

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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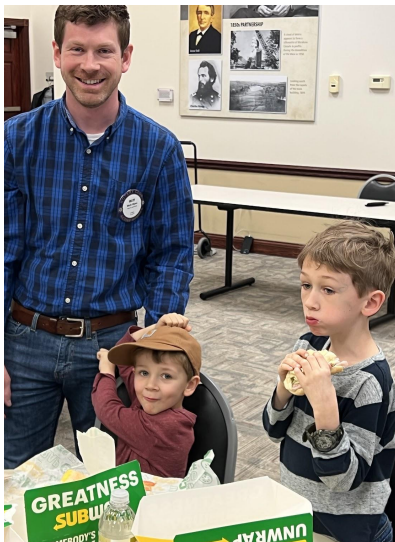
Photographers: Mark Jontry

President Ryan Fleming convened the March 29, 2023, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at the ISU Alumni Center. Ray Ropp gave the invocation. We sang, as usual. Draw your own conclusions. (Your newsletter writer was mortified when Bruce Bergethon said my own singing fell short in the tonality department, whatever that is. My question: Out of all the tonality shortfalls in the room, how could he single out mine? I promptly blamed Ray Ropp.)

Guests: Adam Nielsen, guest of Dayna Brown-Nielsen; Jack and Logan Wyss, guests of Matt Wyss; Gundula and Thomas Gaedke, guests of Carson and Iris Varner (visiting from Germany).



Adam and Dayna Nielsen



Matt, Jack, and Logan Wyss



Gundula and Thomas Gaedke



Announcements:

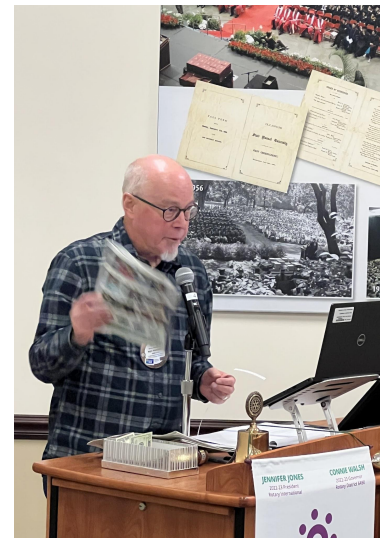
- Safe Harbor still needs new or gently used bath towels.
- The Normal Rotary Club board of directors will meet next week.
- April 29 will be the District Assembly for current and future officers at the Forum at Carle in Urbana.
- Our club scholarship banquet will be May 10. Angie Bubon still needs people to interview applicants. A sign-up sheet circulated. Contact Angie if you can help.
- On Friday, April 14, Women of Rotary speaker series will feature Rochelle Finzel, a leadership coach, writer, speaker and outdoor adventurer. She will share tips and tools used in her coaching business and describe what it took to blaze her trail. Dayna Brown-Nielsen urged all Rotarians – even men – to follow the Women of Rotary series.
- May 20, the Rotary Leadership Institute will be held at Richland Community College in Decatur. RLI sessions offer an opportunity to learn about Rotary and how to make your club more effective.
- July 1 is the Rotary Night at the Cornbelters game.
- [Rotary Day at the Ballpark](#) will be held July 29 at Busch Stadium. Cards v. Cubs, 6:15 p.m., \$60 per ticket. \$20 of that will come back to our club for literacy projects. (See more info below)



Becky Goeckner



Linda Healy



Judge Bruce Bergethon

PETS: Dayna Brown-Nielsen reported on her experience at PETS (the training seminar for presidents-elect). It was an interesting weekend that featured a talk about malaria by fellow Rotarians Hank Campbell and Drake Zimmerman. The group also heard from the RI president, who said that mental health will be a major focus during the coming year. Dayna was pleased to meet presidents-elect from other clubs in our district.



Dayna has started developing goals for her own presidency. She plans to build on what Ryan has done this year.

