

**Bloomington Rotary Club
October 15, 2024 Meeting
Reporter: Elizabeth Thompson**

Next Luncheon



The October 22 Celebration of Service will feature George Telthorst, director of the Center for the Business of Life Sciences, IU Kelley School of Business.

As the Center's director, Telthorst oversees the school's life sciences industry-oriented activities, including graduate and undergraduate courses, business conferences, executive education, and business research. Prior to coming to Kelley, he was the General Manager of the Boston Scientific operation in nearby Spencer, Ind.

Telthorst previously worked at Johnson & Johnson and Baxter Healthcare in a variety of operations, purchasing, engineering and strategic planning roles as well as serving five years as an active-duty officer in the U.S. Army. He obtained his B.S. in engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point and an M.B.A. in production/operations management from the Booth Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago.

The meeting will be held in the Frangipani Room [and on Zoom](#).

News of the Week

Asking for your help for the next District Conference: The District Conference is always the time every year to learn about current and new Rotary programs, get ideas from other clubs and Rotarians about things such as fundraising and service projects, hear from top-notch speakers, have some fun bidding on great baskets in the House of Friendship (with the proceeds going to The Rotary Foundation in your name). And most of all.... fellowship with other Rotarians! This year's conference will be held on April 25-26, 2025. Please go to

<https://forms.gle/Yy6wcugGz2U4RMGZ7> and fill out a brief survey by October 31 to help plan the programs and events for the conference.

Need for volunteers: Amina, from the Afghan refugee family we sponsor, needs help getting to and from her Ivy Tech classes twice per week, Wednesday and Friday, beginning Oct 23. You would pick her up at her home at 8:30 a.m. or drive her home from Ivy Tech at 1:15. Amina is working on her nursing/midwifery certifications for the U.S. Please sign up here if you are able to help: [Amina's Rotary Uber](#)

November 7 Futurecast: Please RSVP to Natalie Blais jennerblais@gmail.com to register for the local business outlook panel at Shreve Hall at Ivy Tech on November 7 from 11:15 to 1 p.m. **This replaces our regular Tuesday meeting.** Experts will speak about what they foresee for the local, state, and national economies in the coming year. This meeting is in partnership with the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce and Indiana University. Tickets are \$25 each for Rotarians, an incremental \$9.88 on top of the \$15.11 we normally pay.

Highlights of a letter from Global Scholar Noah Jager



Noah, originally from Bloomington, is at Kings College in London, earning a master's degree in international peace and security. Here are excerpts from a recent letter.

It's been over a month since I arrived, and it's been busy. I've learned some British lingo: "biscuits" are cookies, "rubbish" is trash, "pants" mean underwear, and the "loo" is the restroom. And it's definitely "football" here, not soccer!

Before classes started, I completed the "Three Peaks Challenge," climbing Snowdon, Ben Nevis, and Scafell Pike. The weather was tough, but the landscapes were stunning.

I've now completed two weeks of classes and am enjoying them. My modules include International Law and Conflict, Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, Politics of the Middle East, and

East Asian Security. It's fascinating to explore these topics with classmates from all over the world.

My American accent often gives me away, and mentioning Indiana usually gets me called "Indiana Jones." It's been great learning from diverse perspectives.

On the Rotary side, I've attended a meeting with my sponsor club, the Rotary Club of Golders Green, and participated in the London Rotary Global Scholars Orientation. This weekend, I'll join a Rotary "5k Race for the Kids" to raise funds for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I'm also looking forward to the District Rotary Conference in Eastbourne and helping pack toys at a Kids Warehouse.

I am incredibly thankful for my experiences as a Rotary Global Scholar. Thank you for the opportunity to represent our shared values of service and goodwill. I am excited about the journey ahead and deeply grateful for your continued support!

Until next month!

The complete letter will be posted on our webpage.

Guest Speaker: ([watch the meeting presentation here](#))



Charlotte Zietlow introduced Steve Miller, the Veterans Service Officer for Monroe County.

Steve, originally from Terre Haute, served four years in the Air Force in California before moving back to Indiana and joining the Indiana Air National Guard. He attended IU but left after 9/11 to return to active duty, serving in various military roles until his retirement in 2016. The office, located at 214 W. 7th St. in the Curry Building, serves 6,536 veterans in Monroe County, with 2,118 receiving medical care through the VA clinic. It operates daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with VA clinic hours every other Friday.

Steve highlighted several outreach programs, including:

- Monroe County Treatment Court: Helps mitigate sentences of veterans through community service

- **Joining Community Forces:** Brings together organizations serving veterans to support each other.
- **Bloomington Senior Advocates:** Supports senior veterans
- **Veterans Stand Up - Veterans Benefits Fair:** Provides information on benefits
- **Unhoused Veterans Case Conferencing:** Reviews cases to help veterans find stable housing (more than 30 veterans housed since 2022)
- **Veterans Diversion:** Connects veterans on the cusp of homelessness to resources
- **Monroe County Suicide Prevention Coalition:** Addresses the high rate of veteran suicides

In 2022, the VA brought \$57 million into Monroe County, increasing by \$6.5 million in 2023. This funding supports disability and pension payments, education and rehab, insurance, indemnities, and medical care. The office connects veterans to state and local benefits, including disability compensation, pensions for veterans and surviving spouses, and VA healthcare.

A new VA clinic will provide more comprehensive care locally, reducing the need for trips to Indianapolis. A beam-signing ceremony for the new clinic will be held at 3098 N. Lintel Dr. on October 23 at 11 a.m.

Efforts are underway to reach veterans who avoid the VA, including distributing informational flyers to local service and employer organizations.

Donation: A donation will be made to Bloomington Refugee Project in the amount of \$100 in honor of the Veteran's Affairs presentation from Steve.

Meeting Updates

President **Traci Jovanovic** expressed her thanks to Vice President **Steve Wickes** for filling in for her last week. After Rotarians recited the Pledge of Allegiance in observance of Columbus Day, Traci shared her thought for the day: "Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose, just so they can picture themselves doing those jobs someday. You can't be what you can't see." - Sally Ride, the first American woman in space

Reflection

Mike Baker presented an overview of his tenure as club president in 2017-2018. This is the first in a series of reflections from former presidents speaking about Rotary during their terms. Mike's slide show highlighted many events, including the 100 Years of Rotary celebration and a broad diversity of projects.

Guests

Mark Peterson introduced guests:

- Jimmy Ratcliff, guest of **LeeAnn Ratcliff**
- Yehya Kader and Pratik Singh - Rotaract

Rotary Birthdays

- **Stacy Bruce** – 10/13
- **Jim Capshew** – 10/14
- **Carlos Laverty** – 10/15
- **Sam Ujdak** – 10/16
- **Dave Meyer** – 10/18

Member Anniversaries

- **Vivien Bridges** – 2 years
- **Grier Carson** – 2 years
- **Ann Wrenn** – 18 Years

Acknowledgments:

Executive Secretary: Natalie Blais

Greeter: Lynn Schwartzberg

Introductions: Mark Peterson

Zoom Host: Joy Harter

Reflection: Mike Baker

Reporter: Elizabeth Thompson

Photos: Jim Bright, Alain Barker

Camera/Mic Operator: Michael Shermis

Zoom and Audio Producer: Tylar Martin-Nichols

Reporter: Elizabeth Thompson

Photographer: Jim Bright