



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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Reporter: Art Drake

Editor: Larissa McIlvain

Photographer: Fred Hahn

President Ryan Fleming convened the April 12, 2023, meeting of the Normal Rotary Club at the ISU Alumni Center. President Ryan also gave the invocation.

Guests: Dick Wagner from Sunset Rotary

Announcements:

- The next Safe Harbor volunteer event will be held May 10. Contact Ron Timmerman if you're interested in volunteering. Also, Safe Harbor still needs new or gently used bath towels.
- Rural-Urban Night at the Ropp Farm will be held June 14. The speaker will be Paul Walker, president of the Illinois Beef Association and formerly a professor at ISU.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen is trying to schedule speakers through the summer meetings. E-mail Dayna or David Hirst if you have ideas.
- Dayna also is anticipating the upcoming Rotary year, when she will be Normal Rotary's president. She would welcome your thoughts for the coming year.
- Art Drake brought some books to give away to our members.
- 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.
- 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.
- Hank Campbell is collecting old eyeglasses to be donated to the folks in Lamu, Kenya



Judge John E. Bishop



Jack Moody and John E. Bishop



Dayna Brown - Nielsen

Mystery host: David Taylor presented the \$2 to a former member of our club, Dick Wagner. Glad to see you back, Dick.

Birthdays: Happy birthday to Kathy Alexander, Jack Moody and Ray Ropp. Jack showed us an original photo of John F. Kennedy, taken in Boston in 1958 or 1959. He plans to donate it to the JFK museum in Boston. Ray told us about some hazing he endured in his school days and at least one episode of revenge.

Lottery: Bruce Bergethon won the day's prize of \$24 but drew the wrong card and missed out on the \$370 grand prize.

Judge: His Honor David Taylor levied fines on anyone who dared to be happy:

- Art Drake was happy about blue skies and green grass, but he had to wonder if he was the only club member who is still watering poinsettias. It turns out that a handful of us are still keeping the yule spirit alive.
- Iris Varner paid because her guests, relatives from Berlin, were impressed to attend a meeting of Rotary, an important, august and exclusive organization. Iris' niece and her husband had a great time at our meeting, and they suspect that Rotarians in their hometown are nowhere near as friendly as we are.
- Dick Wagner was happy that his wife is recovering from knee replacement surgery, and they are walking a half mile every morning.
- Dale Strassheim was happy to be back at a Normal Rotary Club meeting.
- Dayna Brown-Nielsen was happy that our members seemed to enjoy the Indian cuisine that we had for lunch in honor of our program.



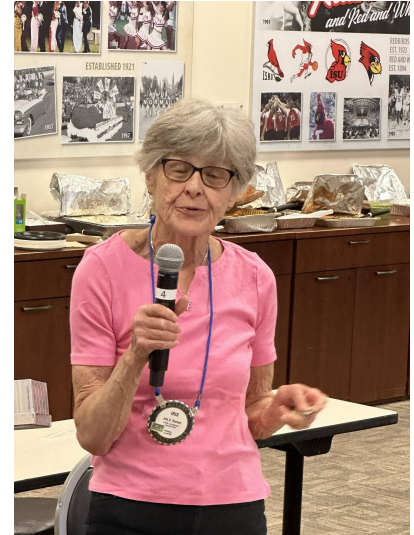
- Art Drake was happy again, noting Iris' guests' conception of Rotary as such an exclusive organization. Art recalled last week's presentation by Bruce Bergethon, where he asked about the kind of prospective members we should be recruiting. More than one said "breathing." I guess we draw the line at corpses.



Dale Strasheim



Dayna Brown-Nielsen



Iris Varner

Program: Rotarians Hank Campbell and Surinder Sethi talked about their trip to India last January as part of the Rotary Friendship Exchange with District 3040. The exchange is a way to build friendships between Rotarians of different countries and cultures. Hank and Surinder attended their hosts' district conference in Agra. Due to a family emergency, Surinder had to leave, but Hank soldiered on alone. Hank's hosts took good care of him, he said.

People think of the U.S. as a diverse country, but India is really, really diverse, Surinder said. In India, you'll find speakers of at least 36 different languages, not to mention the dialects, cultures and traditions that those languages reflect.

About 1,000 Rotarians plus family members attended the district conference, Hank said.

Attendees listened to remarks from district governor candidates and then took a vote to decide the





winner. In our own district 6490, a committee interviews district governor candidates and decides on the nominee.

After the district conference, Hank traveled to several other communities, including Bhopal, the site of a 1984 chemical disaster whose consequences reverberate to this day. His visits included a Red Cross hospital, a cancer hospital, schools, an 8,000-year-old Buddhist site, tree-planting projects and a water-harvesting project. Most of these were Rotary projects. Normal Rotary participated in an effort to provide one community with an ambulance that is expected to save 400-500 lives per year.

Hank said he was warmly received by his Indian hosts, and his visits received a lot of PR. During interviews, Hank tried to be “the face of Rotary” and to advocate for RAM Global.

For three days starting June 10, District 6490 will host visitors from India. They will visit Bloomington-Normal, Champaign-Urbana and Decatur. We’ll need help in hosting and/or transporting our guests.

Thought for the Day: “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’ ”
-Martin Luther King Jr.

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:			
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Alexander, Kathy PHF* HH PP	Danenberger, John	Hunt, Robert PHF*	Seaba, Seth
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Bidner, Gordon PHF* PHS MD BS GWRY HH PP PDG DHH	Drake, Art PHF* HH PP	Jontry, Mark PHF	Smith, Kevin PHF
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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 GWRY – George Wolf Rotarian of the Year