

Roundabout: August 13, 2024

NEXT WEEK



On August 20, we will meet at **St. Mark's United Methodist Church** for our Celebration of Service, featuring **Dick Mellinger**, a breeder of *homing pigeons* as well as many other things. Dick, now a Rotarian in Bloomington, was once president of his Rotary Club in South Bend. Among his many activities, Dick is a charter member of IU's Big Ten Club; president and co-founder of Pawsabilities for Veterans, where he matched puppies and service dogs with their recipients; president of Slice of Life after-school outreach in South Bend; and chairman of RYLA in California. Dick received the E.M. Morris Award for Business Excellence given by IU South Bend.

Some scholars believe homing pigeons were busy delivering mail in Egypt as early as 1350 BCE. People tied notes to the birds' legs and then allowed them to fly freely. They most likely would return to their home nests. Pliny the Elder described pigeons used by the military in a similar way in the first century CE. By the 1800s people used homing pigeons extensively to help the military communicate. Dick breeds pigeons and uses them for pigeon racing, in which specially trained homing pigeons are released and return to their homes over a carefully measured distance. The time it takes the bird to cover the specified distance is measured and the bird's rate of travel is calculated and compared with all the other pigeons in the race to determine which bird returned at the highest speed.

Note: There will be no Zoom for the August 20 meeting.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

President **Traci Jovanovic** announced that it is time to submit RYLA applications to **Joy Harter** as we prepare to offer our leadership training for select high school students at Bradford Woods. We have funding for four students, and one already has accepted.

AUGUST 13 PROGRAM

President Traci began the club assembly, which she billed as “An Update on Our Endeavors as a Club.” The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and to encourage and foster (1) the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service, (2) high ethical standards in business and professions... , (3) the application of the idea of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business and community life, and (4) the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service. Traci believes that our club is doing a good job on point (1) because our membership is still growing, and we have numerous guests. Today’s focus today is on points (3) and (4), looking at four specific items: Family, Fun, and Friendship; Bloomington Rotary Foundation; Rotary International (The Rotary Foundation); and 10th Annual Rotary Toast.

Family, Fun, and Friendship

Andrea Murray co-chairs the Family, Fun, and Friendship Committee of our club, along with **Heidi Schulz**. Andrea first talked about the Holiday Dinner, an annual tradition of our club, to be held at the Bloomington Country Club on Thursday, December 12. Please attend! There will be food choices for everyone, including both vegetarian and meat items. This dinner is a chance to further the friendships among us. Andrea is looking for ways to “spice up” the dinner, such as pitching in with desserts. The committee intends to hold another event in the spring, perhaps a spring flower walk along a trail, and perhaps another event during the summer. All suggestions are welcome.

Bloomington Rotary Foundation

Sally Gaskill presented information about the Bloomington Rotary Foundation, or just BRF. BRF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which means donors can receive a tax deduction for their gifts. The Board of Directors of the BRF consists of 15 members of our club. The key thing to remember about the BRF is that it is local – all money paid out by the BRF will be local! The endowment of the BRF has grown to \$127,000, and our goal is to raise the endowment to \$200,000 by 2030 so that we can totally fund the scholarships that we give each year from the endowment. There are currently four \$1,500 scholarships given to high school seniors from Monroe County who are planning to go on to college, as well as three \$500 scholarships given to adults attending Ivy Tech, for a total of \$7,500 per year. How do we raise this money? Our club has created an 80/20 fund, where those who elect to support the BRF have \$20 added to their bill each quarter, for a total of \$80 per year. About 50 club members are currently participating in this program, and we encourage others to join. We also have a year-end appeal to support the scholarships, and we have a hyper Happy Dollars event at one meeting a year to support the scholarships. The BRF also receives funds from the Rotary Toast each year, and several individuals have made larger gifts than the 80/20 program. Finally, the BRF Board encourages you to consider making a bequest to the BRF in your will.

The Rotary Foundation

Yolanda Treviño followed up by discussing the Rotary International Foundation, or more properly, The Rotary Foundation, or just TRF. This is the foundation associated with Rotary International, which is made up of all the Rotary clubs in the world. The goal of TRF is to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty. TRF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the U.S. but a worldwide foundation. Examples of TRF major projects include more than \$2.5 billion contributed to eradicate global polio and the establishment of Rotary peace centers, where more than 1,600 fellows have been educated to work for peace all over the world. TRF also made disaster response gifts of \$14.8 million last year. TRF supports many small-scale district grants (including grants to our club) and large-scale global grants. How do we support TRF? Many of us have become TRF sustaining members by adding \$25 to our bill each quarter, for a total of \$100 per year. We can also give directly to TRF by creating an account at www.myrotary.org and making contributions online. With a total of \$1,000 contributed, you become a Paul Harris Fellow, and for each additional \$1,000 contributed, you become a Paul Harris Fellow plus 1 (or 2, 3, etc.). For our club, our goal is \$19,000 contributed this year – which is the amount we contributed last year. If you are not already a TRF sustaining member, please consider signing up.

