

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

July 1, 2020 Volume No. 72 Issue No. 01

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)



<b>Reporter:</b> Art Drake	<b>Editor:</b> Larissa McIlvain	
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President Fred Hahn convened the July 1, 2020 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Lacking a bell, he banged on a pan instead. He noted that July 1 is an important day for good neighbors to the North when the two maritime provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia joined into a confederation to form the nation of Canada. The day is celebrated as Canada Day.

President Fred thanked his Kitchen Cabinet who have helped with his transition into his year's presidency, including but not limited to Marcia Dennis, Gordon Bidner, John Bishop, Larissa McIlvain, Bruce Bergethon, Drake Zimmerman and Jack Moody – and, of course, the cadre of folks at District 6490 He also is grateful to Sherry Hawkins for her work coordinating our speaker schedule.

### Announcements:

- Fred was sworn by the District June 28 during a virtual ceremony broadcast from Paris [City of Lights], Illinois and hosted by our new governor, Mike Step and outgoing governor, Julie Dobski.
- Linda Healy said construction will resume July 11 on the Habitat for Humanity house sponsored by local Rotarians. Any Rotarian can volunteer any Saturday. Covid precautions will be in place. **This has been delayed until July 25.**
- President Fred said ISU personnel have expressed concern about the safety of reopening campus, and that could affect any future meetings at the Bone Student Center

**Judge:** Judge: Bruce Bergethon noted that the Sunday Pantagraph observed the 60th anniversary of Gordon and Sandy Bidner and the 50th anniversary for Paul and Noeli Anderson, members of Sunset Rotary. Bruce noted that the photos with both articles included Rotary pins. Bruce also noted that the Limited magazine – long a reliable source of Normal Rotary fines – is now publishing pictures of old social events. This gives Rotarians the chance to pay a second fine for the same offense. Bruce found vintage pictures of Alan Chapman, Angie Bubon and David Taylor – all lacking Rotary pins.

And then there were happy fines:

- Bruce paid a \$40 fine in honor of his daughter's 40th birthday.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen was happy that Dr. Kristen Weikle has started her new position as superintendent at Unit 5. She added that Unit 5 is planning an in-person, safe graduation for members of the Class of 2020.
- Jack Moody tried to get Becky Goeckner to say something but had no luck. It turns out that Becky is attending our on-line meetings without the benefit of a microphone or a camera.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy about a tech upgrade in his office.

**Remember to pay your fines, happy fines and birthday donations!** You may mail a check to the Normal Rotary Club or consider using your bank's bill pay option to save a stamp. The Club's mailing address is: Normal Rotary Club, PO Box 333, Normal, IL 61761

**Program:** Adam Nielsen is National Legislative Director for the Illinois Farm Bureau. His job is to communicate the Farm Bureau priorities and stands on issues to members of Congress and to federal agencies.

The farm economy has been down every year since 2012, and this year was looking decent until covid hit, Adam said. The virus took a toll on the restaurant and grocery industries. Covid in meat packing plants disrupted the meat supply, affecting farmers and consumers and everyone else in the food supply chain. Ethanol production dropped because people were driving less and international oil prices dropped. The CARES legislation set aside \$16 billion for farmers who suffered losses due to covid.

The greenhouse sector of the ag industry was particularly hard hit by covid, taking a hit during Mother's Day and Easter. Horseradish production, centered in the St. Louis area, suffers right along with the restaurant industry. People who produce and market herbal remedies at events are stuck with product because most events have been canceled. One game pheasant grower released 2,000 birds that he otherwise would've sold for \$13 each.

On the brighter side, the local beef market is thriving in Illinois, Adam said. Farmers markets and local agriculture participants are doing well. The cannabis industry does not seem to have been affected though, Adam said. There is no sign of when the ag industry will be able to settle into a post-covid normal, he added.



***Thought for Today:***

“Never lower standards for success”



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

2020-2021

Holger Knaack

Member of the

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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