

Bloomington Rotary Club

Roundabout

August 15, 2023

NEXT WEEK



On August 22, our meeting will again be in State Room East and on Zoom. Our speaker will be Shawna Girgis, program director of community relations and outreach at IU Health Foundation – Southwest Region. Since 2014, she has also been a part-time Instructor at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, where she has developed student internships and facilitated community development projects with students, faculty, and staff.

Shawna was elected mayor of Bedford three times, serving from 2008 through 2019. She was responsible for operation and management of the city, serving nearly 14,000 residents with a staff of 150. Under her leadership, Bedford developed a \$29.5 million plan to address aging utilities infrastructure; improved access to higher education; advocated for local business and industry at the local, state, and federal levels; and collaborated to develop the Lawrence County Domestic Violence Prevention Coalition and Becky’s Place, a shelter for women and children. In 2013 the City of Bedford was designated an Indiana Stellar Community and Community of the Year by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the smallest and most rural community to receive this award.

Before she was elected mayor, Shawna was executive director of the Indiana Rural Health Association, based in Terre Haute, a statewide organization with a staff of eight and 750 organizational and individual members. She led a statewide effort that resulted in \$17 million of funding from the Federal Communications Commission to initiate the Indiana Telehealth Network.

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Tickets are now on sale for the Ninth Annual Bloomington Rotary Toast, to be held on Friday, November 3, at Ivy Tech Shreve Hall, from 6 to 9 p.m. The three Bloomington clubs are sponsoring the event. The toast is Rotary's night to shine, as we celebrate Monroe County Juvenile Court Judge Steve Galvin for a lifetime of "Service Above Self."

Tickets are \$100 per person. Sponsorships are also available. To purchase, visit www.rotarytoast.com

Half of the proceeds will go to Judge Galvin's chosen charity, CASA. The other half will be divided equally between the three Bloomington Rotary clubs to support local charities.

PROGRAM: ALLISON BARBER TOUTS INDIANA FEVER



YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqbZnbIJjHs>

Loren Snyder introduced today's speaker, Allison Barber, president and chief operating officer of the Indiana Fever. She said her mother-in-law had sent her out the door this morning with the words "Go change the world." She reflected, "I can't change the world, but together we CAN change the world." She thanked Bloomington Rotarians for supporting teachers through Teachers Warehouse.

After a pop quiz where she threw out some first names – e.g., Billie Jean, Tamika, Grace – she named Bernice Sandler. No one in the room recognized the name. Sandler was a professor at University of Maryland who was turned down for a job because she was "too outspoken for a woman." She is known as the mother of Title IX, landmark federal legislation that required equal opportunities for women "in education and other activities," including scholarships for women athletes. Last year Title IX celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Allison pointed out the benefits of sports. Students who play sports have better grades. Ninety percent of women in executive positions have played sports, which taught them teamwork and discipline. Basketball players have the highest ratings for psychological well-being, while wrestlers have highest ratings for personal discipline.

When she took the top executive job at the Indiana Fever, Allison announced a three-point strategy: Commit, Compete, Contribute. The Fever commits to a championship culture, from top to bottom. She acknowledged that the strategy did not resonate with the players right away, but her showing up every day did.

The team competes to build fans, partners, loyalty, and impact. When she played driveway basketball with her father, he would urge her to “take it to the hoop.” She understands now that the closer to the basket you are, the more likely it is that the shot will go in.

A devout optimist, Allison comes to the game with an abundance mentality and takes her team regularly to outreach events to give back to the community. July 12 was Kids Day at the Fever game. More than 6,000 children came, sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and donations to the Fever Fund, which pays for tickets for children who couldn’t otherwise afford them.

She noted that the Indiana Fever is one of only 12 professional basketball teams in the country, so only 144 professional positions are open for women. Title IX requires that these women have completed four years of college or be 21 years old.

UPDATES: OUR AUGUST 15 CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

Steve Ingle greeted us in the State Room East. President **Ron Barnes** welcomed members and guests. His quote for the day: “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others” (Gandhi).

Theresa Claire gave a powerful reflection on her participation in the “Living Room Conversation” at **Charlotte Zietlow’s** home and an incident at the Civil Air Patrol Retreat in Fort Wayne, where she put her listening and mediation skills to use.

Grier Carson introduced guests in the room:

Deb Fish, guest of **Earon Davis**
Steph Ingle, guest of **Steve Ingle**
Inger Nemcik, guest of **Dave Meyer**
Victor Akangbe, guest of **Patrick Smith**
Steve Versaw, guest of **Sara Laughlin**
Pam Lueken, guest of **Judy Schroeder**
David Sabbagh, guest of **Judy Schroeder**

Joy Harter reported no guests on Zoom.

Phil Eskew will celebrate his birthday on August 19.

Many happy Rotarians shared Happy Dollar moments, leading our speaker to comment that this was the happiest Rotary Club she had ever visited.

Ron thanked **Traci Jovanovic** for dancing through the tables with camera and microphone and audio producer **Tylar Martin-Nichols**.

Roundabout reporter: **Sara Laughlin**