

Roundabout

January 24, 2023

Next meeting



Join us on Tuesday, January 31, to hear from personal injury attorney Ken Nunn and learn how he created a billion dollar law firm based here in Bloomington. We will meet in the Georgian Room and on Zoom.

This Week's News

We are growing!

Henry Leck, Lexi Walters, Carlos Laverty, Phil Amerson all have been approved for membership in recent weeks. The Bloomington Rotary Club is 146 members strong, making our club the second largest in the district!

Giving to Rotary

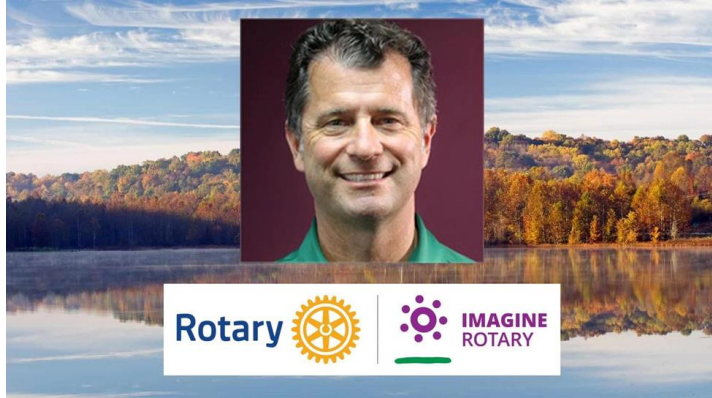
President **Alain Barker** described the two charitable channels our Rotary club uses to contribute to service projects and initiatives: the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and Bloomington Rotary Foundation.

Fifty percent of contributions to the Rotary (RI) Foundation returns to our district after three years, and 50 percent supports RI projects. The annual club goal for RI giving this year is \$18,000. Our club participates in this through Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY), which counts gifts to RI Foundation at any time during the year. A sustaining member is one who gives \$100 each year (\$25 per quarter), which is a common practice in our club. For every dollar given, Rotarians earn one point towards their Paul Harris Fellow designation.

The Bloomington Rotary Foundation initiatives include the 80/20 program, where Rotarians elect to contribute \$20 per month. A new Fountain of Youth Initiative seeks gifts to support an

endowment to support our club's scholarships at \$7,500 each year. Income from the Rotary Toast, individual gifts and bequests, and memorials for deceased members are also routed through the Bloomington Rotary Foundation. These contributions support scholarships, community impact projects, and other special club projects.

Sign up today for April 22 District Conference



Join your fellow Southern Indiana

Rotarians Saturday, April 22. at the new Terre Haute Convention Center for the 2023 District Conference.

This year's one-day, family-friendly event is expected to attract more than 200 Rotarians and guests from more than 30 Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs in our district. It also will give us an opportunity to recognize and thank fellow Bloomington Rotarian **Lance Eberle** for his year of service as our District Governor.

The morning keynote speaker will be Mitty Chang, past president of the Rotary eClub of Silicon Valley and founder of Big West Rotaract MDIO. Title: "Changing Club Culture to Attract Multiple Generations."

The district is also initiating the first annual Interact Summit as part of the conference. Our club is playing a leading role in developing and designing this new summit.

Cost is \$129 (until March 31; \$149 after that date), which includes meals, programs and entertainment. To make your reservation go to DACdb.com.

For those who want to stay overnight, the district is holding 40 hotel rooms at the adjacent Hilton. You'll find museums and other attractions in the neighborhood.

Rotary Speech Contest, February 11

Wanted: Applicants for the Saturday, Feb. 11, Rotary speech contest, focused on Rotary's Four-Way Test.

Tell your high school-age children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends who live in the area.

The five-minute speeches will be delivered at the First Christian Church Library, 205 E.

Kirkwood. The winner will receive a cash prize of \$100 and will advance to the Southern Indiana Rotary District Speech Contest.

District winners will receive awards of \$1,000 (first prize), \$500 (runner-up), and \$250 (third place), and they will be invited to deliver their speeches at the Saturday, April 22, conference in Terre Haute.

