

Issue 8: February 24, 2021

Our club welcomes all visitors. Why not join us either by zoom and in person on Wednesday mornings?



Rotary Opens Opportunities

MEETING TIME/LOCATION:

7:30-8:30 am on Wednesdays
Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Blvd.

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 307, Dunedin, FL 34697
The Rotary Club of Dunedin North
(Club #4270) was chartered on
November 21, 1971.

**Doing good.
Having FUN!**

**Don't forget to check out
Facebook and Twitter!
Post your own pictures
and news items.**



Find out more about our club:
DunedinNorthRotary.org

Meeting Notes from February 17, 2021

What a great way to be greeted at a meeting—Candice Kelly passed along \$20 for Polio Plus that she earned doing volunteer work. Thank you, Candice!

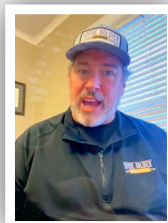
We had our normal fearless group in person, but even more zooming in. Welcome to visitors, **Chris Casella** and **Stephen Spelman** and **Bill Davis** of Wesley Chapel, **Gary Davis** and **Jeremey Davis** of Seven Springs, and our speaker, **Scott Neil**, the special forces/bourbon distiller and the reason so many zoomed in.

Teresa Cordova O'Dea started us off with an inspirational story, followed by the invocation. Chuck Jordan led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Prez Mark Middleton headed to Instagram and read about the 2019 RI BOard of Directors' vision of inclusion and equity to make Rotary a welcoming community for all.

Happy bucks were led by **Sherrie Davis Kinkead** (to allow full attention to subsequent members' happy moments), who was just happy. **Chuck Jordan's** granddaughter was in town recently from Ft. Bragg, NC, where she is stationed and brought the new man in her life—a definite improvement over the last one. **Kert Rhodes** felt better after his adjustment by Dr. Pat (Snair). **Priscilla Hoag** is happy to have her first vaccine, done at Publix, behind her. **JoAnn Rooney** reported her husband drove to Zephyrhills yesterday to get his, along with 50 others. Dr. **Bill Huntley** gave a sad buck for the Texans out of power, and commented that Californians who just moved to TX should feel right at home. **John Tornga** had no pity for Dr. Pat stuck with all the in-persons and appreciates Mark's dedication to make our hybrid meetings possible each week. Prez **Mark Middleton** paid \$20 because of the fantastic book, *Greenlights*, by Matthew McConaughey, which tells of his journey to be less impressed and involved with himself, happier with his life, more time spent caring for his mother and himself as he "becomes a man." Mark is now writing in his journal and thinks often of his father, whom he lost 10 years ago.



Two announcements: **Trash pick-up** this Saturday, postponed from last week and the **monthly board meeting** to follow this meeting.



Scott Neil, our speaker, proved as interesting as we thought he would. Scott spent 25 years in special forces and was one of the first to go to Afghanistan after 9-11. When the planes hit the first tower, Scott was in exercises to train in case of an attack on US soil. When the group was told a plane hit the tower, they thought it was part of the training. When told about the second plane hitting, the group still believed it part of the training. Four hours later, they discovered it was real. Bush was presented with two plans, one to prepare and go in 6 months later, and a second one to quickly send small teams to work with old Afghan teams the US helped against Russia. Bush chose the second option and Scott and his team were inserted into the Hindu Kush mountains where they teamed up with Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and his Uzbek militia, spreading out to build a coalition with the tribes who were fighting against the Taliban. Their mode of transportation was horseback, which allowed them to move where tanks could not. Luckily, the team's captain grew up on a cattle ranch and helped train the men in a matter of hours. The 30 horsemen became 7300 in a week and up from there. While they fought on land the US airpower bombed Taliban operations. Three weeks later, they captured the city of Mazar-e-Sharif from the Taliban. Weeks later, Taliban surrendered in other areas of Afghanistan.

Scott retired December 2010. While a movie was made about the **Horse Soldiers**, his team was not consulted and received no monies from the movie. Trying to decide their purpose after the transition out of the service, he and his buddies hatched a plan while in Yellowstone. They visited craft distilleries around the world in preparation of starting their own in St. Pete, the **American Freedom Distillery**, makers of Horse Soldier Bourbon Whiskey. The bottle features an image of a soldier mounted on a horse with glass molded in steel from the World Trade Center to remember those who lost their lives on 9/11.



