



## DG Deborah L. Williams Message

By Deborah L Williams

**New Leadership Month- True Leaders don't create followers; they create New Leaders!**



Greetings Rotary Clubs of District 6890, My husband, Duane, and I are humble and excited to embark on this New Journey with you to: **Serve to Change Lives**. This is the time for us to inspire, ignite and engage one another and the community of which, we live and serve. This is a special time in Rotary and in our lives but, as your **Changemaker Governor**, we will be able to capture the essence of being a **Serving Rotarian** and reconnect, restore, refresh one's life by renewing their spirits and ours together. Our new Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta has clearly stated that **SERVICE** will be our primary focus this year by implementing programs for the Rotary Days of Service through the 7 Areas of Focus. Our theme for 2021-2022 intensifies our roles and functions within Rotary. We as Rotarians, **Serve to Change Lives**, because one of those lives is your own.

Together, we see a world where people unite to take action to create lasting change around the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

As your District Governor, I will collaborate and support you to ensure that we meaningfully institute the changes necessary to help our clubs to flourish, grow and to retain existing members by Each One, Bring One (Share the Gift of Rotary) and Do More; Grow More. This growth, initially, is in the experience of each member in the club. So as, we emerge from the pandemic experience we do not want to leave one member behind. Additionally, we want our members to be enthused about the Rotary experience. We will strengthen our efforts through supporting the Annual Fund of our Rotary Foundation and will focus our attention on Empowering girls at all levels which embraces Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

One of the MOST significant milestones today in ROTARY besides SERVICE is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

This is a special time for you, and I have the utmost confidence in the newly installed Presidents and the Assistant Governors that are assigned to your clubs who will be your immediate point of contact and support as you navigate this year. Please seek to involve them and solicit their advice, as necessary. My heartfelt thanks are extended to your families who allow each of you to live out your passion of SERVICE. They are welcomed to accompany us on the opportunities to **Serve to Change Lives** journey.

I extend Congratulations to you during this Transition Month and eagerly await the opportunity to fellowship with you.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
*Deborah L. Williams*  
District Governor 2021-2022

## Message from International President Shekhar Mehta

### In This Issue

[DG Deborah L. Williams Message](#)

[Message from International President Shekhar Mehta](#)

[Attention Club Leaders!](#)

[Transition Month Membership Update](#)

[Polio Update Foundation Chair Mark Scolnick](#)

[We Planted Some Trees](#)

[District 6890 Foundation Update](#)

[How You Can Get on Board with the Rotary License Plate](#)

[Nominations for District Governor 2024-25 Now Open!](#)

### District Leadership



[Deborah L. Williams](#)  
District Governor



[Deborah G. Meegan](#)  
DG-Elect



[Steve Overton](#)  
DG-Nominee & AG



[Mark Gilbert Scolnick](#)  
iPDG & TRF Chair



[Duane Williams](#)  
District Membership Chair



[Sue Birge](#)  
Assistant Governor



[Michael Broussard](#)  
Assistant Governor



[Steve Carey](#)  
Assistant Governor



[John M. Eason](#)  
Assistant Governor

Charles Harris



MY DEAR CHANGEMAKERS,

I wish each of you and your families a great Rotary New Year! Together, let us make it the best year of our lives, by making it a year to *grow more and do more*. Let this be a year of changemakers, and let us begin with our membership.

That is precisely why the Each One, Bring One initiative is so important. During this year, I urge you to dream of new ways in which Rotary can expand its reach into your community and therefore the world. If each member introduces one person to Rotary, our membership can increase to 1.3 million by July 2022. So, let's just do it!

Imagine the change we, as Rotary members, can make when there are so many more of us! More people to care for others, more people to *Serve to Change Lives*. Think of the impact we can have through *grow more, do more*. More members will enable us to embark on bigger and bolder service projects. And each of us can also continue to serve in our own personal ways, responding to needs in our communities.

The beauty of Rotary is that service means different things to different people around the world. One element, however, that we can incorporate into all of our service initiatives is *empowering girls*. Unfortunately, even in this day and age, girls and young women face disproportionate challenges all over the world. We have the power to lead the charge for gender equality. Empowering girls and young women to have greater access to education, better health care, more employment, and equality in all walks of life should be embedded in every Rotary project we launch. Girls are future leaders, so we must ensure that we help them shape their future.

These are challenging times, and I compliment each of your efforts in grappling with COVID-19. No challenge is too big for Rotarians. The bigger the challenge, the more passionate the Rotarian. Look at what we can do when we take on a colossal challenge such as eradicating polio. Look at the millions of lives we improve by strengthening access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Look at what we do every year to promote peace in places where it seems unimaginable. Our basic education and literacy programs have nation-building impact.

