

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

March 10, 2021 Volume No. 72 Issue No. 33

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's Welcome:

President Fred Hahn convened the March 10, 2021 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Gordon Bidner gave the invocation.

### This date in history:

- On this date in 1849, Abraham Lincoln applied for a patent for a device to lift a boat over shoals and other waterway obstructions. He is the only U.S. president to earn a patent.
- In 1876, Scottish-born Alexander Graham Bell transmits the first intelligible voice message to his electrician, Thomas Watson. His words were, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you." Three days earlier, Western Union had rejected Bell's offer to sell them the rights to the invention. Six months later, Bell presented a model of the telephone to Lord Kelvin in Glasgow who was gobsmacked and two years later, opened the first telephone service in the UK.
- And, in honor of Women and Women's History Month, Fred presented this Public Service Announcement: Log on to pbs.org and celebrate the vital contributions of women in history. Streaming are: "9 to 5: the Story of a Movement", "Voices of Freedom", "The Vote", "The First American Indian Doctor" and "Fannie Lou Hamer: Stand Up!"

### Guest:

- David Hirst

**Announcements:**

- The Normal Rotary Club board of directors was scheduled to meet after the meeting.
- The District would like still pictures or videos of the Normal Rotary Club in action as part of a public relations effort. If you have pictures or videos, get them to Larissa McIlvain, and she'll forward them to the District.
- March 18: PETS Training Session 1
- March 20: PETS Training Session 2 and 3
- Normal Rotary will welcome Mike Step, our District Governor on April 28.

**Judge:** The Honorable Linda Healy went right to the happy fines:

- Linda was \$5 worth of happy that David Hirst attended our meeting and hopes he joins the club. She was \$5 more worth of happy that she received her second dose of the covid vaccine with minimal side effects. Now, she just wants to get out and do SOMETHING.
- Drake Zimmerman was also happy to have David Hirst with us. He's also happy that the effort to fight malaria is ramping up with \$6 million in grants that have come through. The grants will be used in a program called Progress of Scale, which will train health workers. A non-Rotarian has seeded the District 6490 support of health worker training.
- Ray Ropp bred three cows and was happy to once again be a productive citizen.
- John E. Bishop is happy to take a position on the McLean County Chamber of Commerce board.

**Program:** Our speaker was Adrian Barr, managing attorney for Prairie State Legal Services, a non-profit legal firm. Prairie State Legal Services is an organization that offers free legal services for low- income persons and those age 60 and over who have serious civil legal problems and need legal help to solve them. There are 11 office locations serving 36 counties in northern Illinois.

Many of the services offered involve domestic violence, housing issues and landlord-tenant issues. Many landlord-tenant issues have emerged with the pandemic and with government restrictions on evictions. Those restrictions have evolved over the past year and will continue to change as the pandemic plays out.

Illinois received federal dollars to provide rental assistance. In McLean County, \$2 million went to help landlords through the eviction restrictions. Adrian noted that the local United Way and other local organizations have provided vital rent assistance during the past year.

Asked about the potential for fraud, Adrian said he hasn't seen it. Documentation requirements border on onerous, but that helps the system screen out fraud attempts, he said.



For more information, see their website: [www.pslegal.org](http://www.pslegal.org).

**Thought for the Day**

“Eleanor Roosevelt held the first women-only press conferences in March, 1933. Prior to that time, women were largely excluded from the media. Over the next 12 years, she held 348 such press conferences, covering subjects of special interest and value to women of the country.”

**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](mailto:brownda@unit5.org)) or Ann Haugo ([ahaugo@ilstu.edu](mailto:ahaugo@ilstu.edu)).

*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  
President**

2020-2021

Holger Knaack

Member of the

Rotary Club of

Herzogtum- Mölln,

Germany

**Members:**

Adanri, Bayo PHF\* HH PP

Cotton, Barb

Hunt, Robert PHF\*

<i>Alexander, Kathy PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRY PP DHH</i>	<i>Johns-Cummings, Miranda</i>	<i>Schultz, Mel PHF HH PP</i>
<i>Anvick, Greg PHF</i>	<i>Dennis, Marcia PHF* HH PP DNRY DHH GWRY</i>	<i>Jontry, Gene PHF* HH</i>	<i>Semlak, Bill PHF* PHS HH</i>
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<i>Bishop, John E. PHF</i>	<i>Fleming, Ryan PHF</i>	<i>Lindsay, Jeff</i>	<i>Strassheim, Dale PHF* PP HH</i>
<i>Brokaw, Nancy PHF*</i>	<i>Gentry, Connie PHF HH</i>	<i>McClellan, Stephanie B. PHF</i>	<i>Tanton, Ed PHF* PP H</i>
<i>Brown-Nielsen, Dayna PHF</i>	<i>Glover, Rob PHF HH</i>	<i>McIlvain, Larissa PHF</i>	<i>Taylor, David</i>
<i>Bubon, Angie (Fulton) PHF</i>	<i>Goeckner, Becky PHF* HH PP GWRY</i>	<i>Mesdag, Elleke PHF*</i>	<i>Timmerman, Ron PHF* HH</i>
<i>Caisley, Bill PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Gudeman, Gene PHF* HH</i>	<i>Moody, Jack</i>	<i>Varner, Carson PHF*</i>
<i>Campbell, Hank PHF HH DRY</i>	<i>Hahn, Fred</i>	<i>Riehle, Matt</i>	<i>Varner, Iris PHF*</i>
<i>Chapman, Alan PHF* PHS MD HH GWRY DHH</i>	<i>Haugo, Ann PHF</i>	<i>Ropp, Ray PHF* HH PP DHH PDG</i>	<i>Weigelmann, Rod PHF HH</i>
<i>Copenhaver, Andy PHF PP</i>	<i>Hawkins, Sherry</i>	<i>Rosenlund, Jim PHF</i>	<i>Wyss, Matt PHF</i>
<i>Cornille, Keith HM</i>	<i>Healy, Linda PHF* HH PP DRY</i>	<i>Schultz, Dianne</i>	<i>Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH PP DHH</i>
<i>PHF – Paul Harris Fellow HH – Hall of Honor PHF* - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone PHS – Paul Harris Society</i>	<i>DHH - District Hall of Honor HM – Honorary Member MD – Major Donors PP – Past President</i>	<i>DNRY- District New Rotarian of the Year PDG – Past District Governor</i>	<i>BS – Bequest Society Member DRY-District Rotarian of the Year GWRY – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year</i>