

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

March 12, 2014 Volume No. 64 Issue No. 36

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, March 19, 2014

Head Table: Students of the Month

Greeters: Carson Varner & Dick Wagner

Lottery: Stephanie McClellan & Matt Riehle

Program: Our High School Exchange Program

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Head Table: Linda Healy & Michelle Houchin

Greeters: Iris Varner & Jack Wilz

Lottery: Ray Ropp & Jim Rosenlund

Program: TBA



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

Reporter: Jim Carter

Photographer: Becky Goeckner

Editor: Becky Goeckner

President Dale Strassheim noted that Becky Goeckner was editor and photographer today and that Jim Carter was writing the Spoke. He then sang the praises of those members who do these tasks every week. Note that you too could be one of these people.

Once again we greeted each other and then Marcia Dennis did the reflection by reading from her Crayon book about how the different colors in the box come to appreciate each other rather than contending for being the best color. We have heard her read this story before and it is well appreciated each time we hear it. We then pledged and sang and sounded good today.

Announcements:

In terms of announcements: Radha Radhakrishnan passed around a sign-up sheet for the International Fair on Saturday, March 22. Those interested were to meet after the meeting to discuss this.

Drake Zimmerman spoke for The Rotary International Foundation with the thought that everyone should be contributing to this. He has information on what you last did, and when.

Mark Comadena reminded us we have an open house on April 2 when we are encouraged to bring guests to let them see what we do. And, he noted squares are still available for the NCAA Basketball pool - \$10 per square.

We need to find a District Youth Exchange Officer. We then asked Rob Cranston to talk about this. He has been that Officer since 1998 but now has moved on to be a coordinator at a Regional level. Rob noted there is little work with the out-bound group but some effort is needed with the in-bound group.

Gene Jontry reminded us we need proposals for the two awards we make every spring.

Marcia Dennis dug into people's pockets to get their change for our literacy project. She had people put their change into a small box on each table. Sorry to say we will not see her PIG this year. She also

held up a bag of change from Art Runyon that he brought from home. At the end of the day she had collected 12 books and \$80.

Marcia also promoted selling Cards/Cubs baseball tickets for Rotary Day at Busch Stadium, April 12. We get a good contribution to our Literacy Program for every ticket sold.

Dale Strassheim noted we need helpers for Family Science Day on April 5. At that time we will work with other Rotary Clubs in town to help with this event. This is also Rotary Youth Day. Volunteers are needed.

Guests: We had guests today. Because ISU is on Spring Break Mary Cranston was able to come with husband Rob. And, because she was here she got the \$2 from the Mystery Host Gabriel, who appreciated all Mary did for him as an in-bound student, including bringing him to today's meeting.

Bob Harold was here with his daughter Erika Harold, our speaker. Jeremy Hartman, Whitney Hoyt and Satish Puri were back as prospective members. Wow, great folks who are interested in becoming colleagues in the Normal Rotary Club! We look forward to the time we no longer report them as visitors.



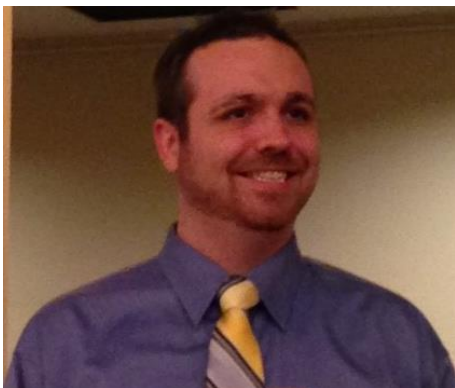
Rob & Mary Cranston



Gabriel (Mystery Host) & Mary Cranston



Bob Harold



Jeremy Hartman



Whitney Hoyt & Mark Comadena



Satish Puri

And, we had three Students of the Month with us today. Linda Healy introduced Dan Sheldon, who was not here last week. He represents the Bloomington Area Vocational School and is a student at Central Catholic. He wants to be a physician's assistant and will go to the University of Dayton next year in the pre-med program. He has done track, soccer, bank and jazz and will be in 'You Are A Good Man Charlie Brown' this weekend. He did not tell us what role he plays.

Emily Tuttle of U-High said she is off to UIUC to perform in the Marching Illini and study in the Honors Business Program. Jessica Tang of West told about her involvement as Drum Major and a constitutional attorney in mock trials at school.



Linda Healy & Dan Sheldon



Meghan Rogers & Emily Tuttle



Mark Comadena & Jessica Tang

Judge:

In terms of Happy Fines today, there were many. Judge Bruce Bergethon was happy for the great quantity of mashed potatoes, Linda Healy for GLT events, and many were happy for basketball related things. We can assume there will be many happy/unhappy basketball fines for the next month until baseball season starts up.



Program:



President Dale Strassheim introduced Erika Harold, our speaker today. He heard her at another Rotary Club meeting and liked her story. While she is a candidate for a Republican nomination for a congregational seat, she did not talk about that today.

She came to us as Miss America 2003. She comes from a family with 3 siblings, who excel at sports. They were able to get scholarships based on their athletic skills but did not inherit those capabilities. In college she noted scholarships were given to winners to contests such as Miss America. So, she entered and worked on what it takes to win. She did well enough to win Miss Illinois and Miss America.

