

# Rotary

## District 6940 Newsletter



Volume 109, Issue 2

August 2022

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## District Governor Dan Sulger

As I write this, we are halfway through the month of August - Membership Month. As many of you know I truly believe membership in Rotary is summed up in two ways -- a Gift, and a Family.

A Gift because it is something you can share with everyone. Your sponsor gave you a gift of fellowship, caring and opportunity to serve your community and the world. Each of course fills our souls with gratitude and knowing that you have made a difference in the world.

Yes, there is hard work from time to time but once completed the fun begins with a celebration in recognition of all that you and your club have achieved.

A Family because we all come together and support each other in our goals. We laugh together, we imagine together, and we act together. You will never meet a Rotarian who is not willing to help you in any way possible and sometimes the seemingly impossible.

I bet there was some question that a project like Polio Eradication would ever be achievable. The Rotary Family, all 1.4 million members, is on the cusp of doing just that.

You are part of one AMAZING Family!

Have you ever sat around a table during a family gathering and talked about all the famous (perhaps infamous) people that are part of your family. Well, the pictures shown here are just a

small sampling of people who you are related to through Rotary. They and you have changed the world. Both of you have had the audacity to imagine a new world and have worked to make it so.

Who will you share this gift of family with? Who will you ask to meet your Rotary family? Will that person introduce the next great Rotary campaign? We will never know until you ask them. Perhaps you will introduce the next big project? You better ask more friends to join us. Rotarians think BIG. You are no



District Governor  
Dan Sulger

exception.

We will need all the help we can get to fulfill your imagination.

All My Best,  
Dan

Your District Governor





## RI President Jennifer Jones

We've all taken our own path to become a member of Rotary. Some of you joined because your father was a Rotarian. Some of us signed up because an employer tapped us on the shoulder and asked us to attend a meeting. Others became members only after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling made it possible. Yet each of us entered through one mechanism — an invitation.

An invitation that unlocks our imaginations and allows us to know that everything and anything is possible. Each one of us has that same opportunity — the honor to extend an invitation.

It is awe-inspiring to imagine how we can look out across our communities and identify our future leaders. It's often tempting to attract people who are exactly like us. It's a special form of ingenuity to consider how people who are seemingly very different can, in fact, share our values and have some of those same talents, just waiting to be unleashed.

It's time for Rotary to take our next step in advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) across our organization.

Embracing an experience where people feel included is more than just making our membership numbers more diverse. It's about making our meetings and events places where we can speak openly and honestly with each other, where our members feel welcome and safe. This means removing barriers for entry and opening doors for inclusion. Our values remain our strength — and our commitment to excellence requires us to maintain high standards for our members as well.

I believe we are all committed and determined to advancing DEI across Rotary. This is rooted in the deepest traditions of our organization, and it will ensure that we remain vibrant and relevant for decades to come.

A few years ago, our Rotary Board set the ambitious goal of increasing the share of female members to 30 percent by 2023. We have less than a year to go, but I believe we can meet and exceed this target.

We need Rotary leaders to rise from every continent, culture, and creed. We need young members and young thinkers to take on larger roles and responsibilities. We need to listen to new Rotary members just as keenly, and with as much respect, as those with many years of membership.

During our recent convention in Houston, we heard from astronauts about their journeys into space. We reflected upon a time in the 1960s when U.S. President John F. Kennedy urged the world to dream, with his declaration that we would "go to the moon [and do] other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard."

Fully committing Rotary to DEI and meeting our ambitious membership targets may seem as unlikely as a moon shot. But I know that when people of action are committed to a big goal, we make it worth every ounce of our energy.



RI President Jennifer Jones

Jennifer Jones  
Rotary International  
President 2022-23

## Rotary Club of Branford

### Welcome back teachers!



The Rotary Club of Branford welcomed back Branford Elementary School AND Branford High School teachers and staff. Annual "stock the frig" and wishes for a great year from the Branford Rotary Club!





## Chiefland Rotary Club

### Crestview Rotary opens splash pad



What a wonderful and fitting day to open the N. Wilson Splash Pad. Rotarians Samma Brannon and Tim Stewart officially cut the ribbon to open the Splash Pad.





## Rotary Club of Crestview

### A round-up of club events!

Growth is good! Especially when we are able to have 3 wonderful gentlemen join our Rotary family. Congratulations guys and welcome to your Rotary life!



Pres. Tiffany Woodham  
inducting Cole Randall.



Pres. Tiffany Woodham  
inducting Chip Wells.



Dist. Gov. Sulger and Pres. Tiffany  
Woodham inducting Omar Helms.



A night of fellowship. One of the easiest acts of giving is friendship. And what better way to express your friendship with fellow Rotarians than an evening out. Several members of the Crestview Rotary gather for dinner and then a concert by the White Tie Ensemble at the Pensacola Bay Center.



Sometimes giving is just a kind word of encouragement. During a recent luncheon, Rotarians took a moment to write cards of encouragement to be given to the special needs students of Richbourg School, which is a Special Day School which provides educational services to students ages 3 - 22 years of age.



## Rotary Club of the Emerald Coast

### Club serves dinner at Youth Camp



The Rotary Club of The Emerald Coast, Panama City Beach served dinner to the campers at the Rotary Youth Camp! Thank you to Domino's for the pizza and to Olive Garden for the salads.



## Rotary Club of the Emerald Coast

## Congratulations to Emerald Coast!



The Rotary Club of the Emerald Coast, Panama City Beach received The Group Volunteer of the Year from Florida Health Care Association. The club is deeply involved with the Sims Veterans Home and hosted Veteran Baseball games on The Miracle League Field. Many thanks to Foundation Chair and Treasurer, Mike Fitzgerald, for representing the club in Orlando.





## Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze



## Grant awarded to Seastars Aquatics

The Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze hosted an event at Seastars Aquatics at The Salvation Army Swimming Pool on Thursday, August, 4 to award a Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze Grant in the amount of \$6,000 to Seastars Aquatics along with a recognition of a service project to resurface the parking lot and various donations.

The Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze Grant is funded by Rotary District 6940 and the Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze and is used to fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in our community and communities abroad. Organizations that receive grants are selected by Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze.

"We are honored to give back to an organization that gives so much to the kids in our community," said Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze President, TJ Edwards.

"I am grateful for the hardworking volunteers that support Rotary the mission to make these events possible."

### Vision Statement of Seastars Aquatics

To promote and foster the success and growth of children who are economically, physically, and mentally challenged by providing individualized attention as a part of a structured competitive swim team program. To improve the quality of life for challenged children by developing successful student-athlete skills. These skills help aid their pursuit of higher education and achievement of life goals.

More information about Seastars Aquatics can be found at [www.SeaStarsAquatics.org](http://www.SeaStarsAquatics.org)





## Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze

# Rotary fish fry raises \$37,000 for well projects in Nicaragua

On July 7th, the Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze hosted a fish fry to support Live Well Water Nicaragua, a local non-profit focused on building wells in a northern region of Nicaragua.

With nearly 500 local members of the community in attendance, the event raised approximately \$37,000. The funds raised were enough to finish a current well project and complete another one that will service two communities!

To date, Live Well Water Nicaragua has installed fourteen wells servicing fifteen communities, three

schools, and a hospital which is estimated to be approximately 6,000 people per day. The northern region of Nicaragua is a very rural area which is relatively untouched and unaided in comparison to the rest of the country.

The current water supply in these communities mainly consists of open holes that have been dug approximately 40 feet deep that result in holding a mixture of ground water and rainwater. During the dry season, many of the wells are barren and people are forced to get unsafe water from other sources.

"The Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze is always willing to help those serving those less fortunate," said Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze President, TJ Edwards.

"Fundraising for a good cause is what the Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze does best."





## Mid-Bay Rotary Club



Shown above are: (from l to r) Mid-Bay Rotarians Tom Sanders, Tom Whittemore and Dave Wolcott; Rotary Youth Camp staff; and Mid-Bay Rotarian Steve Wolf from.

## Club cooks, serves at Youth Camp

Mid-Bay Rotary, like multiple other District 6940 Rotary Clubs, helped cook and serve dinner at the RYC.

Mid-Bay's "specialty" was Burgers, Hot Dogs and Fries. Mid-Bay thanks Rotarian Joyce Dove and the RYC for the opportunity to serve.



Getting ready to serve.



Rotarian Tom Sanders cooking hamburgers.



## Mid-Bay Rotary Club



Mid-Bay Rotary President Dave Wolcott and other "Stuff the Bus" volunteers.

## Mid-Bay supports 'Stuff the Bus'

Mid-Bay Rotary, like multiple other service organizations, supported the United Way Emerald Coast's "Stuff the Bus" Initiative.

Comments from Rotarians included, "We were amazed how generous our community is for our

students." For example, one person donated two full grocery carts of supplies. The location was at Walmart, Niceville, Florida.



Mid-Bay Rotary was given a United Way Emerald Coast commemorative \$500 check. Accepting the check were Rotarians Steve Wolfrom and Jan Newman.



Mid-Bay Rotarian Dave Swanick and his Rotary Partner Carol (back row), and Briley Kennedy (United Way Emerald Coast) and another "Stuff the Bus" volunteer



## Rotary Club of Navarre



## Serving dinner at Rotary Youth Camp

The Rotary Club of Navarre visited the Rotary Youth Camp and served up dinner to all of the wonderful campers and counselors!

Special thanks to Executive Director Joyce Dove for the invitation and for all she does to bring this awesome camp together every year!



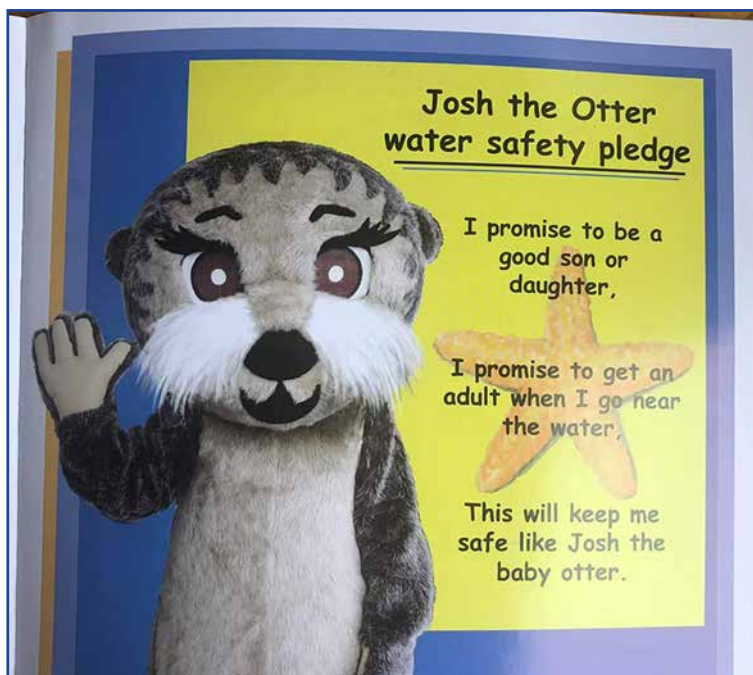


## Rotary Club of Niceville-Valparaiso



## Club hosts Paddle Boat Poker Run

Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary's annual Paddle Board Poker Run was an amazing event! Lots of fun, an awesome grand prize inflatable paddle board, and most of all, lots of attention for the Josh the Otter program!





## Rotary Club of Niceville-Valparaiso



## Club serves dinner, donates \$2,000

The Rotary Club of Niceville - Valparaiso had the honor to serve dinner at the Rotary Youth Camp for special needs children twice in July.

What an amazing job Joyce Dove and her team of counselors and other associates do for the camp to make it amazing for these campers each year.

Huge shout out and thank you to the team at Hungry

Howies Pizza in Defuniak Springs for the pizza donation and to the Niceville and Defuniak Springs Walmarts for the chicken tenders meal donation.