Also, Dayna said the District Conference will be held Sept. 8-9 at the Champaign Holiday Inn. Our club needs to compile a basket of treasures for the silent auction. Let Dayna or Ryan know if you'd like to help with that basket.



Dayna Brown-Nielsen, Drake Zimmerman and Hank Campbell at
PETS



Hank and Drake presenting at
PETS

Mystery host: Ron Timmerman presented the \$2 to Adam Nielsen for being such a supportive spouse.

Birthdays: We observed the birthdays of Surinder Sethi, Becky Goeckner, David Taylor and John E. Bishop. Becky and John were on hand and chose to say a few words about themselves instead of paying \$10 for the right to remain silent. John told Rotarians that in his youth he was a nominee for the Air Force Academy until a traffic accident un-nominated him. Becky told the club she was observing her "reverse golden birthday," turning 72 on April 27.

Lottery: Iris Varner won the day's prize of \$25 but drew the wrong card and missed out on the \$300 jackpot.

Judge: Bruce Bergethon started by dinging Bill Caisley for being pictured without his Rotary pin. His honor was paralyzed by a dilemma posed by Connie Gentry and Ron Timmerman. They were pictured in some publicity about our Coats for Kids campaign, but they weren't wearing their Rotary pins. What to do, what to do!?! Alan Chapman solved the problem by paying the fines for both of them. Then it was on to happy fines:

- Larry Dietz was happy that Carson and Iris Varner were honored for setting up ISU's International Business Institute.
- Bill Caisley was happy to have young visitors at our meeting.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen's happiness cup runneth over. If only she could remember to bring happy cash to Rotary. She was happy that Adam attended the meeting. She was happy her son is able to fly home, as she hasn't seen him since Thanksgiving. She was happy to have seen Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lisa Holder White on the Women in Rotary program. She encouraged everyone to tune in to that series. And she was happy that the election is coming up and for people who have written letters of support for the school referendum.
- Alan Chapman was happy to have already bought tickets to the Cubs-Cardinals game, and he plans to donate them to Tee It Up.



Mystery host Ron Timmerman
and Adam Nielsen



John E. Bishop



Lottery

Program: Our speaker was Brian Dirks, board president for the McLean County Farm Bureau. He farms in the Ellsworth and Danvers area, raising corn, soybeans and sheep.

The McLean County Farm Bureau was founded in 1914. It is dedicated to advocating for agriculture and providing services to members. The Farm Bureau allows McLean County farmers to have a voice in state and federal government. It also provides a conduit for local farmers to exchange ideas and get to know each other.

Through the years, Brian said, the Farm Bureau has played a key role in the McLean County Fair, helped create the McLean County Soil and





Water Conservation District. Agriculture is vital to McLean County, which leads the nation in production of corn and soybeans. 85 percent of the land in McLean County is farmed. There are 1,416 farms in McLean County. McLean County has more pigs than people.

Technology plays a major role in farming today, Brian said. Computers help guide tractors in the field and guide the farmer on application of fertilizer and seed. That's why rural areas need better broadband service, Brian said.

Thought for the Day: "Agriculture is the most healthful, most useful, and most noble employment of man." -George Washington

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
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Vice President - Bruce Bergethon
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Treasurer – Matt Wyss
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Sergeant-At-Arms – Bill Semlak
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Past President – Ann Haugo
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Rotary Foundation & International - Hank Campbell
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District Governor – Connie Walsh
cdwalsh@illinois.edu
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Rotary International President 2022-2023
Jill Jones a, member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada



