



The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

May 31, 2017 Volume No. 67 Issue No. 46

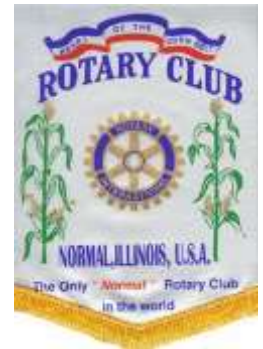
Link to Rotary International <http://www.rotary.org/>

Normal Rotary web site: <http://www.normalrotary.org/>

Link to District 6490 Website: <http://rotarydistrict6490.org/> (The District Newsletter can be found on the left side of the main page)

June Birthdays – Please bring a gift for the Birthday Auction

Greg Anvick	15
Ryan Fleming	20
Ronald Springer	24
Larissa McIlvain	26
Lyle Raper	28
Jim Rosenlund	28



Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Greeters: Vandana Naik & Mike Petrini

Lottery: John E. Bishop & Nancy Brokaw

Program: Club Business & Birthday Auction

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Greeters: Robert Porter & Radha Radhakrishnan

Lottery: Dayna Brown-Nielsen & Bill Caisley

Reporter: Bruce Bergethon

Photographer: John E. Bishop

Editor: Becky Goeckner



Jim Rosenlund

Normal Rotary Club President Jim Rosenlund called the May 31, 2017 meeting to order at 12:10; Bill Sendlak gave the invocation, and the Spoke reporter missed who led the (quite capable) singing.

Guests: President Jim introduced Rotary visitors Bill Wills from the Bloomington Club; followed by Ray Ropp's welcome back to former (1991-2002) NRC member Graham Jones (with wife Marion) – both are Rotarians now. They are visiting for two weeks from Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia and are on their way to the International Rotary Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia; followed by President Jim's introduction of Sunrise Rotarians Julie and Bob Dobski; at which point Ray remembered to introduce his wife Carol (who most of us are pleased to know already.)



Bill Wills



Marion & Graham Jones



Bob & Julie Dobski

Announcements:

- President Jim asked those who had marched in the Memorial Day Parade to stand for recognition
- President Jim read a letter from recent NRC scholarship recipient Alex Rich, thanking us for contributing funds to her future.



Sherry Hawkins



- Sherry Hawkins reminded us that she is still looking for sponsors for the Oktoberfest Club fundraiser to be held in Uptown Normal with Medici.

- Bill Semlak previewed the Saturday, June 3rd Adopt-a-Highway, the first of the season



Bill Semlak

- Bill Wills had a reminder, and tickets, for the Bloomington Club's pork chop fundraiser on June 8th in Downtown Bloomington on the square.
- Art Drake reminded us that the District (6490) has a most excellent Facebook page; he declined to explain what Facebook might be.
- Ray Ropp reminded us of Rural/Urban Night at the Ropp Farm June 21, with dinner, a speaker, a finely calibrated quiz, and the opportunity to judge llamas. Ray also let us know that Wayne Truex (NRC President 1983-84) passed away at the end of March. He is survived by his wife Arlene and two children, Mike and Julie.



Bill Wills



Art Drake



Ray Ropp

Then, with only a month to go in his presidential term, President Rosenlund gave a scorecard on his goals for his year:

- 1) hoping for a net increase of 5 members, we are unfortunately at a net -3 because of many moves and resignations;
- 2) we are at about \$8,400 in Foundation giving, lower than the goal of \$15,063 (a 5% increase from the previous year;)
- 3) Polio Plus giving goal was \$2,260, and (not counting the McDonald's Pennies for Polio income), we are close at \$2,125;
- 4) on the goal of "making the meetings fun," President Jim (subjectively, he admitted) gave himself a grade of A+, which provoked a spontaneous outburst of fun.



Gene Jontry introduced the **Jim Collie Vocational Service Award**. This is an award to recognize those who have distinguished themselves in their vocations and in public service.

