

September 12, 2023 *Roundabout*



Digital marketing expert to share insights on agency success

Join us on September 19 in the Frangipani Room or on Zoom when our speaker will be digital marketing expert **Charles Pearce**.

With his digital art and media production background, Charles has honed his skills in creating engaging, innovative content from music videos to content marketing.

In 2019, Charles started a boutique creative fulfillment agency out of his home studio with a remote worker team of freelance production experts delivering top-notch work for clients across the country and providing personalized service and attention to detail.

After moving back to Bloomington in 2021, his boutique agency has evolved into creative consulting services.

This week's news



Joy Harter with Rotaractors at District Assembly

Among the 75 southern Indiana Rotarians at the September 9 District Assembly were Assistant Governor/Youth Services Chair Joy Harter and five officers of the Rotaract of Indiana University Rotaract Club. Attendees heard Social Worker Melissa Stone talk about mental health and the importance of taking care of our own wellbeing.

Order your Rotary Toast tickets asap!

If you want to join us at Ivy Tech's Shreve Hall for the Friday, Nov. 3, Rotary Toast, order your tickets today at rotarytoast.com. With just a month to go until the Oct. 15 deadline, more than 250 of the 360 seats have been sold. We're looking at a complete sellout!

We're honoring retired Juvenile Court Judge Stephen Galvin for his service above self.

Half of the proceeds will benefit Judge Galvin's chosen charity, Monroe County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), which recruits, trains, and supervises advocates who represent neglected and abused children in the courtroom. The other half will benefit local charitable causes championed by the three clubs.

To secure your seats, go to rotarytoast.com.

Sibling Cities Town Hall set for Sunday, Sept. 17

Alain Barker, project coordinator for the Bloomington/Palo Alto Sibling Cities Town Halls, invites us to three town halls in the coming months. You can participate in person at the Monroe County Public Library or by Zoom from 4 to 6 p.m. Topics:

- Sept. 17, bridging regional divides
- Oct. 8, climate action
- Nov. 12, race and belonging

For more information or to register, see siblingcitiesusa.org/events

September 12 Program



Patrick Smith shares DEI committee plans

Committee chairs unveil exciting plans for 2023-24

View it here: <https://youtu.be/9O0IRQfgges>

At our first club assembly of the 2023-24 Rotary year, we heard five committee chairs share their plans for the coming months.

Community Service: Sara Laughlin (and Jeff Richardson)

“In Rotary some people say there’s only one chance to say no, and that’s when you’re invited to join,” says Community Service Co-Chair **Sara Laughlin**.

“Of course, you can’t always yes,” she adds. “You have a job, family and other obligations. I’ve made it my practice to try to say yes, and that leads to enormous benefits for me personally.

“Community service is at the heart of Rotary and service above self.

“Our club’s vision: ‘A diverse engaged community of leaders whose fellowship and service have a significant positive impact locally and globally.’

“We’ve worked hard on that vision over the last several years,” Sara said. “We’re not there yet, but we really are focused on that.”

Sara lists 10 projects for the year:

1. Teachers Warehouse (TW) supply drive, July 22
2. Hoosier Hills Food Bank (HHFB) with Duke Energy July 28
3. TW weekly, monthly and occasional volunteers
4. “Friends of Lake Monroe” district grant project, Sept. 14-17
5. Trash pickup on Pete Ellis Drive, Oct. 22
6. Salvation Army bell ringing, Dec.
7. Supplies for IU Emergency Pantry with Rotaract, Jan.
8. HHFB winter project, Feb.
9. Community convening with **Jeff Richardson** as lead, April
10. “It Takes a Village” with other local Rotary clubs in support of impoverished pregnant women and new mothers,” May

Benefits include fellowship, networking, learning, and fun, Sara says.

