



The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490
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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)

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Head Table: Gordon Ropp & Ray Ropp
Greeters: Rob Cranston & Steve Dobski
Lottery: Drake Zimmerman & Bayo Adanri
Program: Ecology Action Center: "Energy Conservation and Efficiency Through
BNenergyBright

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Head Table: Art Runyon & Don Rutledge
Greeters: Art Drake & Ryan Fleming
Lottery: Todd Anderson & Bruce Bergethon



Reporter: Andy Copenhaver

Photographer: Michelle, Houchin

Editor: Becky Goeckner



Jim Rosenlund

President Jim Rosenlund rang the bell at 12:05 and reminded the club that our motto is Rotary Serving Humanity to start the meeting. We took a few minutes to say hello to everyone and there were no guests today.

There were no visiting Rotarians but we had our first student guests of the year: Maya Walker from Normal West was introduced by John A. Bishop. Radi Diamonika from Normal Community was introduced by Matt Wyss and Jadyn Talbert from Olympia HS and the Bloomington Area Career Center (BACC) was introduced by Michelle Houchin.

Jim then said he forgot to research trivia, so he entertained us with what his vision of "cool" was back when he met his wife and had his first date with her. He had frosted blond tips, an earring in both ears, and 2 or 3 gold chains. All this reporter can say is: scary.

September Students of the Month:



John A. Bishop & Maya Walker



Radi Diamonika



Michelle Houchin & Jadyn Talbert

Announcements:



Adopt-a-Highway was this past weekend.

Thanks for organizing it Bill Semlak and thanks to all that participated.



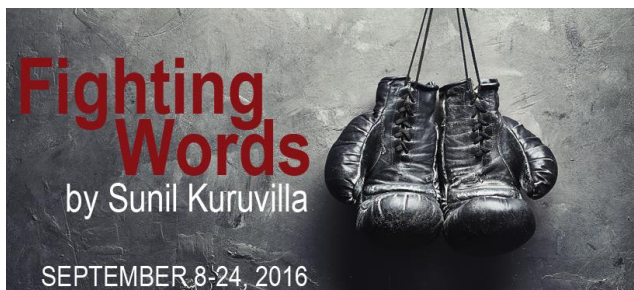
Bill Semlak

- Bill also announced the play—"Fighting Words" at Heartland Theatre. He encouraged everyone to come enjoy it if you can.

DIRECTED BY DON SHANDROW

September 8, 9, 10 | 15, 16, 17, 18 | 22, 23, 24 – 2016

<http://heartlandtheatre.org/showtimes/>



Andy Copenhaver

- Andy Copenhaver announced on Friday, Sept. 30, there will be a 5 club event where members can camp at Timber Pointe and then help with the Run The Woods 5K, the next day, Saturday, October 1st.

Run the Woods is a unique run that takes place on the trails surrounding the Easter Seals Camp at Timber Pointe. The beautiful setting, right on Lake Bloomington, draws over 200 runners and is included on the Lake Run Club's circuit. A 5K and 8K option are both offered, as well as a 1-mile hike. All runners receive a long-sleeved T-shirt and post-race pancake breakfast with registration. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors, while supporting the kids at Timber Pointe Outdoor Center. Register today!

<http://www.runthewoods.org/>

- Marcia Dennis announced we had two members leave the club; Cynthia Kukla and Nancy Gibson had family ties or jobs take them out of B/N, so sadly, they've left the Normal Rotary Club.
- Jim reminded the club that the NRC Board met immediately after the club meeting.
- Art Drake needs Spoke writers. Please volunteer to document the proceedings of the meetings. Please.



Marcia Dennis

- Jim recognized those NRC members that participated in the Labor Day parade. Hank Campbell, Becky Goeckner, Michelle Houchin, John A. Bishop, Alan Chapman, Radha Radakrishnan, Dale Strassheim, Hank Campbell, Ray Ropp, and President Jim all represented NRC. Thanks all!



Sherry Hawkins

- Sherry Hawkins explained the Oktoberfest Fundraiser again, which is September 24. Currently we have \$2500 in sponsorships. The cost to attend the event for the general public is \$5. We need both sponsors and volunteers to help with the event. Put it on your calendar and we hope to see a significant contingent of NRC members to have a large presence at this event.



