



## The Normal Spoke

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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 10, 2018 – Meeting at the Baby Fold

Greeters: Kathy Alexander & Greg Anvick

Lottery: David Taylor & Ron Timmerman

Program: Healthy Start

### Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Greeters: Bruce Bergethon & Gordon Bidner

Lottery: Carson Varner & Iris Varner



**Reporter:** Bruce Bergethon

**Photographer:** Larissa McIlvain

**Editor:** Becky Goeckner



Sherry Hawkins

We had a busy agenda and quite a few guests for our Club Business meeting on the first Wednesday of October.

President Sherry Hawkins opened the meeting at 12:06. Gordon Bidner gave a thoughtful invocation, but stepped back to perform a chaotically contrapuntal version of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," causing President Sherry to say "whoa" and "who led THAT?"



**Guests:** Guests today included the new President of Heartland Community College, Keith Cornille (hosted by Hank Campbell); Jeremy Struber of Advanced Training (introduced and hosted by Ryan Fleming); and Kris Kline from Mutual of Omaha Advisors (a guest of Sherry's, introduced by Stephanie McClellan.)



Hank Campbell & Keith Cornille



Jeremy Struber & Ryan Fleming



Kris Kline

Applause for our guests and prospective members turned to groans as President Sherry shared two bad jokes: "Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?" (*Because it is pointless.*) and "Did you hear about the crook who stole the calendar?" (*He got 12 months.*)

### Announcements and Club news:

- The District Conference is October 19th and 20th at the Doubletree in Bloomington

- On Wednesday, October 10, the NRC meets off-site, at the Baby Fold
- Scott Ice gave a brief report on the success of Oktoberfest – he had a check from Medici for \$2600, reported record attendance exceeding 3000, and thanked First Allied Securities, Heartland Bank, Pub II, and Commerce Bank for being sponsors, bringing the total accruing to the Club to about \$6000. Scott also commended Angie Bubon for her skill in conducting the “stein holding contest,” which Scott considered the highlight of the day’s activities.



Art Drake

- Art Drake reported on his attendance at the first meeting of the local Rotaract club, which he said was full of ideas and potential projects including a park in Havana (IL). Art also reminded us of the Schnucks program which benefits the Normal Rotary Foundation (“shop there!”, he urged)



We had our first batch of **Students of the Month** for the new school year. Ryan Fleming introduced Mariama Mwilambwe from NCHS, who is hoping to attend the U of I, double majoring in political science and French, on the way to law school. Matthew Trimble, from the Bloomington Area Career Center (and Normal West), was reintroduced by John E. Bishop; Matthew hopes for a career in local law enforcement after studying criminal justice at Western Illinois. Bill Semlak approvingly introduced scholar-athlete Parker Mathieson from U-High, who will be attending Central Michigan University, where he will study finance and play baseball.



Mariama Mwilambwe



John E. Bishop & Matthew Trimble



Parker Mathieson & Bill Semlak

### Two New Members:

Inducted into the Normal Rotary Club were Keith Cornille, an honorary member by virtue of his position as President at Heartland Community College, and Jack Moody, retired from the City of Bloomington and currently a pastor at Towanda Baptist Church. Dick Wagner did a thorough job in explaining the dimensions and objectives of Rotary to the inductees and the assembled guests, and also warned the new members not to leave their Rotary pins at home as they go out and about.



Hank Campbell, Keith Cornille, John E. Bishop, Jack Moody & Dick Wagner

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**Judge Bruce Bergethon** asked for the **Mystery Host**, who was Angie Bubon. She admitted that Ron Timmerman was “totally right” about the Oktoberfest merchandise (samples of which adorned our tables), and awarded him the \$2 bill. Judge Bruce then presided over the **Lottery**: A pot of \$21, won by Hank Campbell, who failed to duplicate his luck with the Big Pot, drawing the 7 of Clubs, rolling the Big Pot to over \$520.

Judge Bruce then drew the attention of the club to Drake Zimmerman, recognized the week before by the McLean County League of Women Voters with the Florence Fifer Bohrer Award for Community Service. The Club gave Drake a standing ovation, and many voluntary happy fines for having Drake in the Club were tendered.



Bruce Bergethon



Angie Bubon  
& Ron Timmerman



Hank Campbell



Drake Zimmerman

We skipped additional happy fines in order to accommodate a series of reports about signature Club activities from the chairs of their respective committees:

1. Connie Gentry spoke about Coats for Kids. Created ten years ago, the program has built up a reserve of coats for needy kids at most of the schools in Unit 5 and District 87. Connie has worked successfully to get good prices on the coats – an average of \$18 for kids’ sizes and \$20 for adult garments – with consistent financial support from Meijers among others. Last year 554 coats were purchased, with an added focus on including Ridgeview School. Connie noted that the coats acquired are diverse in style and color, in order to avoid a specific “look” of the garments provided to kids. Scott Ice, as a new Club member, commended Connie and asked how other admirers of her work can meaningfully help her out. Connie, who had earlier acknowledged the importance of Dayna Brown-Nielsen’s contributions, admitted that she’s not that “skillful at delegation,” but vowed to let us know what we might do to make Coats for Kids even more successful.
2. Bill Semlak talked about Adopt a Highway. It’s a County program to periodically clean sections of highway with volunteer labor, and the Normal Club has for a number of years been responsible for a 2-mile stretch of road near the Yuton Elevator, in the northwest corner of Normal. Four times a year, our group picks up trash along the road, recycling the cans and bottles later. When Bill asked how many members had helped, many hands went up. Bill particularly enjoys when Rotaract or student groups like Friends Forever participate in the day’s activity; he cited an image of ISU President (and Normal Rotary Club member) Larry Dietz, walking alongside a student as both cleaned the highway.
3. John A. Bishop described Veterans One-on-One, which is coming up on Thursday, November 8 at the Doubletree Ballroom. This will be the sixth year for the program, which John said is “not a fundraiser, it’s a gratitude event” to thank veterans for their service. Each attending Rotarian brings a veteran and pays for their meal; spouses and significant others are welcome, although they are also requested to sponsor a veteran. If you don’t know a veteran, you can be matched with one! Thanks to the participation of Golden Kiwanis and with a special solicitation of veterans at Westminster Village, the attendance at Veterans One-on-One has grown from about 170 to an expected-over-250 this year. This year’s special guest speaker is a Korean war veteran and retired Army Lieutenant General Richard F. Timmons.



Connie Gentry



Bill Semlak



John A. Bishop

Larissa McIlvain announced some changes to the **Birthdays Auction**. It is being proposed to the NRC Board that future auctions to take place quarterly rather than every month. Gordie Ropp then led us in singing Happy Birthday to this month's birthday celebrants – Ron Timmerman, Drake Zimmerman, Tom Gibson, Linda Healy, Angie Bubon and Rob Cranston. A brief but spirited auction followed, with Gordie matching up the following goodies with successful bidders:

- A six pack of New Glarus beer (Bruce Bergethon)
- Cinnamon bread from Great Harvest (Art Drake)
- Cinnamon crunch bread from Great Harvest (Elleke Mesdag)
- "Sheep Thrills" Pinot Grigio (Bill Caisley)
- Honey made by Drake Zimmerman from "horse-something-or-other" with help from bees (Art Drake, Nancy Brokaw and President Sherry)



Sherry Hawkins & Gordie Ropp

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

*"The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. If you travel too fast, you will miss all you are traveling for."*  
--Louis L'Amour

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