On another positive note, the club presented the camp with a \$2,000 check which was some of our clubs proceeds from our Smoke on the Coast Event!

Thank you, Joyce for letting us be a part of it!





## Rotary Club of Pensacola

### Rotary Club of Pensacola awards community grants to non-profits

Rotary Club of Pensacola President Bruce Partington announced the Annual Community Grants Awards as he began his Presidency.

Each year, Rotary accepts grant applications from area non-profits that address the Six Areas of Focus for the club.

Community Grants Applications were begun during the Presidency of Ed Wonders with President Partington serving the role of Community Grants Director.

"We had many fine applications to evaluate but selected those that best met our focus expectations," Partington said.

Rotary's Six Areas of Focus are: Peace and Conflict Resolution, Disease Presentation, Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, Economic and Community Development.

Award recipients were invited to attend a Rotary Luncheon to meet members and receive their grants.

Area awards were given to: Autism Pensacola, Bright Bridge Ministries, Embrace Florida Kids ,Gulf Coast Kids House, Pace Center for Girls ,Pensacola State College Adult Education, Ready Kids,(formerly ECARE),Ronald McDonald House-PNS, Valerie's House, Waterfront Mission, and YMCA. A total of



Autism Pensacola Executive Director Mary Donovan and Rotary Club of Pensacola President Bruce Partington.

\$15,000 was distributed.

The Rotary Club of Pensacola was organized in 1915 with Club members who support service to the community and worldwide eradication of Polio.



## Rotary Club of Pensacola



## Club announces 2022 Sandra and Grover Robinson Award recipients

The Rotary Club of Pensacola announced the annual Sandra and Grover Robinson 2022 Awardees.

Beginning in 2000 after tragic deaths of the couple -- Grover serving as Club President and both representing Rotary's Service Above Self Motto for extensive community service and all areas of life -- Club members vote for a Rotarian and a non-Rotarian

who display the Motto.

This year, Ron Jackson, Rotarian, retired accountant and key figure with Baptist Healthcare and service activities, and Chandra Smiley of Northwest Florida Health Care for her work with implementing COVID vaccinations -- were chosen for the awards.

President Bruce Partington awarded the honorees.





## Seville Rotary Club



## Club 'finds its center' in July

The Seville Rotary Club took July's District 6940 theme, "Stretch Out, Warm Up and have a Great year," to heart!

Seville Rotary, led by Yoga Abode, was at the Sneaky Tiki to find their center and stretch further. Stretching it out and receiving the peace within! Shout out to Donnie for showing us his skills!





## Suwannee Valley Rotary Club



## Club sponsors 'Back to School Bash'

The Suwannee Valley Rotary Club was honored to sponsor the 2022 Tri-County Back-to-School Bash, which provided 600-plus backpacks filled with school supplies to PK-12 students.

More than 20 local organizations come together each year to provide the tools local children need in order to start off the new school year.





## Rotary Club of Tallahassee

### Rotary Club of Tallahassee is 100 years old

By **LARRY KUBIAK**

*Immediate Past District Governor*

During this year the Rotary club of Tallahassee is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service. This is a momentous event and the club is the third oldest in 6940 after the Pensacola Rotary club and Live Oak. A number of special events are being planned throughout the year with a gala planned on September 22 at the Florida State University alumni Center. Jeremy Hurst, aide to Rotary international president Jennifer Jones, will be the main speaker with representatives of the Thomasville club that originally sponsored Tallahassee Rotary, past presidents and many others throughout Rotary in attendance.

A number of interesting facts about the club's history as well as a partial list of the over 100 service projects follow. A book highlighting the 100 years will be disseminated to attendees. Let's all join in congratulating the Rotary club of Tallahassee on this amazing accomplishment and for an even better next 100 years.

#### Interesting Facts

1. The Rotary club of Tallahassee was organized on December 28th, 1922 with 20 members.
2. On April 18, 1927 Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary visited the club.
3. Fred Turner, 1972 – 73 oversaw the 50th anniversary of service for Tallahassee Rotary. The president of Rotary International, Roy Hickman from Birmingham Alabama was the honored guest and was the first Rotary international president to officially visit the Tallahassee club.
4. J. Rae Brown, 1979 – 80 was president when the club held its 75th founding anniversary of Rotary with joint participation with Northside and the new Capital club.
5. Ray Tindall, 1981 – 82 was president when the club began for the first time to repeat the Pledge of Allegiance at each meeting, the club collected more money than the Tallahassee Kiwanis for Salvation Army ringing at Christmas time, the Civic Center was selected as the club's permanent meeting place and the Rotary international convention voted unanimously to ensure that no Rotary club may have racial restrictions to membership.
6. Walt Frauenheim, 1983 – 84, oversaw the initiation of the Frederick Clifton Moore award to be given in recognition of outstanding service to Rotary, commitment to our



#### Want to be part of the solution?

Become a United Way of the Big Bend ReadingPal like Ivan Johnson from the Rotary Club of Tallahassee did! One hour of your time each week spent helping a child in Pre-K to third grade learn to read can not only put that young boy or girl on equal footing with classmates, but it also helps ensure future academic and career success. It is also guaranteed to be an experience you will treasure. Read all about it [here](#).

community and achievements in ones chosen vocation, one who truly practices the four-way test and exemplifies the ideals of Rotary. The award was named for the club's founding president. Jack Barr was the first recipient in February 1984.

7. Ben Sowell, 1990 – 91, hosted group study exchange teams from Australia and Brazil. Lisa Raleigh, Rotary scholar nominated by the club was studying in the West Indies and wrote each member a postcard telling of her experiences and thanking them for the opportunity to be a Rotary scholar. The French group study exchange participated in the fall cookouts and other facets of Tallahassee life during their visit.

8. Leon Gilchrist, 2001-2002, was the club's first president

**Please see page 21**



## Rotary Club of Tallahassee



Twenty-eight Rotarians came out for the Second Harvest of the Big Bend Backpacking Blitz in July. Some 20,000 bags were packed to go home with kids in our community over the weekend who may not otherwise know where these meals would come from. It is a very special day when we are able to see our community come together to do so much good for our neighbors & we are grateful you all would be a part!

