

Rotary



Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

Club Meeting

Carmel
Woodland Country Club
Friday at 11:45 AM

In This Issue

[State Health
Commissioner Shares
Hoosier Health
Concerns with Carmel
Rotarians](#)

[March 13th Speaker is
Shelley Raper](#)

[Lorene Burkhart](#)

[Leadership Connection
Updates](#)

[Save The Date](#)

[Rotary Outstanding
Service Award \(ROSA\)
Nominations Request](#)

[Sign Up Today -
Deadline is March 6th](#)

[Rotary Family Event-
Ignite Volleyball](#)

[Check Request Form](#)

[Rotary Members - Are
You New to DACdb?](#)

[Important Links](#)

[Carmel Rotary Zoom
Link](#)

[Gearbox Sponsors](#)

Events & Speakers

March 6th
[WEEKLY MEETING -
Lane Young](#)

March 13th
[Weekly Meeting -
Shelley Raper](#)

March 19th
[Board Meeting](#)

March 20th
[WEEKLY MEETING -
President Geoffrey
Mearns](#)

March 24th
[Merciful Help
Center: Food Pantry](#)

March 27th
[WEEKLY MEETING -
Elizabeth McFarlane](#)

Club Leaders

State Health Commissioner Shares Hoosier Health Concerns with Carmel Rotarians

Hamilton County has lowest rate of smoking during pregnancy

Dr. Lindsay Weaver, State Health Commissioner for the Indiana Department of Health (IDH), addressed the Carmel Rotary Club last week and shared information about significant health concerns facing Indiana. She began her presentation sharing the IDH's mission to promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers, and envisioning optimal health for every Hoosier regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play. Dr. Weaver reviewed the state's plan to improve Hoosiers' health and reduce obesity and chronic disease through prevention and healthier choices, includes the key focus areas of a) promoting healthier food access; b) raising consumer awareness with clearer and more informative labeling; c) promoting school wellness and fitness testing; d) expanding access to fresh, local food; and e) evaluating state programs to determine return on the state's investment in its health initiatives. Dr. Weaver stated that a key to achieving a healthier Indiana is to connect state government, communities, schools, healthcare providers, and private partners in a unified effort.

Dr. Weaver remarked that key factors underlying the IDH's plan are obesity and tobacco use. She reported that obesity among Hoosiers has continued to increase over the past 25 years, contributing to major health problems including heart disease and diabetes.

Regarding tobacco use among Indiana residents, Dr. Weaver shared some hopeful news, reporting that per the 2024 Indiana Youth Tobacco Survey, high school tobacco use is at its lowest levels in 2 decades, and e-cigarette usage has dropped to 5%, down from a peak of 18.5% in 2018. However, she shared that flavored tobacco products and the rising popularity of oral nicotine pouches pose serious health risks to teens and on into adulthood.

She also shared the state's grave concern about the number of women in the state who smoke during pregnancy. While Indiana's overall rate of smoking during pregnancy has dropped slightly from about 9% to under 7%, that's close to double the national rate of smoking during pregnancy. Dr. Weaver commended Hamilton County with a smoking during pregnancy rate of well under 1%. She compared Hamilton County's low rate to Crawford County's high rate that is greater than 20%, adding that 60% of Indiana counties have smoking while pregnant rates that are higher than the statewide average.

Board certified in both emergency medicine and hospice and palliative care medicine, Dr. Weaver is also an Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine and still practices emergency medicine at Methodist Hospital one night a week. Following her presentation, Dr. Weaver answered many questions about health issues from Carmel Rotarians. Carmel Rotary Club President Doug Willard then presented books about "Milo the Doctor" for her to sign, which Carmel Rotary then donates to Carmel elementary school libraries.



Carmel Rotary President Doug Willard presents books to Dr. Lindsay Weaver to sign for distribution to Carmel grade schools



Doug Willard
President



Nancy S. Heck
President-Elect



Dubbie Buckler
Secretary



Tyler E. Smith
President-Nominee
Vice President
Club Vice President



Greg Pilling
Treasurer



Donna Gray
Club Comm. Officer
Club Public Image Chair
Webmaster



Monica Frauhiger
Club Admin Chair



David I. Hollander
Membership Chair



Louise M. Jackson
Leadership Connection Chair

Robert Wright



Dr. Lindsay Weaver discusses rise in Indiana obesity

March 13th Speaker is Shelley Raper



Swanay
Sergeant-
at-Arms



Sue M.
Westermeier
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



Stanley
Lebron
CarmelFest
Chair



Natalie
O'Hara
Webmaster



Peter
Primason
Community
Grants Chair



Katie L.
Smardo
CarmelFest
Treasurer



Beth Sexton
Community
Service
Chair



Carolyn M.
Shaw
Community
Service
Chair



Julie
Standish
Club Youth
Services
Chair



Arnold
Elston
Past
President
iPast
President



Lyra Lee
Club Social
Chair



TANAKA
Paspamire
Kaleso
Club Social
Chair



Shelley Raper serves as the Corporate Relations Manager at Brooke's Place. In this role, she is responsible for identifying new corporate partners and deepening engagement with current corporate supporters.

