

Next Meeting



Our next meeting in the Frangipani Room, February 27, will welcome Commander Luis Martinez, Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity Crane, the Navy’s third-largest installation by geographic area. His talk’s title is “Indiana Naval installation provides support to U.S war fighters at home and abroad.” He came to Crane in June 2023. During his career, Commander Martinez has served in several key officer positions. A 2007 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, the El Paso native also earned a master’s degree from the U.S. Naval War College. He has logged more than 1,300 E-2 flight hours.

THIS WEEK’S NEWS

Rotaract Fundraiser Update!

Thanks to a matching grant of \$250 from a generous donor, the Rotaract fundraiser has raised \$370 toward their goal of \$500. The students who make up IU’s Rotaract Club are looking for support to assist with their service projects, including one in the greater Cincinnati area. If you’re interested in supporting this endeavor, please [contact Natalie](#) Blais, the club’s executive assistant, to find out how.

Rotary District Conference, April 20

The one-day Rotary District Conference – just eight weeks away – is where friendship and learning come together to inspire you. In Evansville (a beautiful drive from Bloomington down Highway 69,) you’ll connect with people of action from around the district at Rotary 6580’s biggest event of the year. ***New Bloomington Rotary Club members are eligible for funding to cover conference registration!*** Please contact Natalie for more information. [Registration for all Rotarians is available here >](#)

The annual **Interact Youth Summit** will take place as an extension part of the District Conference. It’s a great opportunity for youth to come together, network, hear from inspiring speakers, and learn about how Rotary can impact our Indiana communities. If you know of any high school students that might be interested, please be sure to let **Joy Harter** know - joytracy9@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 13 PROGRAM

Bylaws Change

A motion to increase the number of Bloomington Rotary Club board members by two (from 13 to 15) was brought to the meeting by Past President **Alain Barker**, who chairs the nominating committee. Past Presidents **Sally Gaskill** and **Ashley Wesley** also serve on the committee. A motion to adopt the change was made by **Glenda Murray** and seconded by **Winston Shindell**. The motion received a unanimous vote of support from the members present. [The updated version of the Bylaws can be found here >](#)

Leadership Slate for the 2024-25 Year



Alain introduced the leadership slate for the next fiscal year:

- President: **Traci Jovanovic**
- President Elect: **Steve Wickes**
- Past President: **Ron Barnes**
- Secretary: **Liz Feitl**
- Treasurer: **Theresa Claire**
- Officers, two-year terms: **Andrea Murray, Jeff Richardson, Lynn Schwartzberg, Jim Shea, Jim Sims**
- Officer, one-year term: **Amy Osajima**
- Officers, Committee Chairs: Membership: TBA, Public Relations: **Alain Barker**, Program: **Michael Shermis**
- Member-At-Large: TBA

Charlotte Zietlow moved to accept the slate as proposed; **Earon Davis** seconded the motion. The motion received a unanimous vote of support from the members present.

With thanks for years of extraordinary service, **Kyla Cox Deckard** and **Dave Meyer** will be leaving the board. Kyla joined the board in July 2019 as treasurer and served through July 2021 in that role. Since then, she has been an officer of the board. Dave spent four years on the board as secretary. As chair of the membership committee for two and a half years, entirely during the pandemic, he set the stage for our growth as a club.

My Rotary Access

Yolanda Treviño introduced the [MyRotary portal](#), which enables each of us to access comprehensive information about our giving activities and to choose our preferred causes to support. The portal also provides extensive information about Rotary International's projects.

Review of our STRATEGIC PLAN

[A copy of the Strategic Plan is here >](#)

President **Ron Barnes** thanked the members of the strategic plan subcommittee: **Michael Shermis, Traci Jovanovic, Jim Sims, Jim Shea, Alain Barker, Jeff Richardson, Steve Wickes, Jim Bright, and Hannah Hirsch**. After multiple revisions by the committee and with consultations across the club, the board adopted the plan at its February meeting.



Michael Shermis offered a short review of the plan and thanked both Jeff and Traci for their assistance with the process. Michael said the plan is designed to help the club move forward with meaningful initiatives toward a better future. It's a living document that can change. Starting with a vision statement, the plan identifies outcomes that are organized within each committee and areas of activity. Objectives are identified in ways that are measurable, enabling all to implement activities with a sense of strategic purpose.

President Ron announced that he would be holding meetings with committee chairs soon to talk about implementation.

Questions from members present:

- **Glenda Murray** asked about how objectives in the plan will be met. President Ron assured us that the goals are aspirational, and it will be some time before we know if they are completely realistic.
- **Charlotte Zietlow** wanted to know how the club can become more of a "convener" in the community to help with important discussions and issues. Jeff Richardson agreed that, as a non-political organization, we can provide a key service to the city. Michael Shermis mentioned the Sibling Cities project as an example of how we can lead, facilitate, and convene.

- **Jim Bright** congratulated the team and mentioned that new members can be a source of new ideas and inspired leadership.
- **Earon Davis** reminded us that the club is a volunteer organization, not a corporation, and that, while a strategic plan can help, ultimately the choices that we make as individuals about how we participate is central to our success. President Ron agreed that it takes all of us together to make things happen.

[You can view this week's presentation here >](#)

In honor of the club assembly, a donation will be made to the Sycamore Land Trust.

UDPATES

President **Ron Barnes** shared a thought for the week: "Life is a song; sing it. Life is a game; play it. Life is a challenge; meet it. Life is a dream; realize it. Life is a sacrifice; offer it. Life is love; enjoy it." — Sathya Sai Baba.

Winston Shindell reflected on why he gives to Rotary. February is International Rotary Foundation month. With more than 46,000 Rotary clubs in the world and more than 1.4 million members, Rotary International has a substantial impact as it pursues its mission to develop world understanding and peace through humanitarian, cultural, and social projects. The Ending Polio project, water wells in African and Asian countries, peace universities, and many other activities bring real change to people's lives. A commitment of \$25 every quarter started Winston's journey, leading to his first Paul Harris Fellowship. He urged us all to "make a difference" by signing up for a quarterly payment toward Rotary International. At a time in which the world seems deeply divided, we can look to writers of the past to help us navigate today. He read Rudyard Kipling's poem "If," found here: <https://poets.org/poem/if>.

Liz Feitl introduced our guests:

- Jun Wan – **Rotaract Member**
- Yehya Kader – **Rotaract Member**
- Rachel Barrett – guest of **Hannah..... Hirsch**

Birthdays:

- **Kyla Cox Deckard** – February 18
- **Jim Kryway** – February 18
- **Spud Washington** – February 19
- **Bitta DeWees** – February 22
- **Glenda Murray** – February 24

Member Anniversaries:

- **Amy Gharst** – 1 year
- **Gene Hurley** – 1 year
- **Carlos Laverty** – 1 year

Acknowledgements

- Meeting Greeter: **Art Oehmich**

- Introductions: **Liz Feitl**
- Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**
- Camera/Mic Operator: **Traci Jovanovic**
- Zoom and Audio Producer: **Tylar Martin Nichols**
- Reporter: **Alain Barker**
- Photographer: **Jim Bright**