

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



The Normal Spoke

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

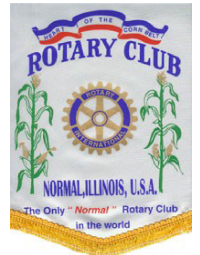
RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

May 12, 2021 Volume No. 72 Issue 42

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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The Normal Rotary Club meeting for May 12, 2021 was conducted via Zoom.

Congratulations and welcome to Dave Hirst, whose membership application has been officially accepted.

Announcements:

- The Wednesday, May 19, meeting will be a hybrid meeting at the Alumni Center.
- Rural/Urban Night will be June 16. Call Ray Ropp at 454-1760 if you want to attend so that they can get a count for how many will be present.
- Board approved \$1000 donation to the Dietz scholarship fund.
- Oakdale Promise Council meeting next week.
- Surinder announced that the global grant for an ambulance had been approved.
- Linda shared that Habitat will be having virtual house blessings for both houses, including the Rotary house.

Judge: Linda Healy, presiding

Happy fines:

- Linda began with happy fines of a sort, for anyone who is a mother, lives with a mother, or wants to celebrate their mother. She then added her own happy fines related to Mother's Day, and then another because she's happy to welcome Dave Hirst as a Rotarian.
- Bruce pointed out that Miranda had received a new title but that he didn't have the paper in front of him to reference it. Miranda shared a fine and the news that she had recently been appointed as a Private Client Advisor at Commerce Trust.

- Ray asked if Bruce had noticed the baseball rankings this week. This reporter isn't sure whether Bruce offered a fine out of chagrin, or whether Ray should offer the fine for needling Bruce.
- Dave Hirst offered his first happy fine as an official member, saying that he's happy to be a part of the group, and that he's happy to report that Orioles are visiting his feeders.
- Jack Moody is writing a screenplay about a Ford F150 and its five owners.
- Becky's family gathered together for dinner for the first time since December 2019.
- Hank reported that Mary was able to take a trip with two of her colleagues for the first time in two years. They traveled to Raleigh-Durham and St. Augustine.
- Drake said that he was happy to see everyone, and that he, too, is watching some beautiful Orioles. But he wasn't sure that he was as happy about Ray's orange shirt. ;)

Program:

Today's speaker is Kyle Brennan, Illinois State University's Director of Athletics. Brennan served as the University of Utah's Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Athletics Director prior to coming to ISU. He has more than 16 years of combined University and athletic department experience at Northern Illinois, TCU, Ball State and Utah.



In his remarks, Brennan shared that he had been at Utah for 13 years, which was longer than he had originally thought he would stay. NIU was his first position in athletics, which is basically his second career, having been a lawyer before returning to school to work in athletics. He and his wife have three boys. Two of the boys attend Normal Community, and another will join them next year. The oldest boy is a senior and will be going to Illinois State next year.

Brennan said that he is joining a great program at Illinois State and that he regards this position as a great opportunity for him. He believes the university has held steady during very difficult times and has great respect for the work that President Dietz and other leaders have done on campus. He believes Illinois State is in a good position to derail NDSU in football – something Brennan regards as very doable – and build its reputation not just regionally but nationally.

Some observations on the success of the athletics program beyond the titles and awards earned included the following:

Academically, the program has done a great job. Department GPA was 3.36 last year. Spring GPA was 3.61 last spring, highest in history. 345 student athletes made the honor roll, highest in the history of the athletics program. This shows that not only are the students working hard but also the coaches have done a great job recruiting talented and dedicated students..

The program is working toward better relationships among students and staff, working on diversity in the program and in having staff in place who make the students feel welcome. They continue to meet with coaches and staff about core values, maintaining a practice that is student-centered. Focus is on the three C's: Classroom (academically strong), Competition (athletically strong), and Community (community service-focused)

In the next few years, Brennan hopes to build an indoor practice facility, something that the program has needed for a very long time. A \$2 million gift has been received for that project, and he's continuing to work with the university and the state. He sees the facility as something that could be made available to the community as well, raising revenue throughout the community by hosting more tournaments, etc. Other plans include a new track this year and an update to the study center.

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