## Tallahassee named top district club

### 100 YEARS OLD - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

of color which warranted coverage in the local news. He never brought attention to this fact and preferred to focus on mutual respect for all persons. He was quoted as saying "I've been given an opportunity to serve. You're blessed when you're given that opportunity".

9. Donna Thorton in 2003 – 2004 became the club's first woman president.

10. In 2004 Pat Pallentino received the club's very first service above self award.

11. In 2010 Wayne Edwards and Larry Deeb were awarded the Rotary international service above self award. Fewer than 100 of these are given out worldwide each year.

12. In 2012 the Patriot Program began which placed American flags in front of people's homes at various times during the year for a fee and served as both a fundraiser

and service project. Also that year the club was named district club of the year for the first time and Bill Gunter was designated a great Floridian by Gov. Scott.

13. In 2015 the club was named the best club in the district for the second time.

14. In 2016 the Rotary club of Tallahassee was honored as the best club in the district again. Tallahassee Rotary was only the second club in the history of the district to be recognized in consecutive years and the first ever to be recognized three times overall.

15. In 2017 Tallahassee Rotary was named the best overall club in the district for the third time in a row and fourth overall as well as becoming a 100% Paul Harris fellow club. It was also recognized by zone 34 with the public image citation and the Interact award. Kim Koutnik was chosen by

**Please see page 22**



## Rotary Club of Tallahassee

### The club's century of service projects

#### 100 YEARS OLD - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Rotary international for the service above self award.

A partial list of local and international service projects undertaken by the Rotary Club of Tallahassee in its first 100 years:

1. Rotary scholarship house at Florida State University
2. Chartering Interact clubs at Leon high school, Chiles high school and Holy Comforter.
3. Helping to establish and maintain the United fund plan for Leon County which later became the United Way.
4. Salvation Army bellringing during the Christmas holiday.
5. Having a limited meal at the Thanksgiving meeting and using the saved funding to provide a donation to the emergency care health organization or echo ministries
6. Support Rotary youth camp
7. Support Rotary youth leadership achievement scholarships for high school students.



The Rotary Club of Tallahassee donated a piano to R. Frank Nims Middle School. Club Public Image Chair presented the club's gift to Khadija Hyde, band director, as an outreach of Project Operation Discover. The piano will now be taught as part of the Nims music program.

8. Established a scholarship at the Florida State University school of music honoring the two women who served as pianists for our club.

9. Contributed through funding and service to the habitat for humanity housebuilding program.

10. Provided incubators and medical supplies to the Ukraine Children's Hospital.

11. Established the Ethics in Business Award and hosted each year along with other Tallahassee area Rotary clubs.

12. Provided a divisional retinopathy camera to the General Hospital in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico as well as water collection projects in villages in that area.

13. Provided an infant incubator for newborn children in Panama.

14. Supported the We Care dental and We Care network

15. Supported water projects in Haiti.

16. Supported the backpacking program in collaboration with Second Harvest of the Big Bend and Riley elementary to provide food for hungry children over the weekend.

17. Participated in a global grant to provide school children in India with safe drinking water which impacted more than 140,000 children on an annual basis.

18. Supported the Reading Pals program at Riley Elementary for children in kindergarten through the second grade.

19. Started a mentoring program in collaboration with the local Boys and Girls Club.

20. Instituted the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust or CART program to support research for developing a cure for Alzheimer's.

21. Developed Operation Discover, youth mentoring program.

22. Provided funding to renovate a room in the Rotary scholarship house in honor of the first women in our club, Lucy Ho and Mary Pankowski.

23. Supported the district effort as a champion district for providing clean water initiatives and sanitation in Haiti through the Hanwash program.

24. In honor of the 100th club anniversary funded an exhibit hall at the Tallahassee Museum through the contribution of past DG and club president, Charlie Rockwood.



## Tallahassee Northside Rotary



## Branford Rotarians visit Northside

The Rotary Club of Tallahassee Northside was so fortunate to have visitors from the Rotary Club of Branford, Florida President John Lacque and his wife Trannie who is serving as Rotary District 6940 Presidents Elect Trainer this year.

Mrs. Lacque shared with us her joy in Rotary and how their work with Shelter Boxes has taken them around the world with amazing experiences. (Shown in picture with Northside Rotarians Evelyn Sherron and PDG Gene Sherron)



## Tallahassee Sunrise Rotary

Third Annual Friends & Family

### Bowling FUNrai\$er

Sunday, September 18 – 4-6 p.m.  
Capital Lanes -- 820 Capital Circle N.E.

**Fun for all ages!**

Gutter bumpers & lighter balls upon request for ages 10 and younger. Automatic scoring & “mom-approved” music.



Do Good. Have Fun. Proceeds to benefit local service projects.

*Available for purchase at event: full service bar/grill, Arcade Games & LaserTag.*

**\$200/lane** for *Your Business Team (4-6 bowlers/lane)*

includes recognition of business at event plus 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

-- OR --

**\$50/individual** to be assigned to a team of individuals

includes 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form with check payable to Tallahassee Sunrise Rotary Club, P.O. Box 12606, Tallahassee, FL 32317. Sponsorship opportunities available at Bowling FUNrai\$er: Contact [StuartC@tnbank.com](mailto:StuartC@tnbank.com).



## Tallahassee Sunrise Rotary



### Dinner and Dancing at Rotary Youth Camp

Kindness and love all night long as Rotary Club of Tallahassee Sunrise came to Rotary Camp to dance and sing to our last week of campers. The meal was outstanding and it was a fitting tribute to our camp angel, Fred. We love you Sunrise!!!





## Rotary Club of Wakulla



## An amazing day at Rotary Youth Camp

Rotary Club of Wakulla members Steve Sanabria, Linda Oaks, Kiersten Smith, and Robyn Drummond traveled to Defuniak Springs to serve a meal to the phenomenal campers and staff at the Rotary Youth Camp. They were also joined by Rotary Club of Tallahassee Southside who brought the most amazing desserts and energy quite literally 'to the table. What an amazing day!







