

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

November 13, 2013 Volume No. 64 Issue No. 21

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, November 20, 2013

Head Table: Ron Timmerman & Carson Varner

Greeters: Alan Chapman & Mark Comadena

Lottery: Iris Varner & Dick Wagner

Program: Drake Zimmerman & Rob Cranston

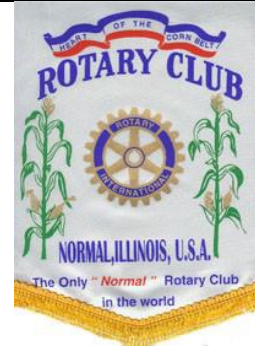
Wednesday, November 27, 2013 – Meeting in the OLD MAIN room

Head Table: Iris Varner & Dick Wagner

Greeters: Andy Copenhaver & Rob Cranston

Lottery: Roger Weller & Jack Wilz

Program: TBA



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

Reporter: John Burrill

Photographer: Heather Dennis

Editor: Becky Goeckner

President Dale Strassheim opened the meeting at 12:10 as usual and invited Gordon Bidner to give the invocation. Gordon's message was the reading of a prayer by Native American Chief Yellow Lark. This 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: Becky Goeckner as editor, John Burrill as correspondent and Heather Dennis as photographer.

Guests:

There was one visiting Rotarian at this meeting, Don Reed of Illinois Valley Sunrise, who was given our traditional welcome. Our student guests were introduced by their host Rotarians as follows: Erin Sondegroth of U High was introduced by Andy Copenhaver; Lura Parent of Normal West by Heather Wagner, and Grant Yi by Rob Cranston. Each of the students spoke briefly about their extracurricular activities.



Erin Sondegroth & Andy Copenhaver



Lura Parent & Heather Wagner



Rob Cranston & Grant Yi

Announcements:

Andy Copenhaver passed along some excellent suggestions for marketing poinsettias in larger numbers per order.

Jim Carter added to the poinsettia message with encouragement to get all orders in by next Wednesday at the latest. Poinsettias are scheduled to arrive at The Chateau on Friday, December 6th. Volunteers will be needed then to unload and deliver the larger orders of poinsettias. Customers will pick up their poinsettias at The Chateau on Saturday, December 7th. Volunteers will be needed to assist with the distribution that day.



Jim Carter & Heather Wagner



Connie Gentry explained how the "Coats for Kids" project operates and encouraged table donations for this important program.

Meghan Listek passed a sign-up sheet for those interested in having a decorated box at their place of employment for donations.



Matt Riehle mentioned the "Ice Cream Social" being held tomorrow at the McLean County Nursing Home, and asked for one or two more helpers. He passed a sign-up sheet for this. Photos from the Social can be found further down in the Spoke



Stephanie McClellan reminded us about the Holiday Dinner scheduled for December 4th, asked people to sign up on the board at the rear of the room. This list will need to close in about two weeks in order to give the venue the numbers. There will be no regular meeting that week.

Dale Strassheim announced a room change for our meeting of November 27th. We will be in the Old Main that day. Also be reminded that our meetings are cancelled for December 25th and January 1st, 2014.

John A. Bishop announced that a Normal Rotary Foundation board meeting would take place at the end of this meeting.

Dale then commented on several items:

- He thanked the Normal Rotary members of the committee that put together the fine Veterans Day event Monday evening, Jack Wilz, John Bishop, and Gordon Ropp. He expressed the hope that it would continue in the future, and asked interested members to consider helping with the planning for next year.
- The election of officers for next year will take place at our December 18th meeting. The slate will be in the Spoke, as well as being announced several times. Thanks to Mark Comadena and Andy Copenhaver for organizing this.
- Members were asked to keep Gordon Ropp and John Morris in their thoughts as they recover.

- Dale passed along thanks he had received for the Club's support of the Friends Forever project.
- Dale encouraged members to consider donations to the Rotary Foundation. October is Foundation month in Rotary, and the remaining meetings' programs will inform us on that aspect of Rotary.
- Land of Lincoln PETS will be in Effingham on March 16th and 17th.
- We have a number of Paul Harris fellowships to present, and Dale plans to work with the committee to include these in business meetings in January and February.