Prior to joining Brooke's Place in April 2025, Shelley's career spanned the financial services, nonprofit, and communications technology sectors. She also spent 13 years in the sports industry, specializing in marketing, sponsorships, premium suite sales, event operations, and volunteer management.

Shelley holds a B.S. degree from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. Her community leadership experience includes serving on the Indiana University Alumni Association Board of Managers and as the Board Chair for We R Richmond Scholarships. She resides in Fishers, Indiana.

Lorene Burkhart



Our community has lost a visionary leader. Long time resident of Indianapolis Lorene Burkhart has passed away peacefully and of natural causes, leaving behind a legacy of dedication to service, philanthropy, leadership and education.

Lorene was born on a farm near Vincennes, Indiana, on July 11, 1934. She was the only daughter of Emma Bobe and Clarence J. McCormick.

As a typical farm girl, Lorene joined her local 4-H Club at the age of nine and remained a member for nine years, earning many awards for her leadership, baking, and sewing skills. She graduated from Decker High School as Valedictorian of her class of 12 students in 1952.

Lorene then enrolled at Purdue University where she majored in Home Economics Education. While at Purdue, she was a member of Mortar Board and the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. During her time there, she met and married George Shunk, the father of her two sons, Mark and Stewart.

Lorene's first job was teaching high school Home Economics in Cincinnati, OH as well as training women on welfare in employment skills for the Cincinnati Board of Education. Upon moving to Indianapolis, IN in 1964, she shifted her focus to applying her home economics background to a wide range of opportunities in public relations, broadcasting, marketing, and as a corporate executive. At age 70, she began writing books, authoring seven titles including "An Accidental Pioneer, a Farm Girl's Drive to the Finish."

Lorene married prominent Indianapolis businessman John Burkhart in 1985 and became a dedicated community volunteer. She was a founding board member of Meals on Wheels of Marion County, the Women's Fund of Central Indiana, and the Arts Council of Indianapolis. She also served on the Board of the Indiana 4-H Club Foundation, the national board of Girls, Inc., and was president of the Indiana Home Economics Association.

Lorene's passion for education included serving as a Trustee of the University of Indianapolis for 14 years, where she received an

Honorary Doctorate of Humanities. She also served on the Foundation Board of Ivy Tech Community College, where she received an Honorary associate degree, and on the Board of Visitors of Marian University.

For her many lifelong contributions to Purdue University, including her gift to establish the Center for Families and serving as President of the President's Council, Lorene received numerous awards including the Consumer and Family Sciences Gold Achievement Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Honorary Doctor of Letters.

Lorene was a lifelong Methodist. Her abiding yet quiet faith was at the core of her lifelong passion for serving others.

Lorene is preceded in death by her parents, husbands, and brothers Jim and Don. She is survived by her brother Ed (Lana), sons Mark (Suzy) and Stewart (Teresa), grandchildren Trevor Shunk, Zach Shunk, Kelsey Smith (Trevor), Caroline Shunk and Jaclyn Shunk, and great-grandchildren Finnegan Smith, Beckham Smith and Hugh Moss.

Lorene's legacy is one that will live on through the positive impact she had, both directly and indirectly, on the lives of countless individuals and organizations. She made a difference wherever she went and will be deeply missed by all who loved and were inspired by her.

Services for Lorene will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 100 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, IN 46260. Calling hours: 12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. followed by a memorial service at 3:00 P.M.

There will be a private family interment in Vincennes.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Center for Families, Purdue University, The Women's Fund of Central Indiana, and the Indiana 4H Foundation.

Leadership Connection Updates

The following update is unofficial, but quite encouraging, from Friday's Rotary Club of Carmel meeting; however, it goes without saying that the members of our club are true believers in Leadership Connection (and several enjoy wine).

Louise Jackson, Mark Robbins, and I set up the following fundraising objectives for the Rotary Club of Carmel members: 50 members will pledge \$5,000.00 to cover the costs of 70 students attending Leadership Connection in 2026. To assist in reaching these figures, I donated 14 bottles of wine (one bottle for each Rotarian who pledged at least \$140 to cover two students as long as supplies last).

