

Bloomington Rotary Club

ROUNDAABOUT

June 12, 2025



We will meet on June 17 in the Frangipani Room. Our speaker will be Hannah L. Buxbaum, IU Vice President for International Affairs. She oversees the offices that manage international admissions and student services, study abroad, and international partnerships, as well as the university's five overseas offices. Her topic is "Global Engagement at IU: Past, Present, and Future."

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Past President's Dinner



On June 4, Bloomington Rotary Club past presidents gathered at the home of Sara Laughlin to share lessons learned from their years in the office with incoming President Steve Wickes.

Among the most popular: "Start the meetings on time. End on time. Stay on schedule."

FRONT ROW (from left): Yolanda Trevino, Jim Kryway, Glenda Murray, Sally Gaskill, Judy Witt

SECOND ROW: Ron Barnes, Sara Laughlin, Joy Harter

THIRD ROW: Winston Shindell, Mike Baker, Traci Jovanovic, Jon Dilts

BACK ROW: Jim Bright, Steve Wickes, Charlie Osborne

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

With this meeting being an outdoor picnic, we had no speaker and no Zoom or recording. The program consisted of brief items identified by President Traci as a “twist” on our club assembly:

1. Insights from the Past President's Dinner

While the club enjoys rich traditions, it should openly welcome changes and adaptations. Examples are the new invoice system and another new data system, Ignite, which you will hear more about soon.

Our club is healthy and vibrant. We are blessed by the strength of our membership, the diversity of our backgrounds, and the richness and variety of our talents.

Our club has solid cornerstone projects: Teachers Warehouse, the Rotary Toast, the Ampath project, and our scholarship program.

Our wonderful international element is important and has an impact around the world.

2. Update on meetings in other places

Club leadership has been investigating possible meeting locations other than the IMU, comparing meal costs, room space and costs, parking, and other attributes. The main takeaway is that we still have a rather good deal at the IMU.

3. Recognitions and awards

President Traci presented awards to honored members:



Natalie Blais and **Steve Wickes** for building a more efficient and effective club with the new invoice system. Also for **Claire Kest** (absent).



Michael Shermis for excellence in weekly club programming.



Jim Bright for leading the next generations.



Alain Barker for the Living Room conversations, conferences, concerts, and technical help.



Other awardees not present: **Sara Laughlin** and **Jeff Richardson** for a creative district grant and excellent ideas; **John Whitehart** for positive community involvement and the convention center; **Judy Schroeder** for 30 years of leading the Roundabout reporting team; and **David Meyer** and **Cindy Neidhart** for their amazing work with the refugee community.

Updates

June 10 Celebration of Service

President Traci Jovanovic welcomed Rotarians and guests.

Her thought for the day:

“It’s great to be outside and enjoying each other’s company. Everyone should meet at least one new person today and enjoy the fellowship of our members so that we are reminded of the core of Rotary – each one of us.”

REFLECTION: Heidi Schulz invited us to reflect on having *impact* – not just the large-scale change we often strive for, but the deeply personal, rippling kind that begins with a single step. She introduced our picnic caterer and special guest Amber Racoma, proprietor of Mama Dukes Hawaiian BBQ. Heidi told Amber’s inspirational story of using her late mother’s recipes to turn a dream into a business as she graduated from the Ivy Tech School of Entrepreneurship. Amber’s journey – fueled by education, rooted in family, and supported by community – is exactly the kind of impact Rotary seeks to amplify. Heidi closed her reflection with this: “As we enjoy this meal, let us celebrate the power of connection, mentorship, and service. Let us continue to be the kind of club that lifts others up, invests in potential, and believes in the quiet beginnings that grow into transformational change.”

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

Jim Bright enjoyed looking after our only guest, **Maisie Cochran**, while her mother, Sara Cochran, visited the food table.



ROTARY BIRTHDAYS: Liz Feitl, June 14; **Steve Ingle**, June 11; **Geoff McKim**, June 11; and **Chris Morrison**, June 10.

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES: **Cindy Brumbarger**, 1 year; **Raj Haddawi**, 7 years; and **Jim Sims**, 6 years.

HAPPY DOLLARS: Members were happy about visits with friends and family, upcoming club programming, our club's strength and diversity, local businesses that landscape with trees and plantings, the Juneteenth celebration this Friday (6/13) at Switchyard Park, and community service volunteers (from Jasper!) helping at My Sister's Closet.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Traci encouraged us to signup to help at the dedication of "the most beautiful bike rack ever seen" on Tuesday, June 24, at My Sister's Closet. This is our district grant project. We are expecting a big crowd, so your help is needed. Go to this link to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094BA9AE2BA75-57203214-mysisters>