



The Normal Spoke

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

December 11, 2019 Volume No. 71 Issue No. 23

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)

Remember to wish these Rotarians a happy birthday this month!

2 - Dayna Brown-Nielsen

4 - Andy Copenhagen

9 - Lindsey Smith

10 - Gene Gudeman

19 - Bill Caisley

21 - Miranda Johns-Cummings



Wednesday, December 18, 2019 – Circus Room – Birthday Auction Day!!

Greeters: Art Drake & Paul Enchelmayer

Lottery: Larissa McIlvain & Elleke Mesdag

Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – Circus Room

Greeters: Ryan Fleming & Connie Gentry

Lottery: Jack Moody & Matt Riehle

Reporter: Becky Goeckner	Photographer: Sherry Hawkins	Editor: Larissa McIlvain
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President John E. Bishop convened the December 11, 2019 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club by welcoming everyone and asking us to greet one another. The reflection/invocation which focused on "Joy" was given by Mark Jontry.

President John extended thanks to Alan Chapman for filling in as Greeter and to Todd Kunze for selling lottery tickets. He also thanked for recording today's proceedings Becky Goeckner (reporter); Sherry Hawkins (photographer); and Larissa McIlvain (editor).

There were no visiting Rotarians and our only guest was John Stark, who was our guest speaker. President John and Secretary Marcia Dennis attempted to find the owner of a strip of lottery tickets left by someone after making their purchase. They went unclaimed at the moment.

This Day in History:

- 1620 - 102 Mayflower Pilgrims and about 30 crew land at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts – I saw a date of December 21 referenced as well?
- 1862 – the Battle of Fredricksburg in Virginia begins between Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by Major General Ambrose Burnside
- 1882 - Boston's Bijou Theatre, 1st American playhouse lit exclusively by electricity, 1st performance, Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe"
- 1936 - Edward VIII announces in a radio broadcast that he is abdicating the British throne to marry Wallis Simpson
- 2012 - Physicist, Stephen Hawking, wins the \$3 million Fundamental Physics Prize, the most lucrative academic prize in the world

Announcements:

- President John reminded us about Sign-Up Genius for the Spoke photographer and reporter. No one signed up for reporter or photographer for next week so a sign-up sheet was circulated
- He then asked for a Holiday Party recap first by asking for a show of hands if you attended, and then comments.
- We will have to wait for a poinsettia update from Andy Copenhaver
- Linda Healy reported on the progress on our Habitat for Humanity House. A winter break is being taken because of the holidays and because we are further along on the building than anticipated. It is important that a family for the house be identified so that they too can assist in the building. The next build is scheduled for January 25 and a family should be identified by then
- Ray Ropp announced that a Rotary High School Exchange Student – Luis is arriving next week from Venezuela. Ray asked members to consider hosting this student for long or short periods or time, sharing outings with him or even vacations.
- Becky Goeckner announced that Nan Rutledge came by the Chateau on Saturday to pick up her poinsettias. Nan was grateful and appreciative that Andy Copenhaver had reached out to include her in our annual poinsettia fundraiser.
- John A. Bishop recently talked with Shirley Wilz. She and her daughter, Lee Ann are back from St. Louis where Lee Ann had surgery for cancer. Lee Ann is recovering and both are glad to be home for the holidays.
- John E. Bishop reported that while Dianne Schultz hopes to return to club meeting sometime after the first of the year, that she regrettably cannot continue on the Normal Rotary Board. Her husband Mark's cancer has spread and the outlook is not good. John reminded her that she has "family" here in Rotary that are willing to help.
- Next week's meeting will focus on Club Business – a slate of officers and directors will be presented and our Quarterly Birthday Auction will be held.



Ray Ropp



Linda Healy



Becky Goeckner



John A. Bishop

Judge Larissa McIlvain asked if there was a **Mystery Host**. Alan Chapman was the Mystery Host and he selected Ray Ropp because Ray is one of the top University of Illinois sports fans.

Larissa then asked one more time about the ownership of the lottery tickets. Nancy Brokaw was identified as the owner. It was to no avail though because the winning ticket was held by President John E. Bishop. John won \$27 but failed to draw the elusive Ace of Spades. The pot rolls over again. As the pot grows ever larger will it hit \$800 next week????