## 70 + Years of Service



John Davis Sink  
Apalachicola Bay Rotary Club



## 60 - 69 Years of Service



Eulice E. Shelley  
Fort Walton Beach



J. Colin English Jr.  
Tallahassee



James H Dowling Jr.  
Tallahassee



Kenneth B. Anderson  
Tallahassee



Major B. Harding  
Marianna



Handzel B. Butts  
Pensacola

## 50- 59 Years of Service



Andrew C Hinton  
Pensacola



John F. Phelps  
Pensacola



James H Dowling Jr.  
Tallahassee



Franklyn R. Fritz  
Pensacola



A. Glen Smith  
Madison



Melvin L. Pope Jr.  
Tallahassee



Wilson Hinson  
Quincy



Pat Woodward  
Quincy



Frank Bell  
Pensacola



Charles E. Rockwood  
Tallahassee



Alex D Trum Jr.  
Fort Walton Beach



Charles J.W. Hass  
Pensacola  
Suburban West



Thomas D. Stadslev  
Marianna



Robert F. McGranahan  
Live Oak



Ben F. Betts Jr.  
Tallahassee



Willie E. Paramore  
Marianna



Kenneth H. Woolf  
Pensacola



Stanley A. Sheppard  
Tallahassee



H. Scott Gregory  
Quincy



William H. Tinsley  
Fort Walton Beach



Robert L. Stone  
Pensacola  
Suburban West



Jim Catron  
Madison



Earl Bacon  
Tallahassee Northside



Douglas Beach  
Gilchrist County



G. William Spain  
Pensacola Cordova



Perley A Richardson  
Lake City Downtown



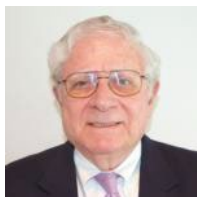
50 Years of Service as of 2022 - 23



Jerry A. Scarborough  
Live Oak



Braden Kirk Ball Sr.  
Pensacola  
Suburban West



Robert A. Benz  
Pensacola



Patrick M. Koehnemann  
Panama City



Fred L. Pryor  
Fort Walton Beach

## July

### New Members of the Family Welcome New Rotarians



Tim Towbridge  
Milton  
7/1/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Andy Riddle  
Wakulla  
7/1/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Benny Jeansonne  
Pensacola  
7/1/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Mel Dawson  
Emerald Coast  
7/1/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Brittney Aucutt  
Tallahassee Sunrise  
7/2/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Chris Henderson  
Perdido Key  
7/6/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Cole Randall  
Crestview  
7/6/2022



Angela Miller  
Pensacola Sub West  
7/7/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Earl Soilomon  
Apalachicola  
7/7/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

A. J. Smith  
Apalachicola  
7/7/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Bernie Waxman  
Tallahassee  
7/13/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Jermaine White  
Tallahassee  
7/13/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Chip Wells  
Crestview  
7/20/2022



David Proctor  
Gulf Breeze  
7/29/2022



Niles Nelson  
Gulf Breeze  
7/29/2022



**August** (so far)

New Members of the Family

**Welcome New Rotarians**



CJ Aulet  
Tallahassee Sunrise  
8/1/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

George Seliga  
Tallahassee Sunrise  
8/1/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Deonna Willis  
Lake City Downtown  
8/3/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Omar Helms  
Crestview  
8/3/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Amber Hudson  
Lake City  
8/8/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Joshua Wehinger  
Lake City  
8/8/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Adam Strosser  
Lake City  
8/8/2022



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**

Jason Moussa  
Lake City  
8/8/2022

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**If you would like to submit news and/or photos depicting your club activities for inclusion in the next issue of the District Newsletter, send them to:**

**[rotary6940newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rotary6940newsletter@gmail.com)**

The newsletter will be published monthly during the third week of each month.  
The deadline to submit your news will be the second Friday of each month.



## HANWASH priorities include fixing leaks, eliminating taps

By PDG LEON HIRSH

Some older parts of the existing water system continue to function well, but leaks do occur and must be repaired (as seen above). Reducing leaks to the proverbial "trickle" are goals of the new program. Identifying and eliminating illegal taps, so that everyone pays their fair share, also are priority agenda items.

Overseeing budget and financial tracking challenges will continue throughout the course of the HANWASH project.

When we start a brand new program of this magnitude, we have to expect variable costs based on available labor, materials, shipping, security, and oversight expertise. Competent oversight by project managers is paramount to



**HANWASH**

Haiti National Clean Water,  
Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy

success.

HANWASH is a Rotary driven program, and Rotary will continue to support organizations that will strengthen these partnerships.

They include "Haiti Outreach", a 20+ year gift of technical expertise developed within Haiti's borders. Rotary District 7020 clubs are located throughout the Caribbean. This district has an "Adopt A Well" program that is supported with enthusiasm.



## District's first Arch Klumpf Society member inducted at RI convention

By **DAVE RAUCH**

This June at the Rotary Convention in Houston, Texas, Gretchen and I were invited to attend the induction ceremony of Dave (Wally) Walcott (Rotary Club of Mid-Bay) into the Rotary Foundation Arch Klumpf Society (AKS).

What an honor to be able to witness Dave being recognized by Rotary International President, Shekhar Mehta and Rotary International Foundation Chair, Past Rotary International President, John Germ, who presided over the ceremony. Dave is the first District 6940 Rotarian to obtain such a high and prestigious giving Foundation level.

During the induction ceremony, Dave told the story of his journey toward the AKS. He relayed of how his Father came to own Walmart stock that was eventually was left to Dave. It is this inheritance that convinced Dave to become an AKS member. As Dave puts it, "Dad's gift allowed me to establish a gift that honors my father and leaves a legacy for my children and grandchildren that will last



long after I am gone." Dave is proud that his legacy empowers the Rotary Foundation in promoting good works around the world.

