

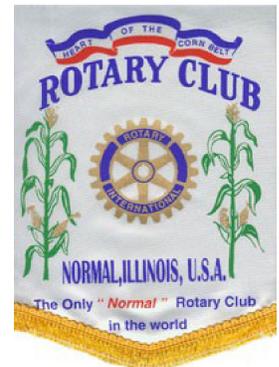
The Weekly Newsletter of the
Only Normal Rotary Club in the World
Chartered June 17, 1949



The Normal Spoke

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RI No. 3282 District No. 6490
June 24, 2020 Volume No. 71 Issue No. 43
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 John Bishop opened the meeting at 12:07 – his last meeting as President of the club.

Thanks to the following for documenting today's proceedings:

Spoke Reporter: Ann Haugo
Spoke Editor: Larissa McIlvain
Introductions: Visiting Rotarian Cat Woods, who is our speaker for the day

This day in history:

- 1497: John Cabot claims Eastern Canada for England (believes he has found Asia in Nova Scotia).
- 1664: The colony of New Jersey is founded.
- 1793: The first republican constitution in France is adopted.
- 1901: The first exhibition by Pablo Picasso opens in Paris. He is 19 years old.
- 1930: The first radar detection of planes takes place in Anacostia, Washington, D.C.
- 1949: "Hopalong Cassidy" becomes the first network western, airing on NBC.
- 1958: Nina Simone releases her debut jazz album, "Little Girl Blue."
- 2020: I preside over the last Rotary meeting of my presidency.

Announcements:

- Linda Healy reminded everyone that Habitat for Humanity's first day back on the build site will be **July 11**. Masks are required and will be provided; hard hats and safety glasses, part of the safety procedures for Habitat, will also be provided. Gloves are not required but you can bring them if you want them. **Please sign-up online if you plan to help:**
 - To volunteer, go to: <https://habitatmclean.volunteerhub.com/>
 - Scroll down to the calendar and you'll see the available signups. Click on one and add your name to the list.
 - ****Important reminder:** everyone will need to sign an **updated waiver** – even if you signed a waiver previously. This can be done online.
- A few members asked again today about our scheduled return date to the ISU campus for meetings. Jack Moody has spoken with our contact, and we will have our first meeting back in the Bone Student Center on August 5. That meeting will be held in the Old Main Room, which is on the same floor as the Circus Room, just further down the hallway.

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

- President John Bishop offered a happy fine for his last day as president, having finished his last agenda. He shared that while he's had lots of fun over the last year, he'll be happy to have that 45 minutes back each week.
- Gordon Bidner announced that he and his wife Sandi will celebrate their 60th anniversary on Saturday. Ray asked how many of those years were "happily" married. Gordon replied that for him, all 60 years were happy, but we may want to ask Sandi for her opinion.
- Drake Zimmerman reported that the Rotarians Against Malaria is going very well in his year as chairman. They are in the process of developing educational materials. You can find more information and join as an educator/ambassador if you'd like at the following URL: www.ram-global.org. Drake offered a second happy fine because the Australian groups have initiated four global grants. For those who may want to contribute to these malaria grants, the grant # is GG2015315. Log onto MyRotary.org and when you donate use the grant number. Thank you!
- Ann Haugo has started campus non-visits to colleges for her youngest child. During the pandemic, universities aren't holding in-person college visits for prospective students. The family just traveled to Madison to walk around the campus and experience it in person.
- Dayna offered a happy fine because the state has finally released guidelines for schools to welcome students back this fall. She received the 63-page plan, and three minutes later the media called to ask what she thought of it. (She told them that all she could say is that it's a lot of pages.) Dayna's also happy that they have been able to hold some strength and conditioning for students, outside, socially distant, taking temperatures, something that will help with both physical and social well-being. Weight-training will start next week, and marching band will start soon. New superintendent starts on July 1, and while the staff has been stretched beyond limits, everyone is looking forward to the fall.

- Following Dayna's comments, David Taylor reminded everyone that academic regression has been a serious issue during COVID, and behavioral health challenges for students are very real. Keep Dayna and all the educators in your thoughts and prayers as they get the schools back up and running.

New Board Installation

Gordon Bidner led the installation of new officers, offering his congratulations and thanks to everyone for their willingness to serve. He also thanked outgoing President John Bishop for a successful year and many accomplishments under very challenging circumstances.

