Country Club. This is a crawfish boil, and there will be Cajun-style music by Zydeco Crawdaddys. Tickets are \$25, and they will sell only 250 of them. For tickets, post a message on Daybreak Rotary's Facebook page or e-mail them at [daybreakrotaryclub@gmail.com](mailto:daybreakrotaryclub@gmail.com)

Finally, we officially have our own website: [Normalrotary.org](http://Normalrotary.org) please check it out! Thanks to Meghan Listek and her husband Adam!



Hank Campbell reminded us of the District Conference in April at the Marriott in Normal. He mentioned four levels of sponsorship for the event for banners plus one for business card-sized ads.

Mark Comadena reminded us of the basketball lottery and that there are some squares open to bet on for \$10. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go to Coats for Kids.



Mark also announced that the B/N Sunrise Club is coordinating activities for the GSE incoming team from Italy. The GSE Team will be in B/N April 15 and Sunrise asked for help with finding job shadowing experiences for the team.



Gene Jontry reminded us of the Public Health and Safety Award and the Coach Jim Collie Vocational Service Award. We should think of nominating someone so we have a nice pool to choose from.

Radha Radhakrishnan reminded us of the International Fair at ISU on Saturday, March 2 and the need to fill one more slot to run the Rotary booth.



Art Runyon inducted Heather Dennis into our Rotary Club. He reminded all of us that Rotary turned 108 on Saturday! After 9 years in LA, Heather has returned to B/N and is working at ISU. It is wonderful to have a mother-daughter Rotary duo!



Our Mystery Host was Scott Carnes who chose to reward Ann Haugo. Ann was the first person; after Greeter Todd Anderson, to say hello and welcome him today.





Today's Judge was Ann Haugo. Rob Glover and Lindsey Henry who just happened to be seated at the same table as Ann won the lottery. (Ann vouched for her own honesty and declared no collusion on her part.)



Ann then fined John Morris whose photo appeared in The Pantagraph in Sunday's story on Bob & Julie Dobski. The photo was quite small so Ann couldn't tell if John was wearing his Rotary pin or not. John fessed up that he was not wearing his pin and so added his \$1 to the kukla.

We are happy Rotarians and had lots of happy fines.

- Becky Goeckner was happy that Heather Dennis has joined us. She also recognized the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Pat & Andy Spelios. Andy is a long-time member of our club, but because of health issues has not attended recently.
- Cynthia Kukla was happy to be able hold her 5-day-old first grandson.
- Dick Wagner was wishing for spring.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy that Paul Harris was an Iowa Law School graduate.
- Pamela Sweetwood was happy about two things; the Rotaracts prepared a meal at Safe harbor and no food was left and Rotaracts gave out Valentines to the McLean County Nursing Home.
- Carson Varner was happy his grandson finally received his Social Security number and could now be gifted with his own stock portfolio.
- John E. Bishop was happy his son won in swimming at the Illinois championship.
- Scott Carnes was happy to begin his chaplaincy at Advocate BroMenn and confessed to not wearing his rotary pin today!



Becky Goeckner



Cynthia Kukla



Pamela Sweetwood



John E. Bishop



Scott Carnes

**Program:**

The meeting's Speaker was Margie Jordan of CASA of McLean County who was introduced by Mark Jontry. Ms. Jordan opened her presentation by thanking us for all we do in the community.

CASA stands for "court-appointed special advocate" for children. They do not get direct funding from government agencies so they regularly fundraise and Ms. Jordan writes grants to support their program. She happily announced that last week-end's fundraiser met the targeted \$45,000 annual budget that they need!



She showed a brief video which focused on child abuse and neglect. CASA has helped 2,600 children since 1995, yet only one in four of McLean County's qualifying abused or neglected children get CASA's help. The video featured several volunteers with the program. These volunteers help to reduce the number of times children may have to be moved from foster home to foster home. Volunteers also help with school issues and promote the children's academic progress. She pointed out that April is Child Welfare Month.

The local CASA is accredited through the national CASA organization. CASA was started by a judge in the state of Washington who wondered, "Who is advocating here for the child?" Ms. Jordan pointed out that the majority of volunteers are working professionals who go through a stringent interview and training process. A volunteer has up to thirty assignees. Locally, Judge Fitzgerald of McLean County assigns children to CASA. A volunteer sees his/her assignee once a month to help with: medical/dental needs; educational advocacy such as going to parent conferences and school events (Some kids have parents who have never done this.); personal advocacy by seeing the child, finding out how s/he is doing; and legal advocacy - participating in the permanency hearing that takes place once every 5 months.

Ms. Jordan mentioned that their next fundraiser is going to be a Super Hero Walk at Evergreen Cemetery on May 5. We should consider being a walker or sponsoring a walker, to, in her words, "make a difference".

