

The Weekly Newsletter of the
Only Normal Rotary Club in the World
Chartered June 17, 1949



The Normal Spoke

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

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)



	Reporter: Drake Zimmerman	Editor: Larissa McIlvain
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This day in history:

- 1724 Immanuel Kant, German philosopher (Critique of Pure Reason), born in Königsberg, East Prussia
- 1876 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky completes his ballet "Swan Lake"
- 1904 Robert Oppenheimer, American theoretical physicist known as the father of the atomic bomb (Manhattan Project), born in NYC, New York
- 1914 Babe Ruth's 1st professional game (as a pitcher) is a 6-hit 6-0 win
- 1954 US Senate Army-McCarthy televised hearings begin
- 1991 Johnny Carson announces he will retire next year from "The Tonight Show"
- 1993 Holocaust Memorial Museum dedicated in Washington, D.C.

Announcements:

- Lyle Raper passed away on Monday 3/30. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date. Lyle joined Rotary in 1987. His obituary is included below:

Lyle H. (Bud) Raper, 93 of Bloomington, passed away at 12:20 pm Monday March 30, 2020 at Martin Health Center, Bloomington. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. A private graveside service will be at East Lawn Memorial Gardens, Bloomington. Calvert & Metzler Memorial Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, Normal or the American Heart Association.

Lyle was born on June 28, 1926 in Brooklyn, Illinois, the son of Roscoe & Meriba

(Horney) Raper. He married Mildred Maxene Smith on February 6, 1947 in Augusta, Illinois. She preceded him in death.

He is survived by 3 children: Steven E. (Pamela) Raper of Radnor, PA., Randall (Pamela) Raper of Bloomington, IL & Rebecca (David) Ryherd of Champaign, IL.; 7 grandchildren: Scott (Traci) Raper, Christie (Tim) Trunnell, Matthew (Andrea) Raper, Anna (Adam Christmann) Raper, Alexander (Melissa) Raper, Benjamin (Laurel) Ryherd & Lisa Ryherd; 6 great-grandchildren: Alexis Roberts, Natalie Raper, Evan Raper, Eric Raper, Dax Raper & Kylie Trunnell; & 1 brother: Harold Raper.

He was preceded in death by his parents & 1 sister Idelle Standard.

After working 42 years for the Eureka Co. at retirement, Lyle was the National Manager of the Service Division at the Eureka Co.

Lyle was a WW II veteran and was in the Army Air Corps in the control tower and also ground control. He was proud to have been able to participate in the Honor Flight in 2013.

He was also a Past President of Normal Rotary and a Paul Harris Fellow. Lyle was also a member of the Young Men's Club, the Scottish Rite, the Shrine and was a 32nd degree Mason.

Those who knew Lyle best, knew he was a lifelong Chicago Cubs Fan. One of his greatest days was the day the Cubs won the 2016 World Series Championship.

Most of all Lyle loved and was so proud of his family, and his family loves him and will miss him greatly.

- Normal Rotary Club Responds to Family Food Drive for Oakdale Elementary
The Oakdale Promise Council became aware that children and families needed food assistance and school supplies. Although Oakdale is closed, the need for food for the 'stay at home kids' still continued. Parents and kids have not been allowed to come to the school to get any of their school stuff from their classrooms due to health and safety concerns. Andy Shelby, Assistant Principal, and Abbi Strader, Family Coordinator, gave a shout out for help. On Monday, April 13, 9 to 12 p.m. food and other school supplies could be dropped off in the front area of the school since there was no inside entry allowed. This was the only drop-off time.

Hank Campbell knew the Normal Rotary Club would want to help even with such short notice. Earlier that Monday, he was off to the local Jewel-Osco store with mask and gloves to shop for Mac & Cheese, pasta sauce, noodles, canned fruit and vegetables, canned chicken and tuna, a variety of cereals and other food products totaling \$150. All groceries delivered to the school along with \$50 cash for gift cards. This was given to Oakdale Elementary from the Normal Rotary Club in memory of Larry Pennie, a former teacher and administrator at Oakdale. He was our Past District Governor and member of the B-N Sunset Rotary Club.

The food and school supplies will be available to Oakdale families at the next packet distribution date held at Oakdale. Although the club has not been able to meet due COVID-19, we can still be Rotarians of Action in our communities.

- Coats for Kids Update:

Normal Rotary completes \$10,057 coat drive

The Normal Rotary Club has wrapped up the 2019-2020 season, having spent \$10,057 on winter coats for area students in need.

The club bought 735 winter coats for students in Unit 5 schools and 144 coats for students in Ridgeview schools, according to Rotarian Connie Gentry, who leads the club's efforts.

For years, the Normal Rotary Club has raised funds and sought in-kind donations of winter wear for students in need. Sometimes, students who lack adequate winter coats stay home from school, Gentry said. This year, the club received a \$500 gift card from Meijer to help buy coats locally.

Because of cold weather before Thanksgiving, the need for winter coats hit the schools much sooner than usual, Gentry said.

- Rural/Urban Night scheduled for June 3. More information to follow.
- Unit 5 is in need of markers, glue sticks and other school supplies..
- Tee It Up for GFPD has been cancelled. Planning for an online auction later this summer.

Program:

Dayna Brown-Nielsen: Public School District Response to COVID-19.

Unit 5 was not set up for E-Learning. Fundamentally, the District didn't believe in distance learning. Had to sit down and try to work out how to distribute school work and necessary resources over a 48 hour period.

Schools are a Safe Place, it was unsettling for people to have their kids not go to school, come, and it's important to have more interaction than on a Zoom call. The challenge included not just teaching, but also providing meals and services.

Starting with 5 locations where kids needed to pick up the lunches. There were lots of people who needed transportation, so cut to 3 locations, plus 19 drop spots in community, so now delivering about 12,000 meals per week, stopping in 30 neighborhoods. People have been incredibly appreciative.

Unit 5 is 214 square miles. Distributing in Hudson, Carlock among other locations. By comparison, District 87 is 10 square miles.

Schools had no advance directives from the state with regard to closure. The District did know that there was an announcement coming, but the plan had to be built after the Governor made his announcement in order to accommodate the details.

Distributing canned food, bread and other items. Twice a week, packing emergency food bags to be distributed by staff to the families in need. Dayna panned the camera around the space from which she was presenting - the District board room. It was lined with pallets, boxes, stacks of food items and more. Canned foods on wall, plus bread 400 loaves stacked on table. Also some stuff like tooth brushes, etc.

Dayna emphasized that she and her husband, Adam, are both involved with distribution efforts. They've worked out ways of limiting contact with others through the process as Adam is high risk.

Socially/emotionally, many families are challenged with limited space - no opportunity to have space/time alone to get away and decompress. Currently working with Promise Councils to get things like coloring books, play-doh, playing cards, puzzles and things like that to serve as an escape.

Also finding that some students don't have school supplies at home. Unit 5 is working with the Back to School Alliance to distribute bags with school supplies.

Eastern Illinois Food Bank is providing a couple of deliveries a week for food distribution. McLean County United Way has provided funds for some fresh food items.

Next Week's program:

Join us again via Zoom on 4/29/2020 for a presentation by our own David Taylor on the COVID-19 Relief Program. We believe that we have our technical issues addressed and should not have to cut off early.

Join Zoom Meeting ONLINE:	DIAL IN BY PHONE:
https://zoom.us/j/98313994561	1 312 626 6799
Meeting ID: 983 1399 4561	Meeting ID: 983 1399 4561



Thought for Today:

“The peoples of this world must unite or they will perish.” - J. Robert Oppenheimer



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2019-2020

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