Alan Chapman and Ray Ropp



Judge Larissa McIlvain



John E. Bishop

Judge Larissa said that she searched the Internet for members that she might find in order to levy fines. Unfortunately she only found a photo of herself and her daughters at the Festival of Trees so she paid a fine. She then asked for **Happy Fines**:

- Angie Fulton was happy to attend the Holiday Spectacular again this year – written by our own Nancy Brokaw. Special performers were her Mom and Matthew. Angie said that during the performance she laughed, almost cried and sang along!
- Carson Varner had two happy fines: “Go you Northwestern!” and Oklahoma University “Boomer Sooners” who are in the playoffs.
- Kathy Alexander was happy to say that she and her husband are still alive and now married for 25 years!
- Alan Chapman was thankful for the poinsettia delivery assistance provided by members Art Drake; Hank Campbell, Bayo Adanri, Gene Gudeman, Larissa McIlvain and any others that I may have missed.
- Hank Campbell had two happy fines (1) thanks for the support and granting of a Paul Harris Fellow to his wife Mary Campbell and (2) pleased to announce that “Dreams are Possible” has operating now their first classes – two which have enrolled 6 and 5 women.

Program:

John Stark from the ISU Theater Department was our guest speaker. John C. Stark is proud to be serving his third year as Artistic Director for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. He has a long history at Ewing, where he has produced 34 scenic designs over 20 seasons. His recent designs include Caesar, Shakespeare in Love, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Peter and the Starcatcher, and Richard II. John is a Professor of Design in the School of Theatre and Dance at ISU. He received a B.S. from Wayne State College, Wayne, NE and an M.F.A. in Scene Design from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He is a member of the United Scenic Artists Local 829 and he has designed professionally for Chicago companies such as A Red Orchid Theatre, Victory Gardens, Seanachai Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, The Next Theatre, Noble Fool Theatricals, and Famous Door, where his design of The Living won a Joseph Jefferson Award. Regional credits include Indiana Repertory Theatre, Ball State University, The Garden Theatre, The Sacramento Theatre Co., Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Pennsylvania Center Stage, Diablo Light Opera, Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Childsplay, and Actors Lab of Scottsdale. He has designed locally for the Holiday Spectacular, Heartland Theatre, and Prairie Fire Theatre as well as numerous productions at Illinois State University.

John shared with us a video which gave us a dramatic overview of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival production. Featured were clips of scenes and comments from John; Paul Harmon a 41 year patron and annual attendee; and others who help to make the production a success. The Festival has grown over the years and with the beautiful grounds of Ewing Manor, the elegant outdoor theater and family friendly shows has quite an amazing reputation in the theater world.



John C. Stark

The Festival attracts paid actors that are professional, quality actors who are committed to the performances. John conducts auditions starting in August and travels across the country auditioning 500+ actors. The 2020 season begins June 4-June 12 with The Opening Act – *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. Then follows the three shows that rotate throughout the summer; June 26 to August 8: **Murder** (*Macbeth*); **Mayhem** (*One Man, Two Guvnors*); and **Manipulation** (*Measure for Measure*).

Tickets are available now ranging from \$10 to \$55 and can be ordered online, by phone or in person. www.IllinoisShakes.com. Box Office (309) 438-2535



ILLINOIS
SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL

The Opening Act

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield

June 4 - 12

Ewing Theatre

The 2020 Season

Macbeth

By William Shakespeare

June 26 - August 8

Center for the Performing Arts Theatre at Illinois State University

One Man, Two Guvnors

By Richard Bean

Based on *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni

With Music by Grant Olding

July 2 - August 7

Ewing Theatre

Measure for Measure

By William Shakespeare

July 10 - August 6

Ewing Theatre

Early Bard Season Tickets now on sale!

Order online, by phone, or in person.

www.IllinoisShakes.com

Box Office: (309) 438-2535



Thought for Today:

"We should seek the greatest value of our action." - Stephen Hawking



Meeting was adjourned at 12:59.

Our own Drake Zimmerman was recently featured in the District 6490 weekly newsletter. I've included the excerpt here for you to enjoy in case you missed it!



This week, we choose to recognize the philanthropic actions Drake Zimmerman. His commitment to philanthropy in every sense of the world is truly inspiring and his impact on the world will last for generations. He continuously contributes to meaningful change throughout the world, through mentoring, managing, encouraging, teaching, listening, giving, and inspiring every individual that crosses his path. His life has truly impacted hundreds of lives both directly and indirectly. Whether inspiring someone to start a nonprofit organization, promoting Rotary Action Group Against Malaria (co-founder), providing support for the McLean County Arts and co-founder of Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, or simply listening to someone's dreams and doing everything he can to make it a reality.

He is a man whose kindness and generosity knows no bounds. He is that kind of individual who inspires not only through his actions, but also by how humble he remains. If there was ever a person to aspire to be more like in that regard, it would be him.

Congratulations, Drake!

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois
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