



# THE NORMAL SPOKE

The weekly newsletter of the *only Normal Rotary Club* in the world  
Chartered June 17, 1949  
RI No. 3282 District No. 6490

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Volume No. 74 Issue 12



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President Ryan Fleming convened the Sept. 21, 2022, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at the ISU Alumni Center. Bill Semlak gave the invocation. We sang.

Guests: Former Normal Rotary member Ron Springer joined us. He recently returned from a veterans' honor flight to Washington, D.C. It was a great experience, and he received a number of cards in honor of his service. Pontiac Rotarian Steve Walters and his wife, Sarah, attended the meeting, probably to keep our speaker in line. Also with Steve was Wayne Steffin. Rebecca Mafazy of the Lamu Center of Preventative Health was a guest of Hank Campbell.

## Announcements:

- Normal Rotary will provide meals for Safe Harbor on Nov. 9.
- Oktoberfest is upon us. Bruce Bergethon says we have \$16,000 in sponsorships, and we owe thanks to the committee that rounded up the sponsors – and to the sponsors themselves. Miranda Johns-Cummings said we have tons of merchandise to sell. Ron Timmerman urged all our members to look around for ways that the Oktoberfest event can be improved.
- President Ryan said the district conference last weekend was a great event and a great opportunity to learn about service opportunities and leadership.
- Hank Campbell said the Sept. 17 Breakfast in the Park raised over \$10,000 for the Lamu Center of Preventative Health in Kenya.
- Greg Anvick reported that the Veterans Day One on One will be held Nov. 10 at the Doubletree. The idea is for each Rotarian attending to sponsor a veteran, and the event will honor their service. The event will open at 5 p.m. with a cash bar, and the dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Contact Greg for reservations or to sponsor an advertisement in the program.
- Becky Goeckner needs a weekend host for ISU grad student Angelica Rico Garza, who is sponsored by the Monterey, Mexico Rotary Club. The dates are Oct. 21-23.
- Art Drake reported on the activities and plans of the NCHS Interact Club.

**Mystery Host:** Fred Hahn presented the \$2 to Linda Healy for refusing to let a broken collarbone slow her down.



**Birthdays:** Dale Strassheim didn't feel like celebrating his birthday quite yet, but he still shared a story about researching the history of the Strassheim name.

**Lottery:** Steve Walters, our visitor from Pontiac Rotary, won the \$23 prize for the week but drew the wrong card and missed out on the big jackpot.

**Judge:** David Taylor presided over the happy fines:

- Drake Zimmerman paid because he's happy Judge David will be appropriately attired at Oktoberfest.
- Linda Healy paid because she was happy about recent visits from family members.
- Carson Varner was happy about a recent trip to Louisville with family. While there, he was recognized by a former student. Also, Carson got to hold a baseball bat that had been used by Babe Ruth.
- Pontiac Rotarian Steve Walters was happy that Surinder Sethi had helped the Pontiac Rotary get started with global grants several years ago. He also was happy that Gordon Bidner got the Pontiac club involved with The Rotary Foundation's matching grants.
- Ron Springer was happy to meet many longtime friends at Rotary.
- Bayo Adanri was happy about the work and achievements of The Rotary Foundation.
- Matt Weiss paid out of appreciation to David Hirst's joke, and Matt hopes other members will share some jokes as well – maybe funny ones.
- Guest Rebecca Mafazy was happy about Rotary's ethic of service.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy that he just finished RAM Global's report to The Rotary Foundation.

**Program:** Our speaker was Rick Davidson, a member of Tuscola Rotary. Rick is a retired dentist and has long been active in The Rotary Foundation's Global Grants. Upon his retirement in 2014, Rick began to accumulate used dental equipment from other retiring dentists. He sent the dental equipment to Jamaica and Zambia. He got the idea to prepare the large shipping containers with plumbing and electrical wiring and make them ready to be used as dental clinics, medical clinics and as workshops for sewing menstrual pads for underdeveloped areas of the world.

From discussion of the shipping containers, Rick jumped off into a motivational discussion of Rotary's service opportunities and the opportunity to draw in non-Rotarians who want to help. He obtained electrical wiring service just by asking for help from a non-Rotarian. Likewise, when Rick needed three shipping containers from Gridley to Tuscola, he asked for help. The owner of a trucking company – another non-Rotarian – provided the service for free. Rick calculates that the service was equal to a financial donation of \$15,000.



Rick also explained how donations to The Rotary Foundation go partly to fund projects around the world while much of it returns to the local Rotary districts as DDF.

Rick says that if someone comes up with an idea to help people, Rotarians all over the world come together to accomplish a goal through the resources of Rotary International. And many non-Rotarians also will join in a worthwhile cause.

Finally, Rick discussed the District's 6490 Foundation, which offers the advantages of a foundation structure to Rotary clubs who cannot afford their own foundation. Rick challenged all District 6490 Rotarians that he will match BEQUEST contributions to the D6490 Foundation up to \$250,000.

**Thought for the Day:** "I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together." -Queen Elizabeth II

The Normal Spoke is a publication of the Normal Rotary Club of Illinois - P.O. Box 333, Normal, IL 61761  
Club meetings are on Wednesdays at noon at the ISU Alumni Center, Normal, IL

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