



Rotary Club
of Bonita Naples

Rotasphere

Club Meeting

Bonita Naples
Meets at Artichoke & Company -
11920 Saradrienne Ln, Bonita
Springs, FL 34135
11920 Saradrienne Ln.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

Club Leaders



James F. Fabry
President



John G. Wharton
President-Elect
Public Relations Chair



Dee Fabry
Secretary



Dixon W. Blevins
Treasurer



Sam Black
Club Director



Linda Lee Dworkin
Club Director



Kenneth Strumm
Club Director



Stephen C. Agius
Membership Chair



Kim Scott Anderson
Sergeant-at-Arms



Cindy J. Cedeno
Past President
Rotary Foundation
Chair

Gary S. Dworkin

Events and Speakers

Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020 Zoom

Video recording of meeting: None available

Greeting and social minutes from 11:45 to noon - Gary

Attendees: Dhruv B., Dixon B., Bob B., Gary D. Lin D., Betty Jean C., Don C., Janet D., Gary D., Lin D., Joe G., Sonny G., Cindy H., Steve L., Dave M., Ally M., Art N., Terry O., Mike P., Mark T., John W., Joanne Z.

Guests: Sheriff Kevin Rambosk

Open Meeting at Noon - Gary

Invocation - Mike P.

Pledge of Allegiance - Gary

Speaker - Kevin Rambosk, Sheriff of Collier County.

In consideration of Sheriff Rambosk's time, the agenda led off with the program. Bob gave an introduction of Sheriff Rambosk's extensive and impressive resume, including an MBA, a stint with the FBI, and serving as Naples chief of police and city manager. He has served as Sheriff since 2008.

Sheriff Rambosk said he'd speak of good news and challenges. In the good news arena, he pointed to 2019 as having had the lowest crime rate for Collier County since the start of this statistic, in 1971. This makes for Collier County having one of the lowest crime rates in Florida.

He said he operates the sheriff's office like a business, and that he's worked to save Collier County some \$54 million in the last decade. The credo that he cited for the sheriff's department sounds familiar: Service to others before self.

He said that, beyond crime, a prime focus of the department is school safety. Parkland is only 106 miles away, he reminded us. The way it was handled by law enforcement there was a disgrace.

In the the late 70s, we started putting officers in schools. But it goes beyond having people in place. We implemented programs, such as mentoring, to form good relationships between kids and law enforcement, he said.

Sheriff Rambosk then shifted to the current year, stating flatly that 2020 has presented me with the most challenging year in my 41 year career.

Since the pandemic hit, we've implemented dramatic changes in how we respond to crime, and how we address those in custody, he said.

Sheriff Rambosk said the department caught wind of hints of the pandemic in January, dusted off crisis management playbooks, and started buying PPE for officers then. By anticipating this need to protect the department early on, the force was able to stay at strength.

Equally daunting has been the challenge of keeping infection rates low among those incarcerated. At any time, they've had around 700 in jail, but with low infection rates, he said.

The Sheriff noted good sides of the pandemic Traffic accidents, DUIs and traffic fatalities are way down, as you would expect but also that some programs, such as those in the schools that usually connect with 40,000 students a year, have had to be curtailed.

Sheriff Rambosk turned to another challenge, that of protestors. He said the department has a



iPast President



Gerard M. Sola
Area Governor

Account Leaders

- Darryl Keys
District Governor
- Andrew Lyman
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- Neil E. Snyder
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District Membership Chair
- Traci Hamill
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- Gerard M. Sola
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- Tracie Bagans
Area Governor Area 3
- Suzanne Vasbinder
Area Governor Area 4
- Fred H. Kobie
Area Governor Area 5
- Dennis Wallace
Area Governor Area 6
- James Hinck
Area Governor Area 7
- Doug Smoot
Area Governor Area 8
- Susan Courter
Area Governor Area 9
- Jane L. Goble
District Executive Secretary
- Alfred C. Current III
District Rotary Foundation Chair

role and responsibility to protect those who disagree and protest. ♦ But, he said he could not condone destroying property and hurting others.

♦The people who want to defund us forgot to ask what we do in, and for our community, ♦ he said.

He mentioned a crisis intervention program modeled by the Memphis police that Collier County had adapted. ♦The program helps deputies recognize and defuse situations, ♦ he said, ♦and it can also be used to deal with domestic disputes. ♦

Several questions followed:

How did the sheriff ♦s department know so early of the pandemic and how to plan for it? (♦We had really good intelligence in our department that allowed us to plan. ♦)

How does the sheriff ♦s office deal with complaints on deputies? (♦It takes a year to get an applicant to the point of being able to go it alone on the streets, so they ♦are well-trained. In some cases, things like body cameras have helped show that many complaint incidents just weren ♦t true. ♦)

Has the department noted an uptick in concealed-carry applications; and, how does he feel about it? (♦We have seen an increase, as evident in such places as ranges that are swamped. I ♦m OK with that and people ♦s Second Amendment rights, but people need to know how to use and take care of a weapon. ♦)

Have there been any alerts on possible domestic terrorism? (♦It ♦s a concern, especially since it ♦s been a long time since our country ♦s been tested? ♦)

News notes:

Bob said that the new Rotakids gardening project at the YMCA has been put on hold, as staffing at the Y is currently thin, leaving the garden area closed, possibly until November.

Gary reminded us of the District RLI training session in Port Charlotte this coming Saturday. Dick noted that the Club will reimburse those who attend, as long as they have their receipts!

Janet showed off the Rotary End Polio Now coin ♦ available for \$100. Checks payable to the Rotary International Foundation, with memo of ♦End Polio Now ♦. Gary said a \$100 donation will mean vaccines to 33 kids, with double matching through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Happy/Sad Dollars:

Sgt. At Arms Mike P. assessed \$5 to Bob for answering a phone call (and during the speaker!); he showed how to slap a glitzy photo up in Zoom to hide behind.

Janet willingly took on a \$5 fine in order to hype the Pleasantville, NY Club ♦s Big Game Raffle.

Mike P. laid down five sad dollars, relating the tale of an involved effort to renew his driver ♦s license, and leading to a snarly license photo.

Art had a happy dollar in celebration of his grandson ♦s two broken arms healing so that the casts came off!

Lin ♦s happy dollar was in celebration of her visit to the cardiologist, who declared no permanent damage from her recent heart attack.

Steve held up a happy \$20 bill, for five wheelchairs delivered by the Rotary Wheelchair Foundation to Ecuador. He also told of several laptops sent to Ecuador.

Dick joined with news of \$100, for wheelchairs to Belize, in concert with a banker at SunTrust that he and Steve were dealing with and just happed to mention the program to.

As the meeting came to a close, Gary noted that Don C. is finally back in SW Florida!

Lin led us in the 4 Four-Way Test, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Minutes submitted by John Wharton - Thanks John for a great job filling in for Dee