

Roundabout March 19 2024



Next week's program will feature IU alumnus **Scott Dolson**, who is in his fourth year as IU's vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics. A native of Michigan City, Ind., he was appointed to his role at the helm of IU Athletics July 1, 2020, by IU President Michael McRobbie. Dolson spent the previous 11 years as the department's deputy director of athletics and chief operating officer.

After leading IU Athletics through the COVID pandemic, one of the most challenging times in its history, Dolson has since overseen an era of remarkable athletic and academic accomplishments for the department. He has remained committed to and anchored by the five priorities put in place by his predecessor, Fred Glass:

1. Playing by the rules;
2. Being well in mind, body and spirit;
3. Achieving academically;
4. Excelling athletically; and
5. Integrating with the university.

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

This Week's News

Rotary District Conference, April 20

The one-day Rotary District Conference – *just four weeks away* – is where friendship and learning come together to inspire you. In Evansville (a beautiful drive from Bloomington down I-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 how Rotary can have an impact on our Indiana communities. If you know of any high

school students who might be interested, please let **Joy Harter** know: joytracy9@gmail.com.

March 19 program

Link to the [recording](#)



Rosann Levy introduced our program, with Robin Holm and Rotary member **David Wright** speaking about bringing imagination to life. They have performed for more than 28 years as the theater troupe Adzooks Puppets.

David began by asking audience members if any had ever met a puppeteer and how many have seen a live puppet show. Many people tell them they have never met a puppeteer before. He told the story of how he got involved in puppets 28 years ago. At a wedding reception, he saw someone engaged with a bunch of kids. It was Robin. That's how they met and how he began his journey into puppetry. Robin got started when she met puppeteers. Puppetry combines art and theater, her two disciplines of interest.

They shared a video of activities from their career: strolling characters, traditional shows, creating puppets, commercial ad creation, teacher in-service training, found object puppets, shadow puppets, and collaboration with others. They own several hundred puppets. They often work with young audiences.

How do you get started as a puppeteer? Any prop can be a puppet. Puppeteers like to play around with props and make them do things they normally wouldn't do. Puppets have to be moved in a way that makes them appear to be alive. Puppets are sculptures, but when animated, they come to life and can tell a story. David and Robin used a variety of props, including a feather duster, a shovel, and a spoon.

The audience is the most important part of the performance, they said. With the audience's imagination, a prop becomes a puppet. The first puppet Robin made was a sock puppet when she was 7 years old. She still has it.

Using the feather duster, David and Robin showed us a circus show and enlisted the audience's participation. Puppets are great for telling stories and for puns. Using our imaginations, we could see the puppet. Volunteer Rotarian puppeteers were **T. Claire Kest** (and her son), **Tim Thrasher, Forrest Gilmore**, and **Glenda Murray**.



Bringing a puppet to life were Glenda Murray, Robin Holm, T. Claire Kest, David Wright, and Liam Robbins

To come up with a story for the puppets, think in three parts:

1. Decide what the puppets want to do for fun.
2. Think of a silly thing that will mess them up.
3. Figure out how the puppets can fix it.

Why do David and Robin do it? They share excitement and joy with their audiences. They have watched as schools offer fewer arts programs, including theater. They are trying to keep a dying art form alive. On their 30th anniversary, they are going to pilot a program to enlist cosponsors for programming in schools and libraries. Kids love puppet programs, but the grant cycle is difficult and budgets are tight.

The audience had many questions:

What programs have you done in Bloomington? They have worked with Monroe County Public Library summer reading; Bloomington Parks and Rec.; a couple of elementary schools; and Boys & Girls Club.

Why Adzooks? When Robin left teaching to become a puppeteer full time, they needed a name. They grabbed a thesaurus for help. They found *gadzooks*, which means “wow” or “oh my!” But years ago *gadzooks* was a swear word, so they became Adzooks.

What puppeteers do you admire? The late Martin Stevens carved his own marionettes and was a founder of the Puppeteers of America, which Robin once served as executive secretary. She learned ventriloquism from Shari Lewis. Bil Baird was another influence.

How did you meet Rosie the Clown and become interested in Rotary? David’s mother was a member of a Rotary club in Martinsville, which piqued his interest. While participating in a program that Rosie was presenting at the Mill, David mentioned puppetry. Rosie invited him to Rotary, and that was the push he needed to become a member.

Do you make all of your own puppets? Yes, all of them. The Strolling Granny took about 35 hours to make. While they were in Singapore, they were doing residency programs with whole school performances and making 900+ puppets.

Do you work with therapists and help them work with children from dysfunctional families? David and Robin have had breakthroughs working with kids with autism, who get very engaged with the puppets.

After a week working with the puppets, a participant, very shy and soft-spoken, projected full volume. Her parents had never heard this happen until this program.

Do you create your own stories? Yes, often with different outcomes.

Do you work in hospitals for children or adults? Robin and David did a series for Riley Hospital and taped segments for in-house training. They have also worked in nursing homes.

Before the meeting, Robin, as Strolling Granny, posed with various Rotarians, including Traci Jovanovic, Steve Moberly, and Ron Barnes.



UPDATES from our Meeting

Club President **Ron Barnes** welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared this thought for the day: To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone. — Reba McEntire

In her reflection, **Sally Gaskill**, while reminding us that the Major League Baseball season begins this week, talked about reading. She asked how many of us like to read for pleasure and how many are members of the Rotary Book Club. The answer to the second question is “all of us.” The club meets every three months at a member’s home and focuses on books by Indiana authors, about Indiana, or set in Indiana. The next meeting is April 17 at 7 p.m. The book is Michael Koryta’s *So Cold the River*, set mostly in French Lick/West Baden. Michael is a Bloomington native and a *New York Times* bestselling author. The club is a wonderful opportunity to focus on an interesting topic and socialize with fellow Rotarians. Everyone is welcome!

Amy Osajima introduced our guests: Jun Wan, from Rotaract, and Liam Robbins, son of **T. Claire Kest**.

Member Birthdays: **Jill Bond** and **Monika Kroener** on March 20, and **Steve Versaw** on March 22.

Member Anniversaries include **Jeff Baldwin** 10 years; **Sandy Keller** 7 total years; **Steve Moberly** 17 years; and **Shelli Yoder** 11 years.

Announcements:

There will be a board meeting this Thursday at noon. Each committee chair will present an action agenda for implementing the strategic plan.

Traci Jovanovic attended PETS, President-Elect Training last week.

Ron Barnes will be representing our club at tonight's Ivy Tech scholarship recognition program.

Acknowledgments

Greeter: **Charles Pearce**

Introductions: **Amy Osajima**

Zoom Host: **Joy Harter**

Reflection: **Sally Gaskill**

Zoom/Mic Operator: **Michael Shermis**

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

Marilyn Wood, reporter