

ROUNDTABOUT – Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Next Luncheon



Join us next week when presenter **Lynn Coyne** shares insights about the value Ivy Tech Community College brings to our communities and why we should care about it. Lynn, whose career has included economic development, educational advocacy, and numerous servant leader roles, is a trustee for the Bloomington campus of Ivy Tech.

News of the Week

In Memory of Randy Bridges



Members honored the legacy of longtime Rotarian and friend **Judge Douglas "Randy" Bridges**, who passed away Sunday, March 21. He and wife Vivien had lived on Alabama's gulf coast since 2016. He is survived by Vivien, two sons, two daughters, a stepson and a stepdaughter. Randy practiced law for more than 40 years, wrapping up his career as Monroe Circuit Court Judge.

He joined Bloomington Rotary in 1979 and served as our club president in 1997-98 and district governor in 2003-04. He was extensively involved in the Bloomington community, serving in leadership positions on the boards of United Way, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Masons, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Teachers Warehouse.

Randy is the son of the late Orphie Bridges, a longtime member of the Columbus (Ind.) Rotary Club who also served in many leadership positions, including district governor in 1986-87. Since 1997 District 6580 has presented the Orphie Bridges Award each year to a Rotarian who demonstrates a strong commitment to Rotary on both the club and district levels, and exemplary humanitarian service through personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary.

Friends may send a note of sympathy to:

Vivien Bridges and family
30581 Drayton Court
Spanish Fort, AL 36527
Cell: 812-219-3298

Vivien continues to use Randy's email address, judgerandy@aol.com

Internment at the columbarium at Trinity Episcopal Church will be Saturday, May 22, at 12:30 p.m., with a celebration of life following at the upper level of Nick's, adjourning around 3:30 p.m.

District Grant Applications Due

It's time to submit applications for District 6580 matching grant opportunities. Proposals should promote active and personal participation of 15 to 20 Rotary volunteers in a Rotary Day of Service, which should last about four to six hours on one day to implement the project. Additional guidelines with the application and instructions will be emailed to all members. The submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday, April 5.

Vaccines in Monroe County

Monroe County Health Administrator Penny Caudill provided a statement to the club offering information about current COVID testing and vaccination sites as well as future plans. The local health department does not control the amount of vaccine received or the individuals who are eligible to receive it. However, the department continues to work closely with area businesses, schools, and organizations to communicate the current status and facilitate access to testing and vaccinations. With the addition of IU's Assembly Hall as a vaccination site on March 29, the department remains hopeful that more residents will be vaccinated. Address questions to Nicole Wagner at nwagner@co.monroe.in.us, 812-349-2997.

Glenda Murray reminded members that Penny Caudill will receive the 2021 Woman of the Year award from the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women at the annual luncheon March 24.

This week's program is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/SSPwVAqjsQM>

Our Program

Members moved into facilitated virtual chat rooms for a guided discussion on “Hope and the New Normal” in the context of the pandemic. Questions considered by each group included:

- What do you look forward to the most when you’re fully vaccinated?
- While society may not be entirely open, do you plan on traveling? Whom will you visit?
- Do you still have any fears?
- What do you envision the “new normal” will be?
- What has been your best strategy to survive the challenges of the pandemic and this past year?
- Is there anything we have adopted because of the pandemic that you wish we would keep?

Views and opinions were shared with the larger group following the break-out sessions and included both concerns (those who choose not to get the vaccine, when does personal choice override the public good) and reasons for celebration (time with family in distant locations, innovation and the flexibility that comes with virtual connections). Members overwhelmingly expressed optimism at newfound opportunities and looked to Rotary to serve as a leader in moving those forward.

Thanks to chat facilitators **Liz Feitl, John VanderZee, Glenda Murray, Owen Johnson, Judy Schroeder, Lance Eberle, and Connie Shakalis.**

Updates – Our March 23 Weekly Gathering

President **Ashley Wesley** welcomed members and guests. She thanked producers **Natalie Blais, Michael Shermis, Sally Gaskill, and Earon Davis.** **Phil Eskew** reflected on the value of attending Rotary make-up meetings. They not only keep you connected to Rotary when you can’t be with your own club but also create an opportunity to make new friends and see how other clubs operate.

Guests included Catherine Swanson, sister of member **Tina Swanson.**

Membership anniversaries include **Dean Watson**, celebrating 60 years; and past president and past district governor **Jim Bright**, who joined Rotary 14 years ago. **Hank Walter** and **Bryce Bow** are each celebrating four years in Rotary membership.

Reporter: **Susie Graham**