International Service (Alain Barker standing in for Chair Steve Wickes)

Alain Barker says the International Committee, led in recent years by Henk Haitjema, completed a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

With that project's completion and Henk's move back to his native Netherlands, the committee is discussing two new initiatives that would tie in with IU – and that, over time, could connect us more deeply with Palo Alto, our sibling city, and perhaps Rotary International.

The committee is considering collaborating with AMPATH (Academic Model Providing Access to Health Care) Kenya, a partnership between Moi University, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, the AMPATH consortium of universities around the world led by Indiana University, and the Kenyan government.

We're planning a three-year, \$30,000 partnership with AMPATH and with the Eldoret Rotary Club of Kenya to help build holistic, sustainable health in Kenya and around the world. AMPATH is in the process of expanding into cities and universities throughout the world.

Our club's International Service Committee has two Rotarians from Kenya: **Jerono Rotich** and **Wilson Shitandi**. Bloomington Rotarian **Jeff Richardson** also has ties to the AMPATH project.

At the request of the board, the committee is exploring the possibility further. Committee members have been in contact with AMPATH Indianapolis and the Eldoret Rotary club.

"If approved by the board, our support would mesh with existing efforts of the AMPATH consortium," Alain says. "Our club would continue to look for support from other sources.

"The International Service Committee also is working with the Youth Services Committee on the possibility of reactivating our club's once vibrant Rotary Youth Exchange program, which has been dormant for about 10 years," Alain adds.

Bloomington Rotarians met with District RYE Chair Rowena Cross-Najafi following our Sept. 5 club meeting and at the Sept. 9 District Assembly at Ivy Tech.

"Between the two committees and the other Bloomington Rotary clubs, we hope that we can find the resources to restore RYE in Bloomington," Alain says.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (Patrick Smith and Jim Sims)

Chair **Patrick Smith** says the DEI Committee is committed to growing diverse membership in the club by creating more awareness of the club's openness to prospective members from underrepresented groups.

Patrick talked his committee's commitment to Four C's:"

- **Community** – Efforts to inform young prospects about Rotary and create a spark in them.
- **Communication** – Increase tabling efforts at community events. Share brochures and other materials to expand knowledge of who we are and what we do.
- **Collaboration and Coordination** – Expand our relationship with other organizations that share our values.



Rotarians at the Bloomington City's 2023 Black y Brown Festival at Switchyard Park this past weekend! Many thanks to those who participated: *Jimmy Torry, Sally Gaskill, Jim Sims, Patrick Smith, and Caleb Poer*, not seen in this photo. (Photo by Alain Barker)

On Sept. 9, committee members staffed a table during the Black y Brown Festival. "A lot of individuals – young and old – stopped by our table to ask questions about Rotary and gave us an opportunity to inform them about our mission," Patrick says. "I want to give a big shout-out to **Jimmy Torry** for coming up with the idea."

They'll be out at Switchyard Park again on Saturday, September 16, for the Fiesta del Otoño Arts Festival.

Youth Services (Joy Harter)

Joy Harter focused on five elements of Youth Services:

- **IU Rotaract** is essentially its own Rotary club, with the support and guidance of the three Bloomington clubs. "They are on fire," Joy exclaimed. "I feel like a proud mama." The young men on their executive board attended the September 9 District Assembly at Ivy Tech. "They are eager to engage with Rotarians," Joy says. "They plan to start joining us for our weekly club meetings, so you'll have a chance to get to know them." Among their commitments, Rotaractors will help with the Rotary Toast, Teachers Warehouse and RYLA. They meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Woodburn Hall. Rotarians are welcome to join them.
- **Bloomington High School North Interact** will have its call-out in a few weeks.
- **RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)** – Coming to Bradford Woods Oct. 20-22, RYLA is an incredible youth leadership training program for high school students. All four of our sponsored slots are taken. **Loren Snyder** is our District RYLA chair.
- **Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)** – Our club is forming a task force to bring back RYE. It will meet soon and invite members from the other local clubs.
- **District 6580 Four-Way Test Speech Contest**, led in recent years by **Tim Jessen**. For more information, see Joy for a brochure.

