

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

February 19, 2014 Volume No. 64 Issue No. 33

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, February 26, 2014

Head Table: Marcia Dennis & Larry Dietz

Greeters: Jim Rosenlund & Art Runyon

Lottery: Becky Goeckner & Gene Gudeman

Program: Michael Vetere, ISU's Creative Drama Program for Children

March Birthdays – Please bring a gift for the Birthday Auction

Mel Schultz	6
Mark Comadena	16
Heather Wagner	19
Surinder Sethi	26
Becky Goeckner	27



Wednesday, March 5, 2014

Head Table: Ralph Dude & Connie Gentry

Greeters: Don Rutledge & Marci Schneider

Lottery: Linda Healy & Michelle Houchin

Program: Club Business & Birthday Auction



Club RI Contributions:
\$6,111

Reporter: John Burrill

Photographer: Rob Cranston

Editor: Becky Goeckner

We were welcomed today by the greeter team of brothers Gordon and Ray Ropp, after which President-Elect Mark Comadena opened today's meeting, standing in for President Dale Strassheim. Mark called upon Gordon Bidner to give the invocation, which was a North American Indian paraphrase of the 23rd Psalm. It was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the first verse of America led by Mark Sherman.

Mark recognized the Spoke team for this meeting: Becky Goeckner as editor, John Burrill as correspondent and Rob Cranston as photographer.



Mark Comadena

Guests: There were no visiting Rotarians at this meeting. Alan Chapman introduced his guest, Cathy Milligan who is the Director of Development at Heartland Community College.

February Students of the Month: Our student guests, Casey Lebre, Demi Fritz, Stephanie Sellers, and Kelsey Moore were introduced by their hosts and each spoke briefly about their volunteer service work. Clearly the students we host and recognize in other ways will be significant contributors to the communities in which they eventually reside.



Cathy Milligan & Alan Chapman



Stephanie Speller & Rob Cranston



Becky Goeckner & Casey Lebre



Kelsey Moore & Nancy Steele Brokaw



Demi Fritz

Announcements:

The NCAA Basketball Contest is back for another year, with two pools going this year. Prizes will be \$100 and \$200, and each pool will generate \$700 for our Coats for Kids project.

Our own Normal Rotary Foundation has been reinstated by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3). Thanks to Rod Weigelmann for accomplishing this and for everything else he does as Treasurer.

We are asked to again consider a donation to the Rotary Foundation, which uses our funds very effectively around the world. Individual donation records are available from Jeremy.

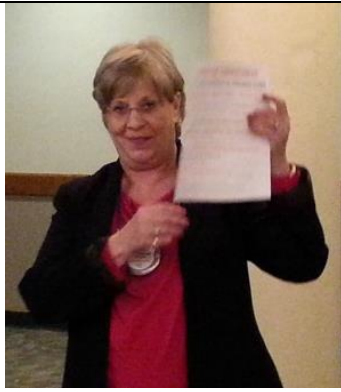
Jim Rosenlund and Andy Copenhaver recently completed the Club Leadership Institute, and Mark Comadena and Andy Copenhaver are going to the PETS training in Effingham.

The five BN club Presidents- Elect are working on the 2014 Veterans Day event. Mark would welcome feedback by email on last year's event to help them plan another success.

Monticello Rotary will have an auction to recognize their 90th anniversary March 1 at the Monticello Best Western, with cocktails at 5:00PM, dinner at 6:00, and auction to follow. Cost is \$20.00 per person. Tickets at k Crawford@fsborp.com. The items to be sold include a Hawaii vacation package and a trip too Branson.

Volunteers are need for the Club's student scholarship program. Please contact Michelle Houchin.

Rob Cranston reminded us that the Club is hosting District inbound and outbound exchange students on March 7th. This involves dinner and hosting the students overnight, and there are opportunities to be hosts. If interested, please contact Rob.



It's a sure sign that Spring is really going to make an appearance when Marcia Dennis announced that we will be able to purchase tickets once again for a Cubs/Cardinals Game in St. Louis on April 12th. More details to follow.



