



## 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 13, 2018 – No Noon Meeting**

Rural-Urban Night at Ray & Carol Ropps – 6:00 p.m.

**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



<b>Reporter:</b> Bruce Bergethon	<b>Photographer:</b> Sherry Hawkins	<b>Editor:</b> Becky Goeckner
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We were onstage for our annual meeting in Braden Auditorium! President Hank Campbell opened the meeting at 12:16. We had no amplification, which was perhaps a mercy for the version of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," which followed an invocation by Bill Semlak. The President's comment that "like a chess game, we had two Bishops (John A. and John E.) selling raffle tickets" was slightly more smile-inducing.

Hank welcomed back former NRC member Pamela Sweetwood, who was happy to greet old friends. Pamela is still at Heartland Community College, and couldn't believe it had been five years since she had seen many of us.



Surinder Sethi & Elleke Mesdag

It was Surinder Sethi On Stage Day, too, as our PDG was the **Mystery Host**. He awarded the \$2 bill to Elleke Mesdag, noting that she had bid for a Rotary clock he brought back from Nepal, which "might need batteries soon." Seconds later, Surinder had the winning raffle ticket for the \$14 pot. He promptly donated the money back to Coats for Kids. Unfortunately, the Sethi magic did not extend to the Big Pot, which rolled over to more than \$320 after Surinder drew the Queen of Clubs.



Surinder Sethi

The aforementioned **Judge** John E. Bishop presided, acknowledging happy fines from:

- Drake Zimmerman, celebrating the return of Honorary Iowan Pamela Sweetwood.
- Linda Healy, with a commercial for WGLT's Summer Concert on Saturday
- Becky Goeckner, preemptively happy for the Pantagraph report of Gene and Diane Jontry's 50th wedding anniversary
- Bill Semlak, who was impendingly happy about his daughter Julie's visit (from Ohio)
- Bill Rolley, who was retroactively happy about his children's' visit (from California)



John E. Bishop



Drake Zimmerman



Linda Healy



Becky Goeckner



Bill Semlak

**Auction:** after some announcements (see below), Gordy Ropp was wheeled to center stage (he explained that he will be in a chair for the next several months). He then told a joke about The Fridge, Jim McMahon and prayer. After that, he had the June birthday members stand to hear a truly disastrous rendition of "Happy Birthday." Luckily, the auction went better, with a parade of comestibles and intoxicants:

- Elleke Mesdag won a bottle of Merlot
- Bill Rolley bid highest for a bottle of Cabernet
- Ryan Fleming will celebrate his own birthday with Bullitt Bourbon
- President Hank and Linda Healy will share 4 bags of Garlic Press popcorn

#### **Announcements:**

- President Hank Campbell congratulated to Jason Chambers on his appointment as a Circuit Judge effective July 21st, and expressed the hope he will continue as one of our valued members.
- Rural-Urban Night at the Ropp family farm, June 13th at 6:00, featuring dinner, a speaker, and the Ag Quiz. No noon meeting that day.
- Get your tickets for the Bloomington Rotary Pork Chop Day, June 14, 10-1pm.
- Tickets still available for the Rotary excursion to see the Cubs play the Cards in St. Louis June 17th. Game time is 7:00 PM.
- Rotary International Conference in Toronto, Canada, June 23-27th. The annual conferences are fabulous experiences. Over 30,000 of your closest Rotarian friends will be there. We may have over 20 members from B-N attending.
- Installation of Normal Rotary Clubs' New officers and Board Members is June 27, 2018.
- Friends Forever International delegation arrives July 5th. NRC visit tentatively set for July 18th.



President Hank gave Fred Hahn a chance to update us on the Cogs and Corsets event last weekend in downtown Bloomington. Fred (not in costume this week) said the weekend was a success, described his enjoyment of shepherding 47 children through a balloon race, and vowed that next year's steampunk extravaganza will be "even better."



Fred Hahn

### Program: Normal Rotary 2017-2018

President Hank Campbell gave an end of year review that he titled "Normal Rotarians, Making a Difference." He began with a note of sadness for the loss of Ron Pacha and Don Rutledge, as well as the transfers out of the Club by Mike Petrini and Todd Anderson. We did gain six new members.



Over \$100,000 was raised in District 6490 for polio eradication this year. We are moving closer to our Rotary International objective, with only 22 cases in 2017. Locally, the Normal Club raised \$3,900 from Oktoberfest and \$22,000 through poinsettia sales, which was spread out over a variety of activities, including Friends Forever (\$3000 support in the 6th year for this Peace project); Oakdale Elementary Promise Council (\$1100 helping kids and teachers be successful); Scholarships and luncheon (\$7000 for seven high school students); Heartland Community College (\$1000 for a bench and tree on the campus quad); Children's Discovery Museum (\$2500 for the successful Pollinator Project); and support for a Global Malaria Project (over \$1000.)

In addition, the Club raised more than \$11,500 for Coats For Kids, providing 500 coats plus gloves, mittens and hats. We donated dozens of books plus about \$300 to Star Literacy. We marched in 2 parades showing our Rotary presence to the B-N community. The One-on-One Veterans Dinner had several hundred attendees. And we volunteered for Cajun Craze with Daybreak Rotary, raising \$6000 to help support Friends Forever.

After President Hank's presentation, he asked for comments or additional questions. Dick Wagner testified to the appreciation at Oakdale School for Normal Rotary's effective work with the Promise Council, and Drake Zimmerman reported on the progress internationally of Rotary efforts to combat malaria, and thanked the NRC for its support.

**Hanks' Thought for the Day** (in honor of Illinois' recent passage of the ERA): *"Men - their rights and nothing more; Women - their rights and nothing less."* - Susan B. Anthony

### Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, June 13 – Rural Urban Night at the Ropp's; 6:00; No noon meeting that day  
Sunday, June 17 – St. Louis, Cubs vs. Cardinals

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