Gene Jontry thanked members who had signed his petition on re-districting, and indicated he would be at the back seeking a few more signatures after the meeting.



Mystery Host Drake Zimmerman recognized Carol Reitan



"Judge" Bruce Bergethon went to the podium next, and pointed out the excellent coverage given our club's 25th Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser

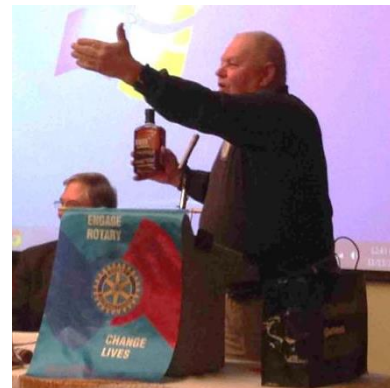


"Judge" Bruce supervised the lottery drawing which was won by Andy Copenhaver's student guest Erin Sondegroth.

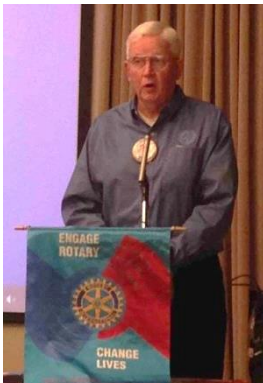
"Judge" Bruce then proceeded to fine everyone for the two empty seats at one of the front tables. Kathy Alexander was fined next for inviting people to her retirement function, deemed by Judge Bruce to be self-promotion.



A number of "happy fines" followed, after which Ray Ropp conducted a short birthday auction of three jars of home canned carrots, green beans & applesauce and a bottle of Knob Creek bourbon.



Program:



PDG Dick Wagner was called upon to introduce our speaker for today. He began with a short comment on Rotary structure, and focused our attention on the organizational level in Rotary International referred to as "Zone". Dick then invited PDG Gordon Bidner to speak more about activities at the Zone level.



Gordon began by stressing that the heart and soul of Rotary is the Club. He informed us that there are 534

Districts in the Rotary world, and that they are grouped into 34 Zones, 9 of which are in the U.S.

Gordon noted that the training of Club leaders is a primary function at the District level, and that Information and training are also the key functions of the activity at the Zone level. The focus at Zone level is the training of District Governors. He informed us that the position of Zone Director is the only one in Rotary that has a term of more than one year. Zone Directors serve for three year terms.

Gordon shared some impressions of several Zone meetings he had attended, and the kinds of subjects with which they dealt. He closed with a tribute to the high level of Foundation giving our Club has achieved, a recognition of the 12 members of our Club who are members of the Paul Harris Society, and an appeal to us all to consider that level of giving for ourselves.

Thought for the Day, from President Dwight D. Eisenhower: *“The history of freedom is never really written by chance, but by choice. A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.”*

November 14, 2013 Ice Cream Social at McLean County Nursing Home:

Photos by Jim Carter & Becky Goeckner



Connie Gentry & Bill Caisley



A resident & Matt Riehle.



Dale Strassheim & two residents



Two ISU Rotaract students helped.



Linda Healy & a resident



Connie Gentry & a resident

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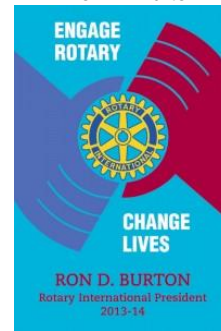
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 2013-2014
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	Houska, George PHF* HH	Rosenlund, Jim	
PHF – Paul Harris Fellow HH – Hall of Honor PHF* - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone PHS – Paul Harris Society	DHH - District Hall of Honor HM – Honorary Member MD – Major Donors	CM – Charter Member DNRY - District New Rotarian of the Year	BS – Bequest Society Member DRY -District Rotarian of the Year GWRV – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year