



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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MARCH 15, 2023

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President Ryan Fleming convened the March 15, 2023, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at the ISU Alumni Center. David Taylor gave the invocation.

Guests: Ralph Bellas, guest of Drake Zimmerman.



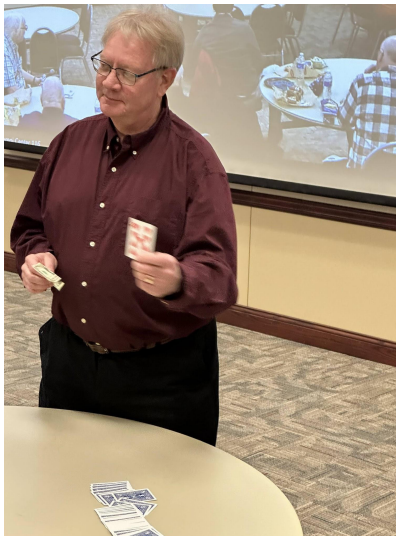
Guest Ralph Bellas



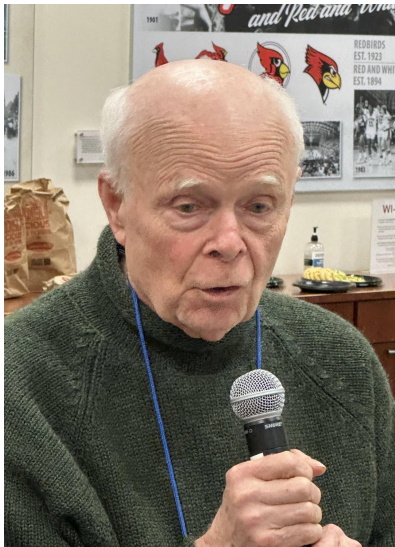
Mystery Host Matt Wyss and Bill Caisley

Announcements:

- Safe Harbor still needs new or gently used bath towels.
- 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.
- March 18-19, PETS will be held in Effingham. (That's training for club presidents-elect.)
- Our club scholarship banquet will be May 10.
- Art Drake brought some books and offered to give them to anyone who wants them.



Ralph Bellas



Carson Varner



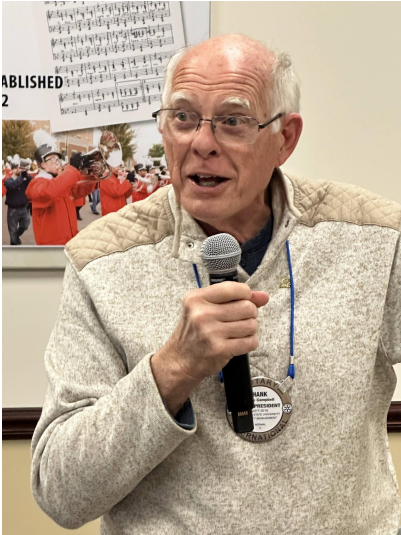
Bill Caisley

Mystery host: Matt Wyss presented the \$2 to Bill Caisley for his St. Patrick's Day attire.

Lottery: Our guest, Ralph Bellas, won the day's prize of \$21, but missed out on the \$275 grand prize.

Judge: David Taylor collected happy fines:

- Drake Zimmerman was happy that Ralph Bellas was on a RAM Global call with him this morning and that Ralph made it to Rotary today.
- Carson Varner was happily in anticipation of a visit from a niece from Germany. In her youth, the niece was out of touch with the Varners because she lived in Communist-held East Berlin.
- Bill Caisley was happy because spring comes one day early this year: March 20.
- Drake Zimmerman was happy with Ray Ropp's choice of shirt.
- Hank Campbell was happy about a recent safe trip to Charlotte.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen was happy that the election is only three weeks away. She and her colleagues have been busy getting information out to the public. Dayna also is the proud owner of a new car, which insurance bought to replace the one that was totaled in an encounter with a deer. Also, Dayna is happy that her daughter emerged from the wreck just fine.
- David Hirst was happy about recent visitors to Hayes Woods and that in April, he will have help cleaning invasive species out of Hayes Woods.
- President Ryan was happy about the upcoming opening of the baseball and softball seasons at Leroy.
- Ed Tanton was happy about successes of the basketball team in his hometown of Metamora.



Hank Campbell



Dayna Brown-Nielsen



David Hirst



Ryan Fleming



Ed Tanton



Judge David Taylor



Program: Our speaker was John Fitzgerald, the Radio Voice of the Illinois State Redbirds. Since September, he has handled play-by-play radio duties for the Redbird football and men’s basketball teams. His career in sports and broadcasting has taken many turns, most recently as Lewis University’s associate athletic director for external relations – a position that involved play-by-play work for a variety of sports.

His work with the Redbirds means he’s staying in the same hotels and riding the same buses and planes that the players and coaches ride. It’s a close relationship that has let him get to know the players, as well as football coach Brock Spack and men’s basketball coach Ryan Pedon. These coaches are men of energy and high character, traits that filter into the entire team culture. He does not announce for women’s teams, but he has become acquainted with coaches of those teams as well.

The Redbird athletic administration deserves credit for recruiting coaching staff with so much talent and character, John said.

Thought for the Day: “Cowards die many times before their actual deaths.” -Julius Caesar



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



Members:			
Adanri, Bayo PHF* HH PP	Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRV PP DHH	Hirst, David	Schultz, Dianne
Alexander, Kathy PHF* HH PP	Danenberger, John	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Seaba, Seth
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Bidner, Gordon PHF* PHS MD BS GWRV HH PP PDG DHH	Drake, Art PHF* HH PP	Jontry, Mark PHF	Smith, Kevin PHF
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Bubon, Angie (Fulton) PHF	Goss Kinzy, Terri HM	Moffett, Dan	Varner, Carson PHF*
Caisley, Bill PHF* HH PP	Gudeman, Gene PHF* HH	Moody, Jack	Varner, Iris PHF*
Campbell, Hank PHF HH DRY PP	Hahn, Fred PHF PP	Riehle, Matt	Weigelmann, Rod PHF HH
Chapman, Alan PHF* PHS MD HH GWRV DHH	Haugo, Ann PHF PP	Ropp, Ray PHF* HH PP DHH PDG	Wyss, Matt PHF
Copenhaver, Andy PHF PP	Healy, Linda PHF* HH PP DRY	Rosenlund, Jim PHF PP	Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH PP DHH
Cornille, Keith HM			
PHF – Paul Harris Fellow HH – Hall of Honor PHF* - Paul Harris Fellow/Stone PHS – Paul Harris Society	DHH - District Hall of Honor HM – Honorary Member MD – Major Donors PP – Past President	DNRY- District New Rotarian of the Year PDG – Past District Governor	BS – Bequest Society Member DRY-District Rotarian of the Year GWRV – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year