

Rotary



Club of Tampa

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Upcoming Events

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

October 5th

Fall Oyster Roast

Happy Birthday!



Charlene Anderson
September 14th



Robert Teachey
September 17th



Mark F. Sakalosky
September 18th

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

The Evolution of Tampa through the eyes of Dick Greco



We are privileged to welcome Dick Greco, Tampa's legendary former mayor and larger than life man-about-Tampa, to our Club on his 88th birthday.

[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!

Mr. Greco's reflections on the evolution of Tampa through his very unique lens are sure to be riveting, and this is why....

At 34 years of age, Greco was one of the youngest mayors of a major city in the United States when he assumed office in October 1967, after four years on the Tampa City Council. As mayor during this very challenging time in our country's history, Greco addressed limited revenue, racial tensions, rising crime and the shutdown of Tampa's privately operated bus line. He solved each problem efficiently and individually, including a substantial reduction in the per capita crime rate and the purchase of the bus system by the City. With the assistance and support of City Council, Greco also secured the funds from Hillsborough County to enlarge the seating capacity of Tampa Stadium from 46,477 seats to 70,000 to attract a National Football League team to Tampa.

In 1974, he resigned to begin a 21 year commercial development career with the DeBartolo Corporation. Greco pushed for many large projects, often joint ventures involving both private and public funding, such as the Tampa Marriott Waterside, the Centro Ybor shopping center and Raymond James Stadium, continuing to move Tampa forward.

In March 1995 (28 years later!), Greco again campaigned for and was elected mayor. During the next 8 years, Greco made numerous capital improvements to Tampa and improved the efficiency of city government. He is credited with priming the pump for the transformation our city has experienced in the last 20 years, and saw us through the challenges of 9/11. He was succeeded in office due to term limits by Pam Iorio, and returned to the DeBartolo Corporation, remaining active in building the city we know today. His ability to forge connections and inspire enthusiasm for our city is unmatched.

Can't make it? Join us via Zoom to catch it on screen!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466963279?pwd=bU5ZbnpQTGZldXNwYnVJc3ZBUW5ydz09>

Meeting ID: 854 6696 3279

Passcode: Rotary2021

One tap mobile

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RSVP today for the Fall Oyster Roast!

Let's celebrate the cooler temps with the club's traditional oyster roast party. We are glad it is back!

This year, club members and guests gather outdoors at a beautiful waterfront home in south Tampa. Seafood, appetizers, cocktails, and fun are on the menu and you won't want to miss it.

Tuesday October 5 (No luncheon that day!)

6 - 9 pm

[RSVP to the club office here!](#)



Steve Overton
Assistant Governor



Spotlight Rotarian - Kevin Beckner



Tell Us About Yourself!

I was born and raised in Michigan City, Indiana; a small Midwest town about 60 miles east of Chicago. The youngest of two children, I was born with an entrepreneurial and adventurous spirit. From early childhood, I always enjoyed being in the "people business." Helping people achieve their goals and solve problems has always been a passion of mine. I've owned numerous businesses throughout my lifetime; from musical entertainment to financial planning. But the most satisfying and gratifying time of my professional life was spent in the public sector where I was blessed with the opportunity to serve the people of Hillsborough County as an at-large representative on the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners. First elected in 2008 and re-elected for another four-year term in 2012, I was one of seven members responsible for approving the County's \$3 billion dollar budget. During my terms, I proudly promoted fiscal responsibility, transparency in government, human rights, and championed many local initiatives focusing on consumer and public safety issues. (Visit www.KevinBeckner.com).

My spouse Gil is a 30 year veteran and current retiree of the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office. Together we enjoy traveling, going to the theatre, and spending quality time with friends and family.

How Long have you Been a Rotarian:

I have been a Rotarian since 2013 and am a proud Paul Harris Fellow. During that time, I have served on the board of directors, facilitated the adoption of the Club's non-discrimination policy, and currently chair the [Flags for Hillsborough Heroes](#) Committee.

What do you like most about Rotary?

The core value of my life has been service above self. Being part of the Rotary family with others that espouse that value and living that value through our work in the community is both inspirational and personally gratifying.

President's Linda's September Message

Happy Labor Day Greetings!

