



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

August 14, 2019 Volume No. 71 Issue No. 7

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, August 21, 2019 – ISU Alumni Center

Greeters: Bill Semlak & Surider Sethi

Lottery: Drake Zimmerman & Bayo Adanri

Wednesday, August 28, 2019 – Circus Room - ISU Bone Student Center

Greeters: Dale Strassheim & Ed Tanton

Lottery: Kathy Alexander & Greg Anvick



Reporter: Kathy Alexander	Photographer: none	Editor: Becky Goeckner
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President John E. Bishop called the meeting to order at 12:05 at the Illinois State University Alumni Center, followed by a reflection, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a better-than-usual rendition of “My Country Tis of Thee”, and This Day in History, including August 14 historical facts such as, on that date, the Beatles taped an appearance for the Ed Sullivan Show in 1965, and President John married his wife in 1993.

Announcements: (Get a cup of coffee first; there are lots of them!)

- Spoke writers: They are still needed for the rest of the month. Please help!
- Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) – the next session is 9/21 at Richland Community College in Decatur. Check-in is at 8:30. Registration closes on Wednesday, September 18 at 5 PM in order to have an accurate meal count.
- Harmony Park – The Grand Opening / Ribbon Cutting last Thursday was packed with kids of differing abilities, having fun with each other and their parents. Alan C. expressed his thanks for the contribution from the club. All club members are encouraged to visit the park to see what a wonderful addition it is to the community.
- Oktoberfest – Ron Timmerman reports we are about a month away from this September 21 event, and sponsorships total \$2500 so far towards the \$10,000 goal. See Dale Strassheim or Bruce Bergethon to arrange YOUR sponsorship - to put your business or organization’s name in front of the thousands who attend the largest event held in Uptown Normal! Angie B. will emcee again. Larissa McIlvain and Miranda Johns-Cummings are in charge of recruiting volunteers. Pre-orders of merchandise are available. (There are 150 hats available for \$10 each, and beer steins are also available. Get them while you can; they sold out last year!) New this year: Jim Rosenlund is in charge of a beer stein holding contest, we will offer bottled water for sale, request a \$5 suggested donation at each gate, and pretzel necklaces will also be for sale.
- Habitat For Humanity Home – Three local Rotary clubs that Linda Healy has spoken to so far are on board with this project, and she was planning to speak to a fourth one that evening. The Normal Rotary Club board will pursue a District Grant, and a Rotary International Foundation grant, to help fund building the home.



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- Labor Day Parade – Sixty volunteers are needed to carry flags in the September 2 parade per Dale Strassheim. Meet by the Coliseum about 8 AM. This Spoke reporter assumes volunteers will be asked to wear their blue Rotary T-shirt and some khaki pants. Dale will not be able to attend this year, so let's support him by volunteering soon. (If you don't have a Normal Rotary shirt yet, see Linda Healy.



- Oakdale Kinder Camp – About 35-40 kids per day attended this camp last week, with a focus on culture. Many kids come without any experience with the structure of school. Hank Campbell shared that a follow-up study will be done later in the year to determine results.



- Rotary Shirts – New-ish club member Jack Moody expressed a desire to have a Rotary shirt. He contacted Russell-Hampton for options and has ordered three for himself. He has made available an order form (see e-mail attachment) if you would be interested in ordering one. Subsequent orders will be lower in price, the more orders are placed. The shirts are available in men's and women's sizes, come in a large variety of colors with an embroidered Rotary International logo with "Rotary Club of" stitched above the logo and "Normal, Illinois" below the logo.
- Health Concerns – Dianne Schwartz's husband, Mark, has received a serious medical diagnosis and is undergoing treatment. They will be moving from the rural area into town. Also, longtime past club member Jack Wilz and Shirley's daughter is ill and undergoing testing. Please keep all of them in your thoughts and prayers.
- Rotary Day at the Ballpark – The Cubs-Cards game will be 9-28-19 in St. Louis. Proceeds support district projects. John Meek sent President John an email recently stating tickets are still available.

Mystery Host Miranda Johns-Cummings awarded the \$2 to Ron Timmerman for his leadership of Oktoberfest.

Ron Timmerman also received the **lottery** winnings of \$13 but failed to draw the Ace of Spades for the big pot of \$469.

Happy Fines:

- Gordon Bidner was happy for the "million-and-a-half" dollar rain.
- Dick Wagner was happy his grandson stained his house for him.
- Alan Chapman was happy to see his grandson Max and his (Max's) dad seated facing each other as they were swinging at the Harmony Park grand opening. Linda Healy was also delighted to see all the kids sharing and playing there.
- Elleke Mesdag turned 88 last week and was happy to report that she passed her driver's test and received an "excellent, sweetie" rating from her driving skills examiner.
- Becky Goeckner was happy/sad. She was sad to report her "adopted" granddaughter from Puerto Rico was leaving the next day for Puerto Rico. But happy that following a week at home she will fly to St. Kitt's and Ross University where she will be a pre-vet student. She has been in town the past two summers to work as a veterinary intern for Becky's husband Ron at Town & Country Animal Hospital.

Program:



Mike Doherty

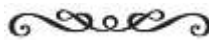
<http://ifb.org/contact/directory/doherty-mike/>



A little-known fact about our speaker, Mike Doherty: He served as a Peace Corps member in Fiji. We were all jealous until he told us it was not as relaxing as it sounds. He actually had to WORK on ag research there. But it was beautiful. Unfortunately, this reporter could not write fast enough to catch all the facts, but I believe he said his Peace Corps experience was after he received his BS in economics from Illinois State and before he received his MS in agricultural economics from Clemson University.

