

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

January 20, 2021 Volume No. 72

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: Becky Goeckner	Photographer:
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President Fred Hahn convened the January 20, 2021 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Ray Ropp gave the invocation.



Because the United States just inaugurated a new president, Fred presented some interesting facts about presidential inaugurations:

- Since 1937, January 20th has been the day in which we celebrate the inauguration of the President and Vice-president of the United States.
- Since 1789, and with only 2 exceptions, the Chief Justice has administered the oath of office. George Washington had to borrow money to travel to New York City to attend his first inauguration.
- None of John Adams', family was present for his inauguration.
- John Quincy Adams' in 1825 was the first president to wear long pants to his inauguration. In previous years, knee breeches were the standard uniform. (Reporter's note: Kamala Harris was the first vice president who wore a dress to the inauguration.)
- Zachary Taylor in 1849 refused to be sworn in on a Sunday because of his religious beliefs. The President Pro-tem, David Atchison stepped in and took the oath. He remarked that he slept through that afternoon and did not accomplish anything while holding the office.

- In 1853, Franklin Pierce was suffering through a crisis of faith and refused to “swear on a Bible” to uphold his duties.
- And finally, in 1861, Andrew Johnson [Vice President to Abraham Lincoln] had self-medicated with whiskey to alleviate a fever from a bout of typhoid and could neither repeat the oath properly nor swear in new senators.

Announcements:

- Fred announced that he hopes to schedule the club’s annual meeting as soon as he has a complete slate of officers to vote on.

Judge: With no judge on the roster, Fred moved right along to the...

Program:



**United Way
of McLean County**

Fellow Rotarian David Taylor, President of the United Way of McLean County, reviewed all that the United Way has been involved in addressing the Covid crisis. When the pandemic struck last march, the United Way was in a position to act decisively and approved \$100,000 for Covid relief. As the pandemic spread, he could tell that this crisis was different from any he had experienced.

Within a couple of weeks, the United Way started a task force to reach out to a variety of Covid efforts, engaging with local government, school districts, businesses and nonprofits. They surveyed the needs and found that people in the community were being socked with threats to job security, food security, shelter security, child care and health security – all due to Covid.

The goal of Feeding Bloomington-Normal and Beyond was to provide quick and direct assistance to fend off food insecurity. The United Way worked with the local Chamber of Commerce, local farmers and restaurants to assemble the food that was available and to get it to people who needed it. Besides meeting their food needs, the effort provided some liquidity to farmers and to restaurants and restaurant employees whose finances were crushed by Covid.

On social media, the United Way was involved in efforts to promote the wearing of masks and to collect and distribute donated masks. The food distribution network also served to give out masks.

In April, it became clear that people were having trouble paying rent and utilities due to Covid. The United Way was involved in the creation of a uniform two-page application for housing assistance that could be used no matter what agency the applicant turned to. Housing assistance totaling \$2 million was made available, but this need is not going away.

Child care and youth programs also took a hit due to Covid. The United Way has been involved in an effort to get thermometers out to school districts and families so they can keep an eye out for Covid symptoms. United Way also is working to address the problem of rural internet access, which is essential to remote learning during the pandemic.

The United Way is also working to bridge the gap between people who need jobs or better jobs and fields of opportunity: CNAs, paramedics, firefighters, etc.

Other challenges on the radar for 2021: the Covid vaccine rollout, behavioral health needs exacerbated by Covid, the achievement gap and addressing poverty and the working poor.

If you would like donate, you can send a check to: United Way McLean County Covid Relief, P.O. Box 1348, Bloomington, IL 61702-1348. Or if you go to their web site, you can find a button so you can donate online: uwmclean.org.


Thought for Today:

After a long outing with her nieces, their aunt asked her charges if their mother allowed them to eat at McDonald's. They dejectedly said no... then added, "If they served beer, we would eat there all the time."



*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 Opens Opportunities

Rotary International

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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	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