For more info, go to:

<https://bloomingtonrotaryfoundation.box.com/s/m2o8jxnea3w3hzt7y6wgirjbmno2oef7>

Our Program



Jim Bright introduced **Bryce Bow**, faculty member at the Kelley School of Business. Prior to joining the Kelley School faculty, Bryce created multiple brands and businesses, raised money across the Midwest, and served as an athletic director at Johnson University. He completed graduate studies at both IU and Harvard. Bryce currently serves on our club's board of directors.

Bryce opened his remarks with the observation that Elizabeth Warren, Donald Trump, and the Taliban all hate Bitcoin. This emerging field combines all the things we don't understand about money and technology.

Bryce is interested in four technological shifts:

- artificial intelligence and robotics,
- blockchain and decentralization,
- energy and climate tech, and
- metaverse and extended reality.

In this talk, he focused on blockchain and decentralization.

A blockchain is a shared, immutable ledger that facilitates the process of recording and tracking information that combines computer code, a database ledger, and a network. Bryce explained that the term "crypto" refers broadly to the entire space: blockchain, cryptocurrency, digital assets, NFT (non-fungible tokens), and DAO (decentralized autonomous organization) space. This space is also called Web3. Digital commodities include Bitcoin and digital currencies —

digital coins that track currency — and digital collectables, as well as wireless networks, digital maps, gaming, storage, talent networks, social networks, video platforms, and virtual worlds.

Bryce defined “fungible” as able to replace or be replaced by another identical item. The dollar is fungible, but the Mona Lisa is not—making it non-fungible.

Inflation has a dramatic impact on currency. Turkey’s inflation exceeded 80 percent year-to-year. Digital currencies are much more appealing in that environment. In Nigeria, despite the government’s efforts to ban it, cryptocurrency is very popular. The Nigerian government froze the bank accounts of protestors rallying against police brutality. The protestors then turned to Bitcoin.

Bryce said there is a misperception that cryptocurrency is primarily used by criminals, but the dollar is also used by criminals. Cryptocurrency has greater transparency because it is a public ledger, making it pseudo-anonymous. Every transaction is tracked on the network.

Musicians, like Nas and the Chainsmokers, are turning to tokens to offer streaming ownership and extra perks, such as tickets, exclusive merchandise, and access to the Discord platform. Bryce had the opportunity to meet the Chainsmokers backstage through his purchased token.

You can watch this week’s program on [You Tube](#).

Our January 24 Celebration of Service

President **Alain Barker** presided.

Reflection

Judy Schroeder asked Rotarians what the date 1492 and the name Queen Isabella of Spain, made them think of. Although Christopher Columbus comes immediately to mind, 1492 was also the year that Queen Isabella expelled Jews from Spain. Tens of thousands of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula made their way to Thessaloniki, Greece. The Ottoman Empire welcomed them. Other Jews, hearing of the safe haven, came too. Jews soon formed the majority--68 percent--of the population in Thessaloniki. Even when the numbers declined, the city still had a healthy economy and spirit. After WWI and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, Greeks became the majority population. Things were going well until 1941 when the Nazis marched in. In 1943, Jews were transported to their deaths in cattle cars. More than 90 percent of the Jewish population was killed. Only 2,000 managed to escape. This Friday, January 27, the day that the Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated, is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Judy led Rotarians in a moment of silence.

Traci Jovanovic introduced guests:

- **Bryan Hane**, visiting from Bloomington North Rotary
- **Josh Norris**, guest of **Bryan Hane**

- **Gene Hurley**, guest of Jim Bright
- **Anil Nair**, visiting Rotarian
- **Dhakil Abdullah**, guest of the club

Birthdays

- **Sally Gaskil**, January 22
- **Len Tieman**, January 23
- **Leslie Green**, January 27

Membership Anniversaries

- **Bill Brown**, 2 years
- **Judy Witt**, 34 years

Producer: **Tylar Nichols**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Zoom Mic Operator: **Theresa Claire**

Greeter: **Marilyn Wood**

Roundabout Reporter: **Kyla Cox Deckard**