



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, October 17, 2018

Greeters: Bruce Bergethon & Gordon Bidner

Lottery: Carson Varner & Iris Varner

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Greeters: John A. Bishop & John E. Bishop

Lottery: Dick Wagner & Rod Weigelmann



Reporter: Bruce Bergethon

Photographer: Larissa McIlvain

Editor: Becky Goeckner



Sherry Hawkins

We had a great off-site meeting at the Hammitt Junior/Senior High School building of the Baby Fold, catered by Kelly's Bakery & Café and hosted by our own Dianne Schultz. President Sherry Hawkins opened the meeting at 12:05. Gene Jontry gave the invocation, and we matched the beautiful acoustics of the room with a rousing version of "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Guests today included Miranda Johns-Cummings, an associate of Ryan Fleming, who introduced and hosted her. There were numerous Baby Fold staff members in attendance, too; Aimee Beam, Development Director; Rebecca Harmaker, executive assistant to Dianne Schultz; Norris Porter, Associate Development Director for Major Gifts (and cheerful parking lot director prior to the meeting); and Laura Beavers, coordinator for the Healthy Start program that was the subject of our meeting.



Miranda Johns-Cummings



Aimee Beam



Rebecca Harmaker



Norris Porter

Two of our **Students of the Month** joined us, and reported on their extra-curricular activities. Ryan Fleming introduced Mariama Mwilambwe from NCHS, who is active as a Sunday School teacher at Eastview Christian Church, and in the anti-racist organization Not in Our School at Normal Community. Bill Semlak greeted Parker Mathieson from U High, who is busy with both baseball and (currently) football, after which he intends to join the U High Business Club.



Laura Beavers



Mariama Mwilambwe



Parker Mathieson

President Sherry, chastened by criticism of last week's jokes, instead gave us some facts about the day in history, including the introduction of the first telegraph line (1863, in Denver), the opening of the Panama Canal (1911), and the reassembly/reopening of the London Bridge (1971, in Lake Havasu City, AZ.)



Linda Healy

We had no lottery. However, fill-in **Judge** Linda Healy asked for the **Mystery Host**, who was Dianne Schultz. Dianne happily praised Dale Strassheim, former CEO of the Baby Fold, for his vision and energy in the remodeling of the building in which we were sitting. (She also gave him the \$2 bill.)



Dale Strassheim

Judge Linda then began the **happy fines** with an announcement about her new job as Development Director at McLean County Habitat for Humanity, beginning November 1. Other happy fines came from Dale Strassheim, "happy to be back home;" Bill Semlak, inviting us to join him for the School of Communication tailgate at ISU Homecoming; Art Drake, who extolled the GLT trip to London, from which he had recently returned; Iris Varner, who had recently enjoyed a reunion with a former (1989) student from Paris; Hank Campbell, who announced that all 5 Rotary Clubs had received a District grant for their collective participation in the Harmony Park project, and was also anticipating a two week trip to Croatia; Dick Wagner, tendering a \$25 payment for getting "this close" to a hole-in-one during a recent round of golf; and Dianne Schultz, who returned from her annual fishing trip in Wisconsin ("extremely cold" this time), with two Northern muskies to her credit.



Dale Strassheim



Bill Semlak



Art Drake



Iris Varner



Hank Campbell



Dianne Schultz

Announcements and Club News:



Becky Goeckner

1. The District Conference is October 19th and 20th at the Doubletree. Becky Goeckner reminded everyone that attendance at District Conference meals is a great way to participate, even if you can't attend the entire 2-day Conference. Tickets for the meals can be purchased separately.
2. John E. Bishop is looking for Student of the Month hosts for January through April
3. Marcia passed around a sign-up sheet for the Veterans One-On-One, November 8th.
4. Art Drake again reminded us of the Schnucks program which benefits the Normal Rotary Foundation
5. President Sherry let everyone know, on behalf of Andy Copenhaver, that "he has not forgotten," and in fact will be at the meeting next week to hand out tickets for this year's poinsettia sales.



Art Drake



Program: Dianne Schultz gave us a little history of the building in which we were meeting, originally part of the "Soldiers and Sailors" orphanage, then a staff building for the Baby Fold in the 1980. Needs to expand the programming of Hammit Junior and Senior High School, particularly services to those on the autism spectrum, led to the purchase of the building from the Town of Normal in 2000, with remodeling and renovation of the building completed in 2002.



Dianne Schultz

The Baby Fold serves students with a variety of challenges, from public school districts within a 60 mile radius, from 28 counties. One of Dianne's "favorite programs" (although she says they are all important) is Healthy Start, a program designed to prevent and protect pre-school children from abuse and neglect, in situations that may involve domestic violence, substance abuse and poverty – or some combination of those risk factors. In many cases, the clients are identified by the McLean County Health Department in a way that allows Healthy Start to begin intervention with moms pre-natally. The program gets funding from United Way and various state agencies, and the Baby Fold has established a 1.4 million dollar endowment to sustain the program.



Laura Beavers

Dianne introduced Laura Beavers, who coordinates the Healthy Start program. She said Healthy Start served 77 families last year, and will have the capacity in future to serve up to 130. They track the progress of client families for two to five years, and report an extraordinary average success rate of 92%. There were a variety of questions, including what kind of donations are accepted. Laura said money is of course important (much of it raised by the upcoming Festival of Trees), but donations also include volunteer participation in activities, household items, and “diapers – lots of diapers!”



President Sherry Hawkins' Thought for the Day:

“Do not think lightly of good, that nothing will come of it. A whole water pot will fill up from dripping drops of water.” --Gautama Buddha

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