



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



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FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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Reporter: Art Drake

Editor: Larissa McIlvain

Photographers: Becky Goeckner

President Ryan Fleming convened the Feb. 15, 2023, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at the ISU Alumni Center. Ray Ropp gave the reflection.



Ron Timmerman



Dayna Brown Nielsen



Hank Campbell

Announcements:

- Ron Timmerman said the Feb. 9 event at Safe Harbor was a success. He asked first-time volunteers about their impressions. Feeding the residents at the homeless shelter made the volunteers appreciate the food and homes that they have. The residents appreciated the meal. And Ray said he shared mutual friends with some of the residents.
- Ron added that Safe Harbor still needs bath towels.
- Dayna Brown Nielsen reported the Super Bowl grid added some interest to the event. Winners included President Ryan, Peppermint Nielsen (Dayna's family dog) and Kristen Weikle, our speaker and Dayna's boss.



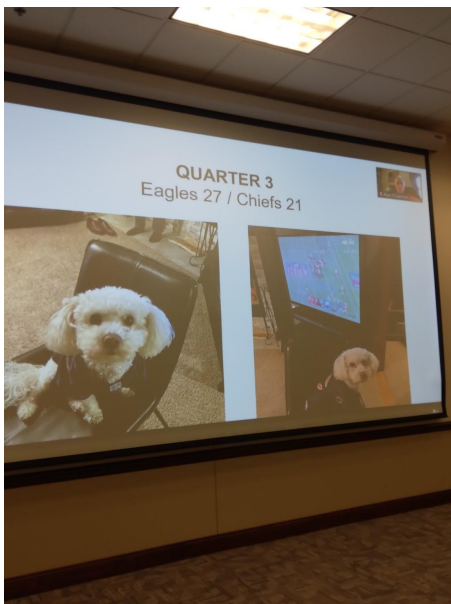
- Hank Campbell announced that the Oakdale Promise Council will receive a \$1,000 CEFCU Award.
- Nominations for the Jack Wilz and Jim Collie awards are being accepted until March 1.
- The District Foundation Dinner will be held April 2.
- April 29 will be the District Assembly for current and future officers at the Forum at Carle in Urbana.
- Local Rotary Clubs will hold an All Clubs Happy Hour, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 at Rob Dob's.



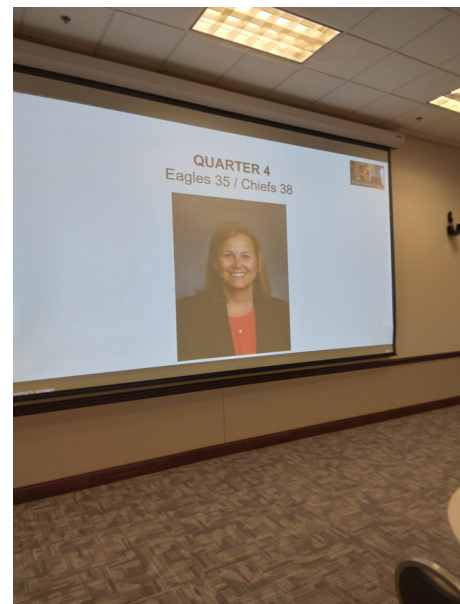
Qtr 1 squares winner



Qtr 2 squares winner



Qtr. 3 squares winner



Qtr 4 squares winner



Mystery Host: Art Drake presented the \$2 to Larry Dietz. Something about a dream and a Rotary project and laziness. You shoulda been there.

Lottery: Iris Varner won the \$9 prize for the week but drew the wrong card and missed out on the \$202 grand prize, which will become grander.

Birthdays: Alan Chapman celebrated his birthday by attending our meeting via Zoom because of covid. Alan also celebrated his long relationship with the Trefzger family. We sang to him.

Judge: Linda Healy started by dinging Chiefs and Eagles football fans. One segment was supposed to pay a happy fine, and the other was supposed to pay a sad fine. Not sure which was which. Otherwise there were happy fines:

- Linda got some money from Matt Wyss because he's a member of a community choir and our club's singing is STILL pathetic. We expect better things from Ryan in the future.
- As if the Super Bowl fines were not comprehensive enough, Linda fined everyone who failed to wear their Rotary pin.
- Hank Campbell was happy that David Hirst helped him with photos from India.
- Larry Dietz paid because his wife is recovering from back problems, probably caused by her burden of being married to Larry Dietz.
- Surinder Sethi was happy about a grant for a dialysis machine coming to fruition. He also was happy that he and Nurinder will celebrate their 50th anniversary. AND he was also happy about having lived 46 years in Bloomington-Normal.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy about the dialysis grant and that he played no role in Art Drake's dream. Art seconded that sentiment but paid no dough.



