

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)



<b>Reporter:</b> Art Drake	<b>Editor:</b> Larissa McIlvain	<b>Photographer:</b> TBD
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President Fred Hahn suffered another hand injury. In his absence, President-Elect Ann Haugo convened the Nov. 4, 2020 Zoom meeting of the Normal Rotary Club. Hank Campbell offered the reflection.

Today is November 4. It is the 45th Wednesday of the year. There are only 57 days remaining in 2020.

Worldwide, today is the Hindu festival day of Karva Chauth. This is a one-day celebration by married women mostly from North and Central India which involves fasting and prayers for the safety of their husbands. It is also the Day of National Unity in Russia and the National Unity and Armed Forces Day in Italy, both of them national holidays.

On this day in...

- 1842: Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married in Springfield, Illinois.
- 1922: English archaeologist and Egyptologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen.
- 1952: In the U.S., the National Security Agency (NSA) was established.

- 1979: 63 U.S. citizens were among a group of 90 hostages held after the U.S. embassy in Tehran was seized. Some hostages were released more quickly, but 52 of the hostages were held for 14 months.
- 1991: The first gathering of 5 U.S. presidents occurred at the opening of the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. Other presidents in attendance were George HW Bush, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon.
- 2001: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the film, premiered in London, its world premiere.

**Guests:** The only guest was Larissa McIlvain's brand new son, Levi, attending his first Rotary meeting.

**Announcements:**

- Alan Chapman reported that the exchange student, Luis, has tested positive with covid. His fever has abated. He's feeling good and is in quarantine.
- Jack Moody said Bruce Warloe, a former member of our club, passed away.
- Ryan Fleming said tickets for poinsettia sales are available at Andy Copenhaver's office, at his (Ryan's) office and at Alan Chapman's home. Orders will be delivered Dec. 11.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen reported that in light of the latest covid restrictions, Normal Rotary will continue to meet via Zoom at least through December.
- On a related topic, Jack Moody volunteers with an organization that is trained to help out with disasters. That organization is currently training to help distribute a covid vaccine if and when one becomes available.
- Connie Gentry announced that Rotarian Elleke Mesdag sends her best wishes. Elleke can't tune in to the Zoom meetings, unfortunately.

**Judge:** His Honour David Taylor (who is sufficiently distinguished to earn that extra "U" in his title) collected some happy fines:

- Art Drake was happy to have celebrated his dad's birthday.
- Alan Chapman was happy that, despite the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic, this year's Tee It Up effort raised a record amount – over \$155,000. Alan's grandson, Max, is holding his own in school and is in stable health.

**Speaker:**

Our speaker was Brock Spack, ISU's football coach since 2008. The pandemic has made 2020 a brutal year for the football program.

Team members are frustrated that their athletic experience has been curtailed. The fall season was postponed and will be a spring season, with games starting in February and continuing into April. It's all backward. Some team members left ISU for other schools that carried on with their fall football season. Other players moved on because of other things going on in their lives.

The players had some practices over the summer and then the season was postponed. From Nov. 20-Jan. 8, players can voluntarily train on their own; the coach cannot require it.

There have been some covid cases among the players, but Brock said that those cases came from the athletes' dorms or apartments or from social gatherings – not from the football program. Half of the players are tested every other week. When players leave campus, they must be tested upon their return.

Although Brock thought his organization is getting a handle on covid mitigation, the pandemic is still disruptive. It's causing problems with athletic scholarships. Some student athletes are having a hard time adjusting to taking classes online. And it looks like the Redbird football team will be playing two seasons in an eight-month time period, so they have to watch for potential injuries.

### **Thought for the Day**

“Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.”

-Rep. John Lewis, in *Across That Bridge*

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2020-2021

Holger Knaack  
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