

Rotary



Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

Club Meeting

Carmel
Woodland Country Club
Friday at 11:45 AM

In This Issue

[March 20th Speaker is Geoff Mearns](#)

[Recent 5:31 Club Social Gathering at New Thai Prime](#)

[Leadership Connections Scholarships](#)

[March 27th Speaker is Elizabeth McFarlane](#)

[Please Welcome Potential New Member Richard Areba](#)

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

[Rotary Family Event- Ignite Volleyball](#)

[Please Welcome Potential New Member Margaret Davidson](#)

[Membership Challenge](#)

[Check Request Form](#)

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

[Important Links](#)

[Carmel Rotary Zoom Link](#)

[Gearbox Sponsors](#)

Events & Speakers

March 19th
[Board Meeting](#)

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

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

April 3rd
[NO WEEKLY MEETING - Good Friday](#)

April 10th
[Weekly Meeting - J. Douglas Boles](#)

March 20th Speaker is Geoff Mearns



President Geoffrey S. Mearns serves as the 17th president of Ball State University. After joining the University in May 2017, President Mearns helped to develop a new strategic plan. *Destination 2040: Our Flight Path* established a long-range vision for the University that sets priorities across five key areas: undergraduate excellence, graduate education and lifetime learning, community engagement and impact, scholarship and societal impact, and inclusiveness and institutional excellence. A refreshed version of the plan, which upholds these five long-term goals, was approved by members of the Board of Trustees in 2025.

During his tenure, President Mearns has pursued initiatives that have sustained and expanded the University's enrollment, despite the adverse impact of the pandemic, and increased alumni engagement and fundraising. President Mearns has also strengthened the University's relationship with the community, most notably through its innovative partnership with Muncie Community Schools and its ambitious plan to revitalize The Village.

Recent 5:31 Club Social Gathering at New Thai Prime

Several Carmel Rotarians enjoyed the social gathering Thursday evening on March 12, 2026 for its informal **5:31 Club** at the new Thai Prime Carmel, co-owned by Carmel Rotarian Dao Richmond. All the restaurant's owners are from Thailand. Thai Prime Carmel, located at 1200 S Rangeline Rd in Carmel in the spot formerly occupied by Wahlburgers, secured the space in the Proscenium and opened a month ago. Dao enjoys overseeing this beautifully decorated new restaurant.

Carmel Rotary's **5:31 Club** is an informal social gathering that begins on an announced Thursday at 5:31pm at various Carmel dining venues. Carmel Rotarians can pop in with no registration or advance notice required to enjoy some relaxed fellowship with fellow club members.



Pictured: Gary Sexton, Chaya Reich, Carolyn Shaw, Monica Frauhiger, Doug Willard, Dubbie Buckler. Not pictured: Nancy Heck and Dao Richmond.

Club Leaders



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

Leadership Connections Scholarships



We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Leadership Connection Scholarship, presented by the Rotary Club of Carmel.

This scholarship will be awarded to six seniors who attended the Leadership Connection events on October 24th and November 6th, 2025.

Each scholarship winner will receive:

1. A \$2,000 scholarship for tuition at a college, university, community college, or trade school.
2. A technology award to support their academic journey.

Eligibility & Application Details:

- Applicants must have attended Leadership Connection and be in their senior year.
- Submissions should highlight their desire to continue their education, the school they plan to attend, and the impact Leadership Connection has had on them.
- Creative responses in various media formats are encouraged!

Application Deadline: March 27, 2026

Scholarship Recipients Rotary Luncheon: April 17, 2026

To submit final applications or to ask any questions, please email the Leadership Connection Team:

rotaryleadershipconnection@gmail.com

Thank you for your support in helping our students!

Leadership Connection & the Rotary Club of Carmel



Robert Wright
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 Pasipamire Kaleso
Club Social
Chair

March 27th Speaker is Elizabeth McFarlane

Elizabeth McFarlane from [Easterseals Crossroads](#) will be our guest speaker this week. Elizabeth works with an organization dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities and special needs live, learn, work, and play in their communities. Through innovative programs, assistive technology, and supportive services, Easterseals empowers people and their families to achieve greater independence and quality of life. Join us to learn more about the impact their work is having across our region and how the community can support their mission.

Please Welcome Potential New Member Richard Areba

by David I. Hollander

Richard is a Registered Nurse who currently works with oncology patients at the Ascension St. Vincent Hospital. He is also the CEO/Founder of Gates of Hope, Inc. This faith-driven non-profit organization's mission is dedicated to combating malnutrition and enhancing community health in Kenya. Richard has 16 years of nursing experience and health care management. He has previously worked in multiple hospitals in Kenya, in 12 African countries, and for the WHO from 2014-2017. He was awarded the Gold Medal for volunteering to help fight the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. He moved his family from Nairobi, Kenya to the USA in 2021. He has a Master's degree in Public Health and a Master's degree in Oncology. Richard and his wife have three young children. He loves to play golf, to play volleyball, and to travel. He has a passion for community health volunteerism. He is very involved with church activities.