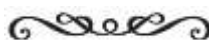
Mike has been serving as Senior Economist and Policy Analyst at the Illinois Farm Bureau since 2004. He also serves concurrently as the executive Director of the Illinois Wheat Association. He is responsible for research and policy analysis of agricultural production and marketing systems, external research projects, proposed legislation, biofuels markets, and other factors affecting the profitability of agriculture. A few of the many tidbits offered during Mike's extremely informative presentation:

- We specialize in corn and soybeans in central Illinois because we have the best weather conditions and soil for growing them, we have the cheapest shipping routes (IL/OH/Mississippi Rivers, and the only East-West rail routes), not much corn is exported due to ethanol, and pork production keeps Illinois corn prices up.
- About 90% of hogs and poultry in Illinois are raised under contract.
- China's importance to the soybean market has been growing since 2000 due to population and income growth there. About 98% of soybean meal is exported and used as animal feed. Tariffs have affected exports negatively, stopping most of them. Also, African swine fever (not the same as swine flu, and not contagious to humans) has led to many hog deaths in China.
- There was a wave of farm consolidations in the past, but not many in the last five years. Families (not corporations) hold 98% of farms, unlike other businesses. Rental of cropland (85%) is highest in the US. About 50% is rented by non-farmers to others on a cash basis for \$250-\$300 per acre. The 2019 outlook for net farm income in McLean County is ZERO % on cash-rented acres.
- Challenges facing Illinois ag include huge farms in Brazil, which reap economies of scale. The average farm in Brazil is about 450,000 acres (did I get that number right???), compared to an average of 20,000 acres per farm in Illinois.



Today's Thought from Ed Sullivan

If you do a good job for others, you heal yourself at the same time, because a dose of joy is a spiritual cure. It transcends all barriers"



Volunteers are Needed for Oakdale Fall Fun Fair

The Oakdale Fun Fair will be held on Friday, September 6th from 5:30-7:30 pm. Many volunteers are needed to make this event a roaring success! We are asking volunteers to sign up for one hour time slots and ask that volunteers arrive 10 minutes early to allow time to sign in at the volunteer station. Please check out the opportunities available if you are willing and available to help us!

We are recruiting volunteers from a variety of organizations, so please write your role in the comment section (ex parent, teacher, ISU, NCWHS, etc).

All volunteers will be entered in a raffle drawing for a gift card! ONLY volunteers will be entered in this drawing!

Thank you for pitching in! If you have questions please feel free to contact us at oakdale.elementary.pto@gmail.com

Thank you,

Fun Fair Committee

SignUpGenius Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e45a8a92fa6fa7-help4>

A Message from Marcia

The meeting of August 28th will be held at Bone student center in the Circus Room. Wait till you see the updated concourse :-). Thanks to all members for putting up with the schedule and location changes and thanks to ISU catering staff for all the extras you gave us.

Marcia Dennis
NRC Secretary

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761
 Editorial Staff: Art Drake, and Becky Goeckner
 Meetings are held Wednesdays at noon in the Circus Room at the Bone Student Center, ISU.

Officers 2019-2020:

President - John E. Bishop

E-mail: JEBii.bishop@gmail.com
 Home phone: 1-309-663-0677 – Work phone: 1-309-663-8436

President Elect – Fred Hahn

E-mail : fredjhahnpe@gmail.com
 Home phone : 1-309-750-0326

Vice President – Dianne Schultz

E-mail: dschultz@thebabyfold.org
 Cell phone: 1-309-826-7004 – Work phone: 1-309-451-7201

Secretary – Marcia Dennis

E-mail: mldenni@ilstu.edu
 Home phone: 1-309-454-5047

Treasurer - Ryan Fleming

E-mail : ryan.fleming@commercebank.com
 Home phone : 1-815-739-5498 - Work phone : 1-309-823-7289

Sergeant At Arms- Bill Semlak

E-mail: wdsemlak@ilstu.edu
 Phone: 1-309-359-8172

Past President - Sherry Hawkins

E-mail : shawkins@hbtbank.com
 Home phone : 1-309-531-7737 - Work phone : 1-309-664-8927

Directors 2018-2019:

Community Service – David Taylor

E-mail : dtaylor@uwaymc.org
 Work phone : 1-309-828-7383

Rotary Foundation & International – Angie Bubon

E-mail: angela.fulton@gmail.com
 Home phone: 309-530-0396

Publicity – Larissa McIlvain

E-mail: Larissa.McIlvain@heartland.edu
 Home phone : 1-309-338-7362 - Work phone : 1-309-268-8125

Director of Club Administration-Dayna Brown-Nielsen

E-mail: brownda@Unit5.org
 Work phone: 1-309-454-2850 Home phone: 1-309-862-3385

Assistant Governor: John Meek

E-mail: jmeek@fdco.com
 Phone: 1-309-275-9386

District Governor – Julie Dobski

Phone: 1-309-287-2487
 Email: Littlejewels.julied@hotmail.com



Rotary International President

2019-2020
 Mark Daniel Maloney
 Member of the
 Rotary Club of
 Decatur, Alabama

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Cotton, Barb			
PHF – Paul Harris Fellow HH – Hall of Honor PHF* - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone PHS – Paul Harris Society	DHH - District Hall of Honor HM – Honorary Member MD – Major Donors PP – Past President	DNRD- District New Rotarian of the Year PDG – Past District Governor	BS – Bequest Society Member DRY-District Rotarian of the Year GWRY – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year