Michael Smith, former president of the American University of Afghanistan, asked what Scott thought about current affairs in Afghanistan. Scott's comment: they need 200 more years in the oven to replace the tribal way (emotional) with contracts (legal). The warlords brought war while the Taliban brought structure, even if rigid. Scott believes they will always be there.

And Prez Mark closed the meeting with *The 4-Way Test*.

Strategic Planning for the Future on March 3

Our strategic planning session derailed by Prez Mark being under the weather is rescheduled for March 3 after our regular meeting. That's next week!!!! Whether you come in person or Zoom, we want you there to help our club plan for the future and be the best club we can be! Watch you In Box for more details from Prez Mark.

February Board Meeting Notes

Our plans for the golf tournament included a website that allows online payments. In order to amke this possible, the club now has a PayPal account that is tied to the golf tournament website. Watch for future information on ;possible credit card dues payments.

We are participating with the downtown club in the Child Safety Drive-Thru planned by the City on March 6. Robin Kocher volunteered to head it up for our club. The board approved a \$250 donation to the City for their for life jacket program and up to \$200 for giveaways to the children.

Each year, a Rose Parade Rotary Float Committee asks for donations to help with the cost of a float in the parade. Our board made a \$25 donation. Be sure to watch for details on the theme and the actual float during next year's parade, which hopefully will take place.

A topic for the strategic planning session is the \$30,000+ held in a recently renewed 9-month CD, which is earning very little interest. Possibly, a finance committee will form to give advice to the board.

Random Acts of Flowers Tampa Bay finally will receive the \$500 contribution approved in the 2019-2020 year. We hoped to present the check in person at a meeting, but scheduling conflicts and Covid-19 restrictions kept that from happening and we did not want to wait longer.

PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar) will be virtual this year, reducing the cost to half the normal amount, \$162.50. The district suggested that clubs make a donation, equal to that amount, to the District 6950 Charitable Foundation, and the boardvoted approval.

Rotary's peace programs help draw in new members

"I've been in conflict resolution my whole career," says Randy Butler, the founder and CEO of the Institute for Sustainable Peace. A former trial lawyer, Butler abandoned the courtroom to focus on using mediation to resolve disputes and training others in the use of mediation. "I'd found my passion," he says.

In 2018, he led a workshop to "build the skills necessary to overcome the polarization we are experiencing in the United States." When Butler reached out to the peacebuilding committee at the Rotary Club of Boulder, he met Gary Kahn, who asked him: "Why are you not a member of Rotary?"

Attending a meeting of the Boulder club, he says, "it was amazing to look at all these people around the room — the district attorney; medical professionals and successful businesspeople; college professors — and realize that here was a club that had brought all these individuals together and that they make a real difference in what they're doing."

It was Butler's Rotary epiphany. "I suddenly saw this network forming all over the world: people who knew how to get things done and knew people they could get things done with."

Today he's the chair of the peacebuilding committee of the 101-year-old club, which has dedicated its second century to fostering peace. "We remind our club members that all of our projects that help to build Positive Peace involve collaborations at the community level, even across traditional divides," he says, noting that they look forward to using the vast Rotary network to build even more "bridges of understanding."

Trash Pickers Are Hardy!

It may have been chilly but the hardy came out Saturday: John Tornga, Gary Coughlin, Pat Snair, Edie Wiseman, Kert Rhodes, Monika Conti, Mark Middleton, Candice Kelly, Michael Smith and Sherrie Davis Kinhead (not pictured).



Ordering a Pizza in 2021

CALLER: Is this Pizza Delight?

GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

CALLER: I must have dialed a wrong number. Sorry.

GOOGLE: No sir, Google bought Pizza Delight last month.

CALLER: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

GOOGLE: Do you want your usual, sir?

CALLER: My usual? You know me?

GOOGLE: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

CALLER: OK! That's what I want ...

GOOGLE: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

CALLER: What? I detest vegetable!

GOOGLE: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

CALLER: How the heck do you know!

GOOGLE: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

CALLER: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

GOOGLE: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.

CALLER: I bought more from another drugstore.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

CALLER: I paid in cash.

GOOGLE: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

CALLER: I have other sources of cash.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

CALLER: WHAT THE HECK!

GOOGLE: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

CALLER: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

GOOGLE: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago.