



## The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

December 7, 2016 Volume No. 67 Issue No. 23

Link to Rotary International <http://www.rotary.org/>

Normal Rotary web site: <http://www.normalrotary.org/>

Link to District 6490 Website: <http://rotarydistrict6490.org/> (The District Newsletter can be found on the left side of the main page)

### December Birthdays

Please bring a gift for the Birthday Auction on December 14th

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Dayna Brown-Nielsen | 2  |
| Andy Copenhaver     | 4  |
| Lindsey Smith       | 9  |
| Gene Gudeman        | 10 |
| Rebecca Houtsma     | 15 |
| Bill Caisley        | 19 |
| Radha Radhakrishnan | 25 |



### Wednesday, December 14, 2016

Head Table: Bruce Bergethon & Gordon Bidner

Greeters: Gordon Ropp & Ray Ropp

Lottery: Gene Jontry & Mark Jontry

Program: Club Business & Birthday Auction

### Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Head Table: John A. Bishop & John E. Bishop

Greeters: Art Runyon & Don Rutledge

Lottery: Stephanie McClellan & Larissa McIlvain

**Reporter:** Jim Carter & Hank Campbell

**Photographer:** Jim Carter

**Editor:** Becky Goeckner



Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> was a cold evening. The elevator was cool rising to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Hancock Stadium Room.

But the party area was warm in color and temperature. The Old Men Boys (with fellow Rotarian Bruce Bergethon in the middle) was providing a nice ambience in one corner of the room beside a large, decorated tree.

A photographer and his assistant ran around taking many photos and writing down names. We suspect those Rotarians who did not have a Rotary pin on will regret it when their photos appear in a local magazine.



Photographer & Assistant – Bill & Joan Sendlak & Gordon Ropp

The bar was open for favorite beverages. There were water, ice tea and lemonade available at the tables. Desserts were laid out on a side table and people picked their choice then put it on a table to mark their territory.

On each table were a couple of hand-made Thank You cards from Oakdale Elementary students. And a candy cane at each place setting.



Soon President Jim Rosenlund called us to order and Dayna Brown-Nielsen gave an invocation appropriate to the season. Table by table we passed through the buffet line for good turkey and fixings. No one had reason to leave hungry.

There were three Rotary activities, starting with members telling their names and introducing their spouse, partner or friend. A few that were in attendance are pictured below.



Sherry Hawkins, Dayna Brown-Nielsen & Jim Rosenlund



Bunmi & Bayo Adanri



Rob & Mary Cranston



Narinder Sethi & Diane Carter



Gordon Ropp & Surinder Sethi



Bob Ward & Marcia Dennis

Bayo Adanri introduced the most recent inductee to the Normal Rotary Hall of Fame: Bob Ward. The Normal Rotary Club Hall of Honor provides special recognition to members of the Normal Rotary club, present or past, who have made significant contributions to the Rotary Club of Normal or to Rotary District 6490 or to the Rotary International and its Foundation. Each year, the Normal Rotary Club Hall of Honor committee selects nominee(s) for the honor and forwards its recommendation to the Board of Directors of the Normal Rotary Club who may approve or disapprove such nominee(s). The first presentation was in 1999 at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normal Rotary Club.

We recognized and thanked Bob Ward for his years of service to the Normal Rotary Club. Bob Ward joined the Normal Rotary Club in 1963. At the time he joined, the club had its meetings in the basement of a restaurant in downtown (now uptown) Normal. The Normal Rotary club was a singing club during that time. The club has changed over the years but the quality of its membership remains constant. According to Bob, "we are known to have fun, and provide services to the public. It seems people expect to be involved."

Bob Ward is an architect by trade. He worked for Illinois State University until he retired; some of his projects included Turner Hall, Stevenson Hall, the Redbird Arena, and the John Green Food Center. Bob is a Paul Harris Fellow with one stone.

Bob was there with his daughter. And, this was the first time either had been in the Hancock Stadium Room. Bob received a well-deserved round of applause and a standing ovation..



Bob Ward & his daughter

Hank Campbell is our Vice-President. He got the honor of leading us through an overview of what we have done in the last year. It was a big list and he noted he did not cover everything. He spoke of our regular meetings with some 30 speakers and at least 45 student guests. We gave out six one thousand dollar scholarships and initiated one scholarship to encourage the study of agriculture. Of course we served ice cream at the McLean County Nursing Home, and ate some too.

Our involvement in the Promise Council at Oakdale Elementary School part of Unit 5 schools has gotten much attention from us. We secured a grant of \$856 from District 6490 to supply the awards cart for the year for positive behavior reinforcement. We followed that with a \$480 grant to Oakdale recently for file holders which were mounted on classroom doors for crisis materials to help teachers and substitute personnel. We helped teachers and students be successful with pizza for reading nights, bags of food for weekends (95 per week), VISION speakers, transportation for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend Career Day at ISU, and some Rotary members volunteer for tutoring. He then referenced the Thank you cards on each table.

