



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 24, 2018

Greeters: John A. Bishop & John E. Bishop

Lottery: Dick Wagner & Rod Weigelmann

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

Greeters: Nancy Brokaw & Dayna Brown-Nielsen

Lottery: Matt Wyss & Drake Zimmerman



Reporter: Bruce Bergethon

Photographer: Larissa McIlvain & Art Drake

Editor: Becky Goeckner



Sherry Hawkins

We were back in the Bone Student Center, and President Sherry Hawkins opened the meeting at 12:05. Bill Semlak gave the invocation, and we seemed to have our groove back for a fine rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

President Sherry, noting that "the world is so full of bad and depressing news lately," elected to use her first two minutes for a good news story. She told us about a couple in Fargo, ND, who own a pizza restaurant. Soon after opening it, they began offering pizza to homeless people that they observed, and even posted a sign on their dumpster offering pizza and water to those who were going through the trash. Says owner Mike Stevens, "We just do it because it seems like the right thing to do."

Alan Chapman introduced his guest, Beth Whisman, Cultural Arts Director for the Town of Normal, and a potential member. Rotarian guests today included our two speakers, Camille Yameen from the Peoria North Club and Carol Merna from the Downtown Peoria Club.

Students of the Month spoke about their most meaningful service experiences. Mariama Mwilambwe from NCHS reported on a trip to Haiti, and working on food drives at her church. Parker Mathieson from U High has volunteered with the Miracle League of Central Illinois. Matthew Trimble of the BACC has been a Police Explorer in Minier, and has helped out at the local animal shelter. They sound just like Rotarians!



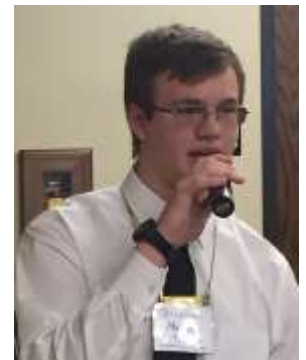
Alan Chapman & Beth Whisman



Mariama Mwilambwe



Parker Mathieson



Matthew Trimble



Larissa McIlvain

Judge Larissa McIlvain called for the **Mystery Host**. Ryan Fleming rewarded new member (and his very own recruit!) Miranda Johns-Cummings with the \$2 bill. The **lottery** was \$15, and was won by John A. Bishop. John unfortunately drew the 2 of Diamonds, thus rolling the \$535 big pot over to our next meeting.



Ryan Fleming & Miranda Johns-Cummings

Judge Larissa then fined both Art Runyon and Dick Wagner for a lengthy article in the Pantagraph about Art's continuing participation, into his 90s, in the PGA (Preacher's Golf Association.) Neither Art nor Dick, his frequent golfing partner, had found a way to work their active Rotarian status into the story about active golfing. There were also a few happy fines from Linda Healy (brief, and involving vacation in Milwaukee) and Bruce Bergethon (less brief, and describing Irving Berlin.)



Dick Wagner, John A. Bishop & Art Runyon



Linda Healy



Bruce Bergethon

Announcements and Club News:

1. The District Conference was upcoming, featuring some spectacular silent auction packages from Surinder Sethi and Marcia Dennis, both displayed at the head table.
2. John A. Bishop passed a sign-up sheet for the 5-club Veterans One-On-One event to be held November 8th at The Double Tree



John A. Bishop





3. As promised last week, Andy Copenhaver was on hand to pass out order form tickets for this year's poinsettia sales. He urged us all to try and surpass champion salesperson Alan Chapman. Remember, poinsettia sales fund a variety of commendable Club projects.



Andy Copenhaver



Program: We had two representatives of the Center for Prevention of Abuse. With six locations in Peoria, the CPA is the only agency in Illinois sanctioned to provide combined services in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, human trafficking, adult protective services, and prevention education. Our educational program, primarily presented by (Director for Marketing and Communications) Camille Yameen, focused on human trafficking.



Camille Yameen

Camille told us that Illinois is ranked 11th in the US for human trafficking incidence; she defined trafficking as the use of "force, fraud or coercion to exploit people for labor or commercial sexual activity." Noting that 1 in 4 trafficking survivors are children, and that trafficking is profitable because of the "resale" possibilities of its human victims, she claimed that "there are now more people in slavery than at any time in human history."

Trafficking is sometimes involved with the smuggling of humans, but does not necessarily involve transport of victims, many of whom may be "local" to where their coerced activities occur. In the state of Illinois, the top "venues" for labor trafficking are traveling sales crews, domestic work, agriculture, begging rings and retail. In commercial sex trafficking, the venues include hotels/motels, residence-based (brothels), illicit massage parlors, escort services and online.



Carol Merna

The "clients" of the Center for Prevention for Abuse are typically not self-identified as trafficking victims, but are referred or identified by the FBI, local law enforcement or medical personnel. Victim needs include immediate assistance with housing, medical issues and legal services, as well as longer-term mental health and financial issues.

Since the Human Trafficking Office of the CPA opened in January 2018, they have assisted 30 individuals; none of the traffickers have currently been prosecuted. According to Executive Director Carol Merna, trafficking is one of the most difficult crimes to convict.

President Sherry Hawkins' Thought for the Day:

Native American words of wisdom:

*"Listen to the wind, it talks.
Listen to the silence, it speaks.
Listen to your heart, it knows."*

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