



The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

September 18, 2019 Volume No. 71 Issue No. 12

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, September 25, 2019

Brown Ballroom III - ISU Bone Student Center

Greeters: Matt Wyss & Drake Zimmerman

Lottery: Bill Caisley & Hank Campbell



Wednesday, October 2, 2019 –

Greeters: Bayo Adanri & Kathy Alexander

Lottery: Alan Chapman & Andy Copenhaver

Reporter: Ann Haugo	Photographer: Sherry Hawkins	Editor: Becky Goeckner
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President John E. Bishop convened the September 18, 2019, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club on the Braden Auditorium stage. Bill Semlak provided the invocation.

John E. Bishop announced that Todd Kunze, General Manager of the Normal CornBelts, is now a member of the club and that he will be inducted at the next meeting that he attends.



Bill Semlak

September Students of the Month:

The Students of the Month each spoke a bit about classes that they are taking. Sarah Brown from Normal West and Shanley Kearney from University High School both reported that their Spanish classes are currently favorites. Sarah reports that she has learned quite a bit from taking this language course, and Shanley has found that relationships with her family have grown deeper through learning her mother and grandfather's language. Grace Spader from the Bloomington Area Career Center has been working in an ER several hours each week and also taking a class on nursing. Sara Patton from Normal Community has been taking an International Relations course and commended her teacher, from whom she has learned quite a lot. She has particularly found the history content interesting.

This Day in History:

- 1793: U.S. President George Washington lays the cornerstone of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.
- 1947: The Central Intelligence Agency officially comes into existence after being established by President Truman in July.
- 1965: The TV comedy *Get Smart*, created by Mel Brooks and starring Don Adams, premieres.
- 1975: Heiress-turned-bank robber Patricia Campbell Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco

Announcements:

- Future Meeting Locations:
September 25: Ballroom III

October 2: Braden Stage
October 9: Braden Stage
October 16: Braden Stage
October 23 TBD
October 30: Circus Room

- The next session of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is September 21 at Richland Community College in Decatur. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m.
- Oktoberfest will be September 21, 4-10 p.m. Larissa McIlvain will send a SignUp Genius reminder about shifts.
- Marcia Dennis reported that the calculations for the cash pot last week were wrong, partly because of purchases made later than she realized. A cowbell – which Marcia ceremoniously rang for us – will now announce the last call for lottery tickets at each meeting.



Linda Healy

- Linda Healy shared an update on the previous Saturday's Habitat for Humanity/Rotary House build day and thanked all who helped. She has fliers with the Normal Rotary Club's build schedule. This Saturday is a Sunset club day, and because their numbers are small, it would be nice to chip in and help them. See Linda if you can help. You can also sign up by visiting <https://habitatmclean.volunteerhub.com/lp/normalrotary/>

George W. Wolf Rotarian of the Year

Linda Healy presented the award for the George W. Wolf Rotarian of the Year, named in honor of former Normal Rotary Club member George Wolf, who was District Governor in 6490 for the 2002-2003 Rotary year. The Normal Rotary Club created this award to honor both George's memory and his long history of service to Rotary. Linda presented this year's award to Becky Goeckner, describing Becky's contributions as follows:



Linda Healy
& Becky Goeckner

In accepting the award, Becky acknowledged that this award is a double honor for her, because she knew George Wolf well and continues to meet his wife for coffee and exchanges Christmas cards. She was very honored to receive the award.

“Our George W. Wolf Rotarian of the Year for the 2018-2019 Rotary Year quietly goes about serving the Normal Rotary Club, the Bloomington-Normal community, their church, local charities, and the wider world. A member for 20 years (with perfect attendance for 12), this person has served as club president and in several director positions; is a Paul Harris Sustaining Member and member of the Normal Rotary Hall of Honor; has served on numerous club committees, including Normal's 60th anniversary, scholarship, and program committees; has tutored Oakdale kids, served ice cream, carried parade flags, hustled Pennis for Polio, delivered poinsettias, and stored hundreds of Normal Cooks cookbooks in the basement.