Communication (Alain Barker)

In a post-meeting email, **Alain Barker** reminded Rotarians of the social media sites where we "tell our important stories to the community and beyond. The more we all get involved, the fuller, richer, and more authentic we become." Please note that we run two Facebook spaces.

1. [Facebook GROUP](#) (you can **join** this one): This is where we just have fun together, sharing photos, updates, announcements, and generally continuing our internal conversation. The group is open to anyone associated with our club, including family and close friends, members of other local clubs, district leadership, and prospective members.
[Facebook PAGE](#) (you can **'like'** this one): We use this more public space to announce upcoming events, welcome new members, celebrate initiatives, formally support projects that we as an organization believe in. Think of this as our organizational front door.
2. [Instagram Page](#): a wonderful space to share great images and messages about our club to the world.
3. [LinkedIn Page](#): our pathway to the professional world, similar to our Facebook page.

If you're on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn, be sure to like and/or join wherever you can. You can help by reposting announcements and sharing stories and photos.

Alain also explained Box, our communal cloud folder for all organization documents. We have set up folders to take care of committee notes, agendas, project files, proposals, etc. So that we can keep track of each year, please be sure to migrate information from one year's folder to the other soon.

"If you have any difficulty getting into any of these tools, please let me know," Alain says. "I'd be happy to advise and assist all the way."

Celebration of Service

Hannah Hirsch greeted members and guests.

President **Ron Barnes** welcomed us with his quote for the day: "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." — *Sally Koch, Author at Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet*

Ron will invite members to make comments on our club's 2016-18 strategic plan, which is being updated.

Reflection: Ardery encourages humility and compassion

In this week's reflection, **Jon Dilts** shared his thoughts on a book by Bloomington lawyer Sam Ardery, who, among other things, is registered as a civil mediator. The book is *Positively Conflicted: Engaging with Courage, Compassion, and Wisdom in a Combative World*.

Ardery, who has mediated more than 3,000 civil lawsuits, says that, in the time of a conflict, think humility and compassion.

"Humility allows me to be open to the possibility that I might be wrong and permits me to consider the other person's point of view more generously," Ardery says. "And compassion encourages me to remember that we all do the best we can, and sometimes our best is not very good."

"Humility allows me to listen, and compassion allows me to connect. Choosing to prioritize humility and compassion when deeply engaged in conflict might be the single best thing I can do. This choice doesn't guarantee my hoped-for outcome, but it ... sets me up for a greater chance of sustaining relationships and lowering my blood pressure."

Sally Gaskill introduced guests in the room:

- Tom Gallagher, guest of **Traci Jovanovic**
- Max Tortoriello, guest of **Hannah Hirsch**

Zoom host **Kyla Cox Deckard** reported 10 Rotarians and no guests on Zoom.

Happy dollars

- **Jim Sims**, happy about DEI info table at Sept. 9 Festival. \$200 to club's DEI Fund
- **Jeff Richardson**, online in Washington, D.C., \$200 to DEI Fund

- **Jerono Rotich**, \$200 to DEI Fund
- **Ron Barnes**, happy about wedding anniversary, \$200 to DEI Fund
- Other happy dollars: **Sally Gaskill, Peggy Frisbie, Dave Meyer, Charlotte Zietlow, Tim Jessen**

Birthdays

- **Jimmie Torry** - Sept. 10
- **Alain Barker** - Sept. 12
- **Wendell St. John** - Sept. 12
- **Betsy Trotzke** - Sept. 12

Member Anniversary

- **Byron Bangert**, 24 years in our club, 38 Total

Ron thanked those who helped with the meeting, including **Traci Jovanovic** as camera/mic operator, **Tylar Martin-Nichols** as Zoom and audio producer, and **Natalie Blais** for the many things she does for our club.

Roundabout reporter: **Jim Bright**