



## 84th Railsplitters Association, LTD

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### Update on CSM Dave Gramins

Tuesday, 20 July 2021 (from Goldie Schuh):

Sharing the below email from Nora Gramins. I also had a chance to speak with Dave on Sunday. Things are looking up right now for his release from the hospital and going home for further recovery. This has been a very long road for Dave & Nora. But, don't stop sending your prayers, he still has a way to go before he is back up and around. He has lost more than 50 lbs and is quite weak. Wanted to me to pass along all the well wishes and prayers being sent his way.

Saturday, 17 July 2021:

David called 911 for himself to get out of the 'rehab' facility he was in after repeatedly calling for help with his stoma bag. His stomach acids were literally burning his skin around the stoma and the feeding tube. Needless to say he is not going back there.

Side note: DO NOT SEND ANYONE YOU LOVE TO ARIA  
BROOKFIELD REHAB! (Opinion)

He is safe in Elmbrook Hospital and they are deciding what the next step is. He has had consults with various doctors about possibly removing his feeding tube but he has to show them he can eat well enough to do that. In an ideal world his stoma could be eliminated if he is strong enough to withstand the surgery. The goal is to come home and get help when needed. Right now the biggest issue is his blood pressure dropping drastically when he stands up. Some days he's fine and can walk with a walker but other days if he doesn't sit down as soon as he feels dizzy, he passes out. Not good. They are trying a medication to raise his blood pressure right before he gets up.

He will have to go to dialysis until such time that his remaining kidney can do the job.

The last week has been a nightmare but we will triumph!

Nora & Family

Sunday, 4 July 2021:

David is doing well, or so I am told, medically but there are many glitches along the way. One day he will be alert and talking clearly, is able to go through his therapies without too many problems and the next few days is back to square one. Very frustrating. His blood pressure is up and down but when it is down he has more problems. He is gaining some weight but they are also tube feeding him in the late evening. He will heartily eat what he orders most days and other days not so much. No one seems to have any definitive answers but they keep trying. We will take him foods he normally craves and it just sits there. Puzzling.

I am plugging along and Meg, Jeff and various friends will take turns visiting him. They are still only allowing one person per day from 6-8 weekdays and 3-5 on weekends. Another frustration. Other hospitals have expanded to two visitors per day so maybe soon.

Keep praying and thanks so much for the cards and phone calls

Nora & Family

Wednesday, 2 June 2021:

COL Skip Pochowski reports receiving a phone call from David Gramins saying he is being transferred from the hospital to a Rehab facility. This news is promising, your prayers are working...more prayers are always accepted.

Saturday, 15 May 2021:

(From Goldie Schuh)

Many of you have been asking if there has been update to Dave's condition. I received the below email from his wife this morning. Please continue to send your prayers. If you are interested in sending him well wishes, the family has requested you use their home mailing address:

David Gramins  
1160 Apple Tree Lane  
Brookfield, WI 53005-6804

David is getting tube feeding and vitamins through his IV. The vomiting has subsided but the hiccups just don't want to quit. It's so hard to watch and he's barely understandable because the hiccups are constant. He's been up in a chair and wants to do more but the meds to try to control the hiccups make him so tired. We are both tired and frustrated. So are his battery of doctors. As one of them said "nothing is easy with him". Sad but true. He has odd reactions to some meds but they have to keep trying to get him back to some degree of normalcy.

Thanks to you all for your kind words and cards.

Nora & Family.

Friday, 7 May 2021:

David went into surgery at 8:15 this morning. The doctor came to talk to me around noon to tell me everything went well. They put a feeding tube into his small intestine so the nutrients could be absorbed. They took care of adhesions that were basically inhibiting some function. They found some old blood etc. that they vacuumed out and checked around in there for any possible leaks. Looked good. He finally made it up stairs about 2:00 this afternoon. He is in a beautiful room with a

great view of the north including Holy Hill. Maybe it's a sign that he is being watched over. His student nurse is the daughter of his favorite dialysis nurse and many of the staff on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor (surgical) remember him from his initial surgery on Mar. 22. I'm tired but hopeful this will turn things around.

Love ya'll

Nora and family

Thursday, 22 April 2021:

Yesterday was a great day. He woke up and he was hungry. Meg went to see him, first time in a month and she walked into the room and said Hi Dad and he smiled and said Hi back. That's a big deal. He ate and drank on his own. The huge smiles from all the doctors, nurses and therapists was a sight to see. He talked to people, sat up on his own. Swung his legs to the side of the bed and stood, with help, and sat in the chair. Then he wanted to call me so they got him a phone. You can imagine the thrill I got to hear him. Banner day for sure. He was taken off Paxil and a few other drugs that can cause sleepiness and evidently that was a good call. Biggest hurdle right now is stopping the daily hiccups. They are exhausting. Can you imagine your diaphragm spasming constantly all day? He had dialysis yesterday and the machine was acting up so he is having it again this morning. Makes him tired.

Thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers.

Nora & Family

Tuesday, 20 April 2021:

The below email was received from CSM Gramins' wife, he had a minor setback. Please continue to send your prayers to him and his family.

David was transported to the rehab hospital Last Thursday evening. Things did not go as planned. He became very lethargic and he refused to eat or drink anything. By Sunday it was decided he should go to the hospital. I requested Elmbrook but was told that the ambulance would only transport to the closest hospital. Rehab called me at 5:30 PM to tell me the ambulance was on the way within the hour. So Meg picked me up and we went to Waukesha Memorial. 3 hours later he arrived. The ER staff did an amazing job of getting him diagnosed and started him on antibiotics because he had contracted pneumonia. Well, we (Meg, Jeff, Beth & I) thought he was going to be admitted but NO. The Hospitalist came in an hour later to tell me he had to go to Elmbrook because that was where he had the surgery that started all of this. But first the Elmbrook Hospitalist had to accept him and one of the surgeons had to agree, then find him a room. What with covid protocols only one person could stay with him so Meg was confined to a socially distant visitors lounge and Jeff & Beth went home. I relayed info to Meg by texts or walking to the lounge and then she relayed to J & B and Tom. Tom went to my house at 10:30 to pick up my dogs. The ambulance came and he was taken to Elmbrook. Meg dropped me off at my house at 1:00 AM. He had more bloodwork a Head CT Scan and an Abdominal and Pelvic CT Scan. No definitive results so far.

I am tired. It's one month today since the surgery.

Thank you, Nora and Family

Keep praying and ask God to help find out what is wrong.

Friday, 16 April 2021:

David was transferred to Rehabilitation Hospital of Wisconsin yesterday. He arrived via ambulance and HE WILL WALK out of there in a few weeks. He has a direct phone number there 262-521-8904 if anyone wants to cheer him up. He is still weak with very little appetite hence 190 lbs down from 220 a month ago. Hopefully this will get him up and about. He will be having 3 types of therapy every day between 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM. He has a very nice large window in his room with a nice view.

Keep up the prayers and thank you all so much.

Thursday, 15 April 2021:

It is now day 25 and Dave is still in the hospital. All tubes are gone and he is eating some. He has no appetite. They stopped the antibiotic and some of the dizziness is gone. He's very weak but the therapists are on the ball. The intention is to get him transferred to the Rehabilitation Hospital of Wisconsin in Waukesha. The facility is highly recommended and I have visited a friend there in the past. It is one of the few in this area.

Docs said that nothing will happen or be decided until Monday. For you lovely friends who are concerned about me, rest easy. I am doing OK as long as I see steady improvement and his desire to fight. My dogs are my comfort and constant companions along with the support of my family and friends.