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

Rotary Family Event- Ignite Volleyball

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>

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



Please Welcome Potential New Member Margaret Davidson

by David I. Hollander

Margaret is currently a VP/General Manager with the Asher Agency, a Marketing/Advertising/PR firm based out of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. She opened the Central Indiana office of the Asher Agency in 2014. She developed her extensive advertising experience initially by spending 19 years at MZD Advertising (now ZMP) as a VP/Account Service Director. Margaret had multiple



accounts there with the majority being non-profits and public education clients. The Indiana State Fair was one of her main clients. She subsequently moved there to become the CMO of the Indiana State Fair. She has a B.A. degree in Communications with a focus on marketing from DePauw University. She has 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren who she adores. She has a strong weekly commitment to the Carmel Farmer's Market which she considers her "hobby." She volunteers at her church. She is involved with a chapter of ICAN (Indiana Canine Assistant Network). She loves spending time at the Monon Center and spending time with a great network of friends enjoying all of the Carmel Community activities.

Membership Challenge

Rotary 

8 in 8

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

MARCH 1 – APRIL 30

**The goal is simple: add eight
new members in eight weeks.**

Any Rotary or club in Zones 30 and 31 that
meets the goal qualifies—plain and
simple.

**To add extra motivation, clubs that
successfully add eight new members
during the challenge period will be entered
into a drawing for \$1,000 to host a member
social event in May or June.**

Event must include members bringing guests.

GET INVOLVED!

Check Request Form

<https://forms.gle/WnHuUVemxDZGdiwe6>

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=ZjBGekNaYkczT0VZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825

Passcode: 4waytest

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87091303825#,,,,*73005176# US (New York)

+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/u/kH5bJHKI5>

Gearbox Sponsors



Greg Pilling

NMLS # 873570 317-495-8042
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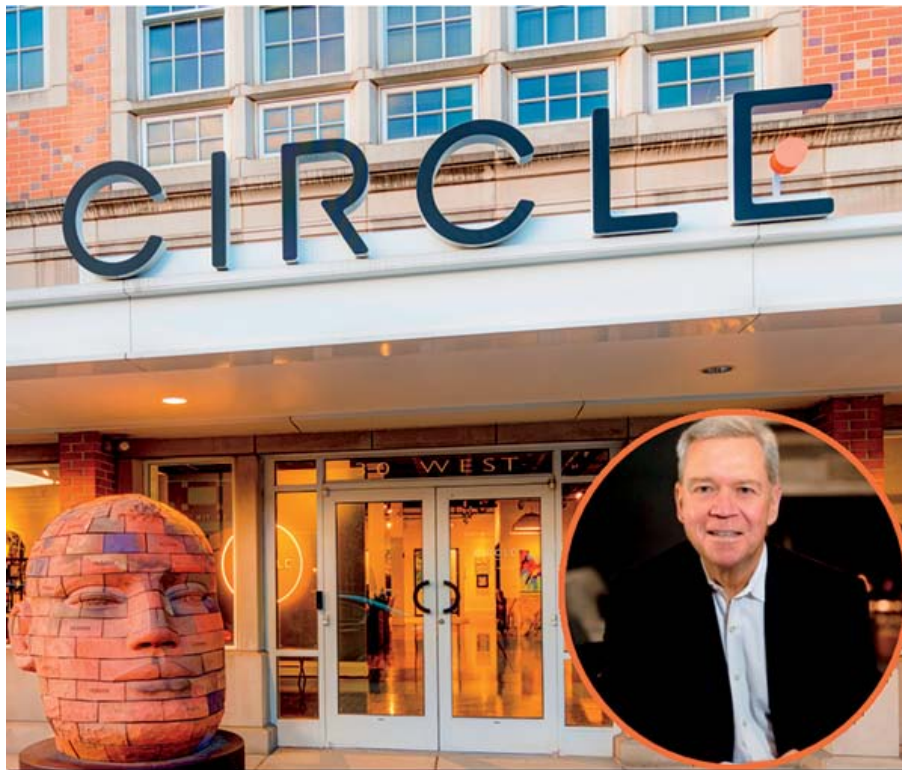
718 Adams St Ste B

Carmel

ranjitputhran@allstate.com



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Carmel Rotarian for *36* Years

Club Member Anniversaries



[Kim Gaskill](#)
21 Years



[William Robert Schnell](#)
17 Years



[David Zech](#)
10 Years



[Carol Applegate](#)
0 Years

Birthdays

[Erika Steele](#)
March 21st

[Caitlin Karvasky](#)
March 26th

[William Robert Schnell](#)
March 29th

[Susan I Gath](#)
April 2nd

[Timothy A Flint](#)
March 25th

[Nolan Schloneger](#)
March 27th

[Joseph S Barnes](#)
April 1st

[Zachary Mayhew](#)
April 7th

[Amanda Massey](#)
March 25th

[Jess A. Lawhead](#)
March 28th

[Benjamin Pearson](#)
April 2nd

[David Zech](#)
April 14th

Wedding Anniversaries

[John Stanley](#)
March 29th

[Sharleen Miller](#)
April 4th

[Meg Gates Osborne](#)
March 31st

[Nam Mokwunye](#)
April 7th

[Bradford S Osborne](#)
March 31st