

Bloomington Rotary Club Roundabout ~ April 1, 2025



Next week's program will be April 8 in the IMU Georgian Room. Our speaker will be fellow Rotarian John Whikehart. Title: Bloomington Convention Center Expansion Project.”

John is Chancellor Emeritus of Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington, retiring after 23 years of service to the school.

He was appointed to the Monroe County Capital Improvement Board in July 2023. He serves as president of the group, spearheading the construction of the new Bloomington Convention Center expansion project.

News of the Week

Welcome, Don & Melinda!



From left, club president Steve Wickes, Judy Witt (Melinda's sponsor), Melinda and Don Seader, Jim Bright (Don's sponsor).

Don and Melinda Seader were inducted April 1 as the newest members of our club. They moved to Bloomington in the early '90s so Don could attend grad school at IU.

Melinda, who spent her first 14 years in Terre Haute before moving to the Golden State, parlayed her early love of photography and graphic design into her first jobs as a newspaper photographer and photo studio manager.

In California Don was a master automotive technician, specializing in German cars. After they met and married, Don and Melinda worked full time during the day and attended college at night. Don had a double major in math and computer science at Cal State Sacramento. Melinda earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies.

After accepting a scholarship and teaching assistant position at IU, Don found that he preferred solving problems in days rather than in decades. He missed getting to know his customers in the automotive world. In 1995, Don and Melinda opened World Wide Automotive Service in Bloomington. In 2009, they built the greenest automotive building in the region, winning local and state level environmental awards as well as the Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year. (They still own the building but recently sold the business to general manager Paul Miller.)

Melinda handled the business plan for World Wide Automotive Service and led the company's marketing and community outreach. The first years of the company's community outreach were dedicated to helping start WonderLab Museum.

As daughters Aubrey and Kate became involved in theater, Melinda began the construction minion phase of her community outreach, with building, catering, and marketing for BPP and Cardinal Stage. In 2023, Melinda and Aubrey co-founded Off Night Productions (offnightproductions.org), a local, woman-led nonprofit whose goal is to provide theater "For Everyone, Every Night." Aubrey was our Rotary District's 2018-19 Global Scholar, landing a \$40,000 grant to earn a master's degree in arts and culture administration from King's College London.

Don has served on many automotive advisory boards, mentored shops within the 20 groups he has belonged to, and assisted a wide variety of local nonprofits, including BHSS Sounds of South, Bloomington Playwrights Project, and Thriving Connections.

Dick McKaig is making progress

Dick McKaig has been diagnosed with blood and bone cancer. The good news is that it was caught early and he is progressing well with treatment. His spirits are good. He is on Day 19 of being in the hospital but hopes to be back to his winter home soon. Then he and Maribeth will drive from Phoenix to Bloomington.

If you would like to reach out to Dick or Maribeth, their contact info is:

Dick McKaig
812-325-3594 (cell)
mckaig@iu.edu

Maribeth McKaig
812-322-6634 (cell)
mbmckaig@icloud.com

District grant update

Anyone have an old license plate collection in the garage? Community Service Chair **Sara Laughlin** said artist Joe LaMantia is looking for flat aluminum license plates to use in the bicycle sculpture at My Sister's Closet. **Sandy Keller** at My Sister's Closet reports that Joe could use people to help paint the structure at Bruce's Welding: Thursday, April 3, 9 am - 3 pm (two people, or four if you can do only half a day); and Friday, April 4, 11 am - 3 pm (just one needed because **Jim Bright** already signed up). Let Sara (saraglaughlin@gmail.com) know if you can help.

Following today's luncheon, committee members met to discuss applications from five area nonprofit organizations: Meals on Wheels, MALL (Mobility Aids Lending Library), Lake Monroe Water Fund, Constellation Stage & Screen, and Off Night Productions. The winner will be announced in next week's newsletter.

This Week's Program

View the [recording here](#)

Club President **Traci Jovanovic**, a CASA volunteer, introduced CASA of Monroe County Executive Director Tia Arthur. With 58 children on the waiting list for a volunteer, CASA needs "volunteers like you," Tia said.



In June 2012, Tia joined CASA as a supervisor. Since becoming part of the CASA family, Tia has managed the child visit monitor program, which offers another volunteer opportunity for those who have limited availability.

Monroe County CASA recruits, trains, and supervises court-appointed special advocates to advocate for abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court. Volunteer advocacy is based on the belief that all children are entitled to a safe and permanent home. CASA promotes and supports unbiased advocacy representation for all children.

For more information, call (812) 333-2272 or check the website at monroecountycasa.org.

April 1 Celebration of Service

President Traci Jovanovic observed how lucky we are to meet in such a beautiful building and advised Rotarians to check out the paintings throughout the IMU. She wished everyone a happy April: “May the warmer and longer days fill you with joy.”



Jim Sims gave the reflection. “Efforts to roll back progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion are creating chaos, conflict, and polarization across our state and our nation,” he said.

Jim is president of the Monroe County chapter of the NAACP, one of our institutional members. “Inherently, the NAACP is part of DEI,” he said, “and the negative stuff is impacting us in Monroe County.”

Jim applauded Rotary for advocating DEI at the local, state, and national level. He said: “Our commitment to **Diversity** enables us to gather and to get to know each other better. **Equity** gives us a seat at the table, opportunities for leadership positions, and personal development. **Inclusion** means that we are inviting and welcoming and willing to put everyone to work as volunteers.”



Cindy Neidhart introduced our guests: Doris Sims, guest of **Jim Sims**; visiting Rotarian Bill Milliken, from Portland, Me.; Amber Shride, guest of our speaker; Chris Pelton, guest of **Steve Wickes**; Marci Sabinci, guest of **Sandy Keller**; and Rotaractors Yehya Kader and Sabina Alfedhl.

Celebrating birthdays are **Carol-Ann Hossler**, March 30; **Sandy Keller** and **Steve Moberly**, April 1; **Geoff Bradley** and **Sara Laughlin**, April 2; **Tina Peterson** and **LeeAnna Powell**, April 3; and **Lynn Schwartzberg**, April 4.

Celebrating Rotary anniversaries are **Charlotte Zietlow**, 37 years; **Christina Swanson**, 36 years; **Monika Kroener**, 30 years; **Sue Sgambelluri**, 7 years; and **Whitney Cordoba**, 1 year.

Acknowledgments

Executive Asst.	Natalie Blais
Greeter	Charlotte Zietlow
Introductions	Cindy Neidhart
Zoom Host	Joy Harter
Reflection	Jim Sims
Reporter	Jim Bright
Photographer	Sally Gaskill
Camera/Mic	Michael Shermis
Zoom/Audio	Isaac Smith

Jim Bright, Reporter
Sally Gaskill, Photographer