This year, let us challenge ourselves to do more such projects and programs that have national reach and impact. This year, let us *Serve to Change Lives*.

*Shekhar Mehta*

President, Rotary International

This article is reprinted from the July issue of the Rotarian Magazine. To see the issue in its entirety [CLICK HERE](#)

## Attention Club Leaders!



Assistant Governor



[Sherrie McCollough](#)  
Assistant Governor



[Jillian T. Spangler](#)  
Assistant Governor



[Lesley S. Zajac](#)  
Grants Chair & AG



[Belvai Vinnie Kudva](#)  
International Service  
Chair



[Nicholas R. Hall](#)  
Polio Plus Committee  
Chair



[Linda N Federspiel](#)  
District Secretary



[L. McQueen Small](#)  
District Treasurer



[Bob Thompson](#)  
District Sgt-at-Arms



[Elizabeth Roach](#)  
District Rotaract  
Representative



[Brian Reeves](#)  
Training Coordinator

[Winnie M. Marvel](#)  
Newsletter Editor



## Membership, Public Image And Foundation Seminar



Nathan D. Marvel  
DCO-District Comm.  
Officer



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Club Membership teams, Public Image/PR committees, and The Rotary Foundation leaders gather to share best practices, get the latest news and ideas, and plan for a successful year to come!

Florida Polytechnic University  
Innovation, Science & Technology Building  
4700 Research Way, Lakeland, Florida 33805  
Hosted by the Florida Polytech Rotaract Club

**Room:** IST 1067/1068

**Date:** August 28, 2021

**Capacity:** 80 people seated at tables

**Set up Time:** 8:00 am ♦ 9:00 am

**Break down Time:** 12noon ♦ 1:00pm

**A/V Available:** Laptop connection for powerpoint (bring own cables), Presentation screens, Microphone available

**Parking:** Lots 4 & 6

**Building Entrance:** Enter through South entrance

**Food:** Rotary District 6890

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

## Transition Month Membership Update

By Duane Williams



Rotary is an incredibly unique and versatile organization that can make a yearly transition look almost too easy. The organization's membership and mentors are volunteers that are drawn to a life of service like none-other. Let me give you an example, Rotary is unlike the National Football League or the National Basketball Associations. As large as they both may be the NFL and NBA are totally dependent on the following for skilled personnel and or players. They must totally rely on the draft, player free agency, and trades to acquire a certain skill set of players or personnel that most often comes a large expense to their organizations.

However, Rotary members are recruited and encouraged to join an organization that maintains professionals of the highest order with a passion to serve. Rotarians come from all walks of life; foreign, domestic, various cultural and ethnic backgrounds and maintains an established skill set. This allows them, like the organization to move or transition almost seamlessly. Membership transition often starts at the Club level, through District #6890 and culminates for some members with service at

Rotary International.

Transition for Rotary is a mixture of preserving our core values, as we approach challenges in many

new and different ways. **This new year, 2021-2022 will most certainly be an enormous time of unprecedented change, and we as a service organization must adapt and transition rapidly.** Now is the time for all of us in Rotary to shine!

An example of Rotarians adapting, transitioning, and shining comes from Polk County, Rotary Club on the Ridge. On Monday June 28, 2021, as this Pandemic begins to yield, their club installed nine new members at their Annual Celebration. The average age is 37 years of those nine that joined and according to the Club Membership Chair, Herbert E. Gillis there will be a few more members joining soon. Congratulations, The Ridge 🎉Rocks.🎉

Yours in Rotary Service,

**Duane Williams**  
Duane Williams  
District Membership Chair

---

## Polio Update Foundation Chair Mark Scolnick

By Mark Gilbert Scolnick

### **New Polio Eradication Strategy Takes Aim at Remaining Challenges**

*Rotary and our Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners have launched the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026: Delivering on a Promise to overcome the remaining challenges to ending polio, including last year's increase in polio cases caused by a pause in vaccination campaigns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders from Pakistan and Afghanistan the last two countries where wild polio remains endemic have recommitted to working with the GPEI to improve vaccination campaigns and reach at-risk children. As long as polio exists anywhere, it remains a threat everywhere.*



Why should we care? If a child from Afghanistan or Pakistan who is a carrier of the disease comes to Florida, that child could pass the disease on to our children and we would have a disaster. There are 1,000,000 children in Florida who are not vaccinated!

Rotarians need to raise \$50 million each year in order to receive the 2:1 match from the Gates Foundation. For the Rotary year that just ended on June 30th we failed. We raised only \$40 million. That is a loss of \$30 million or 8 million children that we did not vaccinate.

If Rotarians make sure that they and their Club combined give at least \$1500, we will get the job done. Last Rotary year our District gave only 60% of what was needed. We understand that there were a lot of distractions, but I know we can do better this year. Please make this commitment a priority for you and your club. The children of the world are depending on us. We really are 🎉this close🎉 to eradicating this awful disease.

