



The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

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

Normal Rotary Website: <http://www.normalrotary.org/>

District 6490 Website: <http://rotarydistrict6490.org/> (The District Newsletter is on the left side of the main page)

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Meet at ISU Bone Student Center

Greeters: Linda Healy & Scott Ice

Lottery: Angie Bubon & Bill Caisley

Program: Coach Jim Collie Vocational Service Award & Hall of Honor

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Meet ISU Bone Student Center

Greeters: Gene Jontry & Mark Jontry

Lottery: Alan Chapman & Andy Copenhaver

Program: Installation of 2018-2019 Officers & Board; Jack Wilz Public Health & Safety Award



Reporter: Bruce Bergethon	Photographer: Larissa McIlvain & Becky Goeckner	Editor: Becky Goeckner
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Two pigs, three goats, four heifers, some Jersey calves and more than five dozen humans – 39 Rotarians and numerous guests – gathered under the trees at the Ropp Farm for our annual Rural Urban Night. Ray Ropp welcomed us all to the farm, and brought us into a circle behind the heifers, whose merits we were to judge for this year's Animal Contest. Ray's third cousins Joe and Micah Mohr were in charge of the cows. Joe patiently explained the judging criteria to the crowd, with factors including back structure, feet set, and muscle vs. fat in the hindquarters. He must have done a good job, because there were nine winners of the judging contest this year, by far the highest in this reporter's memory.



After an introductory prayer, Ray invited us to the table, with food prepared by son Ken Ropp and farm manager Tony Wingert, including Ropp Farm Cheese, of course. Some Rotarians toured the new cheese production facility, which will triple output when it goes online. As we sat down to dinner, we sang a Happy Birthday (45th) to Becky Ropp.

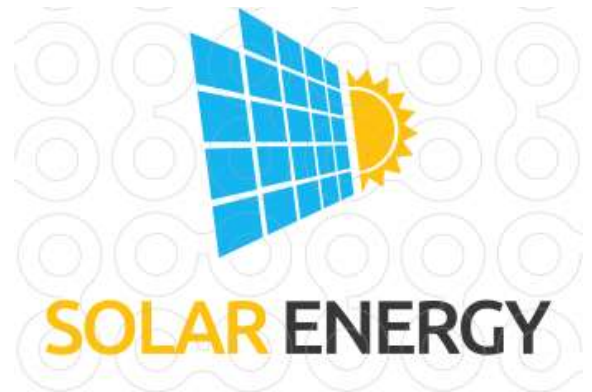
After dinner, we went around the tables introducing ourselves. There were many visitors; some from abroad - Becky Goeckner had a guest from Puerto Rico/Iowa, Drake Zimmerman and Jan Elflin a pair from France and New Zealand, and some from other Rotary clubs, including PDG Larry Pennie, with incoming District Governor Arlene Pennie, and future DG Julie Dobski with her husband Bob.



Fabiola Acevedo



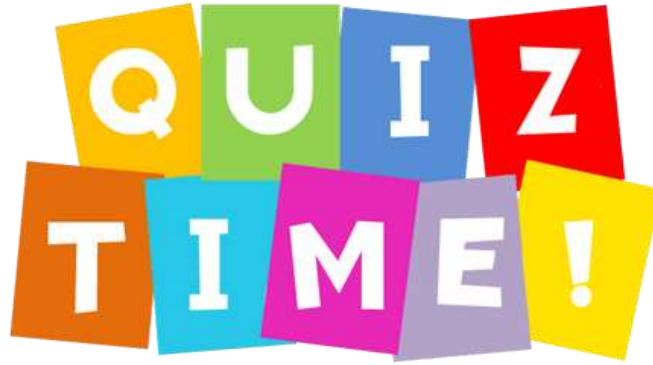
President Hank Campbell made an announcement about the Ponce, Puerto Rico project that has been discussed since the September 20, 2017 hurricane devastation of the island. Five clubs, including one in Ponce, will partner to create a solar power solution to the electrical outages at a community center in Ponce. The El Vigia Club in Ponce and District 7000 have committed a total of \$6,000 to the project. The remaining amount that needs to be raised is \$20,000, which when divided among the four U.S. clubs gives us a goal of raising \$5,000. Hank hoped that this might be achieved before the end of his administration. Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to the Normal Rotary Foundation. For more information, contact either Hank or Becky Goeckner.



Dr. Rodney Johnson

Program: The evening's speaker was Dr. Rodney Johnson, the new department chair of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Johnson grew up on a fifth generation farm near Galesburg, went to Truman State University, then to the U of I and Iowa State. He described today as a very exciting time to be involved in the teaching of Animal Sciences, because of the need to 1) increase food production for growing worldwide populations, 2) meet the likely demand for higher animal protein consumption as developing countries (especially China) develop middle-classes, and 3) respond to consumer interest in more sustainable and transparent practices in animal husbandry. Johnson said that 2/3 of the world population is "food insecure," (underfed or starving).

The U of I department of Animal Sciences has 32 tenured faculty, and over 500 students, of whom nearly 80% are female. Most of the students start out interested in veterinary science or practice with companion animals, not in food production or agricultural applications.

The logo for "Quiz Time!" features the word "QUIZ" in the top row and "TIME!" in the bottom row. Each letter is contained within a colorful, slightly tilted rectangular block. The colors for "QUIZ" are yellow, green, blue, and red. The colors for "TIME!" are orange, cyan, magenta, light purple, and yellow.

We had our chance to show our own level of knowledge through Ray's traditional "Agriculture Quiz." Ray took us through the answers to questions ranging from the identification of the largest international buyer of US ethanol, what state has the highest milk production per cow, and what my true love gave to me on the ninth day of Christmas (not sure how that one got in there.) Of the 27 questions, the highest score was 17 right which suggests that the quiz (as usual) is even more difficult than succeeding in agriculture. On the more hopeful side, we did have nine winners of the heifer judging contest, including Fabiola Acevedo (Becky's guest), Gordy Ropp, Gordon Bidner, Larissa McIlvain, Drake Zimmerman, Richard Bell (Drake's guest), Josanne Johnson, Larry Pennie and Phares O'Daffer.

It was a fine evening, and we thank the entire Ropp family for making it possible and enjoyable!

*Thank
You!*

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