

Bloomington Rotary Club Roundabout November 26, 2024

NEXT WEEK



On December 3 in the Frangipani Room, our presenter will be Caroline Dowd-Higgins, speaking on “Someday is Not a Day of the Week.” Her talk was inspired by Paolo Coelho, who wrote, “One day you will wake up and there won’t be any more time left to do the things you’ve always wanted to do.” In this interactive session we will explore the *Art of the Possible* and discover what we want to let go of that is not serving us well and how to identify what we want more of in life to bring meaning, fulfillment, and happiness.

Her new book, *Your Career Advantage: Overcome Challenges to Achieve a Rewarding Work Life*, aims to empower people to enjoy their careers and love their lives. Caroline hosts the award-winning podcast, *Your Working Life*, with listeners in 34 countries. She is proud to be a certified Minority Women’s Business Enterprise in the state of Indiana. Her celebrated TEDxWOMEN talk about reframing failure is available on YouTube. Follow her on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jon Dilts’ surgery went well. As of Thursday, he was doing physical therapy in Cleveland and scheduled to return home soon.

Earon Davis’ surgery was Monday; **Martha Foster** reports he is doing well.

Jeff Richardson is getting tested additionally for plaque build-up on his heart.

Martha Wailes fell and broke her shoulder. For years, she has written our sympathy and get well cards. Send her get well wishes at 1710 Devon Lane, Bloomington 47401.

NOVEMBER 26 CLUB ASSEMBLY.

View it here: <https://youtu.be/qxabcT--ltjg>



President Traci Jovanovic presented an “Update on Our Endeavors as a Club.” She invited members to ask questions whenever they wanted.

She began by reviewing the object of Rotary: to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis for worthy enterprise; to encourage and foster fellowship, high ethical standards, service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life; and to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace.

She gave updates on where we are on club goals for the ‘24-‘25 Rotary year, big project updates, Rotary International, the why and how of Bloomington Rotary Foundation, and celebrated successes.

Traci reported that membership retention was a topic of discussion at the board meeting last week. We want new people to join us as “people of action” and to become more involved – in club and committee leadership, in service projects, and in social activities. When new members step up, the club becomes more powerful and inclusive. New member orientations are not attracting enough new members, and there is so much information that it is hard to digest. She encouraged sponsors to set up check-ins to see what questions a new member has.

She highlighted the many leadership training opportunities on the RI website.

From the audience, **Sally Gaskill** noted she is one of three members of the nominating committee, with **Ron Barnes** and **Alain Barker**. She encouraged people to find out more about club leadership opportunities and to volunteer.

Steve Wickes gave an overview of AMPATH. This week, the club presented a \$10,000 check to the IU Foundation to fund a three-day in-person Positive Parenting training seminar for 150 Kenyan community health providers. The amount included \$4,800 from the club and \$5,200 from committed members.

AMPATH Kenya is a partnership between Moi University, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the Kenyan Government, and the AMPATH Consortium of universities around the world. The AMPATH Consortium is headquartered in Indianapolis, and its efforts in Kenya are led by the IU School of Medicine.

AMPATH’s mission is to improve the health of people in underserved communities. AMPATH partners serve a population of more than 24 million people in western Kenya at 300+ clinical sites, which range from village health centers and dispensaries to county hospitals to the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

In the over 100-year history of our club, this AMPATH project is the first international project in which we've partnered with Indiana University.

We are awaiting word from AMPATH regarding the scheduling of training. Depending on the timing, we may have a club member attend the three-day training session. The Rotary Club of Eldoret Kenya has already provided valuable input in regard to project selection and design. We hope that they will help with the publicity for the event itself.

After the training weekend is concluded, we'll review the event and determine if we want to move forward with another project with AMPATH. They have asked us to begin thinking about a possible cervical cancer project. **Alain Barker's** October Sibling City trip to Palo Alto included an AMPATH discussion because Stanford University is part of the AMPATH Consortium.

Sara Laughlin gave a brief update on the 2024-25 district grant project to build a bike rack with My Sister's Closet. Local artist Joe LaMantia met with 12 club members last week to solicit design input, and the committee will receive his preliminary design very soon. As the project progresses, there will be opportunities for club members to volunteer during construction and during the reception to unveil the completed bike rack.

