

**Bloomington Rotary Club
Roundabout
March 4, 2025**



Next week's program features Lesley Davis discussing Mobility Aids and the Lending Library. The strides made toward greater accessibility is the work of people like Lesley Davis. Lesley is currently the chair of Bloomington's Council for Community Accessibility and one of the founders of the Mobility Aids Lending Library. She works as Vice President for North American Partnerships at AccessAble, a UK accessibility company that just incorporated in the United States. Prior to that, she served for 21 years as the Assistant Dean for International Programs at IU's Maurer School of Law.

Lesley has lived in Bloomington since 1995, when she came to IU for graduate school.

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

This Week's News

Join us for the Rotary District Conference!

Mark your calendars for the [ALL IN Rotary District Conference](#), happening April 25-26 at the Sheraton Indianapolis at Keystone Crossing! This exciting event brings together members from three Rotary Districts — 6540, 6560, and our very own 6580 — for a weekend of friendship, learning, and inspiration. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow people of action, share ideas, and strengthen your Rotary journey.

Special Opportunity for New Members: The Bloomington Rotary Club is offering scholarships to cover conference registration for three new members (those who have joined within the last two years). If you're interested in attending, please [reach out to President Traci Jovanovic](#). Don't miss this chance to engage with the broader Rotary community—we'd love to see you there!

March 4 program

View the [recording here](#)



Mike Baker introduced our speaker, Dustin Dillard, who serves as Fire Chief for the Monroe Fire Protection District.

Dustin entered the fire service in 2006 with the Perry - Clear Creek Fire Protection District. A graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science degree, he majored in Safety Science with a minor in Public Management. He has served as a firefighter, company officer, training officer, assistant fire chief and fire chief. In his role as Fire Chief for the past ten years, he has overseen the merging of Perry - Clear Creek FPD, Indian Creek, Van Buren, Bloomington, Benton and Washington townships into the renamed Monroe Fire Protection District, and has negotiated contractual fire service agreements with Polk and Salt Creek townships. In total, nine of Monroe County's eleven townships are served by the District. In addition to his fire chief role, Dustin serves on several committees locally and throughout the state.

Dustin spoke about the history of fire services in Monroe County. He identified a number of studies and reports commissioned over the years by various entities including Monroe County Trustees, City and County Government, and others. These reports ultimately identified issues of existing services and potential options and fiscal constraints for creating or merging Fire Protection Districts. Dustin briefly described when each township merged, all of which was an effort to create efficiency and fire protection support across the county. At present, 9 of 11 townships are protected by the district.

The services provided by MFPD include not only fire protection response, but also emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous material response, severe weather and special incidents. Dustin shared 2024 statistics regarding responses to various incidents, a total of 5,340 calls in 2024; incidents by District Township; aid provided to other entities such as the City of Bloomington or Ellettsville, etc. He also shared the average response time by station and the average turnout time (dispatch to enroute). These numbers can be quite different for each station due to their rural location and territory covered. In addition to emergency services, MFPD also provides public education at schools and community events, public CPR training, home safety checks and other non-emergency services. He shared that the busiest time is between 3-5pm and the busiest day is Tuesday.

Dustin provided an overview of each station in the MFPD along with their location, staffing and apparatus. Staff work 24 hours on and 48 hours off. Staffing at Perry Township is higher because they have a 24/7 EMT. Discussions continue with Bean Blossom (a volunteer unit with a fire house and equipment) as well as Polk and Salt Creek, both of whom currently have contracts with MFPD. Dustin answered a number of questions from the audience.

Updates from our Meeting

Club President **Traci Jovanovic** welcomed Rotarians to Tuesday's meeting. She shared this thought for the day: "If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress." Barack Obama

Announcements from the President

Our 2025 Rotary Toast Honoree has been selected. Pat Wilson, an educator since 1973, began at Binford before moving to Bloomington High School North in 1974 where she taught civics, history & government. She established the Habitat for Humanity Club at BHSN and instilled the importance of civic responsibility and service above self with generations of Bloomingtonians. Pat received numerous teaching awards from her peers, parents and most importantly students. Traci shared her personal knowledge of the positive impact her brother had interacting with Pat when he was a new student in Bloomington in 1981.

Andrea Murray is accepting items for the gift basket she will be creating for our conference in April. Please bring wine, a gift card, or fun IU memorabilia.

Jeff Richardson handed out information sheets/proposal forms and provided additional information about the Bloomington Rotary Club Community Service Impact Grant. The Club is currently accepting proposals from any club member and a nonprofit organization partner. The grant amount is \$6,000 and grants must make a significant, lasting impact on the work of the nonprofit along with a few other ideal goals outlined in the handout. Applications must be submitted to Sara Laughlin (saraglaughlin@gmail.com) by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 28.

Glenda Murray gave the reflection speaking of her presidency in 2004-2005. This also happened to be the year of the Rotary International Centennial. There were approximately 150 members of our club at in 2004. Judy Witt served as immediate past president and was a moving force in creating Teachers Warehouse as the club's centennial project. The ribbon cutting and grand opening of TW was on August 6, 2004. Glenda recognized a few of the special programs including: Jim Harvey speaking as an official in the Indy Racing League; meeting at the IU stadium to hear football Coach Terry Heoppner; speaker Suellen Reed, who served as state superintendent of public instruction; and hosting the Group Study Exchange Team from Peru. Administratively, the club decided to hire a part-time employee to help officers with paperwork and reports and an assistant was hired.

Sandy Keller introduced our guests: Jack Wickes, brother of **Steve Wickes** and Stephen Coover, guest of **Michael Shermis**.

Member Birthdays:

Raj Haddawi on March 3, **Steve Wickes** on March 5, and **Bob Zaltsberg** on March 6.

Member Anniversary:

John Armstrong, 3 years

Acknowledgments

Executive Assistant: **Natalie Blais**

Meeting Greeter: **Lori Garraghty**

Introductions: **Sandy Keller**

Zoom Host: **Leslie Kutsenkow**

Reflection: **Glenda Murray**

Reporter: **Marilyn Wood**

Camera/Mic Operator: **Michael Shermis**

Zoom and Audio Producer: **Isaac Smith**