This Rotarian has brought in three new members and has attended and/or worked District 6490 District Conferences for a dozen years, and at least one international convention.

High on this Rotarian's list of priorities, though, is being a citizen of the world, having hosted GSE Team members 7 times and Rotary Youth Exchange students 4 times (along with the dozens – maybe hundreds – of foreign exchange students not associate with Rotary).

This Rotarian's latest contribution was spearheading the Solar Power project in Ponce, Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria, which was completed this year.”



Ann Haugo & Dale Strassheim

Mystery Host: Today's Mystery Host was Dale Strassheim, who gave his \$2 to someone that he is happy to see back as an active member in the club, Ann Haugo.

Lottery: Today's small pot was worth \$13, and a winning draw from the cards would net \$563. Becky Goeckner was the lucky winner of the \$13, but did not draw the ace of spades.

Happy fines: No happy fines today, due to time constraints.



Becky Goeckner

Program:

This week's speaker was Matt Tall, Vice President of Manufacturing for Rivian. Matt leads plant operations and advanced manufacturing at the Normal assembly plant. He relocated to Normal with his wife and family and extended a warm thank you to the community for welcoming them.



Matt Tall



Matt gave an overview of the Rivian company philosophy. Rivian describes itself as an "Adventure Company," manufacturing vehicles that are built for adventures: speed, off-road, adventuring purposes. The company's two current designs are electric truck and SUV models. (The meeting occurred one day before the news broke that Amazon would be contracting Rivian to build 100,000 delivery vans, so hats off to Matt for not dropping that bombshell early. This means we should add to the list an electric van!) Color options and design specifics are being slowly released, and Matt joked with the club that his presentation might include a lot of "follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram" for updates as they're revealed. Photos revealed the process of converting the Mitsubishi plant to the Rivian assembly plant. Basically, the Mitsubishi plant has been cleared within to install the new equipment to produce much larger vehicles.

After his presentation, Matt answered many questions from Rotarians, revealing a bit more information about the company. Rivian has hired some employees from Mitsubishi and has begun to network with area schools to describe its philosophy and vision and begin to recruit new employees. The company goal is to be one of the highest paying employers in the state for skilled workers. They have also begun to work with higher education institutions in the area, particularly Illinois State and Heartland, with some outreach to UIUC. Tall describes Rivian philosophy as "Rivian 101" – acknowledging that the auto industry can be highly stressful, Rivian has committed itself to treat all employees with respect. Their production philosophy emphasizes environmental health and "green" practices.

Rivian will employ about 650 people to start, and as production picks up, they could employ several thousand. Their target market is a higher income level than most auto manufactures, with the base price of their vehicles at about \$79,000. Their sales model is close to the Tesla philosophy – no "dealerships," per se, but locations where consumers can order a custom vehicle.

Editor's Note: The very next day, September 19, 2019 The Pantagraph featured this news about Rivian:

NORMAL — Packages across the globe could soon be delivered by vehicles made in Central Illinois.

Amazon will buy 100,000 electric delivery vans from Rivian, CEO Jeff Bezos announced Thursday, in what the company referred to as "the largest order ever of electric delivery vehicles" — and a big win for Bloomington-Normal, where those vehicles will be manufactured.

"Vans (will start) to deliver packages to customers in 2021," according to an Amazon news release. "Amazon plans to have 10,000 of the new electric vehicles on the road as early as 2022 and all 100,000 vehicles on the road by 2030 — saving 4 million metric tons of carbon per year by 2030."



Today's Thought:

"Immortality is a by-product of good work." -Mel Brooks



Hank Campbell, Matt Wyss, & Linda Healy
Not pictured Surinder Sethi & Drake Zimmerman

Saturday, September 14, 2019

**Build Day #1
of
Habitat for Humanity
5 Club Rotary House**

**812 W. Washington Street
Bloomington, IL**

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2019-2020**
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Rotary Club of
Decatur, Alabama

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Anvick, Greg PHF	Drake, Art PHF* HH PP	Lindsay, Jeff	Sethi, Surinder PHF* PHS HH PP DHH DRY GWRY PDG MD

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