New officers sworn in today are:

- President – Fred Hahn
- President-Elect – Ann Haugo
- Vice President – (open)
- Secretary – Jack Moody
- Treasurer – Ryan Fleming
- Director – David Taylor
- Director – Angie Bubon
- Director - Larissa McIlvain
- Director - Dayna Brown-Nielsen

Program: United Way's Initiative for Internet for Rural Kids – Cat Woods

Cat Woods is Director of Finance at Illinois Special Olympics. Currently she is on the board of United Way and WGLT Friends Council, is a past president of Bloomington Normal Sunrise Rotary, and is a TEDx Talks organizer. Her past community involvement has included Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Child Care Resource and Referral Network, Hearts at Home, Central Illinois Humane Society, Newman Center, Midwest Food Bank, First United Methodist Church, 2nd Presbyterian Church, Eastview Christian Church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, and Boys and Girls Club.

A graduate of the University of Illinois and a Certified Public Accountant, Woods enjoys helping small businesses design an accounting system that can handle the reporting needs of a business. Her two children have the same entrepreneurial spirit, one runs a photography business and the other in agriculture.

Cat began by noting that she managed to be a part of all of those congregations listed in her introduction because she played electric bass in a worship band.

Since COVID, United Way has organized a strategic task force to assist with food and housing needs, workforce development, and childcare needs in the community during the pandemic, a

program that Normal Rotary has heard about in earlier presentations. In working on workforce development and childcare needs, a challenge that emerged was the lack of internet access for many children. Woods used the example of the Olympia school district, in which 81 homes were identified that don't have internet service. This is an equality issue.

Options used by other school districts were explored. District 87 uses Frontier, while LeRoy and Tri-Valley employ hotspots. Another option with great potential is point-to-point antenna systems, which broadcast the school's internet signal. Homes would have an antenna on the roof of the house. The first test of this, however, proved unsuccessful, because the trees around houses blocked the signal. United Way will provide some support for this program if a method can be found, but it needs to be solved before children return to school this fall.

Woods turned the question to the Rotarians assembled for the meeting, asking if members had seen or heard of technology that could be used in order to get internet service to remote locations.

Gordon Bidner commented that his children went to Olympia schools, and they're 18.5 miles from the school. It's such a large school district. According to Woods, however, the antennas will work up to 30 miles. Gordon also noted that Metcom lines run very near to them, but apparently only towns and villages can connect to the lines.

Hank Campbell shared that he has a similar issue in Carlock, without a clear line of site to receive the signal. They have used the original landline to get service through Frontier, and while it can be unpredictable, it has worked.

Jack Moody recommended that Cat contact the IT Director for McLean County, Craig Nelson, who may be able to figure out a solution.

Woods closed the discussion by thanking everyone for their input and thanking John Bishop for his service to Rotary.



Thought for Today:

“Others have seen what is and asked why. I have seen what could be and asked why not.”

-Pablo Picasso



The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761
 Editorial Staff: Art Drake, and Larissa McIlvain
 Meetings are held Wednesdays at noon in the Circus Room at the Bone Student Center, ISU.

Officers 2019-2020:

President - John E. Bishop

E-mail: JEBii.bishop@gmail.com

Home phone: 1-309-663-0677 – Work phone: 1-309-663-8436

President Elect – Fred Hahn

E-mail : fredjhahnpe@gmail.com

Home phone : 1-309-750-0326

Vice President – Dianne Schultz

E-mail: dschultz@thebabyfold.org

Cell phone: 1-309-826-7004 – Work phone: 1-309-451-7201

Secretary – Marcia Dennis

E-mail: meldenni@ilstu.edu

Home phone: 1-309-454-5047

Treasurer - Ryan Fleming

E-mail : ryan.fleming@commercebank.com

Home phone : 1-815-739-5498 - Work phone : 1-309-823-7289

Sergeant At Arms- Bill Semlak

E-mail: wdsemlak@ilstu.edu

Phone: 1-309-359-8172

Past President - Sherry Hawkins

E-mail : shawkins@hbtbank.com

Home phone : 1-309-531-7737 - Work phone : 1-309-664-8927

Directors 2019-2020:

Community Service – David Taylor

E-mail : dtaylor@uwaymc.org

Work phone : 1-309-828-7383

Rotary Foundation & International – Angie Bubon

E-mail: angela.fulton@gmail.com

Home phone: 309-530-0396

Publicity – Larissa McIlvain

E-mail: Larissa.McIlvain@heartland.edu

Home phone : 1-309-338-7362 - Work phone : 1-309-268-8125

Director of Club Administration - Dayna Brown-Nielsen

E-mail: brownda@Unit5.org

Work phone: 1-309-454-2850 Home phone: 1-309-862-3385

Assistant Governor: John Meek

E-mail: jmeek@fdco.com

Phone: 1-309-275-9386

District Governor – Julie Dobski

Phone: 1-309-287-2487

Email: Littlejewels.julied@hotmail.com



Rotary International President
 2019-2020
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 Member of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama

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