Auctioneer Gordy Ropp was commended for his ability to get into our pockets. Coats for Kids led by Connie Gentry provides hundreds of coats, gloves and warmer wear items for Unit 5. Thanks to Normal Rotarians and our community merchants for their support.

Recognition was given to our Officers, Board Members and Foundation Board Members, especially Past-President Andy Copenhaver who was at an event with a daughter this evening. Also acknowledged was Becky Goeckner for editing the Spoke week by week and the many members who write and take photos for the Spoke.

Rotarians get up and move to march in the Memorial Day and Labor Day Parades and walk along the Yuton Road under the leadership of Bill Semlak to pick up trash. And, once a year we move to Ropp's farm for Rural/Urban Night, for a unique perspective consistent with the Corn Stalk on our banner.

On Veterans Day we join the other local Rotary Clubs to recognize veterans one-on-one. Marcia Dennis and John A. Bishop and others are ready and willing to host a veteran. Early last spring we met in the same room to participate in the International Fair, under the leadership of Radha Radhakrishnan.

We are just winding up the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Poinsettia sale, bringing beauty to the community and funds to our coffers so we can carry out so many projects. And, this year we initiated a new fund raiser: 'Oktoberfest' in Uptown Normal with Medici's. Thanks to Heather Wagner for identifying this opportunity and Sherry Hawkins for implementing the event. We enjoyed it and anticipate bringing beer mugs and poinsettias to the community next year.

Thanks to the sustained efforts of some Rotarians we have been able to get grants to support international projects in India, Kenya and Nigeria. We had a fund raiser in August at the Castle Theater to supplement a global grant for the Lamu Clinic. And we hosted an international GSE team from Romania this year.

Again we were part of Friends Forever this year, including financial support. Led by planning efforts and

with the support of Linda Healy, Hank Campbell, Drake Zimmerman, Larry Dietz, plus other BN Rotarians. We hosted ten Israeli youth, two teachers, and a FF site manager for two weeks for service activities, peace building and leadership/friendship learning.

As Surinder Sethi completed his term as District Governor, we hosted the Annual District Conference. Steve Martineau, the FF Executive Director, was a keynote speaker. Andy Copenhaver led the conference as MC. Linda Healy was chosen as District Rotarian of the Year and the Normal Rotary Club was named one of the Outstanding Rotary Clubs of the year!

President Jim Rosenlund brought the event to a close and told the band to BOGIE. Has that group ever Boogied? I don't think they knew what to do, so they played a nice mix of music that pleased everyone.



### **A Few More Poinsettia Pics!**

December 2 & 3, 2016 at The Chateau - Bloomington, IL

Photos by Jim Carter



Hank Campbell & Michael Steele



Bayo Adanri & Don Rutledge



Jim Carter

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761  
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 Meetings are held Wednesdays at noon in the Circus Room or Old Main Room at the Bone Student Center, ISU.

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2016-2017  
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| Anderson, Todd PHF   | Garret, Thomas   | Naik, Vandana PHF*  | Springer, Ron, PHF*   |
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| Brokaw, Nancy PHF*   | Haugo, Ann PHF   | Raper, Lyle PHF* HH PP  | Varner, Carson PHF*   |
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| Campbell, Hank PHF HH DRY  | Houchin, Michelle PHF  | Rogers, Meghan PHF  | Wagner, Heather (Beal) PHF  |
| Carter, Jim PHF* PHS HH PP GWRY MD   | Houska, George PHF* HH PP  | Rolley, William   | Ward, Robert PHF* HH  |
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| Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRY PP DHH   | Jontry, Gene PHF* HH   | Runyon, Art PHF* HH   | Wyss, Matt  |
| Dennis, Marcia PHF* HH PP DNRY DHH GWRY  | Jontry, Mark PHF   | Rutledge, Don PHF* HH PP  | Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH PP DHH   |
| Dietz, Larry PHF   | Koos, Chris HM   | Schultz, Mel PHF HH PP  |   |
| Dobski, Steve PHF  | Lindsay, Jeff  | Semlak, Bill PHF* PHS HH  |   |
|  |  |   |   |
| PHF – Paul Harris Fellow<br>HH – Hall of Honor<br>PHF* - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone<br>PHS – Paul Harris Society | DHH - District Hall of Honor<br>HM – Honorary Member<br>MD – Major Donors<br>PP – Past President | DNRY- District New Rotarian of the Year<br>PDG – Past District Governor | BS – Bequest Society Member<br>DRY-District Rotarian of the Year<br>GWRY – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year |