**Today's SmArt remark** is from Euripides: "One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives."



Rob Cranston



Ray Ropp



Nancy Brokaw

**REMEMBER the following upcoming dates:**

March 2 – ISU International Fair

April 13 - Daybreak's Cajun Craze at Lakeside Country Club

April 19/20 - District 6490 Conference at the Marriott in Uptown Normal (Also, please consider supporting the district conference April 18/19 through a sponsorship banner, or even a business card ad. See Hank Campbell)

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

**February 27** – Glen Hoffmann, Director, Regional Alternative

**March 13** – April District Rotary Conference with Alan Chapman and Hank Campbell

School "Facts, Fiction and Future of the RAS"  
**March 6** – Club Business & Birthday Auction

**March 20** – ISU President Al Bowman  
**March 27** - Normal City Manager Mark Peterson

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 Editorial Staff: Jim Carter, and Becky Goeckner  
 Meetings are held Wednesdays at noon in the Circus Room or Old Main Room at the Bone Student Center, ISU.

**Officers 2012-2013:**

**President** - Art Drake (spouse: Jan)  
 42 Inglewood, Bloomington, IL 61704  
 E-mail: [ardra345@hotmail.com](mailto:ardra345@hotmail.com)  
 Home phone: 1-309-242-5125

**President Elect** – Dale Strassheim (spouse: Carol)  
 24843 Nighthawk Road, Hudson, IL 61748  
 E-mail: [dstrassheim@thebabyfold.org](mailto:dstrassheim@thebabyfold.org)  
 Business phone: 1-309-451-7201  
 Home phone: 1-309-726-2468

**Vice President** – Mark Comadena (spouse: Pamela)  
 208 S. Bone Drive, Normal, IL 61761  
 Phone: 1-309-452-2961  
 E-mail: [mecomad@ilstu.edu](mailto:mecomad@ilstu.edu)

**Secretary**—Ralph Dude (spouse: Karleen)  
 911 Randall Drive, Normal, IL 61701  
 E-mail: [rhdude@yahoo.com](mailto:rhdude@yahoo.com)  
 Home phone: 1-309-452-3838

**Treasurer** - Rod Weigelmann (spouse: Brenda)  
 2605 Blarney Stone Lane, Bloomington, IL 61704  
 E-mail: [r.weigelmann@comcast.net](mailto:r.weigelmann@comcast.net)  
 Business phone: 1-309- 828-8611  
 Home phone: 664-0818

**Sergeant At Arms**- Bill Sendlak (spouse Joan)  
 3 Cheshire  
 Mackinaw, Illinois 61755  
 E-mail: [wdsemlak@ilstu.edu](mailto:wdsemlak@ilstu.edu)  
 Phone: 1-309-359-8172

**Past President** - Linda Healy (spouse: Pat)  
 1230 E. Grove, Bloomington, IL 61701  
 E-mail: [lihealy@ilstu.edu](mailto:lihealy@ilstu.edu)  
 Business phone: 1-309-438-5083  
 Home phone: 1-309-827-8517

**Directors:**

**Club Administration** – Andy Copenhaver – (spouse : Marcia)  
 203 Orleans Drive  
 Normal, Illinois 61761  
 E-mail : [copez12@frontier.com](mailto:copez12@frontier.com)  
 Business phone : 1-309-662-2663  
 Home phone : 1-309-661-9492

**Rotary Foundation & International Projects** – Ann Haugo (spouse: Steve Pelphrey)  
 104 Kite Court  
 LeRoy, Illinois 61752  
 E-mail : [ahaugo@ilstu.edu](mailto:ahaugo@ilstu.edu)  
 Business phone : 1-309-438-3955  
 Home phone : 1-309-962-9225

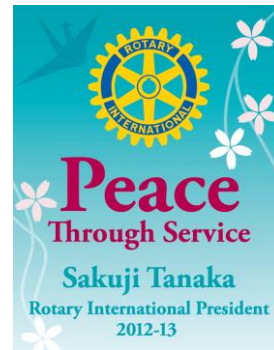
**Community Concerns** - Hank Campbell (spouse : Mary)  
 2319 Mabel Road, Normal, IL 61761  
 E-mail : [hlcampb@ilstu.edu](mailto:hlcampb@ilstu.edu)  
 Home phone : 1-309-530-5134

**Publicity** - Meghan Listek (spouse : Adam)  
 22 Hodgehaven Circle, Bloomington, IL 61704  
 E-mail : [mlistek@normalpl.org](mailto:mlistek@normalpl.org)  
 Business phone : 1-309- 452-1757  
 Home phone : 319-6347

**Assistant Governor:** Susan Hoover  
 Home phone: 1-309-888-4810  
 E-mail: [cjsghoover@yahoo.com](mailto:cjsghoover@yahoo.com)

**District Governor:** Gordon Bidner (spouse: Sandra)  
 5150 E. 2050 N. Road  
 Carlock, Illinois 61725  
 E-mail [vmsa@frontiernet.net](mailto:vmsa@frontiernet.net)  
 Home Phone: 1-309-963-4240  
 Cell: 1-309-531-1230

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<b>Members:</b>	Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRY DHH	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Schneider, Marci
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