The following Rotarians stepped up by the close of Friday's meeting...many were at the \$140 level, or higher:

Judge Gail Bardach, Brian Beck, John Blakeley, Doug Bosworth, Kay Brunson, Dr. Robert Buell, Cindy Davis, Judy Ford, Elizabeth Hamilton, Dr. David Hollander, Gerry Hughes, Ramesh Joshi, Dr. Norm Kepler, Subhash Khanna, Sharon Kibbe, Dr. Rick Markoff, Kelvin Ockamoto, Natalie O'Hara, Jay O'Neil, Brad and Meg Osborne, Judge Brian Poindexter, Blake Seigneurie & Dr. Amanda Beering, Bob Swanay, Jonathan Walker, Sue Westermeier, and Doug Willard.

Unofficially, these Rotarians have helped us reach approximately 80 percent of our dollars needed to support 70 students, far surpassing the previous records for dollars raised of \$3,240 enabling 48 students to attend Leadership Connection.

At least three donors did not wish to take any wine; thus, three bottles still remain, plus I will contribute four more bottles as incentive for others to support two, or more, students.

Anyone who underwrites at least one student (\$70 and payable by May 1) will be entered into a drawing to be held after May 1. At stake are three opportunities to attend Lunch with a Leader on November 5 as guests of the Leadership Connection Steering Committee.

Let's keep the excitement going! If, indeed, we reach our objective of 50 Rotarians supporting this effort, we will smash the \$5,000.00 mark and cover expenses for more than 70 students.

If anyone asks about participating in our campaign, please have them contact me...my phone

number and e-mail address are found on dacdb.com under Richard Markoff.

Thanks to everyone who has helped us reach this point so early in the Leadership Connection Student Support Project!!!



Tim Flint with 2025 Leadership Connection Legacy attendees, daughter Lily

and son Zach. Up to 10 slots are available in 2026 for children and grandchildren of Rotary Club of Carmel members to attend this year's event.

Save The Date

Join US!

Rotary
Club of Carmel



5:31 Club

Thursday March 12th

Thai Prime Carmel



Thai Prime Carmel
[1200 S Rangeline Rd UNIT 120, Carmel, IN 46032](https://www.thaiprime.com/carmel)

Everyone is welcome to join



Rotary Outstanding Service Award (ROSA) Nominations Request

It is that time of year to submit your nominations for 2026 ROSA.

The ROSA Award recognizes a non-Rotarian who best demonstrates dedication to enhancement of Carmel Indiana through community service and who has demonstrated service above self in our community.

Nominations deadline is April 4, 2026. When you submit your nomination, please include the nominee's name, position, organization and reason why you believe your nomination should receive this award. Please send nominations to: rotaryclubcarmelin@gmail.com

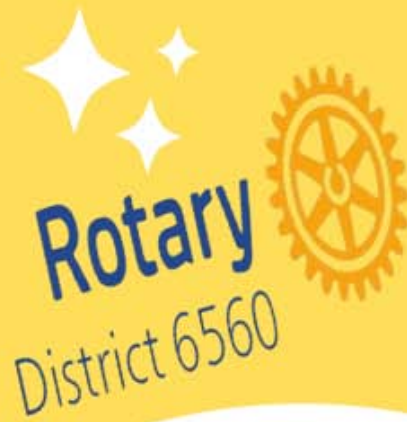
Sign Up Today - Deadline is March 6th

RYLA is back for 2026!

The Rotary Club of Carmel will be selecting several students to attend. This opportunity is open to current sophomores and juniors.

[Application Link](#)

Deadline March 6



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where youth develop skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

RYLA

Leadership Camp

March 27-29, 2026 | Camp Tecumseh

Selected students will be notified by Friday, March 13th

Sponsored by - Rotary Club of Carmel
Contact- Julie Standish
Phone- 317-938-8383
Email- rotaryclubcarmelin@gmail.com



Rotary



Club of Carmel
Rotary Family Fun Night!



IGNITE VOLLEYBALL SUITE EXPERIENCE!!!

Fishers Event Center
11000 Stock-Dale Street, Fishers, IN 46037

Friday May 1st @7pm

Cost: \$55.95 per person
(Includes Ticket, Food & On Court Flag Experience)

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>
Parking is available at Fishers Event Center for General \$10 & VIP \$20



Check Request Form

Rotary Members - Are You New to DACdb?

DACdb is the database that houses details for Carmel Rotarians, the Carmel club, and District 6560. If you are new to DACdb or need a refresher, then go to the newly created link titled 'How to's on DACdb' on the website's left navigation bar, under Club Links.

