

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

October 16, 2013 Volume No. 64 Issue No. 17

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)

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Head Table: Jim Rosenlund and Art Runyon

Greeters: John E. Bishop and Nancy Brokaw

Lottery: Don Rutledge and Marci Schneider

Program: TBA

Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Head Table: Don Rutledge and Marci Schneider

Greeters: Dayna Brown-Nielsen and John Burrill

Lottery: Bill Semlak and Surinder Sethi

Program: TBA



Club RI Contributions:
\$143

Reporter: John Burrill

Photographer: John E. Bishop

Editor: Art Drake



Don Rutledge and Traevon Parnell



Bill Semlak and Chris Plank

President Dale Strassheim, recently back from a trip to Ethiopia, opened the Oct. 16, 2013, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at 12:10 p.m. and called upon Bill Semlak to give the invocation. Bill's message was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the first verse of "America" led by Mark Sherman.

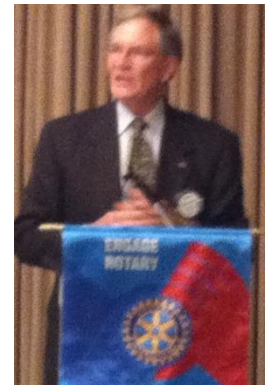
Dale recognized the Spoke team for this meeting: Art Drake is editor, John Burrill as correspondent and John E. Bishop as photographer.

Visitors and guests:

There were no visiting Rotarians.

Alex Su from Normal Community West was introduced by Jim Carter; and Chris Plank from Bloomington Area Career Center by Bill Semlak. Both of them spoke briefly about their future plans. Traevon Parnell from

NCHS was introduced by Don Rutledge. Traevon spoke about the time he gives to sports and how important that is to his growth as a student.



President Dale Strassheim, back from a rewarding visit to Ethiopia.



Alex Su and Jim Carter

Announcements:

The board met Oct. 14 and will meet again on Nov. 4, a week earlier than usual due to the Veterans Day dinner.

On Dec. 11, we will meet in the Old Main Room as the Madrigals at ISU will need the Circus Room for rehearsals.

The sign-up for the special Rotary Club Veterans Day event at the ISU Alumni Center is nearly complete, but there may still be a few slots available. Anyone wishing to attend who is not signed up should do so right away, inviting a veteran to attend. Jack Wilz and John A. Bishop are on the five-club planning committee for

this event. Cost is \$40 for two tickets, and space is limited.

Jim Carter spoke on the poinsettia sales and drew our attention to the forms that were handed out to everyone at the meeting today. Art Drake urged Rotarians who use Facebook to “like” the Normal Rotary Facebook page and to “share” our poinsettia-related Facebook posts with their friends.



Art Drake's mantra is, “Like our page; share our poinsettia-related posts.”



The Normal Rotary Club's annual holiday dinner is confirmed for Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013, and will be held at the Ozark House. This holiday dinner will replace a regular club meeting that week. Stephanie McClellan is responsible for arranging that and is doing a great job.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Wednesdays, so Normal Rotary will not meet those days.

District Governor Larry Pennie will present our program for the Nov. 6 meeting and will share his vision and plans with us. He will meet with the board following the meeting at 1 p.m.

We share condolences with Jack and Shirley Wilz on the loss of their son-in-law Glenn Leary, married to their daughter Lynn. The funeral was held this morning at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington.

Oct. 24 is World Polio Day and an occasion to recommit ourselves toward eradication of this disease. This is an effort that Rotary international has led around the world with great success.

We need to consider Rotary International donations. We are behind in our giving this year.

John A. Bishop spoke to the club about his experience in South Carolina recently and the activity of a local Rotary club there which jumped into action following a major fire on the main street of Georgetown, S.C., in which several buildings were destroyed. The Rotary Club set up temporary employment services for the more than 60 people who lost their jobs because of the fire. At the time John and his wife left, that Rotary Club had actually arranged temporary employment for 39 of those people



John A. Bishop was back from South Carolina with a story about Rotary in action.

Art Drake spoke about the Rotaract meeting Oct. 15 and described the talk by Eric Luedtke about his experiences in Nepal, where his organization rescues girls from the slave trade and educates them.

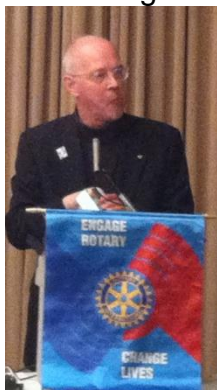
Dale Strassheim again encouraged donations to the Rotary Foundation and Drake Zimmerman has some special forms for members to use to make donations toward Paul Harris fellowships for fellow members.



Ryan Fleming and Dick Wagner

Mystery host: Ryan Fleming passed the two dollar bill to Dick Wagner in recognition of Dick's influence in getting Ryan into Rotary.

Judge: Bruce Bergethon took the bench as judge, and began by commenting on what he deemed to be good singing of the anthem at the beginning of the meeting. However several members disagreed with him and the matter was dropped. Members sitting back of the front tables, which had some empty seats were fined for not filling up those seats and Bruce moved into happy fines of which there were quite a number.



Judge Bruce Bergethon

Speaker:

Dale called upon Mark Jontry to introduce our speaker, Diane Wolf, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools, on the topic of "Common Core Standards—What it Really Means."

Diane began by asking us to think back to our early school days, and to try to imagine how the teachers knew what to teach. This effectively illustrated the problem of not having common standards for education and of not having common national standards for education, because as Diane pointed out, if teachers simply teach the curriculum that the teacher before them taught, the education is not going to keep up with the changing times and the huge increase in the amount of information and knowledge.



Diane Wolf

Diane recognized that common core standards when introduced were subject to some controversy and that the controversy was partly political. However, she showed by

summarizing the history of the development of standards in Illinois in particular how useful this has been and how much it has improved the teaching of mathematics and English particularly, the two subject areas where common core standards have been developed.

The common core standards were developed by professional teachers associations in the two subject areas concerned. There is presently work going on to develop common core standards in science but as Diane pointed out, that is a much greater challenge in terms of complexity. There are representatives of some 26 different disciplines within the field of science who are working on developing the standards.

Another important aspect of Common Core is the cooperation that has taken place with the post-secondary educational institutions. This enables the schools to teach material which will help the students be more successful in colleges and universities. There is also a link to industry, so as to relate curriculum to what is necessary for particular careers. Diane made the point very clearly that, without common standards, students today would be at a disadvantage.

Another interesting point she made is that nearly 30 percent of the students of our area leave the state to go on to either postsecondary education or careers so Common Core helps the education that they have gained be more portable. Similarly having common standards across states in the country makes it much easier for students to move. In our mobile society, that helps eliminate the problems that many students have had in the past when moving to a community in a different state where their classmates are at a different point in a particular subject.

The material Diane passed out included a summary of the basic philosophy of the development of the common core and identified these standards for the foundation of knowledge:

Collaboration -- the ability to initiate and participate effectively in projects one-on-one and in groups.

Critical thinking -- honing critical thinking skills so critical for success in college and career.

Communication -- interpreting complex texts, evidence-based writing and informational writing to convey information. Speaking and listening are emphasized in the standards.

Creativity -- asking students to synthesize information and use it in new ways.

Thought for the Day: Dale thanked Mark Comadena for covering for him during his absence, then closed the meeting with this thought from Virginia Burden: "*Cooperation is the thorough conviction that nobody can get there unless everybody gets there.*"

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois -
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