September 24th – Uptown Normal

Jim then asked the **Judge** Bruce Bergethon to preside judiciously over the club. The first order of business was asking for a **Mystery Host**. Gene Jontry was the host and he awarded the \$2 to Bob Ward; one of the most tenured members of the club. Bruce then drew attention to the fact that members should always read the Spoke. He pointed out Meghan Rogers & Bill Rolley must not have read the Spoke because they were supposed to have sat at the Head Table today and didn't. As a "penalty" Meghan was asked to collect fines and Bill drew for the **Lottery**. Hank Campbell won again! Meghan's first collected fines from all U of I, Iowa, and ISU alums, fans, employees for starting the football season with wins.



Bruce Bergethon



Bob Ward & Gene Jontry



Hank Campbell & Meghan Rogers

Happy Fines:

Judge Bruce then asked for Happy Fines and Bill Semlak paid his \$1 for the earlier mentioning of Heartland Theatre. Vandana Naik gave \$2. One for her daughter being married this year and this June, her son had a baby girl; her first grandchild. How awesome is that?! Gordon Ropp was happy about his granddaughter that has a champion Holstein cow and also was happy about her recent marriage. Dale Strassheim was happy that the Boys & Girls Club was able to raise \$2200 from a challenge last Tuesday at the Young Men's Club. Jim Carter celebrated his marriage to Diane by contributing 0.10 cents per year. Ed Tanton sent Drake Zimmerman an article that stated that Iowa was the 2nd best state to live in. No word on what state was the best. And finally, President Jim paid a fine for his dress at the Labor Day Parade. Instead of the standard khaki shorts or pants, he wore plaid shorts and stuck out just slightly.



Vandana Naik



Gordon Ropp



Dale Strassheim



Jim Carter



Drake Zimmerman

Birthday Auction:

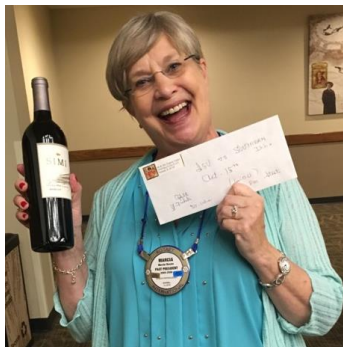
Jim then welcomed Gordon Ropp up to the microphone to do the Birthday Auction. Gordon called out ringman Ray Ropp; President Jim Rosenlund volunteered to be the second ringman and Gene Gudeman was called up to the head table to assist him. The action was fast and furious...well, maybe not fast, but we all had a good time. There were many gifts, too numerous to mention. Among them were a couple of bottles of wine, some golf balls, a McLean County Memories book, and ISU/SIU football tickets. If you want to know who won, ask Marcia Dennis. Otherwise, if you were the high bidder, she'll come looking for you.



Jim Rosenlund, Gordon Ropp & Gene Gudeman



Ray Ropp & book for sale



Marcia Dennis bought wine & football tickets



Jim Rosenlund, Ray Ropp & a painting for sale

Jim then thanked the students for coming and asked us all to come back next week as Ecology Action Center talks about energy conservation and efficiency through BNenergyBright.

Jim's Thought for the Day came from Eleanor Roosevelt: *"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people."*



**Elleke Mesdag
Member Profile**
by Bayo Adanri

Elleke Mesdag was introduced to the Normal Rotary Club by the late Joe Van West in what Elleke called "Dutch connection" referring to their roots in the Netherlands. Elleke's husband was a member of the Normal Rotary Club before he passed in the 1970s. In those days women were denied membership in Rotary. Elleke went into nursing after the death of her husband and worked for BroMenn for 15 years before she retired. Elleke has five children, 15 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She enjoys the Wednesday noon fellowship. She regrets not being able to volunteer for most projects but she provides support in other ways. She considers the Normal Rotary Club a welcoming club; "I was overwhelmed by the welcome I received at my first Rotary meeting following my hip surgery". I feel so welcomed and appreciated". Elleke is 85 years old young and a Paul Harris Fellow with one stone.

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois -
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