

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's Welcome:

President Fred Hahn convened the March 17, 2021 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Ray Ropp gave the invocation.

This date in history:

- Fred didn't really have to explain the exalted place held by this day in history by any thinking American. But he did: Today is St. Patrick's Day, an Irish and Irish-American holiday begun in 1737 in Boston and 1776 in New York commemorating the death of Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland on March 17, 461. The holiday is celebrated worldwide by most nationalities. Fred felt moved to add that Patrick was Welsh.

Guest:

- David Hirst

Announcements:

- The club board of directors met Monday to discuss resuming in-person meetings. They looked at locations that would meet the needs of our members, comply with the recommendations put forward from nationally recognized medical officials, have the appropriate technology for hybrid meetings, be easily accessible and be affordable. The Alumni Center appears to be our best option.
 - Large enough meeting space to permit social distancing

- Technology already in place for remote and in-person meetings
- Free parking and a short walk to the facility
- Costs are reasonable.
- We'll probably have a club meeting devoted to how we can get our club back on post-pandemic track.
- Larissa McIlvain announced that Rotarians who are interested in serving on the scholarship committee should e-mail chairman Andy Copenhaver. Also, if you know any qualifying seniors at the high schools we serve, remind them to apply for the scholarships.

Judge: His Honor Bruce Bergethon started by fining all Rotarians who were shamefully negligent by not wearing green this St. Patrick's Day. Your Spoke writer was appropriately attired and even used a green pen to scribble his notes, so he silently hoped for extra credit. Kathy Alexander got a pass on this one because Bruce liked the background on her screen. Otherwise, the fines went like this:

- Bruce paid on behalf of local Irish musicians who usually strike a pot of gold in this season but this year are facing their second payless payday. (Thanks, covid!)
- Alan Chapman was happy to be in sunny Florida.
- Greg Anvick was happy that Illinois got a No. 1 seed in the NCAAs.
- Kathy Alexander was happy that she found a used car that (a) is in her budget, (b) that she likes and (c) is newer than the 2003 model that she has had since it was new. Enjoy that newer-car smell, Kathy!
- Fred Hahn reported that his in-laws are moving from their home of 50 years to an independent living facility. Sorting through generations' worth of accumulated treasure, Fred found a letter to his father-in-law signed by Everett Dirksen, Illinois' legendary U.S. senator (1951-1969). Fred also found his father-in-law's Social Security card, draft card and other IDs.
- Linda Healy is happy that she married into an Irish family. (I suppose that makes her Irish-in-law.) This year, she is breaking tradition by not making corned beef because she and Pat just don't like it. Cottage pie is on the menu instead.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy to have his second covid shot, which was, he said, "a good No. 2". People who get that joke will recognize it as being as juvenile as Drake promised that it would be.
- Ann Haugo was happy to have received her first covid vaccine dose.
- John E. Bishop was happy that Rebecca is done with IV chemo, which is a huge relief all-around.
- Hank Campbell is in the second week after getting his second covid shot. He also reminded the club of his mother-in-law's adage, which went along these lines: There are two kinds of people: Irish people and people who want to be Irish.

Fred reminded Rotarians to send their fines to club treasurer Ryan Fleming.

Program: Our speakers were John Stark and Derek Munson. John is artistic director for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Derek is the managing director. The festival is a summer tradition. Professional actors convene in our community to present outdoor performances at the Ewing Manor. Lots of people bring picnics and beverages to enhance the experience. The festival is respected in the theater community nationwide but many people in the local community don't know about it.

The festival provides an accessible, family-friendly way to enjoy Shakespeare's timeless plays. Of course, covid fouled that up last summer. And covid is curtailing the event this summer as well. At this time, audiences are limited to 87 people, who will be masked and distanced. The plays are "The Winter's Tale" and "Measure For Measure," selected to keep the size of the acting company down to nine. On Thursday and Saturday mornings, there will be a performance of "A Summer Winter's Tale," written by Nancy Steele Brokaw (maybe you've heard of her).

The Illinois Shakespeare Festival will be held July 3-Aug. 6. Season ticket holders can buy tickets March 29, and tickets will be available to the general public April 5.

<https://illinoisshakes.com/>

Ann Haugo said she and Al Goldfarb will teach classes studying "Measure for Measure" and "The Winter's Tale."

Covid has had its impact on the ISF operations, budget and productions, but one positive to come out of the experience is that it has allowed more time to address issues of diversity, equality and inclusion in the organization.

Thought for the Day

"One of the greatest tragedies in life is to lose your own sense of self and accept the version of you that is expected by everyone else."

To sign up to be a *Spoke* reporter one Wednesday, go here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044CAAAD2AA3FA7-thespoke>

To sign up to give the invocation one Wednesday, go here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044CAAAD2AA3FA7-normal>

To suggest a speaker: send an email to Dayna Brown (brownda@unit5.org) or Ann Haugo (ahaugo@ilstu.edu).

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