

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

April 16, 2014 Volume No. 64 Issue No. 41

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, April 23, 2014

Head Table: Meghan Rogers & Jim Roselund

Greeters: Bruce Bergethon & Gordon Bidner

Lottery: Whitney Hoyt & Linda Healy

Program: Mark Comadena – “An Inquisition”

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Head Table: Students of the Month

Greeters: John A. Bishop & Nancy Brokaw

Lottery: Lindsey Henry & Gene Jontry

Program: ??



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

Reporter: Art Drake

Photographer: Heather Dennis & Jim Carter

Editor: Becky Goeckner

President Dale Strassheim opened the April 16, 2014 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club by noting the large number of guests, most of them interested in our speaker.



Ray Ropp gave the invocation, while President Dale and those in attendance stood attentively

Visiting Rotarians: Guy Fraker, John Wohlwend and Vickie Tilton, all of Sunrise Rotary.

Guests: Tim Tilton; John Frisch, guest of Guy Fraker; and the following guests of John Wohlwend: Marcus Alouan, Andreas Aytade, Roger Hunt, David Hunt, Ivan Stoinev, Janae Stork, Dane Ward and Maritza Atayne.

Students of the Month:

--Miles Logan of the Bloomington Area Career Center. Miles likes to volunteer, play video games and work out.

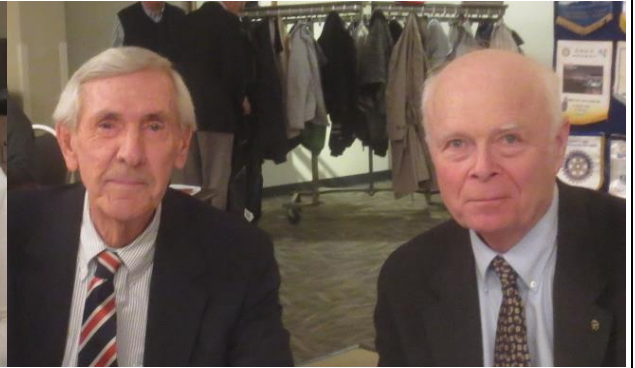
--Trey Watts of U-High. Trey is active in track.

--Alissa Wilson of Normal West enjoys volunteering, Irish dance and Pilates.

--Kelly Bissey of NCHS is a cheerleader, and she enjoys reading, travel and spending time with friends and family.



Tim & Vickie Tilton and Maureen Brunsdale (speaker)



John Frisch & Carson Varner



Heather Dennis & Kelly Bissey



Trey Watts, Bill Sendlak & Miles Logan



Alissa Wilson & Jim Carter



Maureen Brunsdale & Marcus Alouan & Janae Stork



A guest of John Wohlwend & Matt Riehle



Frank Matsler & Gordon Bidner

Announcements:

--Matt Riehl sent out sign-up sheets for Pennies for Polio Friday, May 16, at local McDonald's. Local McDonald's owners, Bob and Julie Dobski have agreed to let local clubs raise money for Polio Plus. This is an easy project for a good cause. Please sign up.

--Matt also noted that the CornBeltsers will host Rotary District 6490 Day at the Corn Crib on June 6. See Matt by May 9 for tickets, which cost \$10.

--Volunteers are needed to help out at Timber Pointe Saturday, April 26. Call Deb Townsend to register: 309-365-8021.

--Evergreen Cemetery will have a presentation and historic tour focusing on local veterans on May 26.

--Dale Strassheim announced that the five local Rotary clubs are setting up a web site.

--Memorial Day Parade is coming up, and Rotarians will carry flags. Details later.

--Art Drake is looking for writers and photographers to help staff the Spoke. A writer is needed for May. He'll circulate a sign-up sheet for the year at the next meeting.

--Linda Healy announced that Friends Forever is selling \$100 raffle tickets to fund this summer's peace project. Grand prize is a vacation in Mexico.

--Dale noted that Linda has been nominated for YWCA McLean County Women of Distinction Award.

Mystery Host: Mark Jontry presented the \$2 to Matt Riehle for his contributions to the club.



Bruce & Marcia

Judges:

Marcia Dennis presided as Gordon Ropp won the drawing. She recruited Bruce Bergethon to ding Carson Varner for neglecting to mention the Four Way Test in a column about ethics in business. Then the happy fines rolled in from Bill Semlak, Connie Gentry, Bill Caisley, Art Drake, Lindsey Henry and Carson Varner. And Judge Marcia noted that the club's literacy drive took in \$140 in cash and 50 books for Star Literacy.



Gordon Ropp



John Wohlwend

Speaker:

John Wohlwend introduced today's guest speaker, Maureen Brunsdale. Maureen is in charge of the ISU Milner Library's Special Collections and Rare Book Room. One of the special collections is the Circus and Allied Arts Collection, one of the largest special collections of its type.