Gene briefly described “Coach Collie.” A Normal Rotarian for 35 years, Jim Collie had a legendary 13 year career as coach of the ISNU basketball team. Among his achievements was the recruitment of future NBA All Star Doug Collins. Jim was President of the Club in 1974 and a loyal member until his death.

Gene thanked the other members of the Award committee, including Nancy Brokaw, John A. Bishop and Mark Jontry.



Gene Jontry



Mark Jontry

Mark Jontry then introduced this year’s Jim Collie Vocational Service Award recipients, Julie and Bob Dobski. In addition to their longtime ownership of local McDonalds’ franchises they are known for generosity to numerous community organizations. In 2015, they were named Philanthropists of the Year. They have been active members and served as board chairs of the Chamber of Commerce. Both Bob& Julie are members of Sunrise Rotary. Julie recently served as president, and is slated to serve as District Governor. In accepting their awards, Julie attributed her legacy of good works to the people with whom she has been fortunate to work. Bob also thanked many other people, and tantalized us with the prospect of his taking on a new, unnamed leadership role in the near future.



Bob & Julie Dobski



Ray Ropp

Mystery Host: Ray Ropp awarded the \$2 bill to Bill Wills, who he proclaimed the “best District newsletter editor in the world.”

Lottery: Visiting Rotarian Marion Jones won the weekly lottery pot of \$16, but came up with the 6 of Hearts (twice as good as Elleke Mesdag’s 3 of Hearts last week but nowhere near the Ace of Spades), thus rolling the big pot again to about \$370.



Marion Jones

Judge: Linda Healy unleashed a veritable deluge of Happy Fines, which included:

- her own \$5 bill for participating in Bike the Drive in Chicago, her son’s birthday, a solicitation of volunteers for GLT’s Summer Concert, her happiness at being a Green Top owner, and something else she couldn’t remember

- John E. Bishop for multiple achievements in his daughter's life, including a birthday
- Graham Jones, happy to be revisiting the Club for the first time since 2011 (next week he will share a bit about Rotary and malaria) Oh, and by the way his "fine" was his wife Marion's lottery winnings.
- Julie Dobski, with thanks for the Collie Award
- Bayo Adanri, for the twin graduations of his two daughters.
- Gordy Ropp, who had seen grandchildren and great-grandchildren on a recent trip to Colorado



Katie Novak

Program:

Sherri Hawkins then gave a very thorough introduction of our two speakers from Green Top Grocery, Katie Novak (Outreach Manager) and Rainie Themer (Marketing Manager.) Green Top Grocery just opened. It is the community owned and operated, grocery food cooperative at 921 E. Washington. It has over 1600 local owners (ownership comes from paying a one-time fee of \$200), and has raised over 1.45 million dollars in owner loans in order to build the 10,000 square foot facility that opened in May.



Rainie Themer

Both Katie and Rainie spoke about their motivations in joining the Green Top team, with Katie's coming from a positive experience with the SAME (So All May Eat) Café in Colorado, and Rainie's from being a student owner of GTG while at ISU. Katie used the Rotary Four Way Test to explain the principles of the cooperative food movement, which includes the idea of cooperation among coops. She used many examples from the growth of the Common Ground Co-op in Champaign Urbana, which has provided much of the inspiration and insight that guided Green Top. Both Katie and Rainie spoke about the importance of community-building, education, and outreach about healthy food. As Katie put it, "education is the bridge between the eggplant and the food desert."



Thought for the Day is from Bob Marley: *"Money is numbers and numbers never end. If it takes money to be happy, your search for happiness will never end."*

Memorial Day Parade – May 29, 2017 - Photos from John A. Bishop



Ray Ropp, Jason Chambers, Hank Campbell, photo-bomber Roger Schmidgall, Becky Goeckner, Dale Strassheim, John A. Bishop & Gene Gudeman



Jason Chambers & Alan Chapman

Editor's Note: If I knew how to photo shop I would have inserted Alan in the group photo.

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