

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: Ann Haugo	Editor: Larissa McIlvain	
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President's Welcome:

President Fred Hahn was out getting his 2nd vaccine dose. President-Elect Ann Haugo filled in for him. Today's invocation was led by Connie Gentry.

Guest:

- David Hirst joined us again today as a guest, and Linda informed us that there may be a membership application on its way! Looking forward to welcoming him as a member of the club.

Announcements:

- Bill Caisley shared that Dr. Joan Miller has passed away. Dr. Miller was a professor emerita of Geography at Illinois State University and authored a history of the Normal Rotary Club. Further information about her career accomplishments can be found on the Illinois State University website: <https://about.illinoisstate.edu/ejmille/> and an obituary may be viewed here: https://www.pantagraph.com/obituaries/edith-joan-miller/article_1ba53eca-b550-56c4-af9f-3c5c1ea9993c.html

Judge: Judge David Taylor opened the floor for happy fines.

- Ryan offered \$5 in honor of this year's poinsettia results, sending kudos to coordinator Ann Copenhaver, noting that Alan Chapman's sales are key to achieving positive results, and thanking everyone who sold, donated, and helped in any way. Poinsettia sales netted \$9,000 this year, the highest total we've achieved in a couple of years, despite the prices of poinsettias rising.
- Dayna offered a happy/sad fine, in honor of her oldest child graduating in May from Northern Illinois and heading to a new job – far away – in Mesa, Arizona. She noted that this is far, far away for this helicopter mom, who may find it difficult to micro-manage his life from across the country. She didn't mention whether he might appreciate that break...
- Ann followed with another happy/sad fine. Her son was in the process of moving across country to Corvallis, Oregon, to begin in-person graduate school and an assistantship after taking classes remotely for two quarters.
- Linda noted that she is typically not a big sports fan that she follows football on tv and appreciates baseball more in person. Her all-time favorite, however, is the NCAA tournament, and she is currently #4 in her pool!
- Bruce offered a friendly amendment to Dayna and Ann's helicopter mom problems. Having to visit your kids in Arizona and Oregon is not the worst thing that could happen...
- Hank shared a happy fine for his oldest son's second full week of employment, noting that he is still navigating the challenge of finding adequate housing near his job in Mississippi.

Program: Today's program was a club business day, hijacked a bit by President-Elect Ann who sought to receive some feedback and thoughts from club members as she begins to establish goals and focuses for her year as President. Attendees participated in small group discussions in breakout rooms, meeting for about 20 minutes and then returning to the large group to share what they had discussed. Guiding questions were the following:

- Returning to some level of in-person meetings. (Board members shared that there is a plan to move to hybrid meetings in May. Stay tuned for more information about this.)
- We need to re-engage/reinvigorate members, perhaps "re-onboard" our current membership. Help them transition back into meetings, service projects, etc. We should find a way to celebrate being together, once we are able to do so.
- Focus on some fun events; some clubs in Bloomington-Normal put a greater focus on fun than our club does. Maybe we need to embrace that.
- Member recruitment: we should concentrate on increasing our current membership.
- More community service opportunities, or an examination/assessment of the projects that we do. Are they still effective? Should we be more involved in 5-club efforts?
- Examine the committee structure. Are they effective? Perhaps go back to the basics. Strip the memberships bare and rebuild.
- Reinvigorating an effective leadership succession plan.

- Public image: Publicize future meetings and speakers, in order to help with invitations of prospective members. Focus on publicity in the community and within the club.
- Encourage support of RI efforts
- Work toward dedicating funds for overseas projects, such as Drake's.

Ann closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their ideas and insight, and inviting them to contact her with any further thoughts.

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).

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