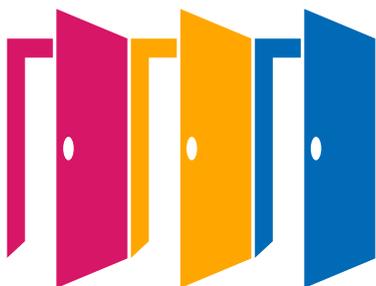




Issue 5: February 3, 2021

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 January 27, 2021

Prez Mark Middleton is back!! He reported that Covid-19 was bad during the day... and even worse at night! Still coughing, no sense of taste nor smell, and tires easily with exertion, but tests negative and is so much better than he was.

Most surprising was the fact that tech-challenged SAA Pat Snair was able to navigate Zoom for the first time, most likely due to her fondness for our speaker, Colin O'Brien. Gentle banter always occurs before our official start time of 7:30, so try logging in a little early for the fellowship.

Teresa Codova O'Dea prepared people to cultivating annual and perennial flowers. Annuals are quick to bloom, have brighter colors, but fade and die out yearly. Perennials are less bright, need more work at the beginning but come back year after year, ultimately requiring very little tending. John Tornga was asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and even had the flag in the background of his "zoom" office. Prez Mark took notice of an Italian club who outfitted a Rotary mobile home for Covid testing for the homeless.

First with a happy buck was **Sherrie Davis Kinkead**, who gave thanks for the timing that allowed her to snag a vaccine appointment for today. **Mary Beth Carroll**, plus several others, were happy that Red Badger Colin was our program this week. **Priscilla Hoag** was proud of granddaughter #1 (starting her second semester at Syracuse Law School with a 3.5 GPA on her first) and granddaughter #2 (also 3.5 GPA, from Houghton College). **Gary Coughlin** was happy Mark recovered (probably because he was off the hook on running the meeting), and so were Kert Rhodes and many more. **Mark** was appreciative of emails sent from his two good buddies (Are you dead yet?) and all the cards, well-wishes and food sent his way, once again proving how Rotarians become good friends and show care with actions. **Pat** hopes to save our warm weather for Colin when he can travel to the US again. And after the meeting, **Patrick Donoghue** fined himself as the one who failed to mute when Colin was speaking.

First announcement was an invitation for all to remain on Zoom after our regular meeting to attend the **golf tournament committee meeting**.

Edie Wiseman reminded us that February 13 was the next scheduled **trash pick-up**. Those who want to help need to email her so she can plan. This is the perfect project to bring along friends and older kids.

Pat gave the sad news that the **Highland Games** will not take place this year. When a virtual Highland Games was suggested, Pat explained how difficult that would be because of the many organizations involved with the official competitions.

Next week, we resume our **hybrid meetings** at the Golf Club after they closed indoor meetings for a few weeks due to Covid-19 cases among the staff.

Colin O'Brien, who lives 4000 miles away across the Big Pond and is 5 hours ahead, Zoomed in to let us know how Scotland and the UK are faring during the pandemic. For the last 17 years, Colin has spent winters away from Stirling and reported that it was cold! Colin joined Rotary when he was a high school principal and has remained a member while serving on the council and as provost (that's equivalent to our mayor). Knowing we love Rotary just as he does, he updated us on what his club has been doing. No meetings in person have taken place since March, but they are banking, then donating, their lunch money (about \$16 US) to support local food banks, recondition laptops for students, and to fund a grant that provides toilets in poor countries. BREXIT was approved almost on the last day and was not the deal hoped for. A lot of people are unhappy and life is more complicated, especially if traveling to Europe. Colin feels that the unrest of UK countries over BREXIT could eventually lead to the breaking up of the UK.

Covid has hit the UK hard, now in the throes of the 3rd wave of infections. Restrictions increased in November, with all restaurants closing, even those who served take-out only. People can leave home only for groceries, medicines and exercise. No group meetings, even outdoors. Borders are closed between UK countries. Anyone coming into the UK must quarantine in a hotel for 10 days. Cases are declining but deaths, which lag a couple of weeks behind cases, are still up. 14% of their population is vaccinated, with a strict plan that gives priorities to health care workers, assisted living facilities, then those over 80, then 70, then 60 and so on until all receive the vaccine. No free-for-all with crashing websites and busy signals for appointments—the doctors' offices call their patients to set appointments. Colin and his wife have their vaccines scheduled for next week. Everyone wished Colin well at the end of the meeting, and he hopes to see us sometime in the spring when travel is allowed again.