Judge Linda Healy



Larry Dietz and Mystery Host
Art Drake



Iris Varner



Larry Dietz



Surinder Sethi



Drake Zimmerman

Program: Our speaker was Dr. Kristen Weikle, superintendent of Unit 5 schools. She discussed the April 4 Unit 5 school referendum. (In the interest of accuracy, some of the info below is adapted from the Unit 5 website.)

Over the years, Unit 5 has felt the squeeze from inflation of school expenses, increased state mandates and decline in state funding. If the referendum is successful, the increase in the district's education fund will be offset by reductions in building bonds and working cash and bonds.

In an effort to address an \$11 million deficit, the Unit 5 school board has already approved cuts for 2023-24, including reductions in administration, budgets for buildings and curriculum, field trips, sports, technology and more. Also, the school board voted to increase registration, activity and gate fee and facility rental fees. These cuts total only about \$2 million.



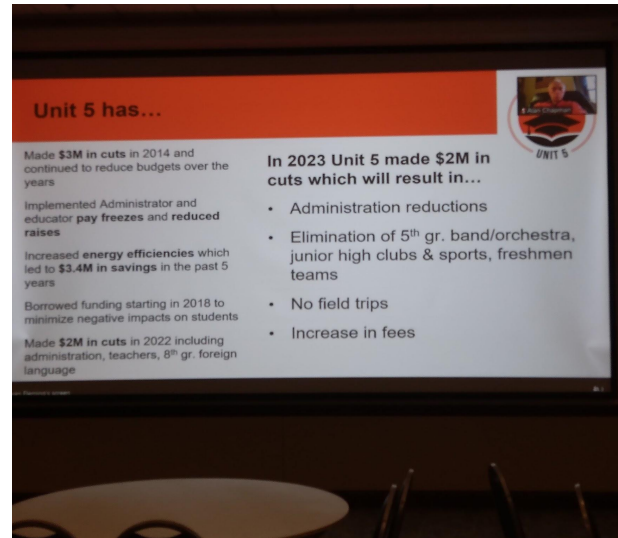
Dr. Weikle said that if the April 4 referendum is successful, the district will be able to responsibly solve its financial challenges, reinstate programs that the board has cut and provide safer and improved learning environments. If the referendum is approved, this will give the district the sustainable funding needed now and into the future, and will allow the district to no longer have to rely on working cash bonds to fund operations.

If the referendum fails, Unit 5 can expect cuts in teachers, administrators and support staff; elimination of clubs, athletics, music and art; and fewer enrichment and non-mandatory classes.



Dr. Weikle said Unit 5's tax rate for operating funds is less than other nearby districts.

Early voting begins Feb. 23. An informational meeting will be held in-person on March 8. And April 4 is election day.



Thought for the Day: "All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."
-Charles M. Schultz

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

Officers 2022-2023

President - Ryan Fleming
ryan.fleming@commercebank.com
815-739-54984

President-Elect -Dayna Brown-Nielsen
brownda@Unit5.org
309-862-3385

Vice President - Bruce Bergethon
blberge@ilstu.edu
309-8275-7093

Secretary - Jack Moody
jack-moody@comcast.net
309-310-4868

Treasurer – Matt Wyss
mwyss@hbtbank.com
309-397-5919

Sergeant-At-Arms – Bill Semlak
wdsemlak@ilstu.edu, 309-359-8172

Past President – Ann Haugo
ahaugo@ilstu.edu
309-825-1534

Directors 2022-2023

Community Concerns - David Taylor
dtaylor@uwaymc.org
309-828-7383

Rotary Foundation & International - Hank Campbell
hlcampb@ilstu.edu
309-530-5134

Publicity - Larissa McIlvain
Larissa.McIlvain@heartland.edu
309-338-7362

Club Administration - Dayna Brown-Nielsen
brownda@Unit5.org
309-862-3385

Assistant Governor - Laura Pritts
laurapritts93@gmail.com
309-824-0507

District Governor – Connie Walsh
cdwalsh@illinois.edu
217-493-0930

Rotary International President 2022-2023
Jill Jones a, member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada



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Cornille, Keith HM			
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