



## The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

October 124, 2018 Volume No. 70 Issue No. 16

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 31, 2018

Greeters: Nancy Brokaw & Dayna Brown-Nielsen

Lottery: Matt Wyss & Drake Zimmerman

### Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Greeters: Angie Bubon & Bill Caisley

Lottery: Kathy Alexander & Greg Anvick



<b>Reporter:</b> Bruce Bergethon	<b>Photographer:</b> Larissa McIlvain	<b>Editor:</b> Becky Goeckner
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Sherry Hawkins

President Sherry Hawkins opened the meeting at 12:05. Bill Semlak gave the invocation. We performed another good version of "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Sherry thanked the greeters, lottery ticket sellers and Spoke crew, especially Becky for "putting it all together."

Today's "good news" segment noted some environmental positives, including Pakistan's pledge to plant one billion new trees; Great Britain's 37% reduction of beachside plastic bag pollution since enacting a charge to shoppers for plastic bags; and the decision by the World Bank to cease all investments in fossil fuels by 2019.

**Guests** included Steve Rasmussen from the Bloomington Rotary Club, as well as Sandi Bidner and Kathie Chapman.

**Students of the Month** spoke about their "special interests." Mariama Mwilambwe from NCHS likes to read about the law, and "reading in general." Parker Mathieson from U-High is getting a head start on his intended business major at Central Michigan University by pursuing an independent study project examining the effect of the 2017 tax cuts on business and consumers.



Gordon & Sandi Bidner



Kathie & Alan Chapman



Mariama  
Mwilambwe



Parker Mathieson

Gordon Bidner made a special presentation to Alan and Kathie Chapman for their commitment and generosity in becoming Major Donors to the Rotary International Foundation. Gordon called attention to

Alan's work with poinsettia sales, student scholarships, District Conference administration, and fundraising for both Rotary and other organizations. In accepting the award, Alan, gracious as ever, said "Kathie and I don't need the recognition, but hope it encourages others to consider the RI Foundation as a worthy object of charitable giving." He cited the inspirational example of fellow NRC Major Donors: Gordon Bidner, Surinder Sethi, Dick Wagner and Drake Zimmerman.



Gordon Bidner



Kathie & Alan Chapman & Gordon Bidner



Alan Chapman



John E. Bishop

In an abbreviated Judicial Appearance, **Judge** John E. Bishop called for the **Mystery Host**.

It was Ray Ropp, who after considering the intense competition for "baldest Rotarian," elected to award the ducat to his "best-looking fraternity brother": Ryan Fleming.



Ray Ropp & Ryan Fleming

Alan Chapman won the \$17 **lottery**. Alan had his wife Kathie draw for the Ace of Spades in an attempt to win the big pot of \$557. Unfortunately, Kathie drew the King of Clubs. The pot rolls on again until next week!



Kathie Chapman

Judge John then noted that he had seen several other Rotarians at the EDC Dinner, but as far as he could tell, he was the only one sporting his Rotary Pin. He called for voluntary self-assessments, which came (in accord with the first principle of the Four Way Test) from Ryan Fleming, Surinder Sethi, and Stephanie McClellan.

#### Announcements and Club News:

1. President Sherry asked for feedback about last weekend's District 6490 Conference. Ray Ropp recommended considering a spring conference, observing that smaller rural club members were discouraged from fall attendance by football and harvest schedules. Gordon Bidner reported a good attendance at the conference's memorial service. District 6490 lost more than 40 members last year. Among those honored were our own George Houska, Ron Pacha and Don Rutledge. Drake Zimmerman said he had a special District Award in the front seat of his car, which he would reveal at next week's meeting.



Ray Ropp



Gordon Bidner



Drake Zimmerman

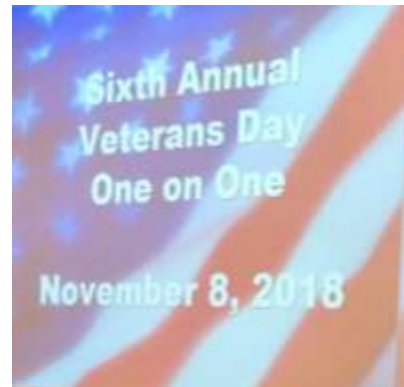
2. Andy Copenhaver passed out the remainder of the tickets for this year's poinsettia sales. He recommended making sales pitches to "your doctor and your dentist," and challenged us again to follow the lead of Alan Chapman, who is already off and running with 2018 sales.
3. Steve Rasmussen gave a "short program/long announcement" about the Veterans One-On-One, Nov. 8. He described why the event is on a Thursday this year, and at a different location (the Doubletree Hotel). Steve also spotlighted the featured speaker, 3 Star Army General (Ret.) Richard Timmons, whose last tour was as Commander In Chief of the Army forces in Korea.



Andy Copenhaver



Steve Rasmussen



4. We are changing the Birthday Auction to be a quarterly celebration instead of a monthly one. Each quarter will have a suggested theme and auction items to reflect the theme are encouraged. Let's see how creative we can be!

The next Birthday Auction will be in January 2019. Listed below is the schedule of birthdays being celebrated and the suggested theme for each quarter.

### January 2019

Theme: Super Bowl Ready

Celebrating:  
November, December and January Birthdays



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## April 2019

Theme: April Showers bring May Flowers

Celebrating:  
February, March and April birthdays



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## July 2019

Theme: Some like it HOT

Celebrating:  
May, June and July birthdays



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## October 2019

Theme: Falling for Fall

Celebrating:  
August, September and October birthdays



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### And lest we forget.....our November Birthdays

Vandana Naik 9

Gordon Bidner 28

Rod Weigelmann 29



### Program:



Dayna Brown-Nielsen

Dayna Brown-Nielsen introduced Raghela Scavuzzo. Since June 2017 Ms. Scavuzzo has been the Local Foods Program Manager for the Governmental Affairs and Commodities Department of the Illinois Farm Bureau. Ms. Scavuzzo, who double-majored in biochemistry and classics (Latin), attempted to translate the labelling on food packaging that we all encounter when shopping.



Raghela Scavuzzo

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Ms. Scavuzzo had distributed a variety of products at our tables for us to examine. We picked out a variety of terms, like “yummy” and (as Ray Ropp described it, the “mis-labeled product,”) “almond butter.” Raghela’s talk, however, focused on terms like “organic,” “natural,” “fair trade,” and “non-GMO.” She acknowledged the difficulty in figuring out what these words mean as far as food safety and agricultural practice.

For instance, there are three different certifications/labels used by the US Department of Agriculture to describe “organic” food, ranging from “100% Organic” to “Made with Organic Ingredients” (70%).



USDA labels require producers to pay a fee, and have their production processes audited. Other, peer-reviewed (and paid-for) labels that consumers may encounter on packaging include “Certified Naturally Grown,” “Transitional [to organic practices] Certified,” and “Regenerative Organic.” None of these are approved/certified by the USDA.

Terms such as “natural” or “non-GMO” are not federally regulated at all, and have a variety of meanings. Scavuzzo stated that many of these labels don’t really mean anything with regard to the safety of your food, which is guaranteed by other regulations. She advised reading the nutritional labels that are printed on the “other side” of food packaging, and getting to know your local farmer/producer as much as possible.

**President Sherry Hawkins’ Thought for the Day:**

*“May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.”*

-Nelson Mandela

### **Mystery Photo**

If know what the photo on the right is of...  
tell Becky Goeckner  
and receive a special  
Trick or Treat Reward



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 2018-2019  
 Barry Rassin  
 Member of the Rotary Club of Nassau, Bahamas

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