

Roundabout March 12, 2024



Next week's program features Robin Holm and David Wright, who will speak to us about bringing imagination to life. They have performed for more than 28 years as the theater troupe Adzooks Puppets. Their puppetry journey has captivated audiences at hundreds of schools, libraries, museums, and festivals, inspiring more than 350,000 participants through 4,000-plus interactive performances and workshops. Their travels have taken them to the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts, the Tennessee Arts Academy, the Singapore American School, and a 17-city tour in Japan. Besides performing, they have enjoyed such fun experiences as working on the movie *Prancer*, being puppeteers in a commercial for Steak and Shake, teaching a puppetry course at IUPUI, and helping design a puppetry exhibit at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Their mission is to "bring imagination to life" and to create experiences that are immersive, inspiring, and entertaining for all. They are past recipients of the Puppeteers of America Founders Award and the Young Audiences of Indiana Arts Powering Education Award.

The celebration of service will be held in IMU's Frangipani Room and through Zoom.

This Week's News

Rotary District Conference, April 20

The one-day Rotary District Conference – *just five weeks away* – is where friendship and learning come together to inspire you. In Evansville (a beautiful drive from Bloomington down Interstate 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 Blais, club executive secretary, 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 the impact Rotary can have in our Indiana communities. If you know of any high school students who might be interested, please be sure to let **Joy Harter** know: joytracy9@gmail.com.

March 12 program

Link to the recording [here](#)



Ron Barnes introduced our speaker, Chief Master Sgt. James Wright of the Indiana National Guard. He spoke about “Innovative Readiness Training (IRT),” a Department of Defense (DoD) military training opportunity, available exclusively to the U.S. and its territories. Wright is the Senior Enlisted Leader overseeing administrative actions for enlisted members of the Indiana Air National Guard.

Chief Master Sgt. Wright briefly described the background and purpose of IRT. The program has been in place some 25-30 years and includes all areas of the armed forces. IRT Missions are intended as a way to keep the military grounded and trained. Missions offer real world training in a hands-on, real-world environment that also requires critical thinking. All areas of service work together, just as they would if deployed as joint forces. IRT missions help create more job satisfaction and improve the public service satisfaction of military staff while increasing deployment readiness. These missions also provide a direct benefit to communities and have included partnerships addressing and providing services for no-cost medical, dental and vision coverage; transportation; construction; emergency planning; cybersecurity; and others.

Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations can apply to IRT with a community need. If that need can provide necessary military training, it may be conceived as a new mission. Nonprofit partners are responsible for purchasing materials and supplies and providing volunteers. They also find locations that can be used for military sleeping and eating facilities as well as for the extension of the provided service. The military provides heavy equipment and personnel. The military invests training funds for personnel expenses. IRT becomes part of annual training requirements. Partners work with IRT personnel in multiple three-day planning sessions to ensure a successful mission.

Chief Master Sgt. Wright described the mission in which he was involved last year. Working with the Rotary Club of Terre Haute, this IRT mission provided free medical care and vision and dental services during one week of service. It served 1,981 patients and distributed more than 700 eyeglasses. Dental services included extractions and much more. Estimated fair market value of services was about \$565,000.

This year, Chief Master Sgt. Wright is working with Bloomington North Rotary to bring a similar health care mission to Bloomington, Terre Haute, Vincennes, Dubois County, Columbus, and Evansville. This is a two-year planning process. The application will be submitted this summer for a potential mission in 2025.

UPDATES from our Meeting

Club President **Ron Barnes** welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared the following thought for the day: "Optimism is a huge asset. We can always use more of it. But optimism isn't a belief that things will automatically get better; it's a conviction that we can make things better." **Melinda French Gates**

The reflection was given by **Sandy Keller**, who spoke of world issues and the effect those have on her and others at My Sister's Closet. She shared a story of three women facing adversity and how their stories reflected women's rights and discrimination around the world. Sandy reminded us how the suffragettes rose up and asserted themselves to gain the right to vote and to broaden women's rights. To commemorate how the bicycle helped women become more independent and empowered, My Sister's Closet will showcase the suffragettes and bicycles in September and October.

Steve Wickes introduced our guests: Anne Bright; Annie Hawk, from the Rotary Club of Brown County; and former member Von Welch. **Joy Harter** introduced our Zoom guest, Megan Gearhart, who joined us from France.

President Ron welcomed **Glen Steenberger** back to the club, along with colleagues from the Boy Scouts of America.

Members shared happy thoughts during **Happy Dollars**.

Member birthdays include **Rex Hillery** on March 13, **Hannah Hirsch** on March 17, and **Scott Shackelford** on March 16.

Member anniversaries include **James Capshew**, 6 years, and **Sandy Keller**, 7 total years.

Acknowledgements

Meeting Greeter: **Art Oehmich**

Introductions: **Steve Wickes**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Sandy Keller**

Zoom/Mic Operator: **Michael Shermis**

Zoom and Audio Producer: **Tylar Martin-Nichols**

Marilyn Wood, Reporter