Members:			
<i>Adanri, Bayo PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Cranston, Robert PHF* PHS HH GWRV PP DHH</i>	<i>Hirst, David</i>	<i>Schultz, Dianne</i>
<i>Alexander, Kathy PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Danenberger, John</i>	<i>Hunt, Robert PHF*</i>	<i>Seaba, Seth</i>
<i>Anvick, Greg PHF</i>	<i>Dennis, Marcia PHF* HH PP DNRY DHH GWRV</i>	<i>Johns-Cummings, Miranda</i>	<i>Semlak, Bill PHF* PHS HH</i>
<i>Bergethon, Bruce PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Dietz, Larry PHF</i>	<i>Jontry, Gene PHF* HH</i>	<i>Sethi, Surinder PHF* PHS HH PP DHH DRY GWRV PDG MD</i>
<i>Bidner, Gordon PHF* PHS MD BS GWRV HH PP PDG DHH</i>	<i>Drake, Art PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Jontry, Mark PHF</i>	<i>Smith, Kevin PHF</i>
<i>Bishop, John A. PHF* PP HH</i>	<i>Enchelmayer, Paul</i>	<i>Koos, Chris HM</i>	<i>Strassheim, Dale PHF* PP HH</i>
<i>Bishop, John E. PHF PP</i>	<i>Fleming, Ryan PHF</i>	<i>McClellan, Stephanie B. PHF</i>	<i>Tanton, Ed PHF* PP H</i>
<i>Brokaw, Nancy PHF*</i>	<i>Gentry, Connie PHF HH</i>	<i>McIlvain, Larissa PHF</i>	<i>Taylor, David</i>
<i>Brown-Nielsen, Dayna PHF</i>	<i>Goekner, Becky PHF* HH PP GWRV</i>	<i>Mesdag, Elleke PHF*</i>	<i>Timmerman, Ron PHF* HH</i>
<i>Bubon, Angie (Fulton) PHF</i>	<i>Goss Kinzy, Terri HM</i>	<i>Moffett, Dan</i>	<i>Varner, Carson PHF*</i>
<i>Caisley, Bill PHF* HH PP</i>	<i>Gudeman, Gene PHF* HH</i>	<i>Moody, Jack</i>	<i>Varner, Iris PHF*</i>
<i>Campbell, Hank PHF HH DRY PP</i>	<i>Hahn, Fred PHF PP</i>	<i>Riehle, Matt</i>	<i>Weigelmann, Rod PHF HH</i>
<i>Chapman, Alan PHF* PHS MD HH GWRV DHH</i>	<i>Haugo, Ann PHF PP</i>	<i>Ropp, Ray PHF* HH PP DHH PDG</i>	<i>Wyss, Matt PHF</i>
<i>Copenhaver, Andy PHF PP</i>	<i>Healy, Linda PHF* HH PP DRY</i>	<i>Rosenlund, Jim PHF PP</i>	<i>Zimmerman, Drake PHF* PHS MD BS HH PP DHH</i>
<i>Cornille, Keith HM</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 GWRV – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year</i>



VS.



Rotary Day at the Ball Park
6:15 P.M., Saturday, July 29th

Saturday, July 29th is the date set for the 20th Rotary Family Day at the Ball Park. The Chicago Cubs will play the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium in St. Louis with a 6:15 P.M. game time. Tickets are \$60 and \$20 from each ticket sold will be returned to Rotary District 6490 clubs for literacy efforts. Tickets can be sold to anyone in your community; attendees do not need to be Rotarians. **Please use the attached order form. Checks should be made payable to Rotary District 6460 Foundation.** Order forms and checks should be mailed to Racheal Fearday, 605 Flame Court, Effingham, IL 62401. She will mail tickets to you, upon receipt of your order form and check.

Rotary Family Day at the Ball Park*
Chicago Cubs vs. St. Louis Cardinals
Saturday, July 29, 2023 at 6:15 pm
20th Year Celebration at Busch Stadium in St. Louis

Name _____ Rotary Club _____

Mailing Address _____
City State Zip Code

Email Address _____ Phone_(_____) _____

Ticket Order:

_____ # of Tickets x \$60.00 per ticket = \$ _____ Total Payment

Make check payable to Rotary 6460 Foundation, and mail to:

Mrs. Racheal Fearday
605 Flame Court
Effingham, IL 62401

***All seats will be in the left field loge and pavilion. \$20.00 from each ticket purchased will be mailed back to your Rotary club to use for literacy projects.**