Mystery Host: Today's Mystery Host was Todd Anderson, and he gave the \$2.00 bill to Mark Comadena in recognition of his pinch-hitting for Dale Strassheim who was out today.

Judge & Lottery: Judge Marcia Dennis proceeded to the "bench" and first supervised a draw by our speaker Beth Kimmerling for the lottery. It took a while to locate the person with the winning ticket. Rada Radakrishna was the surprised and lucky winner!

Judge & Lottery: Judge Marcia Dennis proceeded to the "bench" and first supervised a draw by our speaker Beth Kimmerling for the lottery. It took a while to locate the person with the winning ticket. Rada Radakrishna was the surprised and lucky winner!

Marcia had seen coverage of an interview with Alan Chapman, but rather than fine him, suggested the rest of us each contribute on his behalf in recognition of his multiple community responsibilities.



A number of happy fines followed, including presentation of a banner from a South Texas club by Jim Carter, who had visited Bill Semlak there; and a greeting from Graham and Marian Jones in Australia transmitted by Becky Goeckner. Todd Anderson had a lady customer sing a number from a musical to him in appreciation of his help in changing a tire for her. Linda Healy reported on a successful fund drive at WGLT, and that the station had partnered with Brad Barker Honda who promised 1000 meals to Home Sweet Home Mission if the fund drive met its goal, which it did. Bill Caisley reported visiting the winter home of the Chicago Cubs in Phoenix, and that they were ready for the Cardinals!

Program:



Mark Comadena introduced our guest speaker, McLean County Coroner Beth Kimmerling. Beth commented that she is now in her fourth term of office in this elected position. Referring to the current question about whether the position should be an elected one or not, she offered that although she did not like the political aspect of an elected office, she did believe the position should continue to be elected as it makes the Coroner responsible to the whole electorate rather than a small group of County board members.

She has a Bachelor's degree in nursing, and a Master's in forensic science, as well as certification which must be kept current in death investigation. She pointed out that the only qualifications required of candidates by law are that they reside in the county, that they be of age, and that they are not felons. Once elected, coroners are the senior law enforcement officer in the county, have a badge, a squad car,

and the right to carry a weapon if they so choose. These factors and the requirements of the job make her hope that coroners are elected based on their qualifications.

Coroner Kimmerling discussed the circumstances in which deaths occurring in Mclean County required her investigation, and spoke about the two basic requirements her office must meet in each death they investigate. The first of these is the cause of death, or in other words the medical reason; and second is the manner of death, which must be one of five categories: natural, suicide, accidental, homicide, or undetermined.

When asked about how being a coroner affects family life, she pointed out that she had been raised in a funeral home and often accompanied her funeral director father as he worked. She also pointed out that she probably doesn't look like a coroner. Commenting on TV programs, she said she doesn't work in tank tops, and doesn't go to scenes in a Hummer! As a further comment, she offered advice to her audience: If you don't have to, do not put off retirement. Enjoy your family as much as possible while you can. Too many widows or widowers tell her their spouses" just wanted to work two more years".

Mark expressed our thanks to Beth Kimmerling, presented her with our cook book, and closed the meeting with this thought for the day:

Thought for the day is from John Bunyan, "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you"

Calendar:

March 1 - Monticello Rotary auction.

March 7 - Rotary Youth Exchange get-together.

March 15-16 - PETS.

March 22 – ISU International Fair

April 2 - meeting geared to prospective members.

April 5 - Family Science Day.

April 9 - Israel Friends Forever coordinator will visit.

May 3-4 - District Conference.

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois -
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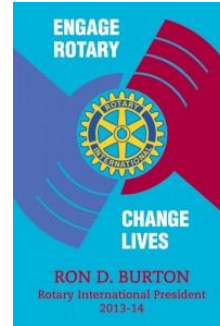
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 2013-2014
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Bergethon, Bruce PHF* HH	Drake, Art PHF	Kukla, Cynthia PHF	Sethi, Surinder PHF* PHS HH DHH DRY
Bidner, Gordon PHF* PHS MD BS GWRY HH	Dude, Ralph PHF* HH DRY	Lindsay, Jeff	Sherman, Mark PHF* HH
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Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRY DHH	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Runyon, Art PHF* HH	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