

Speakers

**February
27, 2024**

CLUB

ASSEMBLY

Get to know

Fellow

Rotarians

and Club

functions.

**March 12,
2024**

Ashley Miller

Lakeland

Symphony

Orchestra

**March 19,
2024**

Irma Cole

and Rotary

Mission Trip

Team

Rotarians

Doing Good

in Honduras

**March 26,
2024**

Andrew

Jenkins

The Way It

Was - panel

discussion

about

experiences

when public

schools are

integrated.

Birthdays

Julie

O'Rourke

Townsend

March 17th

William

Boynton

Wynn Mr

March 22nd

Years of Service

Janice

Tedder

Jones

11-16-2010

14 Years

Vincent G.

Jones

11-16-2010

14 Years

Club Meeting

Lakeland

Meets at First United Methodist Church

72 Lake Morton Drive

Lakeland, FL 33801

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM

Weekly Meeting, February 20, 2024

President Julie Townsend called the meeting to order. **Scott LaRonde** then led the invocation, pledge, and Four-Way Test.

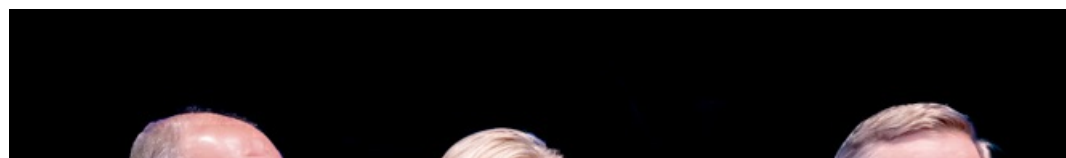
Tammi Crotteau introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians. Happy Dollars were collected by **Dawn Lyons**. **Mike Loudon** led us in singing "You Are My Sunshine."

Reba Coil began announcements by mentioning that we are participating in the Southwest Middle School ribbon cutting event on March 4th. Additionally, we watched a Spring Obsession preview video made by students at Southwest Elementary School. They will be participating in Spring Obsession. We also have a Trivia Night coming up on March 21st at the Back Nine!



Jessica Kirby reminded everyone about Spring Obsession coming up on March 9th "we need "bubbles" donations for mimosas. Please consider donating. **President Julie** reminded everyone to keep **Scott Folsom** in your thoughts and prayers "he has leukemia. Please consider donating funds to assist his family in traveling in to see him.

Melody Rider introduced our speaker for the day, Fred Heid. Fred is the Polk County School District Superintendent.



Tracy
Yvonne
Kimbrough
11-08-2011
13 Years

Kathryn
Dhue Abels
11-08-2011
13 Years

Larry Stahl
11-03-2015
9 Years

Jason
Wyatt
11-03-2015
9 Years

Kathy
McGee
11-03-2015
9 Years

Cory
Neupauer
11-15-2016
8 Years

Amanda
Walls
11-15-2016
8 Years

Karen
Moore
11-09-2017
7 Years

Tammi
Crotteau
11-09-2017
7 Years

Lori
Winstead
11-09-2017
7 Years

William Roll
11-03-2019
5 Years

Brenda
Ramirez
11-03-2019
5 Years

Mark Davies
11-03-2019
5 Years

Jennifer
Swenson
11-14-2019
5 Years

Tyler Davis
11-14-2019
5 Years

Caleb
Douglas
Bloodworth
11-14-2019
5 Years

Mark Creech
11-10-2022
2 Years

Linda
Roddenbery
11-10-2022
2 Years



Fred began by mentioning that Florida has a new assessment program - they test kids 3x/yr. There are students who are behind, but are "closing the gap". Fred mentioned that they have tripled the number of A graded schools and doubled the number of B schools. Polk County had 45 level D schools when he began and now have 9 level D schools. Fred reiterated that we are moving in the right direction as a county. In 2020-2021, we had 9 F rated schools and we now have 0. We are a C rated school district and are only 3% away from being a B rated school system.



Fred mentioned that leadership matters and Fred really cares about having the right people in the right roles. He also discussed the growth in the district - 7,200 increase in students from last year which is roughly 4 high school campuses. They are projected to have 127,500 students next year in the school system.





Thank you, Fred, for your work to improve education in Polk County and for speaking to our club.

President Julie concluded the meeting with her "paraphrase of the week" "the only thing that interferes with my learning is my education" -Einstein.

District Announcements



The Lakeland Rotary Club has forged a relationship with the Rotary Club of La Paz Honduras and Honduras Compassion Partners (HCP). HCP was formally established in 2014 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission of helping the poor and underprivileged of Honduras become self-sufficient. Their mission is to transform the city of La Paz. In La Paz, many people have limited access to education, clean water, and sanitized restrooms.

- 80% of the people of La Paz do not have access to clean water
- 50% of the people of La Paz do not have access to a sanitary bathroom
- the poor have limited access to education

HCP works to fill these needs by organizing short term mission teams who:

- Install clean water filter systems, toilets, wells, and houses.
- Equip medical clinics and provide medical and dental brigades
- Equip and train local firefighters & EMS personnel
- Serve in their International Training Center which teaches people how to be self-sufficient
- Build relationships with families
- Feed the hungry

The Lakeland Rotary Club is excited to be one of these short term mission teams. Our first trip was January 21 - 28, 2023. We had a team of 13 Rotarians and non-Rotarians, which included 3 families, and friends of Rotary. We had an age range of 15 - 79! It was an amazing week that impacted lives of the people in La Paz as well as our team members.

Our second mission trip was last week, February 17-24, 2024. We had a team of 14 - 8 from our club (5 repeaters!), 3 Rotarians from 3 other clubs, and 3 friends of Rotary. Once again, it was a week filled with magical experiences for all team members. They will join us here on March 19th to tell you all about it. Please be sure to attend our meeting that day. BONUS- Jonathan Zelaya, president of HCP Honduras will be here as well!

Also, please consider going on our next trip to La Paz June 29th to July 6th of this year. Register online at: <https://www.hondurascompassion.org/teams/important-forms/apply/>

When selecting the team, be sure to choose **Lakeland Rotary Team #2!** Cost is \$800 plus airfare which is yet to be determined, but this time it was \$495 R/T. A \$250 deposit with your application is required. Talk to Irma with any questions. irmacole26@gmail.com

Events

March 9th

SPRING OBSESSION

March 12th

The Lakeland Rotary Club Board of Directors Meeting

Club Leaders

Julie O'Rourke Townsend

President

Marsha Leap

President-Elect

Amanda Walls

iPast President

Jason Wyatt

Secretary

Blair Nolen Allen

Club Director

Irma Cole

Club Director

Tyler Davis

Bulletin Editor

Brenden A. Hahn

Treasurer

Josie Renee Hill

Club Director

Michael Huff

Club Director

John Loute

Club Director

Carol J. Wallace

Club Director

Fred A. Oeters

Sergeant-at-Arms

Stephanie Colon

Membership Chair

Ron Denney

Rotary Foundation Chair