You can set up a recurring donation or donate once at: <https://www.endpolio.org/donate>

Thank you - IPDG Mark Scolnick, District 6890 Foundation Chair

---

## We Planted Some Trees

By Winnie M. Marvel



Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, over 200 volunteers from all over the central Florida area, including many Rotarians converged on the Lower Green Swamp Preserve to take on the biggest tree planting challenge ever attempted in Hillsborough County. The importance of this cannot be overstated, as the land was replanted with native long leaf pine seedlings in an effort to restore this portion of the Green Swamp to its original state. It seems that the Green Swamp is a bit of secret among many, so I'd like to share some information about the area.



The Green Swamp is an area of central Florida that covers approximately 560,000 acres. Roughly 110,000 are held in protected areas and are divided into four sections. This is an area of cypress swamps, hardwood forests, pine flatwood, marshes and sandhills. The area covers parts of Pasco, Polk, Lake, Sumter and Hernando counties. However, this isn't just any swamp land this is the Green Swamp. The heart of Florida. It holds water and slows the flow to rivers. It has a relatively high elevation and in this area the aquifer has a shallower depth, making critical replenishment to the primary source of much of Florida's water happen more quickly. The green swamp feeds several important rivers in our state including the Hillsborough, Peace, Withlacoochee and Ocklawaha. Saturday's project included assistance from the following organizations;

- **The Sustany Foundation** for making this restoration event possible with their generous donation of 20,000 longleaf pine seedlings.
- **The Hillsborough Soil and Water Conservation District** for coordination, media coverage in Hillsborough 100 Conservation Challenge tabloid and area newspapers, sponsors, commemorative t-shirts and refreshments.
- **The Environmental Lands Management staff from all offices** for adjusting their schedules to set up, work throughout, and break down the event; shuttle seedlings to units; coordinate registration; and keep our volunteers safe throughout the event.

- **The Hillsborough County Utilities Department and staff** ♦ for providing the Hydration Station and operating it for the duration of the event, ensuring all of our attendees♦ access to drinking water.
- **Sheila McNamera, Sustainability Manager, Facilities Management Services Department** ♦ for coordinating with our team, providing our team with sustainability guidance throughout the planning process, and providing items for the giveaway bags.
- **Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful** ♦ for the bags volunteers used for planting.
- **Hillsborough County Waste Management** ♦ for the recycling and waste bins that kept waste from entering the preserve.
- **The TrailCATS (County Associated Trail Stewards)** ♦ our Conservation and Environmental Lands Management volunteers spent the day leading groups, providing education, and even planted trees after working their volunteer shift!
  - If you would like to join the TrailCATS volunteer program, click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Thank you to the members of the Rotary Club of Brandon South Global (one of only 19 Eco Clubs worldwide), especially Betty Jo Tompkins for her vision and Neal Stieger for making sure we didn♦ forget about this important event. Please check out some of the links below to learn more and stay connected to Florida♦s beautiful ecology. Our kids and grandchildren depend on it!

- The Hillsborough County Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department conducts monthly guided hikes and paddles on our nature preserves such as Lower Green Swamp Preserve. Subscribe to the monthly [Trailblazer Newsletter](#) to be the first to sign up for these events and stay up-to-date with your favorite Conservation Parks and Nature Preserves.
- Learn more about the [Jan K. Platt Environmental Lands Acquisition and Protection Program](#), which made the conservation of Lower Green Swamp Preserve possible.
- If you would like to visit your planting area, you may visit [Lower Green Swamp Nature Preserve](#) every day of the week, from sunrise to sunset.
  - The first portion of the red trail on [this map](#) will take you right to the planting areas (please stay on the trail!).
  - Learn more about the [life cycle of a longleaf pine](#).



PDG Betty Jo Tompkins with Neal Steiger of the Rotary Club of Brand South Global



L-R; Brooke Melendi, PE Linda Devine, PDG Winnie Marvel, Lisa Reeves and Connie Gage. Back Row Neal Steiger.

## District 6890 Foundation Update

By Winnie M. Marvel



After serving in a leadership capacity on the District 6890 Foundation Committee since 2008 at its inception, PDG Gary Gunter reluctantly stepped down this spring as the committee President. Gary has done a fabulous job leading and guiding in the collection and disbursement of District donations for various projects and guiding those clubs that do not have their own foundation utilize this tool to collect tax deductible donations at their club fundraisers.

I want to thank Gary for his many years at the helm and also want to thank him for continuing in his capacity this year as the committee secretary.