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

2021-2022 Theme Announced

Incoming RI President Shekhar Mehta urged members to become more involved in service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own. Mehta spoke about how participating in service projects through Rotary changed him as a person and made him empathize more with the needs of others. Soon after joining his club, he helped carry out projects that benefited rural communities in India.

Some of the poor conditions he saw in those communities strengthened his commitment to service. "I truly understood the plight of my brethren," he said.

Mehta participated in initiatives that brought artificial limbs to children, clean water and sanitation to homes, and better health care facilities to communities.

"Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity," he said. "Service became a way of life for me and I, like many others, adopted the guiding philosophy that 'Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth, and I want to be a good tenant of this earth.'"

FOCUSING ON DIVERSITY, MEMBERSHIP

For the 2021-22 Rotary year, Mehta wants members to focus their efforts on empowering girls and ensuring their access to education, resources, services, and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to succeed. Mehta asked members to use Rotary's belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion is critical in all we do as a compass to guide this work.

"There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have," he said.

To be able to do more through service, Rotary needs to increase membership, Mehta said. Membership has hovered around 1.2 million for the past two decades. He challenged the incoming governors to be catalysts in their districts to help increase membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022. Mehta's Each One, Bring One initiative asks every member to bring one person to join Rotary within the next 17 months.

Increasing membership while also continuing our commitment to eradicating polio, fighting COVID-19, and serving our communities is an ambitious goal. "And that should excite you," Mehta said. "Rotarians love challenges."

Rotary Themes

Each January, as Rotary district governors-elect convene at the International Assembly for training and fellowship, they can be certain of two things: a lot of take-home reading and the announcement of a new RI theme.

The tradition of crafting a theme is credited to 1949-50 RI President Percy C. Hodgson, who outlined a list of four objectives for his term in office. Among them were the better application of the principles of vocational service and dedication to world understanding and peace through international service programs.

Though Hodgson's 83-word proclamation ran substantially longer than today's shorter, punchier themes, Rotarians' desire to celebrate and support their president's annual program of service has remained the same. Other early themes include Rotary Is Hope in Action



(Joaquin Serratosa Cibils, 1953-54), Kindle the Spark Within (Nitish C. Laharry, 1962-63), and Good Will Begins with You (Ernst G. Breitholtz, 1971-72).

In the decades that followed, RI presidents introduced theme logos, lapel pins, ties, and scarves and in 2019-20 Socks! Theme ties were introduced in the 1990s, and are now given out yearly. Many have incorporated the theme for the year. The first scarves showing the RI theme were designed by 1998-99 RI President James L. Lacy and his wife, Claudine, Follow Your Rotary Dream.

Rotary and Covid-19

Q: Can I use a Rotary Foundation global grant to fund COVID-19 related projects?

A: Yes. Global grants remain an excellent way to make a transformative impact in a community. If medical equipment is needed in order to respond effectively to COVID-19, global grants can help pay for these items. The Foundation is waiving the 30 percent foreign financing requirement for any new global grant that addresses COVID-19. Note that these grants still require both a host and international partner.

Q: Will Rotary have a role to play in COVID-19 vaccinations?

A: Yes. Rotary will tap into its decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication, to highlight the power and efficacy of vaccines. Rotary's tenacity, strategic partnerships, and innovation can all support the effort to protect communities from COVID-19.

Rotary and its partners at the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) recently announced that it is ready to support vaccine introduction and delivery. The group is also committed to equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and lending its support to ensure that all communities have equal access to vaccines.

Q: How can Rotary and Rotaractors get involved?

A: There are several ways members can get involved. Members can enhance community education on COVID-19 vaccinations by sharing information from local and regional health authorities and supporting their efforts. They should contact local health departments to determine where assistance is most needed. Moreover, members can connect with local health officials, including World Health Organization and UNICEF where applicable, to advocate for and support their efforts to ensure all communities receive equal access to the vaccine.