

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: Larissa McIlvain	
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President's Welcome:

President Fred Hahn convened the Jan. 27, 2021 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Hank Campbell offered the invocation.

Fred told us why Jan. 27 is such an important date in history:

- On this day in 1880, Thomas Edison patented the electric incandescent lamp. The light bulb used a cotton fiber and burned for an astounding 13 hours. The filament was changed to bamboo, which had a life of 1200 hours. Edison actually didn't invent the light bulb. Twenty-two inventors preceded him. But his was the first that actually burned for a reasonable time.
- The first college basketball game was played in 1894 between the University of Chicago and the Chicago YMCA. The final score was 19 – 11 with the University of Chicago winning. The YMCA accused the University of running up the score.
- In 1918, the first Tarzan of the Apes, starring Elmo Lincoln, film premiered at the Broadway Theater. There have been 24 sequels.
- Elvis Presley released "Heartbreak Hotel" in 1956. It went on to be his first \$1M single.
- And in 1756 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria. Mozart composed over 600 works before his death at 35 years old.

Guests:

- Andy Finks, guest of Stephanie McClellan. Andy grew up in B-N and attended Unit 5 schools and ISU. He has worked in the investment department at Country Financial for several years. He has been active on various boards in the community.
- Dave Hirst, guest of Drake Zimmerman. Dave taught Spanish and music in the public schools for 35 years. He is president of the Immigration Project and also volunteers at a local hospital.

Announcements:

- Jack Moody announced that John Wroan III passed away Jan. 22. His obituary said he was a former member of the Normal Rotary Club.

Judge:

Bruce Bergethon was the judge, and he seemed as surprised as the rest of us when Fred described Bruce as esteemed and venerated. Bruce noted that Iowa and the U of I were to face off on the basketball court. Any whiff of a mention of Iowa triggers an inexplicable burst of home state pride from Drake Zimmerman, which Ray Ropp interpreted as arrogance. Good thing that nobody could find Zoom's "fisticuffs" button. Linda Healy spoke in defense of Iowa for some reason. And there were some happy fines:

- Linda Healy paid \$49 because she is happy that Kamala Harris was sworn in as vice president.
- Larissa McIlvain is happy that elementary students are set to return to in-person class.
- Bill Semlak is happy that Joan has received her first dose of covid vaccine.
- Hank Campbell was happy that he completed his covid quarantine two days previously.

Speaker:

Our speaker was Georgia Nugent, PhD, the 20th president of Illinois Wesleyan University. She was named interim president in 2019 and shortly afterwards was named to the position permanently. Dr. Nugent has been pleased to find a strong spirit of cooperation among Wesleyan, the B-N community and other local institutions of higher learning.

Covid has had a major impact on IWU. Smaller colleges apparently were able to deal with it than larger campuses. Today, IWU has a lot of Plexiglas shields and modified classrooms to allow for social distancing. Students can take classes in person, online or via two different hybrid formats.



As a liberal arts college, IWU prides itself on providing a well-rounded education in a wide variety of disciplines such as nursing, education studies, music and business. Most students study business, some sort of health field or engineering, but they also want enrichment courses.

She is also proud of the McLean County Scholarship program for students who are residents of McLean County that have been accepted into Illinois Wesleyan University. This initiative guarantees no less than \$30,000 in scholarship support for local students.

Thought for the Day:

“I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.” -Thomas Edison

To sign up to be a *Spoke* reporter one Wednesday, go here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044CAAAD2AA3FA7-thespoke>

To sign up to give the invocation one Wednesday, go here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044CAAAD2AA3FA7-normal>

To suggest a speaker: send an email to Dayna Brown (brownda@unit5.org) or Ann Haugo (ahaugo@ilstu.edu).

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