The celebration of workers punctuates this weekend, and I hope that you had a day or two (or three!) to unwind and recharge. The first Labor Day in 1882 called for a parade, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. As Rotarians, we value work and workers, knowing that the economic engine that drives our county is bedrock for freedom and national strength.

Storytelling has been on my mind. I am still reflecting on District Governor Deborah Williams' Club visit last week. It was, simply put, awesome. She is a force of nature, and her storytelling underscored the goals of Rotary International, District 6890, and by extension, our Club. Several of us met with DG Deborah in the hour preceding the meeting, including **Christy Vogel, Jimmy Clark, PDG Winnie Marvel, Chris Swink, Charles Williams, J.J. Wehle, Connie Gage, Kevin Franzese, Stella Valitutto, Robin Roup, John Foster, Malia Powers, Ben David, Jordan Behlman, Warren Mathews,**



and **Brooke Melendi**. We discussed membership, service, and public image. Deborah encouraged us in that session and in the Club meeting to **tell the story of service**. And a special shout out to **Rod Gaerlan, Connie Gage, and PDG Winnie Marvel** who attended the Aug. 28 District event that also focused on membership and public image.

Speaking of storytelling, be sure you are advancing us on your social media platforms, as well as in the everyday interactions you have with others. **Lisa Reeves** and **Brooke Melendi** are working behind the scenes, and by your promoting our story of service, we share our good works and open doors for others. And, as DG Deborah promoted, wear your pin! It is a fine conversation starter about Rotary.

And, one more thought about stories. *September is Rotary's basic education and literacy month*, and worldwide we support activities to improve education and literacy for children and adults. For us, reading and writing are part of our DNA, yet it is a skillset that I suspect many take for granted. One of my college jobs was to teach **survival reading and writing** to adults. Twice weekly I met my students **three men in their 40s** at a local high school where we practiced the alphabet. The end game was for them to recognize key parts of a job application and write their own names. As a teacher, it was a humbling experience. For them, it was a way to a better job and life. The Community Service Projects & Grants Committee led by **Kathleen Bogolea** and **Monnie Wertz** is examining how we can help with local literacy, with **Chris Ward** doing the background research.

Other good works are happening; here are a few over the next several weeks:

1. *Let your sphere of influence know about our grant application process.* Applications are due this Friday, Sept. 10. Questions? Contact Kathleen or Monnie.
2. *Want to help build a house?* We need a team of 12 for a Habitat for Humanity Project on Sept. 17. Send Brooke an email if you can help.
3. Shout out to **Jordan Behlman, Eric Newman, Bobby Newman, Joe Hunt, and Lohuwa Mamudu!** They are the drivers for a global grant focused on an eye clinic in the Dominican Republic. Of special note, **Jordan** has been relentless in navigating the process.

We have a grant application in the RI approval phase for a project led by our Rotaract Club, partnering with **Terry Carter** and the Boys & Girls Club. If all goes as planned, we'll be purchasing Chrome notebooks, sprucing up the Boys & Girls Club Dover site, and providing a STEM-related careers program hosted by the Rotaractors.

And, [*Flags for Hillsbrough Heroes*](#) is in full planning mode with **Kevin Beckner** at the helm. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Kevin to see where you might best fit in.

We'll gather again in fine spirits on Sept. 14 to celebrate former Mayor Dick Greco's 88th birthday and be regaled, I am sure, with his storytelling. Thank you, **Larry Scofield**, for arranging this engagement.

I am glad that my personal story has Rotary embedded through the years. There's much to do in this world, and I am grateful to continue this story with you.

Yours Rotary Service,
Linda

Want your dues drafted automatically? Send in this form

By Brooke Melendi



I have heard your cries! Do you miss your quarterly dues being drafted automatically each quarter? If you do, now is the time to start it up again. [Complete this easy form](#) and [scan it to the club office](#), mail it in, or drop it to me at a club luncheon. Starting with the October dues invoice, your payments will be drafted automatically.

And just a reminder, if you have not paid your July dues (check your email on July 2 for the original invoice), please do so today! Prompt payment of dues ensures a healthy club able to achieve our goals of service and fellowship.
