

Rotary



Club of Tampa

Friday, August 27, 2021

Upcoming Events

August 31st

[Club Leadership meets with DG Deborah](#)

September 14th

[Club Luncheon Meeting](#)

Speaker: Dick Greco, Jr. - Tampa's 50th & 56th Mayor

Subject: The evolution of Tampa through the eyes of Dick Greco

September 18th

[Habitat for Humanity - Club Service Event](#)

Happy Birthday!



[Charles Shanberg](#)
August 28th



[Asif Khan Hakeem](#)
September 1st

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

District Governor Deborah Williams visits us on Tuesday!



[Click here to register for the live luncheon.](#) Members attend at no charge, and guests pay \$20 to join us. Space is always limited, so please register in advance so you know there is a meal for you. MASKS are required for all attendees, regardless of vaccination status. Thanks for your cooperation!

Or, Join Zoom to catch it on screen!

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466963279?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466963279?pwd=bU5ZbnpQTGZldXNwYnVJc3ZBUW5ydz09)

[pwd=bU5ZbnpQTGZldXNwYnVJc3ZBUW5ydz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466963279?pwd=bU5ZbnpQTGZldXNwYnVJc3ZBUW5ydz09)

Meeting ID: 854 6696 3279

Passcode: Rotary2021

One tap mobile

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Deborah L. Williams became the first minority female to be inducted as the Rotary International district governor for District 6890. Williams' journey to the governorship was not an easy one, but her determination and perseverance led her to the role.

The Pittsburg, Pennsylvania native was first introduced to Rotary International after retiring from 27 years of US Army service with the highest honors and distinction. Her husband, Duane Williams, who will also become the first minority membership chair, introduced her to the service organization, which he joined after nearly 29 years of military service. It's so important because we do everything together. We're a team and we've always done things together. He inspires me, he encourages me, he promotes me and he supports me to be an active leader and role model for all women.

She became a Rotarian in 2007 and served as club president of the Bloomingdale-FishHawk Rotary Club from 2009-2010. She has continued to serve the district as service project chair and was recognized as the Assistant Governor of the Year in 2018-2019. Williams is also an active member of her community, owning Bellafia Chocolate Boutique and working in district sales with Jewels by Park Lane, Inc.

As a female minority district governor, she will be following in the footsteps of Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, who, in California, was the first to petition the Rotary Club to allow women to participate as members of their Rotary Clubs in 1987. Dr. Whitlock, too, was a woman of color and president of her Rotary Club.

Habitat for Humanity build project is on September 18

Habitat for Humanity of Hillsborough County builds and renovates homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of decent & affordable housing. Since 1987, they have partnered with homeowners and the community to build or renovate nearly 300 homes. Our club has volunteered with Habitat many times over the years. Here is our chance to do it again!



[RSVP by clicking here!](#)

DATE: September 18th, 2021

TIME FRAME: 7:30am - 2:30pm with a break for lunch at around 11:30/12pm

ATTIRE: Acceptable attire includes a t-shirt, shorts or jeans, and sneakers.

LUNCH & WATER: Plan to pack your lunch and bring LOTS of water!

LOCATION: The location of the build site will be sent out at least 1 week in advance of the build date.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I BRING?: No special skills or tools are required. Everything you need is provided on the job site.



Volunteers needed to get the Bash rolling!



Ahoy Matees! The Bash is back, it's live, and its going to be a blast! The Gasparilla Bash Committee is gearing up for the 2022 event, and we need you! We are looking for committee members to help with:

- Publicity
- Securing sponsorships
- Auction items

Email [Robin Roup](#) to volunteer for the committee this year. First committee meeting is this Thursday, August 26th at 8am on Zoom.

The Gasparilla Bash is one of our signature fundraising events, and proceeds directly benefit children and families in our community via our service projects and community service grants. More hands = more good for those in need. Join us!

Flags for Hillsborough's Heroes is November 11-13

Who is your hero? Honor them and support our community's most deserving at the second annual Flags for Hillsborough's Heroes. The three day celebration will kick off with a moving ceremony on Veteran's Day, with the field of flags on view at Veterans Memorial Park for three days. Like last year, each flag is individually sponsored in honor of a personal hero, and all proceeds benefit local causes and projects that serve children and families right here in Tampa.



Honor your hero, sponsor the event, and spread the news to your network by visiting the event website, <https://flagsforheroestampa.org/>. You can sponsor a flag right from the home page, visit the Media tab to see the coverage of the 2020 event, share the sponsorship link with your company, and more!

More volunteers are encouraged to help this event be even more successful! If you are interested in promoting the event, in sponsorship or in serving on the committee, [please contact event chairman Kevin Beckner](#). Thank you!

Spotlight Rotarian - Connie Gage

By Malia Powers



Meet Connie in her own words.....I was born and raised in Tampa. My family is Third Generation with lots of great stories and history! I have raised four amazing children who are grown and spread out to different states and have two adorable grandson💎s that reside in Georgia. Being a 💎Jamma💎 is the greatest!

I have been in the Real Estate industry for 16 years. I love helping people get the most out of selling their home as well as educating buyers in their purchase. Prior to that, I worked in the Emergency Veterinary Field for over 20 years. I could write a book on the crazy things I would see come in the doors in the middle of the night! When I left the field to devote all of my time to real estate, I would get a call every now or then from the veterinarian, (who has also been my friend for 30+ years) to come in and hit a vein on a Neo-natal kitten. I was pretty competent in hitting the veins of these tiny creatures although I probably couldn't see those anymore! I was also known for being able to restrain the meanest of dogs and cats. My big dog restraint usually consisted of me jumping on the exam table and laying on them so the doctor could do what he needed. I think the animal was in such shock it didn't know what to do!

I have also worked in the school system as a substitute teacher and was then hired full time. I have been PTA President more times than I can count and loved creating and running the events for students and their families.

I believe I have a servant💎s heart as I have always volunteered in my community in different

areas. My favorite mission was being called by the CEO of Metropolitan Ministries last year and asked if I was busy the next day. I told him no and met him at their warehouse the next morning. I was given about a 5 minute tutorial of what I would doing and was left in charge. The program was started at the height of the first pandemic. People were losing their jobs, financial resources and transportation. A lot of these folks could not get out to the mobile pantry's available at the time so they created a ministry with a few volunteers to deliver over 125 boxes of food and fresh produce every Thursday to these families. I showed up every Thursday morning at 8:00 and usually left about 6:00 each Thursday for six months. I only worked with two warehouse workers there and we created a pretty amazing friendship.

I have been president of the LAMPLighters of Tampa Bay and also love that organization. I recently finished my second term as Chairman of the Board for the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce where I thoroughly enjoyed helping businesses thrive and helping to them make the connections that they needed. I was a Guardian ad Litem for a while and was incredibly shocked to see how some of the children are neglected and abused. I have been helping with two foster children's homes since then and helped to find the land for A Kids Place in Brandon. Best feeling in the world.

I was also elected Honorary Mayor of Brandon in 2009 when I lived out that way. The campaign runs for 30 days and each candidate had to select a charity and raise money for that charity. The one who raised the most wins the title. Not that I am competitive or anything, but I really worked hard and won! It was a lot of fun.

I have been a Rotarian for 6 years in my former Club and and going on 3 years in this Club. I missed

Rotary a great deal and knew I needed to get back. I walked into my first lunch here, I knew I was back home again. My favorite thing is the service aspect and all of the good that our Club does. I have made so many new friends here and just want to give all that I can to the Club that gives me so much in return! As long as I am upright and breathing , I will always give back to people and my community. My daddy taught me well and I thank all of our members for making me a part of your Rotary life!