She graduated from UIUC in Political Science and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa honor society and subsequently admitted to Harvard Law School. By winning Miss America she was able to pay the cost of Harvard Law School. She was thus able to graduate from Harvard with no student debt. During the year she was Miss America she earned her compensation by traveling about 20,000 miles every month for appearances and presentations.

She notes she was lucky in the year she won because they appreciated her focus on academics. Yes, she does want world peace – the question always associated with beauty pageants. Her platform for her year as Miss America was on ‘preventing violence and bullying’. This is a topic she still speaks to today. She had firsthand knowledge of the subject since this evolved from experiences she had growing up.

She has made many presentations on this topic to middle schools and other groups. She has received much feedback from youngsters showing that she is getting through to many. She has also taken her story into prisons, with some success. She told about visiting a woman’s prison. They asked her to bring her crown. Each of the women in the unit wanted to try on the crown and be photographed. It was important for them to show their family members that they too could be winners and be someone to be proud of.

Erika then fielded questions. She talked about the judges of the Miss America contest. In her case one judge was a university president amongst others. Candidates are selected based on how they will represent the position in many places, being it testifying before congress or commissions, in schools at all levels, at Rotary Clubs and much more.

For her interesting presentation, President Dale gave her a 'Normal Cooks' cookbook. It will look nice on the shelf next to her crown.

Thought for the day is from Richard Stearns, President of World Vision, U. S.: *"God's deepest desire is not that we would help the poor....God's deepest desire is that we would love the poor; for if we love them, we will surely help them."*

Calendar:

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 -
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.

Officers 2013-2014:

President - Dale Strassheim (spouse: Carol)

24843 Nighthawk Road
Hudson, Illinois 61748

E-mail: dstrassheim@thebabyfold.org

Work phone: 1-309-451-7201

Home phone: 1-309-726-2468

President Elect – Mark Comadena (spouse: Pamela)

208 S. Bone Drive

Normal, Illinois 61761

E-mail: mecomad@ilstu.edu

Phone: 1-309-452-2961

Vice President – Andy Copenhaver – (spouse: Jill)

4 Brownstone Court

Bloomington, IL 61704

Cell: 1-309-830-1525

E-mail: Andy.copenhaver@gmail.com

Secretary—Jeremy High - (spouse: Alicia)

1208 Janet Drive

Bloomington, Illinois 61704

E-mail: jeremyhigh@yahoo.com

Work phone: 1-309-531-0776

Home phone: 1-309-808-1962

Treasurer - Rod Weigelmann (spouse: Brenda)

2605 Blarney Stone Lane

Bloomington, Illinois 61704

E-mail: r.weigelmann@comcast.net

Work phone: 1-309-663-4962

Home phone: 1-309-664-0818

Sergeant At Arms- Hank Campbell (spouse: Mary)

2319 Mabel Road

Normal, Illinois 61761

E-mail: hlcampb@ilstu.edu

Home phone: 1-309-530-5134

Past-President - Art Drake (spouse: Jan)

42 Inglewood

Bloomington, Illinois 61704

E-mail: ardra345@hotmail.com

Home phone: 1-309-242-5125

Directors:

Club Administration – Stephanie McClellan (spouse : Tad)

1002 Drayton Street

Normal, Illinois 61761

E-mail: stephanie.mcclellan@commercebank.com

Work phone : 1-309-823-7398

Home phone : 1-309-451-5749

Cell phone : 1-309-275-5214

Rotary Foundation & International Projects – Ann Haugo

(spouse: Steve Pelphrey)

104 Kite Court

LeRoy, Illinois 61752

E-mail: ahaugo@ilstu.edu

Work phone : 1-309-438-3955

Home phone : 1-309-962-9225

Community Concerns – Matt Riehl (spouse : Betsy)

11 Fiddlestix Court

Bloomington, Illinois 618705

E-mail: mrhiehl14@hotmail.com

Work phone : 1-309-888-5380

Home phone : 1-309-287-2306

Publicity – Marci Schneider

1905 Garling Drive

Bloomington, Illinois 61701

E-mail: mschneider@cancercenter.org

Work phone : 1-309-825-0040

Home phone : 1-309-451-2241

Assistant Governor: Susan Hoover

Home phone: 1-309-888-4810

E-mail: cjsghoover@yahoo.com

District 6490 Governor - Larry Pennie (spouse: Arlene)

1902 Quail Run Ct.

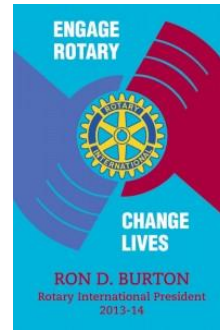
Normal, Illinois 61761

E-mail: pennierotary@comcast.net

Home phone: 1-309-452-3696

Cell phone: 1-309-530-8124

Rotary International President
2013-2014
Ron D. Burton



Members:	Dennis, Heather	Jontry, Gene PHF* HH	Rutledge, Don PHF* HH
Adanri, Bayo PHF* HH	Dennis, Marcia PHF* HH DNRY DHH	Jontry, Mark PHF	Schneider, Marci PHF
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