

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: Art Drake	Editor: Larissa McIlvain	Photographer: XX
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President Fred Hahn convened the Dec. 2, 2020 Zoom meeting of the Normal Rotary Club. Ray Ropp took on the invocation, leading a prayer of gratitude.

Important things that happened Dec. 2:

- It is the 336th day of 2020.
- This day in 1942, a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the racket ball court under the bleachers for Stagg Field at the University of Chicago.
- The first Ford Model A in 1927 rolled off the assembly line and sold for \$385.
- In 1960, Louis Leakey discovered a 1.4 million-year-old Homo erectus skull from Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.
- On this day in 1978, Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond's "You Don't Bring Me Flowers" hits No. 1.
- And finally, Mike Ditka and Defensive Coordinator Buddy Ryan nearly came to blows during half-time in Da Bears only loss in the 1985 season.

There were no guests or visitors.

Announcements:

- Andy Copenhaver talked about poinsettia sales. If you haven't sold as many plants as your conscience feels you should, the club would welcome financial donations to support this, our club's biggest fundraiser. Plants will arrive at the Chateau Friday, Dec. 11, and will be ready to unload at about 7:30 a.m. Andy needs help with delivery. Plant pick-up will be 9 a.m. – noon Saturday. **DON'T FORGET TO WEAR A MASK.**
- Linda Healy said Habitat for Humanity will not be building until at best spring. The Habitat Restore was closed for a time but has reopened. Due to covid-inspired housecleaning, Restore has tons of inventory.
- The next board meeting will be held Dec. 9, and after that we'll have more information about election of officers for 2021-22.
- President Fred also announced that the next Rotary Club presidents' meeting will be held Dec. 15. That's where local Rotary leaders discuss attendance, fundraising and service possibilities.

Judge: His Honor John E. Bishop swung right into the happy fines:

- Dayna Brown-Nielsen was happy about our Coats for Kids effort. Due to covid, the club had decided not to pursue the Coats for Kids drive this year. We thought that with people staying home students wouldn't need winter wear. Wrong. When it became clear that there's still a huge need for coats, the Coats for Kids committee did some power shopping and negotiating and bought about \$15,000 worth of coats with \$3,500 in funds from the Normal Rotary Foundation. (President Fred says he will ask the Coats committee to dicker for him next time he buys a car.)
- Drake Zimmerman was happy about the Coats for Kids success and also happy about poinsettia sales.
- Art Drake was happy about cell phones and free long distance calls in light of the fact that his kids seem to keep moving farther away.
- Dale Strassheim was happy to celebrate Thanksgiving with some family members.

Speaker:

Speaker: B.J. Wilken of the Bloomington-Normal YMCA told us about plans for a new facility at Washington Street and St. Joseph Drive.

The new building will include a gym, a second-floor patio, an outdoor playground, a competitive lap pool, a family recreation and therapy pool, a chapel and more. The YMCA will own the building, and Easter Seals will be a tenant.

The YMCA now has 8 full-time and 100 part-time employees, and B.J. says that staffing level will probably double in the new facility. Of the \$23.5 million cost, the YMCA has a little more than

\$20 million in committed funds. It's important for the YMCA to minimize long-term debt, B.J. said.

There is no plan yet for the YMCA's downtown site. The YMCA probably won't be able to afford to support the downtown site when the new site opens, B.J. said. They'll know more after the pandemic ends.

Thought for the Day:

"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.

A magical thing,

And sweet to remember.

We are nearer to Spring than we were in September.

I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."

--Oliver Herford

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761
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2020-2021

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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