

# Rotary



# Club of Tampa

Friday, July 2, 2021

## Upcoming Events

July 13th

### Club Luncheon Meeting

**Speaker:** Club President Linda Devine and club leadership

**Subject:** It's a New Rotary Year!

July 20th

### Club Luncheon Meeting

**Speaker:** Mayor Jane Castor

**Subject:** News from the City of Tampa

July 27th

### Club Luncheon Meeting

**Speaker:** Brian Ford, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

**Subject:** News from your Super Bowl Champions!

## Happy Birthday!



Callie Almond  
July 6th

## Your Leaders



Linda W. Devine  
Ph.D.  
President



Christine L. Derr  
President-Elect



Malia Powers  
Secretary



Charles V. Williams  
Treasurer



Benjamin David  
Sergeant-at-Arms

Steve Overton  
Assistant Governor

## President Joe reflects on the Rotary year



When the Club officially chose me to be the Club President-Elect, I was excited for the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of several great leaders who had led this Club in the past and were great role models. Little did I know, and did the Board know, that we would have to rewrite the script as to how to lead the Club.

Not only were we in the midst of a global pandemic, but the U.S., and much of the rest of the world, was witnessing protests forcing difficult but important conversations regarding centuries of systemic racism. My first meeting as Club President was intended to be in person, and then due to a spike in cases of Covid, including one of our Past Presidents being seriously ill, I was forced to pivot to a virtual meeting, and the Club continued with all virtual meetings until later November.

The theme for Rotary International this year was **Rotary Opens Opportunities**. The Club Board and Committee leaders took this to heart. My eyes were very much opened to this when I had a conversation with my new programs co-chair Kim Kenney when planning for my year. Right away, Kim saw virtual meetings as an opportunity to expand our geographic reach for speakers. We did it right by creating a technology committee headed by Ben David, Jamie Adair and (Super Bowl Champion) Rod Gaerlan, who enhanced the experience during virtual meetings and provided the knowledge and direction to be able to conduct Hybrid meetings. Some of the most impressive speakers we had virtually were super-agent Leigh Steinberg, former Governor Chris Christie, and Jen Bricker-Bauer. If you ask me, if you were not motivated by Jen, you are not capable of being motivated!

My goal was to steer the Club through uncharted waters while keeping up the Club's tradition of providing community service through time and treasure and having some fun along the way. A few of our accomplishments and fun events include:

- The appointment of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force that has led to the creation of a standing Committee to assist our club in being a leader
- Safe re-entry to live lunches, and dues structured in a manner that follows the 4-way test
- Flags for Heroes that went off fantastically after being rescheduled twice with a venue change, and done in partnership with local government thanks to the leadership of Kevin Beckner
- Gasparilla Bash being held virtually, which was a lot of fun due to great leadership of Robin Roup, and others and also allowed for partnership with the Crisis Center
- Service events including Meals on Wheels, Metropolitan Ministries holiday tent, Taste of South Tampa, tree planting, and Holiday gifts to 150 local school children
- Virtual and live socials including bourbon tasting led by Jonathan Moore, Get to Know President Joe and our very successful Spring Gala just last month, plus many happy hours.

Finally, when I became President, I noticed in the directory that we had recorded approximately \$925,000 in gifts to non-profits over the recent years. I wanted that to reach over \$1 million. We started toward that goal by celebrating Jean Yadley's 100th birthday by raising funds his honor which were earmarked for local charities of his choice. We proceed to provide over \$90,000 to local non-profits mostly in community service grants, exceeding the \$1 million mark. Also, we are set up well to exceed over \$100,000 in giving during President Linda's year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President and be a part of the rich history of this Club. Please offer Linda Devine your full support and assistance as she helps the club transition back to some normalcy while moving the club forward

## No Meeting July 6. Start off a new Rotary Year on July 13!

Celebrate our nation's birthday as we take a break from Rotary the week of July 6.



Help us kick off the 2021-2022 Rotary year with our first meeting on **July 13**. If you want to be part of President Linda's first day, **register now for the lunch!** Space is limited as more members return to live meetings. Advance registration is still required.

## Rotarians honored for their service this year

At the June 29th meeting, President Joe Hunt recognized several members whose exemplary service to the club and community this year went beyond the pale and were instrumental in the club's success. They include:

Rotarian of the Year : **Jamie Adair** chaired the holiday gift projects committee, served as sergeant at arms, was part of the tech committee team at almost every club luncheon, and was the production visionary behind the virtual Gasparilla Bash. His energy is infectious and his example demonstrates the gifts that come from a life of service.

Senior Rotarian of the Year: **Gary Nash** is one our. most active past presidents, sponsored all club events, attended nearly every live luncheon and service event, leads our fall social every year, and more.

Senior Director: **Martin Shine's** support of President Joe was instrumental in such a challenging year. Martin has served as a senior director to 8 club presidents over the years!

Club Service Awards were awarded to:

**Kevin Beckner** ♦ Implemented the first ever Flags for Hillsborough's Heroes with a committee of club members and community leaders, creating a successful event despite reschedulings, relocation, social distancing and other challenges.

**Jordan Behlman** - The unsung hero behind a year+ long global grant application, spending countless hours with his committee and the RC of Bonao navigating the rigorous process of earning a Rotary global grant.

**Rod Gaerlan** - Active in nearly all facets of club activities, as a club director, membership committee chair, luncheon tech guru, social and programs committees, and more.

**Robin Roup (Dreier)** ♦ Led the Gasparilla Bash for the second year and managed its pivot to a creative virtual platform. Her focus on guest experience and new ways to increase sponsorship meant this event just keeps growing.

**Carolyn Wilkinson** ♦ Made the Rotary Cares a Ton Challenge her personal mission, showing us what service above self really looks like. Our club had the most total weight contributed in the district by a very large margin.

Thank you to these leaders, and to all of our club directors, trustees, committee chairs, donors, and active volunteers. We appreciate you!!



## A new Club year = a return to normal Club dues



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

It was bound to happen eventually! This month, Club dues return to prepandemic levels. \$350 per quarter includes all club lunches, club overhead, social events, Rotary International and District dues, and more. Dues invoices will be emailed to all members (including R85) on July 2. Please take a minute to pay yours today. If you are having trouble paying dues, [please contact the club office](#). Thank you.