Many District 6940 Rotarians and guests had the opportunity to hear Dave's story at the 2021 District Conference in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Heartfelt, funny, and emotional Dave's story is inspiring. Because of the source of his gift, Dave has been dubbed by fellow AKS Rotarians as "the Walmart Guy." A moniker Dave is very proud to own.

Please congratulate Dave and if you get the chance, ask him about his AKS journey. You won't regret it.

Note: Arch Klumpf was the Rotary International President in 1917. Arch listened to Rotarians who were seeking and means to do good works throughout the world and created the Rotary International Foundation (a 5013C) at the Rotary International Convention that year with the gift of just \$26.50. Rotary named this prestigious giving-level society after Arch Klumpf. Today The Rotary Foundation serves communities and around the globe and is recognized as one of the highest-ranked non-profit Charitable organizations worldwide.





## PDG David Rauch appointed to serve as Zone 34 Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor

By **DAN SULGER**

This spring, PDG Dave Rauch was invited and then appointed by Past Rotary International President and now Rotary International Foundation Chair Ian Riseley to serve as Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor for Rotary Zone 34.

Upon acceptance, Dave's term began July 1, 2022 and will expire on June 30, 2025.

During Dave's tenure as District 6940 Rotary Foundation Chair, he worked tirelessly to spread an understanding of the Rotary Foundation's mission to our District's Rotarians.

His clear explanation of the various means to support the Rotary Foundation and Dave's efforts are reflected in our unprecedented increase in Annual Fund and Total Giving, Major Gift Donors, Benefactors, and our first Arch Klumpf Society member.

Still today, our District's 2018 Million Dollar Dinner serves as the model for Zone 34. Not only did we significantly increase giving, but we doubled the number of Paul Harris Society members.

It is these results that led to his recognition by the Rotary International leadership. As he begins to settle into his new role, Dave will continue to serve D6940 as Foundation chair until June 30, 2023.

The responsibilities of his new role are extensive

and varied. In part, they include cultivating and advising perspective Major Gift Donors, helping to organize and support activities for Foundation supporters at Rotary events, and supporting the Rotary areas of focus major gifts initiative committees.

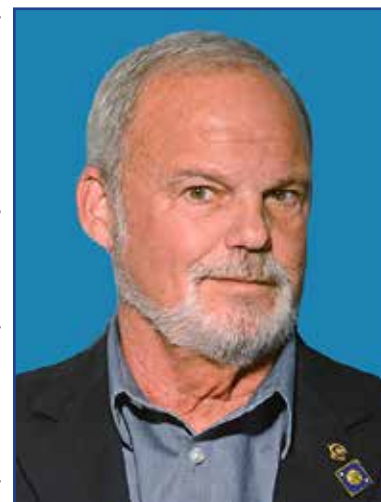
He is one of 34 E/MGA's serving the Rotary Foundation and is peer to the Rotary Foundation

Major Gifts Officer Debra Lowe. He will work closely with her during his term. Dave's territory covers Georgia, Florida, and the Caribbean.

We congratulate and are proud of Dave and anxiously await his success in growing new major gifts, empowering our Foundation doing good works in our communities and worldwide.

Please feel free to contact Dave to answer your questions in regards to Major Giving, Endowment, and Legacy Giving opportunities.

He can be reached at (850) 865-0897, or email [dmrauch@aol.com](mailto:dmrauch@aol.com).



Dave Rauch



## Rotary Action Groups, Fellowships connect those with similar interests

By **DEE DEE MEDINA**

It is hard to believe we are already one month into our new Rotary year! District Governor, Dan, has certainly set the tone and pace for the Rotarians of District 6940 to "Increase our Impact."



Dee Dee Medina

It is our belief this can be accomplished best with greater engagement and my goal is to share with you this year two avenues that will increase the engagement of Rotarians who choose to pursue involvement in one or more of these groups.

The two Rotary sanctioned avenues of involvement I plan to share with you throughout the year are Rotary Action

Groups and Rotary Fellowships. There is much clarity provided in their names alone.

**Rotary Action Groups (RAG)** are like-minded people who join together and share their expertise to make a difference in a particular area such as promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, saving mothers and children, promoting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment.

These groups can provide support to clubs working toward grants in their RAG focus as well as provide an opportunity for the group members to support efforts outside of their club.

**Rotary Fellowships**, as the name implies, are people who join together with similar interests and allow them to connect with other Rotarians outside their club. The broadness of these groups cannot be overstated. They range from global development to gourmet cooking; Rotary heritage and history to rum; healthcare professionals to hunting. Well, you get the idea.

These groups can serve to promote the Rotary

brand and image by joining people with similar interests from across the globe.

It is no doubt Rotary is a vast organization, connecting people and promoting service to others throughout the world. Connecting with others through a shared passion in one of the Rotary Action Group or through a shared avocation through a Rotary Fellowship Group provides a welcome environment for an enhanced Rotary experience.

DG Dan believes so passionately about the value of these groups he is allowing Rotarians who choose to become involved in a RAG or a Fellowship to gain points towards the District Governor Citation for their respective club. It is a Win-Win!

Throughout the year, it is my hope to enhance the awareness of the possibilities with membership in these groups.

### ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

90+



**fellowships**

are active as of 2021 with more being formed each year.

150+



**countries**

are home to fellowship members.



## Mental Health Initiatives

# Establishing a district chapter of the Rotary Action Group for mental health initiatives

By **LARRY KUBIAK**

*Immediate Past District Governor*

One of the greatest privileges and honors in my life was being able to serve as district governor for 6940 last year. I was gratified by the opportunity to serve and to witness firsthand the many service projects and our clubs' engagement to benefit their communities and the world. During my official visits I promoted several endeavors and goals for my year including improving awareness and services for mental health. After serving last year I would like to continue that activity.

I became aware that all Rotary Action Groups can form district chapters to further enhance their missions. While we currently don't have any operating in our district I would like to start the first one as a district chapter of the Rotary action group for mental health initiatives.

The very first active one in the world is in District 3030 in the center of India and recently one has been chartered in California.