Maureen Brunsdale

She outlined this community's long history with the circus business, starting in the 1870s when two young boys -- Fred and Howard Green -- thought they'd try their hand at being aerialists. Over the next few generations, hundreds of circus performers and business people lived in Bloomington-Normal until the 1950s. The ISU circus collection has 8,000 books on circuses along with dozens of boxes of posters, correspondence, contracts, receipt books and other records.

Thought for the Day: "People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost." - H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Calendar:

April 26 – Volunteer at Timber Pointe
May 3-4 – District Conference in Champaign
May 16 – Pennies for Polio
June 6 – Rotary Day at Corn Crib (Buy tickets by May 9)



I for one was curious and wanted more information on ISU's Gamma Phi Circus which I found at:
<http://gammaphicircus.illinoisstate.edu/historyheritage/>

History & Heritage

Happy 85th Anniversary Gamma Phi Circus!

1929-2014 General History

Gamma Phi Circus is the oldest collegiate circus in the United States. Its story began in 1926 when Clifford "Pop" Horton, a gymnastics instructor at Illinois State University, organized a small group of men to perform pyramids and tumble at basketball and football games. This led to the founding of Gamma Phi in 1929 as a fraternity that was dedicated to physical education, fitness, and gymnastics.

Originally, Gamma Phi was comprised primarily of gymnasts and, at "Pop" Horton's direction, would perform at different events. The Bloomington-Normal area had been a hotbed of circus activity since the late 1880s, playing the role of winter quarters for such famous trapeze acts of the day as the Flying Wards and the Conciellos. Pop Horton, a circus fan, instructed some of the circus performers at the Bloomington YMCA. It was only a matter of time before the circus performers and the Gamma Phi members met and began to exchange ideas and knowledge.

By 1931 the Gamma Phi fraternity renamed itself the Gamma Phi Circus. The group's first annual circus performance on the Illinois State campus took place that same year at McCormick Gymnasium. The first tickets for that first performance were priced at 25 cents. Horton, who served for many years as the University's athletic director, headed Gamma Phi in its initial incarnations for 19 years.

The annual shows were held at McCormick until 1963, when the performance was moved by circus directors Arley Gillette and Wayne Truex to Horton Field House. Since 1994, in large part due to the efforts of director Jerry Polacek, the Gamma Phi Circus has performed in the Redbird Arena Big Top to audiences of up to 7,000 people.

Gamma Phi Circus began to separate itself from the typical Greek social organizations and began to develop more along the lines of a performing arts organization. The name Gamma Phi has been kept for historical purposes. Over the years the group has developed circus acts such as tight wire, teeterboard, trapeze, Russian swing, Russian bar, partner balancing, juggling, rolling globes, and much more while keeping its gymnastics roots close at heart.

Gamma Phi Circus Historical Milestones

1926 - Clifford "Pop" Horton organized a small group of men to perform pyramids and tumble at basketball and football games.

1929 - Horton received approval from university administration to found the Alpha Chapter of Gamma Phi. The first meeting was held at the Rogers Hotel in downtown Bloomington. The initial group had 22 male students and three honorary members.

1931 - The Gamma Phi Circus performed its first annual show on Illinois State's campus. The Gamma Phi troupe was joined by students from Illinois State University men's and women's physical education classes, Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School, Thomas Metcalf Grade School, and the University High School Tumbling Club.

1938 - Female students began performing with the troupe in 1938.

1940 - Women began being elected into Gamma Phi Circus.

1941-1947 - The Gamma Phi Circus suspended performances during the war due to limited membership.

1947 - The Gamma Phi Circus took the show on the road, performing in Mendota. This was the first of what is now termed the "road show".

Continuing Legacy: Gamma Phi alumni are performing or working with several well-known circuses, including Cirque de Soleil, Circus Vargas, the Shrine Circuses, the Circus Kingdom, Roberts Brothers Circus, Kelly Brothers Circus, the Great American Circus, Circus Alleluia and The Runaway Circus. Some alumni have performed at venues including Disney World, Busch Gardens, Universal Studios-Florida, Great America, and Club Med, as well as performing for audiences at NBA and WNBA half-times and on television.

Gamma Phi Circus alumni have created shows, such as the Circus Jenzac, and others have founded performance trade organizations, such as USA Wheel Gymnastics, or developed circus arts programs that educate in skills and performance.

Distinguished Leadership

Dr. Clifford "Pop" Horton - Director for 19 Years

Dr. Arley Gillette - Director for 18 Years

Dr. Wayne Truex - Director for 7 Years

Dr. Jerry Polacek - Director for 28 Years

Mr. William Jaeger - Director for 2 Years

Mr. Al Light - Director for 6 Years

Mr. Marcus Alouan is the current director since 2010

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois -
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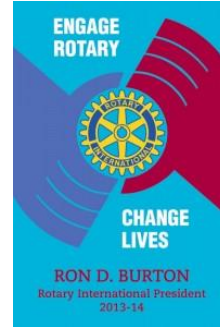
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 2013-2014
 Ron D. Burton



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Dennis, Heather	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Ropp, Ray PHF* HH DHH	Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH DHH
		Rosenlund, Jim	
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