

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

April 14, 2021 Volume No. 72 Issue No. 38

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 April 14, 2021 meeting of the Normal Rotary Club via Zoom. Bill Semlak gave the invocation.

This day in history:

- On this day in 1828, Noah Webster copyrighted the first American dictionary.
- In 1841, Edgar Allan Poe published "Murders in the Rue Morgue"
- In 1858, Harriet Tubman met with John Brown in Chatham, Ontario
- It was on this day in 1865 that Junius Brutus Booth's son, John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln during a performance of "Our American Cousin" in the Ford Theater.
- And, on the evening of April 14, 1912, the RMS Titanic grazed an iceberg in the North Atlantic, ripping a riveted seam. You know the rest of the story.

Announcements:

- Jack Moody extended birthday wishes to Rotarians born in April: Kathy Alexander, Ray Rop Moody, Matt Wyss, Sherry Hawkins, Kevin Smith and Marcia Dennis.
- Ryan Fleming reported on the potential for returning to in-person meetings. The latest info is we will be meeting at the Alumni Center on Wednesdays starting May 19. Food will not be served and masks and distancing will be required. These will be hybrid meetings, meaning that you attend in person or via Zoom. The Alumni Center has other commitments on some Wednesdays.

so we may change the meeting site to Ropp Farm, Heartland Community College or some other site.

- Linda Healy announced that she has submitted an application for David Hirst to join the club.
- Fred announced that the Danville Sunrise Rotary Club is holding a virtual scavenger 5K event. The \$25 entry fee will help fund college scholarships and a summer children's program in Vermilion County. You will take photos representing three categories: water, something alive, and a monument or memorial. Register at <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=12114>.
- Fred also noted that RI Membership is sponsoring a webinar on Thursday, April 29 at 11 a.m. entitled "Building Strong Intergenerational Relationships".
- April 21, our speaker will be Linda Bowman, discussing local Promise Councils. April 28, we will hear from Mary Ann Manko of the McLean County Health Department.

Literacy Report from Marcia Dennis: Even though I am on a Leave of Absence at this time, I have been working on Literacy for our club. I have given 100 new adult books and 32 children's books (these books were given to each member by Past District Governor Julie Dobski at her visit to the club) to the STAR Literacy of McLean County. The children's books were given to children to read and the adult books were sold at the annual book sale to earn money for the STAR Literacy programs.

I also want to donate \$500.00 to the STAR Literacy program in memory of Heather. If other members would like to donate money, please write a check to the Normal Rotary Foundation and put a notation on the bottom of the check for Literacy. Mail these checks to the Normal Rotary Club, Box 333, Normal, IL 61761 by June 1st. Treasurer Ryan will then write a check out to STAR Literacy of McLean County and send it to me. I will deliver the check to the Director, Sheila Diaz.

Thanks from me to all of you,

Marcia Dennis

Judge: Her Honor Larissa McIlvain milked money from Rotarians in the name of law, order, justice and decency. It was particularly difficult at this meeting.

Happy fines:

- Larissa paid because she attended the online meeting of Women of Rotary. This speaker series will be a monthly event for the rest of the year, and it is open to all Rotarians regardless of gender. The next meeting will be May 11, via Zoom.
- Nancy Brokaw was happy that the local Promise Council organization has added Stevenso Elementary and the Olympia School District to its efforts to remove the barriers to learning. Normal Rotary members have been key to the Oakdale Elementary School Promise Council.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen noted that Brigham, Sugar Creek, Fairview and Parkside have been added to the Promise Council organization as well.

Global Grant: Surinder Sethi reported on a Global Grant that is in the works in partnership with Rotarians in District 3040 (India). Originally, the plan was to provide new furniture for schools. Cov intervened, and it became clear that the schools had an urgent need for an ambulance. The ambulance project is expected to save 200-500 lives per year in the metropolitan area surrounding Sagar, Surinder said. The total cost is \$57,425. Normal Rotary is requesting \$12,000 in DDF. The Sagar Phoenix Rotary would provide most of the funding, and District 3040 also will add DDF dollars.

Program: The speaker for the day was Myra Gordon from the Ecology Action Center. She has been active in many community groups, including Girl Scouts, Operation Recycle and the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation. She is a State Farm retiree.

Operation Recycle was started 50 years ago and eventually evolved into the Ecology Action Center. In honor of the 50th anniversary, the Ecology Action Center started Tree Corps to coordinate and encourage planting of new trees.

Trees are vital to the food chain and to air quality. They are a cost-efficient way to do something about global warming. And they're beautiful, enhancing our outdoors as a place to walk and exercise and connect with nature. Recently, the Tree Corps coordinated the planting of 4,200 trees on the ParkLands Foundation's Mohr Farm.

The Ecology Action Center believes the tree-planting effort can bring together members of the community in these divisive times. The Ecology Action Center is asking businesses and organizations to provide \$500 per year for 10 years for new tree planting. An organization called Living Lands and Water will match the trees planted this year. The Ecology Action Center also is working with other organizations like Friends of Constitution Trail to encourage tree planting.

You can learn more at these web sites:

tree-corps.org

ecologyactioncenter.org

Thought for the day:

"Ever tried? Ever failed? No matter, try again. Fail again but fail better." -Samuel Beckett

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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2020-2021

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