

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: Art Drake	Editor: Angie Bubon	Photographer: TBD
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President Fred Hahn convened the Oct. 14, 2020 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Hank Campbell gave the invocation.

This day in history:

- On this day in 1066 at Hastings, William the Bastard and his Norman army defeated Harold II and his English forces cementing his by-name "William the Conqueror". In 1322, Robert the Bruce of Scotland defeated Edward II at Byland.
- The year was 1930 and Ira Gershwin's "Girl Crazy" premiered in NYC. Continuing with the classics, "Keeping up with the Kardashians" premiered on cable in 2007.
- Famous birthdays include William Penn who would have been 376 years old and Dwight D. Eisenhower who would have been 130 years young.
- In 1914, Babe Ruth weds Helen Woodford and we again celebrate one week after the wedding day of Linda Healy.

Announcements:

- A board meeting was scheduled after the club meeting, and the agenda was to include a decision on poinsettia sales and approval of the financial report.

- Dayna Brown-Nielsen reminded members that the club will have a social event 4:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16 at the Ropp Farm. There will be donuts and cider and maybe a fire in the fire pit. This will be a pretty safe way to meet in person during the pandemic, so bring family and enjoy yourselves.
- Hank and Dayna discussed the needs of all schools in the Bloomington-Normal community. Those needs for supplies are especially urgent during the pandemic, with Unit 5 and District 87 holding classes in a hybrid format – that is, in-person some days and at-home on other days. Schools don't want students carrying their supplies back and forth from home, so there's a need for even more supplies than usual.

Judge: The Most Honorable David Taylor

David Taylor convened court, adding his endorsement to help schools in the community with supplies to meet the covid challenge

Happy Fines:

- David paid \$5 for two things. He spoke to Sunrise Rotary and got a look at how Rotarians there handle meetings that are accessible both in-person and online. He also was happy to have celebrated his dad's 80th birthday.
- Nancy Brokaw paid \$5 to urge the club to support the schools with their supply needs. Nancy is on the Promise Council board, so she gets a close look at the challenges the schools face.
- Greg Anvick paid \$5 for this beautiful fall day.
- Drake Zimmerman paid \$5 in honor of all the staff and volunteers who are working to make schools function during the pandemic. He also was happy to have enjoyed a train trip to Seattle with his wife, Jan. He recommends getting a sleeper car and enjoying the experience. He went there to meet with Rotary Malaria Partners.
- President Fred was happy not to have a cast on his hand.

Program: Biran Wipperman, CEO of Marcfirst



Our speaker was Brian Wipperman, CEO of Marcfirst. Brian joined Marcfirst in the summer of 2019 after years as a special education teacher and administrator. Previously, he also was vice president of education at the Children's Home Association of Illinois in Peoria.

Marcfirst has been in Bloomington-Normal for 65 years, having started as a school for people with developmental disabilities. Today, Marcfirst provides an array of therapy and support for people with developmental disabilities of all ages.

Pediatric therapy services are aimed at children from birth to age 3 and are provided in the home. That kind of therapy can include feeding, speech and language, social and emotional therapy and more. Older clients are served in the 1,000-square-foot clinic, but that will change soon when Marcfirst will move to a 4,700-square-foot facility at the Carle Broman Medical Center. That facility will include a sensory gym, a motor gym and office space to provide individual and group therapy.

Marcfirst also helps people with developmental and intellectual challenges to find and thrive in jobs throughout the community.

Marcfirst has 150 staffers – full time and part time. Turnover is a huge issue, as is the level of state support, which is below the national average.



Thought for Today:

*“It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies,
but just as much to stand up to our friends”*

-Albus Dumbledore



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	DNRY- 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

