

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



The Normal Spoke

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

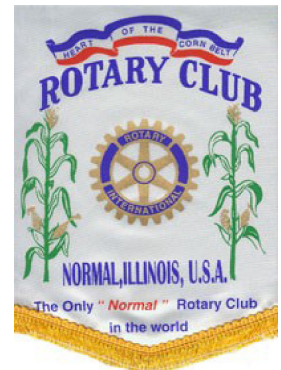
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Link to Rotary International <http://www.rotary.org/>

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: Art Drake	Editor: Larissa McIlvain	
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President Fred Hahn convened the July 29, 2020 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Gordon Bidner gave the invocation eventually.

Important events of the day:

- It is The International Tiger Day, as we celebrate these majestic animals who are really close to the top of the food chain. Tiger cubs are born blind but grow to be 600 pounds and live to be 25 years old. A group of tigers are called an ambush. Tigers have antiseptic saliva so if a tiger attacks you, you will likely not die of infection.
- If you live in Moldova, you are celebrating Constitution Day and in Peru, there will be parades and fireworks in honor of Armed Forces Day.
- The Atomic Energy Agency was established in 1957.
- Wil Wheaton and Ken Burns are celebrating their birthday today. Benito Mussolini was born on this day but is not celebrating.
- Your Birthday Horoscope for today predicts that you are a Leo who is very idealistic and loves to do things differently. You are creative and inventive but are not comfortable in business attire so you have my permission to loosen your tie.

Announcements:

- The board was to meet after adjournment to discuss hybrid meetings [Virtual & in-person] and reach a consensus on meeting structure through the year. Several members expressed an interest in resuming in-person meetings as soon as possible.
- Gordon Bidner announced that Ray Ropp had a hip replaced, and the procedure went well.
- Linda Healey reported that work has been postponed again on the Rotary's Habitat for Humanity house. Work is now scheduled to resume Aug. 8.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen, Gordon Bidner and Alan Chapman reported on Luis, our visiting student from Venezuela, who is staying at the Ropp home. Luis expects to remain in the U.S. until Jan. 1, and despite the pandemic weirdness, he is still positive about being in the U.S. He's started soccer and basketball practice. He talks frequently with his family in Venezuela.
- Fellow Rotarian Larry Dietz is scheduled to speak to our club next week, and Normal Rotarians should make a special effort to join in to hear what he has to say.

Judge:

His Honor John E. Bishop dinged Dayna Brown-Nielsen for her picture in the Limited magazine as part of the Women's Giving Circle. He also fined Larissa McIlvain for an old picture, revitalized in the form of a Limited magazine rerun.

Happy fines:

- Angie Bubon and husband are expecting twins.
- Bruce Bergethon and wife are celebrating their 42nd anniversary with a delicious quarantine meal prepared by Bruce.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen is happy that her son is scheduled to travel to Israel this winter.
- Bill Semlak was happy just to be at the meeting, and he says he'll schedule an Adopt-A-Highway clean-up soon, since that seems to be one service activity that can be conducted outdoors with safe social distancing.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy that his wife, Jan, is teaching in Denmark and things are going smoothly for her so far.

Speaker:

Our speaker was Tegan Kurzynowski, Programs & Community Engagements Manager for Friends Forever. In that role, she supports the design and implementation of all international peace programs. She collaborates with supporters, participants, alumni, and community partners to fulfill FFI's mission.

Also speaking to us was Hod Malka, a 2019 Friends Forever alum. Hod recalled her group's visit to the Boys' and Girls' Clubs, where the visitors from Israel enjoyed a dance party, performed some rap, played basketball and got to know each other and other young people. That 2019 visit changed Hod's life, she said.

Friends Forever has long had a connection with Rotary, and since 2013, Rotarians in Bloomington-Normal have been instrumental in bringing young people from different Arabic and Jewish backgrounds from Israel to our community, where they learn about the U.S., learn about each other and work together to see how they can promote peace.

The process was strained in 2014, when violence and tensions in the Mideast spilled over to the young people's experience in B-N. There were tears and worries and all kinds of emotions, but during their visit here, the young people managed to rise above it and unite with an eye on Friends Forever's peaceful purposes.

Friends Forever had another delegation all ready to come to Bloomington-Normal in the summer of 2020 when the pandemic struck and changed everything. Friends Forever has tried to make up for it with a series of online workshops and experiences. Looking ahead, Friends Forever plans to continue virtual programs for participants and alums and develop more curriculum.



Thought for Today:

"Be yourself; everyone else is taken" -Anonymous



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2020-2021
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