10th Annual Bloomington Rotary Toast

Jim Bright invited us all to join fellow Rotarians and friends for THE Rotary event for the year – the 10th Annual Bloomington Rotary Toast, which will be held on Friday, November 1 at Ivy Tech's Shreve Hall. Organized by the three Bloomington Rotary clubs, the Toast is our big fundraiser of the year, providing much needed support for many community service projects. Here is how it works. Each year the honoree selects a charity to receive half of the proceeds, and the other half is divided equally among the three clubs. This year's honoree, **Doug Bauder**, has chosen the Quarryland Men's Chorus, making it the first arts-related recipient of Toast funds. Doug is a founding member of the chorus.

Doug has had a distinguished career, serving as the first coordinator of what is now known as the Indiana University LGBTQ+ Culture Center for 25 years. As a friend, mentor, and role model, Doug built bridges with countless students, organizations, and the community. His passion and dedication helped him save the lives of numerous students struggling with the loss of support from friends and family, harassment from peers, and homophobia. Doug continues to serve on many committees in support of diversity and multiculturalism, and he has received many awards, including the Robert Shaffer Outstanding Staff Award and the Trevor Brown Award from the IU School of Journalism. Today, Doug and his husband, Marty Siegel, reside in Bloomington. Their supportive family includes four adult children and 10 grandchildren.

This is the 10th Toast – a significant milestone – and we want everyone to be there. If you can't make it for whatever reason, please make a contribution. You can buy tickets or contribute at www.rotarytoast.com. The Toast, founded in 2015, has three objectives: recognizing an outstanding citizen who reflects Rotary's motto of service above self, growing awareness of Rotary's good works in the community, and raising money to support Rotary's core causes (\$368,000 in the first nine years).

To see the full content of the club assembly and the rest of the meeting, click on the following YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/zVBEgLSFUXo>.

UPDATES

August 13 Celebration of Service

President **Traci Jovanovic** welcomed us with her thought for the day, which great testament to how she thinks now and wishes she had thought sooner: “Living is like tearing through a museum. Not until later do you really start absorbing what you saw, thinking about it, looking it up in a book, and remembering – because you can’t take it in all at once.”-- Audrey Hepburn

David Wright began his reflection by asking, “Are we ready for a woman president?” He related his own “coming of age story,” when the babysitter bailed on his parents, who had to take 3-year-old David (him) to the *Man of La Mancha* performance at Clowes Hall in Indianapolis. Somehow this performance made him want to dream the impossible dream, and he became more idealistic and more liberal, philosophically speaking.

The Rotary Club of Duarte, Calif., dreamed the impossible dream and eventually won. In 1977, Duarte Rotary admitted three women, which was against the Rotary rules. The club had its charter revoked. But it kept fighting and took the fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 1987 required Rotary clubs to admit women. The Duarte club was rechartered, and it immediately elected a woman as its president.

Article II, Section 1, of the U.S. Constitution states, “No Person except a natural born Citizen ... shall be eligible to the Office of President.” It doesn’t say “man”; it says “person.” Thus, the Constitution does not say the President has to be a man. David is certainly ready for a woman president of the U.S., and he believes many others are too.

Happy Dollars

Happy Dollars were contributed to support Teachers Warehouse for a variety of reasons including enjoying retirement, a daughter’s engagement, a daughter’s birthday, the visit of cousins from Texas, a move to Chicago from North Carolina, a major league baseball team in the playoff picture, the work of a son to develop a new vaccine that may eliminate all food allergies, and being one of the first women in this Rotary Club.

Member birthdays

- **Richard Millunchick**, August 13

Hank Walter introduced our guests in State Room East:

- **Diana Hoffman**, guest of Liz Feitl
- **Raquel Paulino**, guest of Yolanda Treviño
- **Alma Vasquez**, guest of Yolanda Treviño
- **Rebecca Vasquez**, guest of Yolanda Treviño

- **Sandra McGow**, guest of Stacy Bruce

President Traci acknowledged those who helped with today's program, including executive assistant **Natalie Blais**, greeter **Rex Hillery**, introduction of guests **Hank Walter**, Zoom host **Joy Harter**, reflection **David Wright**, reporter **Bill Perkins**, camera and mic operator **Michael Shermis**, and stand-in Zoom and audio producer **Alain Barker**.

Reporter: **Bill Perkins**