The vision of such a group is to create and support opportunities for every Rotarian in the district to improve their mental health in order to lead a more healthy and productive life.

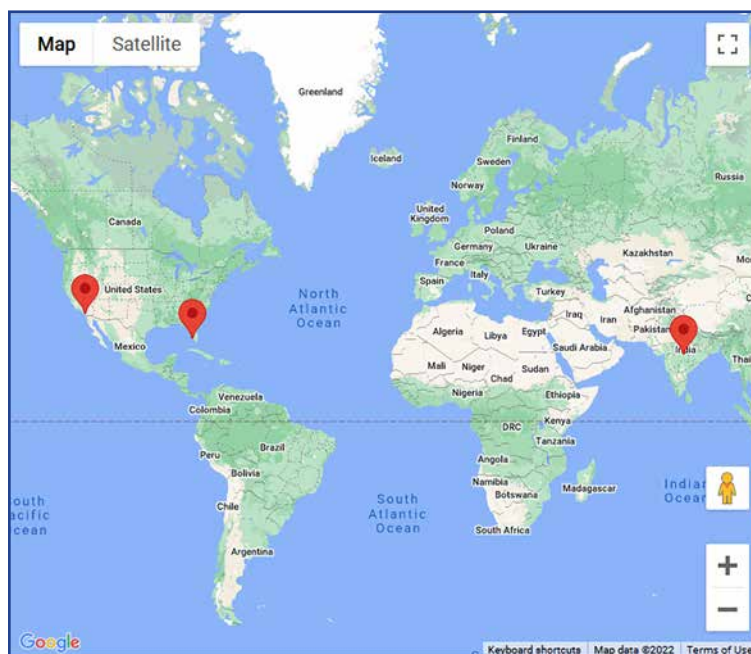
The mission would be to provide a variety of mental health resources in the district that result in measurable impact on the mental health of club members and the communities, to provide Rotary clubs with options for creating mental health related projects, initiatives and partnerships in the district and to provide support for clubs in the implementation of mental projects and initiatives.

As a board member of the Rotary action group for mental health initiatives for several years I am intimately aware of the activities that take place throughout the world to make it a better place. No less an authority than the World Health Organization said that there is no health without mental health.

If any of you have a particular interest in participating in this group I would ask you to get in touch with me at [larrykubiak@me.com](mailto:larrykubiak@me.com).

This is certainly not limited to professionals in the mental health area but simply those who have a particular interest in this and a passion for improving mental health through Rotary.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.





## District 6940's Rotarians donated \$426,000 to the foundation in '21-22

By **DAVE RAUCH**

PDG Larry Kubiak and myself want to thank all of the clubs/ individuals in our District that continue to support one of the BEST Foundations in the WORLD - YOUR Rotary Foundation.

We continue to be a Charity Navigator 4 Star recipient for the past 14 years, which is their highest rating given to 501c3 charitable organizations.

You set a new District record for giving to the Annual Fund(the Fund that returns 50% of our giving to the District in three years to do Local and Global Projects/Grants) with an amazing \$426,304 and Per Cap of \$209, which is also a record.

You also gave \$100,139 to Polio Plus, which is the highest in the past 5 years.

Although we did not have a record in Total Giving as we did last year when we had our first Arch Klump Society member, who gave \$261,000, which very much helped set our record for total giving - \$694,000, we gave an amazing \$635,068 without an AKS member.

Take away the AKS giving on 20/21 and this year's total giving exceeds previous years by over \$150,000. We also had 20 New Major Donors this year, which exceeds the past 5 years.

Last, we set a new record with 145 total Paul Harris Society members thanks to the amazing Rotarians that are giving \$1000 per year to the foundation.

I want to personally thank all of our Clubs' Foundation and Grant Chairs for all you do and we could not have accomplished so much without you.

### **CUP STANDINGS FINAL RESULTS FOR ANNUAL FUND PER CAP GIVING:**

#### **Small Clubs**

1st: Apalachicola - \$875

2nd: Tallahassee North - \$798

3rd: Navarre - \$521,

4th: Perdido Key - \$314,

5th: Lake City Downtown - \$229

#### **Medium Clubs**

1st: Mid-Bay Bridge - \$611

2nd: Cantonment - 450

3rd: Lynn Haven - \$442

4th: Pensacola Seville - \$242

5th: Tallahassee Southside - \$228

#### **Large Clubs**

1st: Tallahassee - \$591

2nd: Tallahassee Sunrise - \$413

3rd: Destin - \$313

4th: Gulf Breeze \$215

5: Pensacola Sub-West - 184

#### **Polio Plus Winner**

1st: Panama City Northside \$25,441

2nd: Tallahassee Sunrise - \$14,242

3rd: Lake City - \$7,536

4th: Pensacola Subwest - \$6,945

5th: Mid-Bay Bridge - \$4,060

#### **Banner Recognition for**

#### **100% Giving and 100% EREY**

Branford, Chattahoochee, Live Oak, Mid-Bay Bridge and Navarre

*Congrats for being 5 out of 50 clubs receiving this recognition!*

Congratulations to all of you and please thank your club members. I also want to thank this year's(22/23) President for getting 100% of your GOALS input to Rotary club central.

DG Dan is on board to continue this CUP Challenge, so the cup challenge continues for 22-23.

## Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust adopted as District project

By **WOODY CARLSON**  
*Rotary Club of Tallahassee*

Since its inception a quarter-century ago, CART (the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) has spread throughout Rotary clubs in the southeastern United States and as of 2022 nearly a thousand Rotary clubs raised funds for a total of \$850,000 awarded to the top applicants from a pool of almost one hundred research proposals aimed at combatting Alzheimer's Disease and searching for treatments and an eventual cure.

CART has been adopted as a project by District 6940, although so far our contributions to the CART Fund lag far behind many other participating



A Project of the Rotary Clubs of North America districts.

For the 2022-23 Rotary year, Woody Carlson of the Rotary Club of Tallahassee is stepping in as the District 6940 CART coordinator to give John Kuykendall of the Rotary Club of Lake City a break after six years of exemplary oversight of the project for our district.

