



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)

Wish our Members with December Birthdays a Happy Birthday!

Dayna Brown-Nielsen	2
Andy Copenhaver	4
Lindsey Smith	9
Gene Gudeman	10
Bill Caisley	19
Miranda Johns-Cummings	21
Radha Radhakrishnan	25



Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – No Noon Meeting



ISU Hancock Stadium Room

Starts at 5:30 p.m. with some social time followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. with Music by local talent Leah Marlene and Table Trivia.



Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Greeters: Ryan Fleming & Connie Gentry

Lottery: Alan Chapman & Andy Copenhaver

Reporter: Jack Moody

Photographer: Art Drake

Editor: Becky Goeckner



Sherry Hawkins

We were once again back in the ISU Bone Student Center Circus Room. President Sherry Hawkins rang the bell at 12:05 p.m. and asked that everyone greet each other. Dale Strassheim gave the invocation, which was followed by the club facing the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a resounding chorus of "My Country 'Tis of Thee".

President Sherry said "no bad joke was good enough for today", so....



For Happy News:

President Sherry shared good news about the Republic of Congo which has just created its fifth ever national park – and with conservationists celebrating the recent rebound of a critically endangered gorilla species in a neighboring park, the new patch of protected land is expected to help dozens more struggling wildlife species which covers over 860,000 acres. The park, which offers some of the greatest biodiversity within the Congo, is home to mandrills, forest elephants, forest buffalos, orangutans, and a diverse plant population.



(Photo of actual gorillas who live in the Congo national park) Note no Rotary pin!

And...

President Sherry also shared that a team of nurses were lucky enough to have a winning ticket in their NICU's lottery pool. Instead of dividing up the cash, the staffers decided to pool their money again and give all the winnings to two nurses going through heartbreak. After taxes, their share of \$1.6 M came to \$7,200. Post, who is a nurse at Mercy's, had been grieving the loss of her 17 year old son who tragically took his own life on the evening of the lottery drawing. The check that she received from her adoring co-workers ended up paying for the young man's funeral. The second check went to neonatologist Orellana who had been struggling to make ends meet since her husband was diagnosed with sarcoma earlier in the year.

Announcements:



Gordon Bidner

- Birthday baby today is Gordon Bidner who asked that one more round of singing "Happy Birthday to You" could be done today, considering his age, and all. The club obliged.
- The club celebrated the return of Adanri Bayo in attendance today! (You thought we did not notice you!!)
- Andy Copenhaver reminded everyone about poinsettias orders. December 7th is delivery at the Chateau Hotel on Veterans Parkway. Help is needed on Friday and Saturday. Please let Andy know if you can be there!



Our Holiday Party is Wed. December 5th at the ISU Hancock Stadium Room. At 5:30 p.m. there will be time to socialize which will be followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. Music will be provided by local talent Leah Marlene and there will also be table trivia. RSVP Dayna Brown-Nelson at (309) 261-4089 Or email Dayna at shoeless28@yahoo.com by December 1st. Cost is \$30/person.

Vegetarian and gluten-free entrees available by request. (There is no Noon meeting that day.)

November Students of the Month addressed the club with their impressions from their weekly visits:

Calis Lim shared that her past three weeks at Rotary has taught her to be impressed with tradition; she loves the truth of the Rotary 4-Way Test; and hopes to follow in the footsteps of how Rotary strives to help others around the world. She said she hopes to one day join Rotary!

Addie Smith shared that Rotary International truly does world- wide good, as she has learned, and thanked the club for how welcome she has been made to feel each week. She likes the community involvement of the club. She also hopes to one day join Rotary!



Calis Lim



Addie Smith



Art Drake & Sherry Hawkins

Art Drake was the **Mystery Host**. Art gave the \$2.00 bill to President Sherry as a reward for volunteering to take photos of the upcoming poinsettia distribution. Thank you Sherry!!

Judge David Taylor drew a red **Lottery** ticket held by Ryan Fleming with today's pot of \$21.00. Ryan drew the seven of Diamonds. Maybe next week, after all there are only 15 cards left to choose from! The big pot was \$638.



Ryan Fleming

Happy Fines:

- Dick Wagner reported that Gordon Ropp came through hip replacement surgery yesterday okay. Dick stopped by to see him at Advocate Bro-Menn. Gordon is doing well and should be released from the hospital tomorrow.
- Becky Goeckner reported that a nice Thanksgiving week visit with her "adopted" Puerto Rican granddaughter was wonderful. And despite the blizzard causing Fabiola's departure to be delayed a day, she made it home safely to Ames, Iowa and Iowa State University.
- Bill Semlak reported about a great Thanksgiving dinner at his church last week.
- Hank Campbell reported that his wife, Mary's birthday is also today, November 28th!



Dick Wagner



Becky Goeckner



Bill Semlak



Hank Campbell

- And Carson Varner reported that his brother (also named Gordon) has a birthday today too! That's how he remembered that today is also Gordon Bidner's birthday.



Carson Varner (I couldn't decide which photo to use.)

Special Round-Table Program:

Everyone joined a table and discussed with fellow Rotarians:

- Why did you join Rotary?
- What is your favorite Rotary experience?
- What is your favorite Rotary fundraiser?
- What is your favorite project ever?
- What would you like to see more of?
- What topics would be good to get a speaker on?
- What 3 things in life are most important to you?

President Sherry asked that any notes taken at each table be turned in to her please; for program topics, etc.



President Sherry Hawkins' Thought for the Day:

*"When everything seems to be going against you,
remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it".
from Henry Ford*

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

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Alexander, Kathy PHF* HH PP	Drake, Art PHF* HH PP	Koos, Chris HM	Semlak, Bill PHF* PHS HH
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Bubon, Angie (Fulton)	Hahn, Fred	Radhakrishnan, Radha PHF* PHS HH	Timmerman, Ron PHF* HH
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