Jim Sims asked why the club was picking a few large projects instead of more smaller ones. Sara noted that the district would fund only one project per year, so the club had to choose and propose only one. Typically, the Community Service Committee solicits proposals from local nonprofits and selects one. She noted that the club's vision statement calls for making "significant positive impact." The club's strategic plan challenged the Community Service Committee to move to projects with more sustained impact. Sara deferred to **Sally Gaskill**, president of Bloomington Rotary Foundation, to describe how the recent \$20,000 gift to Beacon was chosen. Sally noted the Foundation had a large bank balance and determined to put some of it to work to make a difference in the community. She said Beacon was chosen because it was addressing an important community issue and was at a key inflection point with the possibility of a new facility. The gift will fund the volunteer coordinator's office.

Traci briefly recapped progress toward the Bloomington Rotary Foundation's goal of \$200,000 by 2030 to support scholarships. To date, \$147,000 has been collected or pledged.

The club is well on its way to meeting the 2024-25 goal for supporting The Rotary Foundation, with 80 Paul Harris Fellows, 5 Benefactors, 2 Bequest Society members, and 4 Major Donors. This year so far, seven members have added to their Paul Harris totals:

Ron Barnes, PHF+2
Rex Hillery, PHF+1
Liz Irwin, PHF +2
Henry Leck, PHF+1
Craig Spence, PHF+1
Glen Steenberger, PHF+1
James Wolf, PHF+1

To add a \$25/quarter donation to your club bill, see **Natalie Blais**.

Traci celebrated service accomplishments. Ten new members received Rotary baseball hats for participating in a service project: **Dhakhir Abdullah, Michelle Cohen, Whitney Cordoba, Marcus Debro, Lori Garraghty, Diana Hoffman, Mark Peterson, Michael Wade, James Wolf, and David Wright.**

She reported that our DEI program is now a line item in the budget. The Bloomington Rotary Foundation has pledged to use the interest from its short-term CD, up to \$1,600 for the year, to be supplemented by Hyper Happy Dollars if needed.

She invited everyone to the holiday party, December 12, 5:30-8:30, at Bloomington Country Club. Bloomington North Rotarians will be joining us for a festive evening with music, buffet, cash bar, wine auction, trivia game, and more. Attire is "festive."

Next quarter's recipient of the club's presenter donation of \$100 will be The Warehouse.

UPDATES

President **Traci Jovanovic** welcomed members to the weekly Celebration of Service in the Solarium. Her thought for the day: "Immorality is often taught in the name of morality." - Gandhi

David Wright reflected on his grandmother. The youngest of 10 children in a poor family in Jasonville, she graduated early from high school, graduated from college, and got a teaching job in Wisconsin. She saved money to buy a car so she could travel. Then came the Great Depression, wiping out her savings overnight. "It was then I decided I would never again invest in the bank but instead would invest in people," she reflected. For the rest of her life, she adopted a life of service and generosity in her community. "She would have fully embraced 'service above self,'" said David. Thanks to all who celebrate the spirit of giving. Lifting up others is an investment in the world we all live in. It's not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

Hank Walter introduced guest Brianna Solola, IU Health. There were no guests online.

Rotary Birthdays.

Wilson Shitandi, November 24

Henry Leck, November 24

Ron Barnes, November 26

Jeff Richardson, November 30

Rotary Anniversaries.

Stacy Bruce, 1 year

Tim Riffle, 2 years

Michael Shermis 13 years

This week's Happy Dollars celebrated visiting family and our wonderful club. **Dave Meyer** announced that Sen. Todd Young is helping to accelerate Naseem's progress in joining his family, the Mohammadis, in Bloomington. **Jim Sims** announced Monroe County NAACP is having a holiday party December 10 at UU Church; everyone is welcome. **Raj Haddawi** celebrated moving to a new apartment in Chicago five days ago.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Executive Assistant:

Natalie Blais

Greeter

Dhakil Abdullah

Introductions

Hank Walter

Zoom Host

Alain Barker

Reflection
Reporter
Camera/Mic Operator
Zoom and Audio Producer

David Wright
Sara Laughlin
Michael Shermis
Tylar Martin Nichols

Sara Laughlin, Reporter