

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 9, 2013 Volume No. 64 Issue No. 16

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](http://www.Rotary6490.org) (The District Newsletter can be found on the left side of the main page)

**Wednesday, October 16, 2013**

**Head Table:** Gordon Ropp and Ray Ropp

**Greeters:** Gordon Bidner and John A. Bishop

**Lottery:** Jim Rosenlund and Art Runyon

**Program:** Diane Wolf, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools, on "Common Core Standards: What it Really Means"

**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:**



**Club RI Contributions:**  
**\$143**

**Reporter:** John Burrill

**Photographer:** John E. Bishop

**Editor:** Art Drake

At the Oct. 9 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club, Mark Comadena once again stood in for Dale

Strassheim, who is in Africa on a personal trip. Mark called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m., and asked Alan Chapman to give the invocation. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing -- in several keys -- of the first verse of "America".

**Visiting Rotarians:** Ethel Austin from the Blue Mound Rotary Club, who promoted that club's sale of citrus fruit for the holiday season.

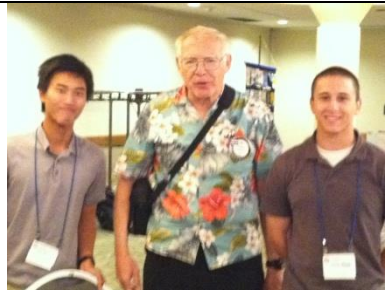
**Guests:** Bill Semlak introduced Cynthia Kukla, currently on a leave of absence from Rotary while on sabbatical from ISU; student guest Alex Su from U High and Chris Plank from the Bloomington Area Career Center. John E. Bishop introduced student guest Traevon Parnell from Normal Community High School.



Ethel Austin, our annual visitor from Blue Mound Rotary



Traevon Parnell and  
John E. Bishop



Alex Su, Bill Semlak  
and Chris Plank



Cynthia Kukla, takes a  
respite from her leave of  
absence.

### **Announcements:**

District Seminars are scheduled in Effingham next Tuesday evening and in Urbana October 22.

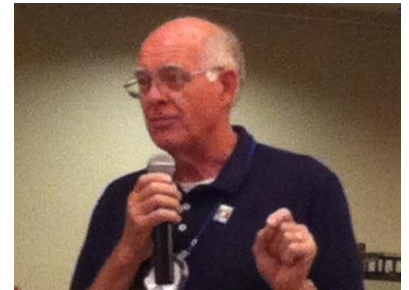
The Rotaract Club of ISU is sponsoring a presentation by Eric Luedtke at 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 15 in the Founder's Suite, Bone Student Center. Eric, a member of Mahomet Rotary, will discuss efforts to combat the slave trade in Nepal.

The Holiday Dinner is scheduled for December 4, and Stephanie McClellan will provide more detail at a future meeting.

Andy Copenhaver let us know that the launch of this year's poinsettia sales will take place at next week's meeting. He stressed its importance to our various charitable activities.



Andy  
Copenhaver



Hank Campbell

Hank Campbell reported that we raised \$365 for Friends Forever during the special auction at last week's meeting.

Jack Wilz spoke about the Veteran's Day event planned for The ISU Alumni Center on November 11. Cost for this is \$40 for two tickets, one ticket for the Rotarian and one for the veteran guest. Jack is collecting now from those who plan to attend. He also appealed for a few volunteers to assist with the event.



**Mystery host:** Rob Cranston  
recognized Ray Ropp for his  
proactive greeter skills.

**Judge:** Bruce Bergethon announced that his primary objective was “getting money”. He entered into several exchanges around the subject of the imminent ballgame between the Cardinals and the Pirates. There were several fines and happy fines, and it appeared that Bruce’s objective was met.

**Speaker:**

Andrew Johnson, general manager of Connect Transit, our local public transit system, was introduced by Dayna Brown-Nielsen. He discussed the changes to the system in the past two years, current challenges and plans for the future.

Connect Transit now operates 14 fixed routes, as well as a para transit service for passengers with special needs. There are 35 fixed-route buses and 16 demand-response vans. There are about 100 employees.

The system’s buses traveled 1.5 million miles last year and provided 115,000 hours of service. There were 2.1 million trips, vs. 717,000 in 2003, a huge growth in ridership. That, in turn, required additional buses but also enabled more than half a million dollars in additional funding.



Andrew Johnson reported on progress and challenges he’s seen in his two years at Connect Transit.

Andrew mentioned that restructuring the routes had been an interesting exercise. The proposed changes were met with significant opposition. Contact with the community has been maintained, however, and valuable input has been received. A process is now in place for implementing future changes.

Currently the system is funded for 15 more buses, but implementation will be slow due to government delays and due process.

Needs for the future include increased frequency, earlier and later service hours, operations on Sundays, improvements in the three transfer points other than Uptown Station and local funding.

**Thought for the Day, From *The Little Book of Calm* by Paul Wilson:** “Indulge yourself by being generous -- help someone out, perform an act of kindness, offer a compliment. The person who will feel most uplifted by you having done so is you.”

<p>The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761 Editorial Staff: Jim Carter, Art Drake, and Becky Goeckner Meetings are held Wednesdays at noon in the Circus Room or Old Main Room at the Bone Student Center, ISU.</p> <p><b>Officers 2013-2014:</b> <b>President - Dale Strassheim</b> (spouse: Carol) 24843 Nighthawk Road Hudson, Illinois 61748 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dstrassheim@thebabyfold.org">dstrassheim@thebabyfold.org</a> Work phone: 1-309-451-7201 Home phone: 1-309-726-2468</p>	<p><b>Directors:</b> <b>Club Administration – Stephanie McClellan</b> (spouse : Tad) 1002 Drayton Street Normal, Illinois 61761 E-mail : <a href="mailto:stephanie.mcclellan@commercebank.com">stephanie.mcclellan@commercebank.com</a> Work phone : 1-309-823-7398 Home phone : 1-309-451-5749 Cell phone : 1-309-275-5214</p> <p><b>Rotary Foundation &amp; International Projects – Ann Haugo</b> (spouse: Steve Pelphrey) 104 Kite Court</p>
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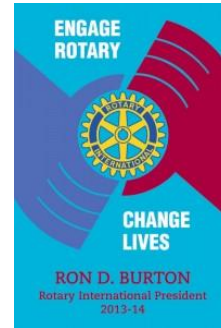
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2013-2014  
Ron D. Burton



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Bishop, John E. PHF	Dunlap, Mark	Listek, Meghan PHF	Springer, Ron, PHF*
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Burrill, John PHF*		Naik, Vandana PHF*	Varner, Iris PHF*
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<b>PHF</b> – Paul Harris Fellow <b>HH</b> – Hall of Honor <b>PHF*</b> - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone <b>PHS</b> – Paul Harris Society	<b>DHH</b> - District Hall of Honor <b>HM</b> – Honorary Member <b>MD</b> – Major Donors	<b>CM</b> – Charter Member <b>DNRY</b> - District New Rotarian of the Year	<b>BS</b> – Bequest Society Member <b>DNRY</b> -District Rotarian of the Year <b>GWRY</b> – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year