At the same time, a whole raft of major changes to the operation of the CART program are in progress, including new online processes for each club to deliver its contributions to the Cart Fund directly through a web portal.

Clubs in our district continue to innovate new and creative approaches to raising funds to fight this scourge that touches so many of our own personal lives.

Please encourage your club's treasurer and/or CART coordinator to communicate with Woody at [ecarlson@fsu.edu](mailto:ecarlson@fsu.edu) for more details about your club's participation in this important project of our district!







## Applications are open for the 2023-24 Youth Exchange year

By **DAVID PIENTA** and **MACKENZIE MAINLAND**

*District 6940 Rotary Youth Exchange*

We are pleased to announce that applications are open for the 2023/24 youth exchange year!

With a network/family of over 33,000 clubs in 220 different countries and a membership of 1.2 million people, we have the biggest support network of any youth exchange program in the world. Rotary Youth Exchange began in 1929. It is the oldest youth exchange in existence.

Typically, 10,000 youth go on exchange every year. We have a proven track record not only of success but safety as well. We work hard to ensure that we screen and train our volunteers, and we make sure our other districts across the globe do the same.

Unlike many paid programs for exchange, we have actual relationships with the districts/countries we exchange with. We have met these representatives / fellow Rotarians at conferences and events. They are not just someone we know on paper.

With Rotarians voluntarily running the program, we are able to keep the cost extremely low. We encourage you to participate in a conversation with us to learn more about the program!

### **How can you help?**

I am glad you asked! We need to get the word out to everyone! We want every middle school and high school in the district to know about this program and how to get information! (See flyer on next page.)

Students usually apply their Sophomore year and go on exchange their Junior year. In order to apply, we ask students (and their parents) talk to us first so they know all the facts about the program.



District Rotary Youth Exchange Chair David Pienta and Vice Chair Mackenzie Mainland with students Floor (from the Netherlands) and Marthin (from Sweden). A HUGE thank you to Mackenzie for planning a great inbound weekend!

After that talk, we will gladly share the link to the application!

Again, please share the flyer with everyone. Applicants do NOT need to be involved in a Rotary family. For more information, please contact myself at [dpienta@ryese.org](mailto:dpienta@ryese.org) or via cell 850-459-7857. District 6940 Vice Chair, Mackenzie Mainland can be contacted at [mainland@ryese.org](mailto:mainland@ryese.org) and cell 231-330-4674.

If your club has not committed yet, we are also looking for clubs to participate in hosting an inbound youth exchange student for 2023/24. Contact us today and ask how to get involved!

## Long-Term

### Exchanges

last an academic year (10-11 months) during which time students are required to attend high school. Students live with 2-3 different host families – all of which have been carefully screened and selected. RYE gives students the opportunity to learn a new language, experience a different culture and gain a much more global perspective!



### Eligibility

Rotary youth exchange is typically open to students ages 15-18. Applicants usually apply their sophomore year of high school and go on exchange their junior year. Students should demonstrate good academics, leadership, interpersonal skills, be independent and flexible.

## What is Rotary?

Rotary is a global network of community volunteers. Rotary Club members are business, professional and community leaders who provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. More than 33,000 clubs conduct projects to address today's challenges. Including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water and environmental concerns. For more information about Rotary International and its mission, visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).



## Want More Information?



### Rotary Youth Exchange District 6940

Email: [6940@ryese.org](mailto:6940@ryese.org)

Facebook: @rye6940

Instagram: @rye6940

## Applications open

August 1<sup>st</sup> –

October 31<sup>st</sup>

## Program Cost

The program is administered by Rotarians, keeping program expenses low. Rotary Youth Exchange District 6940 is part of Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast (RYESE). RYESE operates on a flat fee that covers:

- Round-trip airfare
- Insurance
- Comprehensive orientations
- Language software

Students are responsible for:

- Passports
- Visas
- Spending money
- Ancillary travel
- Additional tours
- Emergency fund

## Why Rotary Youth Exchange?

Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) was established in 1929. On a typical exchange year, 10,000 youth, using this program, will travel abroad for an academic year. Rotary youth exchange is the longest operating youth exchange program in world with a proven track record of both safety and success. Unlike many other programs, RYE districts have a relationship with the districts (countries) they exchange with.



# Leave no girl behind

By **OLEVIA MCNALLY**

*Empowering Girls District Advocate*

Do you realize you are strategically placed to make a lasting impact on a generation of girls? We are at the start of a Rotary initiative leaving a legacy of empowering girls.



Olevia McNally

One of Immediate Past RI President Shekhar Mehta's presidential initiatives was improving girls' futures. RI President Jennifer Jones is continuing the Empowering Girls Initiative and wants to grow this program as much as possible.

This could not be more needed as the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap

Report 2021 showed a pre-pandemic gender gap of 99.5 years. The COVID-19 pandemic extended the gap from a daunting 99.5 years to 135.6 years.

Through the Empowering Girls Initiative, Rotary members worldwide can enhance the quality of life for girls and improve their chances of enjoying safe, healthy and productive lives. Existing projects can be modified to include components that focus on empowering girls.

This is a club and district level service opportunity.

### What can you do now?

- Think about what will work in your club and community.
- Partner with community organizations with expertise in empowering girls.
- Consider what you can do for International Day of the Girl Oct 11th to build awareness.

I have been appointed by DG Dan to serve in the role of Empowering Girls District Advocate. An advocate creates the conversations and the space to

connect others to resources. In future newsletters I will continue to share about this important initiative. Let me know how I can help your club.

In this role I will:

- advocate for girls' empowerment
- act as a resource for clubs and districts
- collect and distribute success stories

Quarterly Zoom sessions are available to learn more and ask questions. Next is available on Sept 14 at 10 AM EST/9 AM CST. Zoom link: <https://rotaryshares.org/EmpowerGirlsNowOfficeHours>

Contact me at 850-380-0465 or [EmpowerGirlsNow6940@gmail.org](mailto:EmpowerGirlsNow6940@gmail.org).

