

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

The Normal Spoke



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

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

Normal Rotary web sites: <http://nrcspoke.com/> <http://www.normalrotary.org/>

Link to District 6490 Website: www.Rotary6490.org (The District Newsletter can be found on the left side of the main page)

February Birthdays – Please bring a gift for the Birthday Auction

Marci Schneider	3
Alan Chapman	8
Stephanie McClellan	8
John Burrill	10
Michelle Houchin	12
Connie Gentry	15
Art Runyon	23
John Morris	28



Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Head Table: Hank Campbell & Jason Chambers

Greeters: Meghan Listek & Stephanie McClellan

Lottery: Alan Chapman & Mark Comadena

Program: Club Business & Birthday Auction

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Head Table: Alan Chapman & Mark Comadena

Greeters: Radha Radakrishna & Matt Riehl

Lottery: Andy Copenhaver & Rob Cranston

Program: History of the Farm Bureau as it Celebrates 100 Years



**Club RI Contributions:
\$6,111**

Reporter: John Burrill

Photographer: Michelle Houchin

Editor: Becky Goeckner

President Dale Strassheim opened the meeting at 12:10 following some unusual activity around getting extra tables and chairs set up to accommodate our large group of special guests. Dale gave a special welcome to the visiting teachers from Brazil. Stephanie McClellan delivered the invocation and members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang a verse of "America" led by Mark Sherman.

Dale recognized the Spoke team for this meeting: Becky Goeckner as editor, John Burrill as correspondent and Michelle Houchin as photographer.

Lyn Landon of the Bloomington Normal Daybreak Club was our lone Rotary guest, and was welcomed in the usual manner.

Our student guests for January, Monica, Megan, and Jaleelah were seated at the head table in preparation for making their remarks about their Rotary experience.



Lyn Landon



Monica Patel, Megan Newman, and Jaleelah Muhammd

Betsy Drillon, Coordinator of the visit to ISU by 26 teachers from Brazil, asked each of the visiting teachers to introduce themselves and identify their home cities.



Betsy Drillon



The visiting group of 26 teachers from Brazil & our HS Exchange Student Gabriel Castro also from Brazil

Announcements:

Announcements followed, by Dale Strassheim, first noting that recent weather certainly substantiates the need for the coats we have provided to children here and in Washington.

1. We are encouraged to continue to remember the Rotary Foundation as we plan for financial giving.
2. A reminder that the other four Rotary presidents will be attending our meeting March 19th. Incoming presidents are also welcome.
3. Volunteers are still required for Oakdale School. Ron Timmerman spoke to this request.
4. Dale noted the information which had been sent out regarding the death of LaVelle Gildersleeve, widow of Ben Gildersleeve. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

The "Mystery Host" for this meeting was Gene Jontry, who passed the \$2 bill to Gene Gudeman in recognition for his assistance years ago in helping Gene Jontry acquire a house.



"Judge" John E. Bishop went to the podium next, and after supervising the draw, won by the aforementioned Gene Gudeman, then proceeded directly to happy fines. There was only one, paid by Mark Comadena. Mark reminded us that another basketball lottery will soon begin. Squares will be available for \$10. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go to Coats for Kids. Other happy people no doubt held back in order to save time for the rest of the program.



Students of the Month: Our three January Students of the Month each spoke briefly on their experience in meeting with us in January. All three found it a good experience and thanked the Club sincerely for the opportunity.



Program: Judge Bill Caisley introduced our guest speaker, Shellie Coleman. Shellie was standing in for Dr. Stephen Doran, who was unable to be with us because he was celebrating the birth of his first grandchild; a boy! Shellie spoke about the work of Friends of The Children of Haiti (acronym FOTCOH).



She showed some stunning visual material which illustrated the abject poverty in which many residents of Haiti have lived for many years if not centuries. Their situation has been considerably worsened by the recent earthquake, and huge numbers are homeless. Shellie told us that one child in eight dies before age five, usually due to disease or malnutrition.

FOTCOH began in about 1985 by putting together a medical team of volunteers. In their first trips they saw some 500 children. Now the organization is making six trips per year, and providing doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, dentists, and non-medical personnel. They are seeing some 10,000 children each year. Shellie, as a nurse practitioner; is one of the medical team leaders, and has made 13 trips personally.

FOTCOH is funded entirely by private donations and fund raising activity by the organization. Each trip costs about \$65,000 for the Pharmacy supplies that are taken. Sadly, that includes about \$14,000 in fees and/or bribes necessary to get the material from the port to the clinic. The work of FOTCOH is hampered by bureaucracy and government.

Shellie took a number of questions from members and guests. She was thanked for an informative and moving presentation by Dale and given a "Normal Cooks" cookbook.

Contact information for The Friends of the Children of Haiti is: P.O. BOX 789, Peoria, Illinois 61652 - phone 309.369.2634 - email@fotcoh.org - <http://www.fotcoh.org/>

Thought for the day is from the late Golda Meier: *"My dear, old age is like an airplane flying in a storm. Once you're in it there's nothing you can do. You can't stop a plane, you can't stop a storm, you can't stop time. So you might as well take it easy, with wisdom."*

UPCOMING DATES:

February 15 – Rotary Leadership Institute in Decatur

March 22 – International Fair

Additional Photos:





Gabriel Castro with several of our Brazilian guests



Three of our visiting teachers from Brazil

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois -
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Rotary International President
2013-2014
Ron D. Burton



RON D. BURTON
Rotary International President
2013-14

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Adanri, Bayo PHF* HH	Dennis, Marcia PHF* HH DNRD DHH	Jontry, Mark PHF	Rutledge, Don PHF* HH
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Anderson, Todd	Dietz, Larry PHF	Kouba, Andrew	Schultz, Mel PHF HH
Bergethon, Bruce PHF* HH	Drake, Art PHF	Kukla, Cynthia PHF	Semlak, Bill PHF*
Bidner, Gordon PHF* PHS MD BS GWRY HH	Dude, Ralph PHF* HH DRY	Lindsay, Jeff	Sethi, Surinder PHF* PHS HH DHH DRY
Bishop, John A. PHF*	Dunlap, Mark	Listek, Meghan PHF	Sherman, Mark PHF* HH
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Campbell, Hank PHF	Healy, Linda PHF*	Radhakrishnan, Radha PHF* PHS	Varner, Iris PHF*
Carter, Jim PHF* PHS HH GWRY	Henry, Lindsey	Raper, Lyle PHF* HH	Wagner, Dick PHF* PHS MD BS HH DHH
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Copenhaver, Andy PHF	Howell, Gene PHF*	Ropp, Ray PHF* HH DHH	Weller, Roger PHF
Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRY DHH	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Rosenlund, Jim	Wilz, Jack PHF* HH DHH
			Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH 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	CM – Charter Member DNRD - District New Rotarian of the Year	BS – Bequest Society Member DRY -District Rotarian of the Year GWRY – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year