

Next Meeting



Our next meeting will be on March 5, 2024, in State Room East. Our speaker will be John Summerlot, who was appointed director of emergency management and continuity for Bloomington and the Southern Divisions in 2022. John has over 20 years of experience working in higher education, particularly in the areas of emergency management, student affairs and veteran/military affairs. He is also a historian and studies the history of IU and IU-connected people and previously served as university coordinator of military and veteran services.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Rotary District Conference, April 20

The one-day Rotary District Conference – **just 7 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 >](#)

NOTE: The annual **Interact Youth Summit** will take place as an extension part of the District Conference. It's a great opportunity for our youth to come together, network, hear from inspiring speakers, and learn about how impactful Rotary can be in 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 27 PROGRAM



Erik Coyne introduced Commander Luis Martinez, who spoke about Crane's Support of US warfighters here and abroad. Named 'Homie' for his military aviation call sign, Martinez and Erik have become fast friends since the commander's move to Crane in June 2023.

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, and he has served on three aircraft carriers: USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

Commander Martinez has come to experience Indiana as an "amazing jewel" since getting to know the people of the state. The other surprise for him is the realization that Crane is the third-largest naval installation in the world! With 62,000 acres, 3,000 buildings, 500 miles of road, and an active rail line, the facility is also linked to a the large Lage Glendora, which is used as a test area. Crane is the third largest employer in southern Indiana, after IU and Toyota.

With three partner commands, the facility has a population of 6,100, 82% of which are civilians, 17% are contractors, and only 1% are military. The economic output averages 3-4 Billion annually. Federal funds committed to the facility will see an infusion of around \$450 million over the next decade for upgrades of facilities and equipment on the base.

A new initiative – the Westgate Tech Park – enables the base to develop new high-tech partnerships that are expected to lead to a rapid expansion of the workforce (around 3,700 new jobs which start at \$85,000 in annual salary). There's potential for as many as 6,000 new jobs in all.

Community engagement between the base and the surrounding counties is a high priority, as is compatible land use (including a McKinney Climate Fellow) and workforce development. With strong strategic partnerships with IU, Purdue, and Ivy Tech, there's an opportunity to substantially impact the overall development.

Commander Martinez mentioned that Crane is deeply critical to our country's defense with trusted microelectronics, the development of key strategic weapons, a leader in electronic warfare, special operations support, the development of conventional munitions, countermeasures, and other specialized activity.

[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: "Be the best of whatever you are." — Martin Luther King, Jr.



Trent Deckard offered his reflection on how much we all have to offer, despite our differences and challenges. Sometimes we suffer from impostor syndrome, a state of being in which we doubt our skills, talents, or accomplishments. Research shows that people in all nations experience the syndrome. Trent teaches and mentors students at the Kelley School of Business and sometimes comes across those who don't feel that they fully belong. Through time, Trent has come to focus on four messages that help with this: you belong in the room, audience members want to hear from you and want to know your story, you've been through a lot which gives you experience. These amount to valuable personal assets, they build credibility, and enable all of us to be a gift to others.

Stacy Bruce introduced our guests:

- Bruce Drake, Public Affairs Officer, NSA Crane
- Mark Dobbs, Community Planning and Liaison Officer, NSA Crane
- Shaze Patrick, Washington IN Rotary
- Blaine Zimmerman, guest of Chaze Patrick
- Elliott Nowacki, guest of **Jim Bright**
- Thomas Horrocks, Candidate, Indiana State House District 62, guest of **Jim Bright**
- Jun Wan, **Rotaract Member**
- Yehya Kader, **Rotaract Member**

Joy Harter introduced our guests on Zoom:

- David Willet, Plymouth Michigan Rotary
- **Bob Walker**, BRC Rotarian, currently in Florida
- Peter Goodwin

Birthdays:

- **Glenda Murray** – February 24
- **Erik Coyne** – March 1
- **Roy Graham** – March 1

Member Anniversaries:

- **Carlos Laverty** – 1 year
- **Chaz Mottinger** – 1 year
- **John Zody** – 6 years
- **John Hobson** – 39 years

Acknowledgements

- Meeting Greeter: **Elizabeth Thompson**
- Introductions: **Stacy Bruce**
- Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**
- Camera/Mic Operator: **Traci Jovanovic**
- Zoom and Audio Producer: **Tylar Martin Nichols**
- Reporter: **Alain Barker**
- Photographer: **Jim Bright**