At the annual meeting of the District 6890 Foundation on April 22 via zoom, a new slate of officers was elected. I am proud to be serving as the Foundation Committee President with the following officers:

PDG Joyce Gunter as Treasurer

PDG Gary Gunter as Secretary

Jim Claussen as Executive Vice President

PDG Mark Scolnick as Second Vice President

Other members of the committee include returning members PDG Tom Wagner, Brian Reeves, DGN Steve Overton and Terri Miller. We welcome new members Brian Yates, Hanisha Patel and Tracy Kimbrough.

The coming year will bring more awareness of how the District Foundation can serve our clubs and be used as a vehicle to relieve suffering from disasters and help clubs in our District grow.

If you have any questions about our District Foundation please contact me directly and I will be happy to help.

Happy Rotary New Year!

PDG Winnie Marvel

[winniemarvel@aol.com](mailto:winniemarvel@aol.com)

## How You Can Get on Board with the Rotary License Plate

By Deborah G Meegan



A new specialty license plate featuring the iconic Rotary symbol is now available to members of Rotary Clubs ♦ as well as their families, friends and supporters ♦ with proceeds from their sale helping fund youth programs across eight Rotary Districts. We need to pre-sell 3,000 tags before production begins.

Adhering to the branding style of Rotary International, the new Florida Rotary license plate features the Rotary icon over a blue background and a series of multi-color waves at the bottom ♦ all symbolizing the water that surrounds the state and the diversity of our residents. The new license plate was signed into law in mid 2020, completing a multi-year effort by Rotary Florida District leaders who worked together to achieve this result. Leaders of Camp Florida, a Rotary-focused campground for children with disabilities, proposed the idea of having a Rotary Florida tag and worked on it from start to finish.

After being signed into law, the Rotary-inspired tag design underwent a process of official reviews by Rotary International and the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, both of which approved the tag for pre-production in late 2020. The Rotary specialty tag now available in Florida shows that the spirit of Service Above Self remains strong among Rotarians, who saw this opportunity to fund youth-oriented programs using the ubiquitous media of a Florida license plate.

Florida Rotary District Governor Nominees in all eight Florida districts launched a website for pre-sales of the Rotary specialty plate at [www.FloridaRotaryTag.com](http://www.FloridaRotaryTag.com). Once on the website, anyone who wishes to purchase a pre-sale voucher can click into an official DMV website to complete the reservation process. Be one of the first 3,000 proud Rotarians to order your plate. Order yours today.



### For More Information:

Debbie Meegan  
Secretary Rotary Club of Brandon  
Assistant Governor Area 4 - 2020-2021  
Past President 2018-2019  
District Governor Nominee 2022-2023  
[debbiemeeganrotary@gmail.com](mailto:debbiemeeganrotary@gmail.com)

---

## Nominations for District Governor 2024-25 Now Open!





Please send applications directly to PDG Mark Scolnick via email. You may send email to him directly from this Newsletter by clicking on his name in the District Leaders section on the right sidebar. Please click "See More" to read the details of qualifying and proposing candidates.

#### STATUS

The Governor is an officer of RI nominated by the clubs of a district and elected by the convention of RI. The governor's term of office begins on 1 July and continues for one year or until a successor is elected and qualified.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

In addition to the qualifications of governor nominee (below), a governor, at the time of taking office, must have completed seven years of membership in one or more clubs and have attended the governors-elect training seminar and International Assembly.

#### DUTIES

The district governor's responsibilities can be found in Lead Your District: Governor (233). This manual is updated annually. ( [CLICK HERE FOR CURRENT MANUAL](#) ) In addition to fulfilling their responsibilities, district governors are expected to adhere to the Rotary Code of Ethics.

#### GOVERNOR NOMINEE MUST;

1. At the time of taking office must have been a member of one or more Rotary Clubs for at least seven years.
2. Have full qualifications for membership in the strict application of the club membership provisions, and have a classification whose integrity is without question.
3. Have served as president of a club for a full term or be a charter president of a club, having the full term from the date of the charter to June 30, provided that this period is for at least six months.
4. Demonstrate willingness, commitment, and ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of governor as provided in RI Bylaws section 15.090.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of governor as prescribed in the RI Bylaws, and submit to RI, through its general Secretary, a signed statement acknowledging a clear understanding of them. This statement shall also confirm that the Rotarian is qualified for the office of governor and willing and able to assume the duties and responsibilities of the office and to perform them faithfully.

More information on the governor-nominee's responsibilities can be found in the Rotary Learning Center (use the dropdown menu "Rotary Links" at the top of this page to go to the Learning Center).

Clubs who wish to submit the name of a candidate for consideration should, first, vote at a regular meeting to submit the name of the candidate, then complete and forward the District Governor-Nominee Application Form to DG Mark Scolnick before 10/31/21

[CLICK HERE FOR CURRENT APPLICATION](#)