



The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

August 8, 2018 Volume No. 70 Issue No. 5

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, August 15, 2018- Meeting at the Alumni Center

Greeters: Jim Rosenlund & Art Runyon

Lottery: Linda Healy & Scott Ice

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

Greeters: Dianne Schultz & Bill Semlak

Lottery: Gene Jontry & Mark Jontry



Reporter: Dianne Schultz	Photographer: Fred Hahn	Editor: Becky Goeckner
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President Sherry Hawkins convened the meeting of the Normal Rotary Club, on August 8, 2018. Bill Semlak provided the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a chorus of "My Country 'Tis of Thee". Appreciation was expressed to Ray Ropp for serving as the Greeter for the meeting, and Greg Anvick for his assistance with the Lottery. Dianne Schultz (Reporter) and Fred Hahn (Photographer) will document the proceedings of today's meeting, with Becky Goeckner continuing to serve as the Editor of The Spoke newsletter.



Sandy Bush & Gene Gudeman

There were no visiting Rotarians at today's meeting. Club member Gene Gudeman introduced his guest, Sandy Bush, and President Sherry Hawkins introduced her husband CJ and both of her daughters who were in attendance as guests for the meeting.



CJ Hawkins & daughters

In honor of our guest speaker today, President Sherry shared some fun facts about Puerto Rico highlighting the beautiful climate, rainforest, and fabulous food of that country.

John E. Bishop served as **Judge**, with Kathy Alexander as **Mystery Host** bestowing the \$2 bill to John A. Bishop for assisting her with finding the entrance and "path" to the meeting location today. Greg Anvick was the lucky winner of the Lottery daily winnings (\$11), but his luck ran out when he failed to draw the Ace of Spades for the big money!



Kathy Alexander & John A. Bishop



John E. Bishop & Greg Anvick

Happy Fines: We had several Happy Fine offerings, with Kathy Alexander sharing the story of the \$2.4 million charitable gift left to Evenglow by a very generous donor. Hank Campbell shared happiness over visiting his son, and a \$74 "Birthday gift" given by Hank to the Foundation since he missed last week's club meeting and the Birthday Auction. Linda Healy shared encouraging news of her husband's successful prostate surgery, and Bill Semlak expressed his happiness that his wife's recovery from a heart attack continued to be progressing positively. Drake Zimmerman was particularly happy that his Zoning Board hearing finally concluded at 12:30am the previous evening, and that he is receiving solar panels on his house....Drake also suggested that some Ropp Cheese might be a nice thing to have available as our club members travel through the maze to our meeting location each week.

Announcements:

- A Rotary Leadership Institute will take place at Richland Community College on August 18th. Hank Campbell will be attending.
- Hank updated the Club on the status of the Harmony Park project, and the solicitation of all five local rotary clubs to support that fundraising effort. So far, Hank has gotten commitments from 4 of the 5 local Rotary clubs to participate. Hank will be providing assistance to all participating clubs to apply for District 6490 matching Foundation grants, which could then bring the total funds donated to the Harmony Park Project to around \$20,000. The Sunrise Rotary Club will also be arranging for a Jack Lewis Jeweler's charitable fundraiser to raise additional \$\$\$ for the Harmony Project.
- Linda Healy reminded the group that there would be a short meeting today after the regular meeting to brainstorm some future service projects for the club.
- Bill Semlak announced that our stretch of Adopt-A-Highway by the Yuton Elevators is in need of some attention. He will be asking for some "roadside assistance" to clean up that area on Saturday August 18th at 9am.
- Scott Ice reminded members to be prepared to sign-up for volunteer shifts for the Oktoberfest event on September 22nd. Scott would like to see 3 volunteers scheduled at each gate entrance, for 2 hour shifts. He will send out a Sign Up Genius email to members, and will also have a paper sign-up sheet available at the next meeting. NOTE: Anyone who might be aware where the banners from last year's event might be stored should contact Sherry or Scott.
- John A. Bishop reminded us that the Veteran's Day 1-to-1 Celebration will be held on November 8th this year, at the Doubletree Hotel. The guest speaker for this year's event will be the Commanding General of ground troops in Korea.
- **ALERT! ALERT!! Next week's meeting (August 15th) location will be at the ISU Alumni Center, so we will not conflict with the herd of students (and traffic) returning to campus.**

Guest Speaker: Becky Goeckner introduced our Guest Speaker, Fabiola Acevedo, who is from Puerto Rico. Becky promised us last week that this would be a special guest speaker to hear, and she was absolutely right! Fabiola has a very close relationship with Becky, as Becky first met Fabiola's family in 1991 on a Peoria Charter Bus from O'Hare Airport arriving in Bloomington-Normal. The family had a mix-

up with room reservations, and Becky and her husband offered assistance and actually ended up hosting the family overnight at their home. Fabiola attends Iowa State in the Pre-Vet program, and has been doing an internship at Becky's husband's animal hospital this summer. Fabiola has been living with Becky's family this summer, which has been a source of real joy for all! Fabiola will be finishing her Bachelor's this May, and is in the process of applying for admittance to a Veterinary program.



Fabiola Acevedo & Becky Goeckner



Fabiola was a wonderful speaker, and used her personal experience and photos of her home region in Ponce, Puerto Rico, to share the status of that area post-hurricane Maria. Fabiola shared how thousands of people are still without power on the island, and how the economy continues to struggle with the loss of crops/tillable farmland and the destruction of many businesses in the region. In the area of Fabiola's home, her family was without power from September thru March, with power actually being restored to that area by a volunteer electric crew from Nebraska. Fabiola shared her emotions of how since she was attending college here in the States, she did not hear from her family for almost a month after the hurricane, due to the devastation of communication systems and lack of available electricity. She was greatly relieved to hear that her family did not experience the loss of life that others have suffered! The inability of the United States government to provide more adequate and timely assistance has been extremely disappointing and discouraging, but the resilience of the people of Puerto Rico has been reported by many who have been to the area as volunteers or travelers.

The Normal Rotary Club has a joint solar energy project in progress with the El Vigia Rotary Club in Ponce. A solar system is to be installed at Centro Ferrán, a 49-yr. old non-profit community center that serves 5,000+ low income inhabitants. We have been invited to visit the solar project upon its completion!

An excellent documentary by PBS and Frontline, on Puerto Rico and the blackout caused by Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017 can be found at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/blackout-in-puerto-rico/>

Sherry's Thought for the Day came from a new client's t shirt, it read:

"It is never wrong to stand up for what is right".



Fabiola Acevedo stayed after the meeting to talk with members and to answer additional questions.

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761
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