

**January 14, 2025**  
**Bloomington Rotary Club**  
**Roundabout**

**Next Meeting**



Join us next Tuesday to hear from John Fernandez, Senior Vice President, innovation and strategic partnerships, at The Mill. A respected senior executive leader, John has extensive experience leading private and public organizations. John joined The Mill, Bloomington's home for innovators, to catalyze the regional innovation ecosystem, including leading collaborations with Indiana University, investors, and the robust start-up community. A key priority includes developing and managing The Trades District, a regional innovation hub located in Bloomington's certified tech park. Prior to joining The Mill, John served as Dentons' Global Chief Innovation Officer and as President Barack Obama's Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

Next week's presentation, *Trades District Transformation: Why an Active Innovation District Matters for Bloomington's Economic Vitality*, will be held in the Frangipani Room and on Zoom.

**This Week's News**

**Welcome new member, Jonas Chang**



**Jonas Chang** was inducted into our club on Tuesday by **Lori Garraghty** and his sponsor, **Michael Shermis**. Jonas currently serves as the grant research and sourcing manager for the City of Bloomington. He and his wife, Andreea, moved to Bloomington in 2022 when she began the

Master in Fine Arts program at Indiana University. Jonas subsequently enrolled in the Master of Public Affairs program at Indiana University in spring 2024 and is scheduled to complete the program in spring 2025. He received his bachelor's degree in history and sociology/anthropology from Truman State University in 2018.

Jonas has had the opportunity to live and work in cities large and small, including Los Angeles, California; College Station, Texas; Madison, Wisconsin; and now Bloomington, Indiana. His work has included copyediting for a mathematics education research office at Texas A&M University, grant writing for local nonprofits, and now grant management for local government. He also serves on the Board of Directors for CDFI Friendly Bloomington. Jonas enjoys creative writing, hiking, and gardening.

### **Remembering Lee Witt**

Longtime Rotarian Lee Witt, 89, passed away Thursday, January 9, at his Bell Trace home. Cards and notes may be sent to:

Judy Witt  
800 E. First St.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Contributions in memory of Lee may be sent to:

Teachers Warehouse  
P.O. Box 7168  
Bloomington, IN 47407

A memorial service will be scheduled in the coming months. Watch the Roundabout for more details about the service as they are available.

### **Rotarian Glen Steenberger seriously ill**

Fellow Bloomington Rotarian Glen Steenberger is seriously ill and is entering hospice at home following a recent illness. Scouting America colleague and fellow Bloomington Rotary organization member Colton Cawood said of Glen, "There's no finer champion of Scouting than Glen." Colton suggests that we send cards and notes to:

Glen Steenberger  
Hoosier Trails Council  
Scouting America  
5625 State Road 46  
Bloomington, IN 47401

### **Gift basket item collection for the All IN 25 Rotary District Conference**

**Andrea Murray** and **Heidi Schulz** of our fellowship committee will be collecting gifts for our gift basket to auction off at the All IN 25 Rotary District Conference in Indianapolis. Please bring

items of interest to contribute to the basket such as wine; tickets to sporting events, theater, concerts; gift cards, crafts, or other things you think Rotarians would enjoy. We will be collecting items over the next two months as we prepare for the April 26 event at the Sheraton Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis.

### **Join a conversation with Mayor Thomson about supporting immigrants in our community**

Join the Refugee Support Network, with El Centro, Exodus, immigration lawyers, and local immigrant assistance groups for a keynote address by Mayor Kerry Thomson on ways our community can support immigrants in the greater Bloomington area.

When: Monday, January 20, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Where: Monroe County Public Library Downtown Branch, downstairs room 1B-C

Why: To prepare in positive manner for incoming administration's immigration changes

How: Introductions of groups in first hour; breakout sessions for Q and A in second hour.

### **This Week's Program**



**Jim Bright** introduced fellow Rotarian **Liz Irwin** to present the program on Duke Energy's storm preparedness. Duke Energy is the largest electric utility in Indiana, serving in 69 of Indiana's communities with 36,800 miles of transmission lines with 32 operation centers. There are approximately 2,500 Duke Energy employees in Indiana.

Liz said Duke Energy remains in a constant state of readiness, with a team dedicated to emergency preparedness watching for storms and threats to infrastructure. When there is an imminent threat or a threat is in progress, Duke Energy puts an incident command structure in place to receive clear communications across the entire organization. Every Duke Energy employee has a storm role.

In major storms, Duke Energy participates in mutual assistance partnerships that allow other workers to come to our area to restore power and for Indiana workers to go to other disaster locations to assist.

“Our first focus is on public safety,” Liz said. Duke Energy first repairs downed power lines and other safety threats. Then they look to restore power to the properties that serve communities, like hospitals and water plants, as well as residential properties.

You can prepare for a power outage by using:

- The outage map
- Email or text outage alert
- Mobile app
- Reporting outages
- Storm center
- Business storm center
- [Preparedness tips](#)

The June 2024 storm was the third biggest storm Duke Energy had managed in Indiana up to that point. The storm caused 65,000 customers to lose power in Monroe County, with 70+ MPH wind gusts. Downed vegetation and trees made the restoration incredibly difficult. Three days after the storm hit, 99.8 percent of homes were restored. IU supported staging at Memorial Stadium, and Duke Energy worked closely with city and county government to share communication and work together to clear downed trees and roadblocks. There were about 1100 linemen and tree clearing professionals working after the storm.

Liz said that Duke Energy has been continuously investing in the grid in Monroe County. There is a six-year plan to overhaul and add to the grid to make it more resilient. Self-healing technology that isolates outages and reroutes service is a key part of these investments.

You can view this week’s presentation at <https://youtu.be/4IKufjLaKck>

### **January 14 Celebration of Service**

President **Traci Jovanovic** said that discussions about polio occur daily. We need to remind the people that:

- In 2024 there were 88 cases, up from 12 the previous year.
- Polio had previously been contained to Afghanistan and Pakistan, but in 2024 there was one case in Gaza and eight cases in Mozambique.

This is a disease that does not go away without diligence. That is why Rotarians contribute to the Rotary International Foundation to drive eradication.

**Winston Shindell, past president**, offered the reflection. Winston was club president in 1988-89. He reflected on Bud Kohr’s presidency from 1987-1990. In 1987, the club started its own charitable foundation to better serve the needs of the community. That foundation continues today with more than 38 years of service. When Rotary International declared women to be

eligible for membership, the “old men” of the Bloomington Rotary Club developed a list of women serving in critical leadership roles in Bloomington and “rushed” them. The goal was to expand the club’s membership to 150, which they reached. Another important club goal at the time was to raise \$22,000 to address polio. The club raised \$103,000, which was one of the largest totals in the state.

**Dhakir Abdullah** introduced guests.

- Yehya Kader, Rotaract
- Wassif Ali, Rotaract

### **Birthdays**

- **Jane Kupersmith**, January 7
- **Hank Walter**, January 11

### **Member Anniversaries**

- **Lance Eberle**, 23 years
- **Kyla Cox Deckard**, 13 years
- **Jim Shea**, 13 years
- **Michelle Cohen**, 2 yrs,
- **Jillian Rich**, 2 years
- **Scott Shackelford**, 7 years
- **Gus Shakalis**, 9 years

Greeter: **Jim Shea**

Introductions: **Dhakir Abdullah**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Winston Shindell**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Michael Shermis**

Zoom and Audio Producer: **Isaac Smith**

Reporter: **Kyla Cox Deckard**

Photographer: **Jim Bright and Jeff Richardson**