

Bloomington Rotary Club Roundabout
June 22, 2021

Next week



Fiona Witkowski will relate her personal experience during the pandemic. An EMT on Long Island, she saw COVID up close and personal. Fiona will also share ways we can keep ourselves safe as we emerge from our relative isolation.

This week's news

Rotarian in the news

Sunday's *Herald Times* featured an editorial by Jill Bond reporting on her visit with **Charlotte Zietlow**. Jill wrote about Charlotte's thoughts on community: "Community is a concept worthy of deep thought and careful action. People like Charlotte gave us a community we love and care about, but it is up to us to steward this community forward."

Save the date

Our Rotary changeover celebration social event will be Thursday, July 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Switchyard Pavilion. This event is family-friendly, with hors d'oeuvres from One World Catering. You need bring nothing but yourself – and a few dollars if you wish to visit the cash bar. If you are unvaccinated, please wear a mask. To RSVP, use this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TTLSD3>

Our speaker: Kelly Eskew, People, planet, profit: Living your Rotary values

Steve Ingle introduced Kelly Eskew, professor of business law and ethics at the IU's Kelley School. Among the courses she teaches are Business and Global Poverty Alleviation, Sustainability Law and Policy, and Renewable Energy Law and Policy.

Kelly talked about how the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals dovetail with the work of Rotary.



The concept of sustainability really took hold in the 1980s, when everything got bigger: people, houses, and incomes. The United Nations Brundtland Commission stated in 1987: “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their goals.”

As she enumerated each U.N. goal, Kelly pointed out the Rotary programs and activities that address it. For example, “Rotary is all over the goal of good health and wellbeing,” she said. Rotary International states unequivocally, “We believe good health care is everyone’s right,” and it puts muscle behind that belief by working to eradicate polio, offering prenatal care (see also the fifth goal), and providing clean water (the also the sixth goal).

The goals overlap in many ways. Gender equality is endangered, Kelly said, when 214 million women are denied access to contraception. Fewer people produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions (see goal seven).

Clean water and sanitation are issues at home as well as abroad. Every school in the Indianapolis Public Schools has lead levels in drinking water that exceed the EPA’s threshold for corrective action (see goals three and four). COVID’s economic impact was greater than any other event since 1929, Kelly said. Forty percent of Americans are one paycheck away from poverty, and income inequality in the United States is the highest among the G7 nations.

Throughout her presentation, Kelly emphasized how Rotary International's seven areas of focus overlap with the U.N.'s 17 sustainable development goals.



Asked how companies address the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability, Kelly pointed out that life cycle analysis examines each aspect of a business, including production, shipping, employee relations, and disposal. She sees positive signs of sustainability: greenhouses gases are being measured, CEOs are looking at impact investment, companies are being forced to mitigate their contributions to global warming. Students in her class on sustainability and the law undertake service-learning projects that use their talents to solve problems. On a personal level, she encouraged Rotarians to vote, volunteer, and pay attention.

To hear the program in its entirety, go to <https://youtu.be/9ZHpg14JDCY>.

Our weekly gathering

President **Ashley Wesley** presided. **Sara Laughlin** reflected on the pandemic year at Teachers Warehouse. "We decided that as long as there was school, we were going to be there," she said. As soon as the stay-at-home orders were lifted in June 2020, most volunteers returned. TW served almost as many clients as usual, and volunteers heard stories of the heroic efforts teachers were making to meet new challenges. Sara gave a shout-out to new TW board member **Marcus Debro**. Rotarians should put August 7 on the calendar for the return of the supply drive. About 50 volunteers will be needed. Our club will partner with TW volunteers and other Rotary clubs in the area. The Northwest Exchange Club has signed on to help.

Forrest Gilmore, executive director of Beacon Inc., was the guest of **Trent Deckard**.

John Hobson celebrates a birthday June 24.

Membership anniversaries include **Amy Osajima**, four years, and **Ashley Wesley**, six years. "My first meeting was when scholarships were awarded, and I was hooked," Ashley recalled.

Producers: **Natalie Blais, Michael Shermis, Sally Gaskill, and Earon Davis**

Roundabout reporter: **Judy Schroeder**