From here you can learn how to:

- Login
- Change Your Password
- Update Your Contact Information
- Enter a Make Up

***If you have previously logged into DACdb but don't remember your password, then contact Andrea Rice to have your password reset. You can directly email her by clicking on the 'Member Directory' link on the left navigation bar of the website. Once the page opens, scroll to Andrea's name and click on it. Fill out the requested information, including a note to reset your password. Click 'Send Mail'.

Important Links

[Carmel Rotary Website](#)

[District 6560 Website](#)

[Carmel Rotary Facebook Page](#)

[Rotary International Website](#)

Carmel Rotary Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87091303825?pwd=ZjBGekNaYkxzT0VZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825

Passcode: 4waytest

One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,87091303825#,,,,*73005176# US (Washington DC)

Dial USING YOUR ACTUAL PHONE by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825

Passcode: 73005176

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kH5bJHK15>

Gearbox Sponsors



Greg Pilling

NMLS # 873570 317-495-8042
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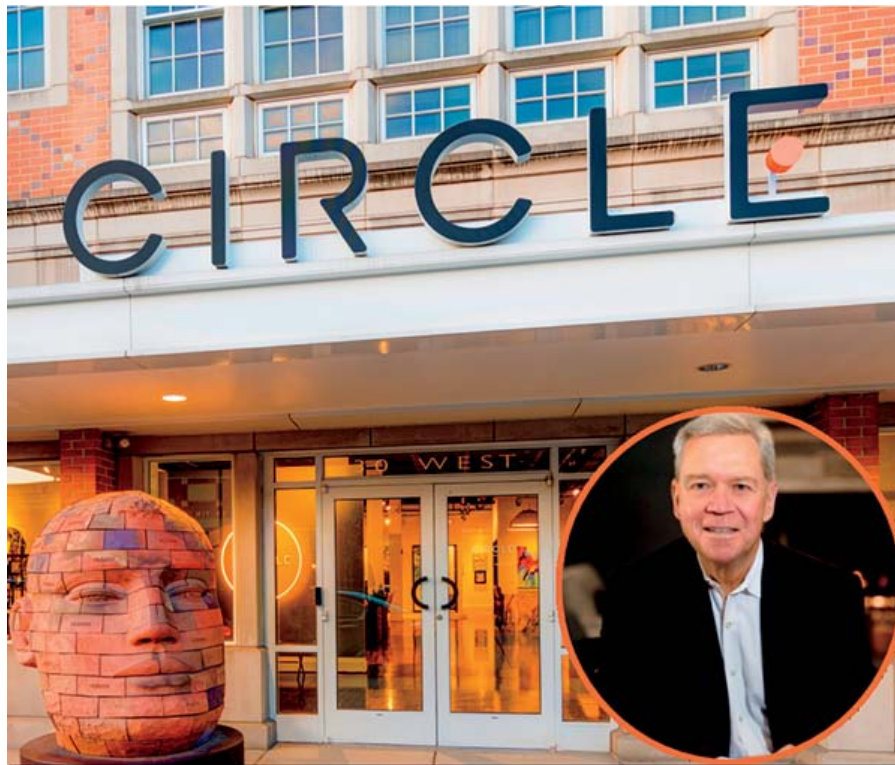
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Carmel Rotarian for *36* Years

Club Member Anniversaries



[Kim Gaskill](#)
21 Years



[William Robert Schnell](#)
17 Years



[Richard M. Markoff](#)
9 Years



[Susie Steel](#)
6 Years



[Lynda Pitz](#)
3 Years



[Jess A. Lawhead](#)
3 Years



[Nam Mokwunye](#)
2 Years



[Carol Applegate](#)
0 Years

Birthdays

[Lyndsey M Brown](#)

March 2nd

[Judith A. Ford](#)

March 6th

[Chris Hawkins](#)

March 14th

[Timothy A Flint](#)

March 25th

[Nolan Schloneger](#)

March 27th

[Joseph S Barnes](#)

April 1st

[Lyra Lee](#)

March 2nd

[Sarah Luedtke](#)

March 7th

[Judith F. Hagan](#)

March 14th

[Amanda Massey](#)

March 25th

[Jess A. Lawhead](#)

March 28th

[David Haboush](#)

March 5th

[Mika L Takahashi](#)

March 12th

[Erika Steele](#)

March 21st

[Caitlin Karvasky](#)

March 26th

[William Robert Schnell](#)

March 29th

Wedding Anniversaries

[Natalie O'Hara](#)

March 5th

[Bradford S Osborne](#)

March 31st

[John Stanley](#)

March 29th

[Meg Gates Osborne](#)

March 31st