

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



The Normal Spoke

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

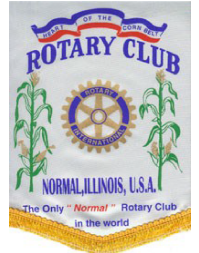
RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

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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: Ann Haugo	Editor: Larissa McIlvain	
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President Fred Hahn convened the April 28, 2021 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Ray Ropp provided the invocation.

Guests: Jack noted that David Hirst was with us again, but was in the process of becoming a member of the club.

This day in history:

- On April 28, 1789, Captain William Bligh and 18 loyal crewmen of the HMS Bounty were set adrift off the coast of Tahiti in a 23' open boat. After a voyage lasting 47 days, they reached the island of Timor in the Dutch East Indies and then England to report the mutiny on the Bounty.
- In 1869, Chinese and Irish laborers, working together for the Central Pacific Railroad, completed 10-miles of track in one day, setting a feat which has never been matched.
- In 1947, 5 Norwegians and a Suede named Thor Heyerdahl set off in the raft Kon-Tiki from Peru in an attempt to prove that the Polynesian Islands were settled in a similar way thousands of years ago.
- And, in 1986, the United States Navy aircraft carrier USS Enterprise successfully navigated through the Suez Canal without getting stuck.

Announcements:

- In-person/Zoom hybrid meeting is scheduled for May 19. Bill Semlak will work with the Alumni Center AV crew. Jack Moody will help to set up. No lunch will be provided. In respect for your fellow Rotarians, please wear your mask properly and maintain a safe distance.

- Dayna noted that we could use some assistance lining up speakers for in-person meetings. Please forward any recommendations to her.
- Rotary Day at Busch Stadium will be May 22. Cardinals vs. Cubs. Mike Harris is tracking tickets, \$55/ticket, of which \$20 comes back to the club. Game is at 6:15. 300 tickets available. Seating in pods of 3 and 4. Email Mike Harris, District 6490 Literacy Chair. Mail check to 2001 Barberry Drive, Springfield, IL 62704. Make check out to Rotary 6460 Foundation.
- Rotary International's virtual meeting is set for June 12-16.
- Ron Timmerman announced that the Oktoberfest committee would meet after the meeting.
- Dayna said that student scholarship interviews had been scheduled. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.
- Hank shared that Drake Zimmerman's Peace Award for the malaria project came this week. Congratulations to Drake!
- Gordon also noted that the current Rotary magazine has a great article about the malaria project.

Judge:

- Judge Linda Healy reported that she originally had no fines to levy, but she just heard a slew of happy fine material in the announcements. Drake probably owed more than \$1, but she let him off for \$1 and called on everyone to put in \$1 for all of our happiness for Drake. Linda's own happy fines included being thrilled that Dave Hirst is joining the club. He'll be a great addition to this club.
- Bruce offered \$5 for a triple happy fine that he said would take a little time. In addition to reminding us that Duke Ellington's birthday was this week, he also noted that the Pirates are ahead of the Cubs and the Cards. That may not last long, so he needed to emphasize it while he could.
- Dale offered a happy-to-be-back fine. (Yes, welcome back!)

Program:

Today's speaker was Marianne Manko, Public Affairs Coordinator for McLean County Health Department. Much of her presentation focused on current statistics and vaccination procedures in the county, including exploring the reasons that some may be hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. At the time, we were still in Phase 4, and she reminded us that once we moved into the bridge phase, we would need to be in the bridge for 28 days before we can advance to Phase 5.

That week, McLean County reached a critical mass in the demand for the vaccine. While the Health Department thought that this process would be gradual, they suddenly had open appointments that weren't filling. This was true not just in McLean County but also in some other counties. So beginning on April 27, all vaccine clinics were opened for walk-ins. Many of those were Pfizer clinics, so they were able to vaccinate those from age 16 and up.

Marianne pointed out the distinct differences between vaccine hesitancy and vaccine equity. Their staff created a group to examine what the barriers have been to receiving a vaccine. They expected that the African-American and Hispanic communities would have higher levels of hesitance but found that this was not the case at all. Most of the concerns for these groups were about equity: Were they able to receive explanations in their first language, for example, if Spanish speakers? Where they found the most hesitancy was in Caucasian middle-aged men who identify themselves as conservative, so they have adjusted some of their public messaging to address this – for example, running spots during the WEEK and WMBD morning shows.



Thought for Today:

“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment” -Will Rogers



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