

## Speakers Club Meeting

**April 16,  
2024**

President's  
Roundtable  
Awards

**April 23,  
2024**

Scholarship  
Program

**April 30,  
2024**

Don  
Selvage

A Tour of  
Presidential  
Libraries

**May 07,  
2024**

Member  
Profiles

## Birthdays

Trey Harden

April 16th

Bob

Eckenroth

April 21st

Stephanie

Colon

April 22nd

Larry Stahl

April 23rd

Caleb

Douglas

Bloodworth

April 25th

Lawrence

Allen Rankin

April 26th

Jennifer L

Douglas

April 27th

Brenda

Ramirez

April 28th

Marlon D.

Lynn

May 9th

Scott Katz

May 16th

## Years of Service

Janice

Tedder

Jones

11-16-2010

14 Years

Lakeland  
Meets at First United Methodist Church  
72 Lake Morton Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM

## Weekly Meeting, April 9, 2024

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

**Carol Catanzarite** introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians. Happy Dollars were collected by **Melody Rider**.

**Marsha Leap** mentioned the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leader's program this summer at FSC. We need to send two rising seniors to this program. Please let Marsha know if you have any potential candidates.

**Reba Coil** mentioned the upcoming Bingo Night on April 23 at The Back Nine. Additionally, coming up soon is commitment day for Polk county seniors - if you're interested in supporting any of the seniors, please contact Reba. They need supplies.



**Karen Warren** introduced speaker for today - Kevin Cook who is the Director of Communication for the City of Lakeland. He's been here for over 30 years and oversees PR, marketing, internal communication & external communication.



Vincent G. Jones  
11-16-2010  
14 Years

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

Lori Winstead  
11-09-2017  
7 Years

Karen Moore  
11-09-2017  
7 Years

Tammi Crotteau  
11-09-2017  
7 Years

Mark Davies  
11-03-2019  
5 Years

Brenda Ramirez  
11-03-2019  
5 Years

William Roll  
11-03-2019  
5 Years

Tyler Davis  
11-14-2019  
5 Years

Caleb Douglas Bloodworth  
11-14-2019  
5 Years

Jennifer Swenson  
11-14-2019  
5 Years

Mark Creech  
11-10-2022  
2 Years



Kevin's presentation focused on the Lakeland swans. By 1926, Lakeland had a swan population of 20 and Lakeland had a swan department. In the 1929's Lakeland had swans in almost every lake. However, they were the target of prays & by 1954, the last swan passed away and the city was swan-less.

A Lakeland resident living in Europe as a result of the war, sent a letter to Queen Elizabeth II. She responded to the request by donating a pair of swans to the city. Lakeland received two swans of the royal flock for a total of \$300 which included permits, transportation, etc.



The city struggled to raise the funds and an anonymous donor donated the \$300. There was an Oil spill which impacted the swans and it took five months to restore them to good health.

The Lakeland ledger followed this story. They hosted a "name the swan" contest and held a big welcoming event for the swans.

The next day, only the female swan could be found. The search began for the male swan who was found a few days later. Something happened to the male bird and was fatally injured. The city then had to search for a mate for the female. She selected a "commoner" as her mate (not a royal swan).

WG Gardner was the original swan vet who began caring them in the 1950's. The swan round up began in 1980 so the birds can be looked into, cared for, and tracked. It's a two day event and takes place in October. During the last swan round up, Lakeland had 50 swans (27 mute, 17 Australian black swan, 5 Merle, and 1 black neck swan).

Thank you Kevin, for speaking to our club!





Linda  
Roddenbery  
11-10-2022  
2 Years



## Swan Population During Roundup

- Mute Swan = 27
- Australian Black Swan = 17
- Merle = 5
- Black Neck Swan = 1



## District Announcements

ROTARY DISTRICT 6890 NEWS - April 9, 2024

Rotary District 6890  
Bring your club team to  
**District Learning Assembly**  
**Roadmap to Irresistible**  
9 am - 2pm  
Saturday  
April 20  
THE MAGIC OF ROTARY  
Grow & Market Your Impact  
Digital Media Specialists  
Brittany Rohr & Craig Wallace  
Membership Foundation  
Public Image  
Special sessions for secretaries treasurers  
After Assembly Opportunities  
• Plant Flowers at Rec Center  
• Visit Bok Tower Gardens (boktower.org)  
Lake Wales Family Recreation Center: 1001 Burns Avenue Lake Wales  
Space Limited Register at DACdb

Rotarians from throughout our four-county area will gather on Saturday, April 20 for the 2024 **District Learning Assembly**. The free event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lake Wales Family Recreation Center, 1001 Burns Ave., in Lake Wales. Check-in, coffee and networking starts at 9 a.m.

All District 6890 Rotarians are invited, and Clubs are encouraged to bring teams to work together on plans for the 2024-25 Rotary year. Rotarians and digital media specialists Brittany Rohr and Craig Wallace from Sarasota will make a special presentation to help clubs “Grow and Market Impact.” Breakout sessions will be offered for club secretaries, treasurers and presidents-elect along with those leading club foundation, membership, public image and youth services initiatives.

After the event, attendees will be invited to help with a service project, planting a small Rotary garden with plants to attract yellow and blue butterflies at the rec center. Free passes will be distributed to visit Bok Tower Gardens, which is about two miles from the assembly site. (boktower.org)

Space is limited so interested persons should register right away on DACdb. Registration closes on April 13 to allow for an accurate lunch count. For more information, email District Governor Elect Chevon Baccus at [rotarychevon@aol.com](mailto:rotarychevon@aol.com) or call 863-651-1065.

Have you checked out **Rotary Direct** yet? It really is easy to enroll! Go to: <https://my.rotary.org/en/rotary-direct> There are lots of reasons to give to The Rotary Foundation. What motivates you? <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>

FishHawk-Riverview Rotary Club presents the 14th Annual Crawfish Festival - Saturday April 13, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Winthrop Commons, 11289 Winthrop Main St, Riverview, FL 33578

Sign up for our next **Rotary Honduras Mission Trip** at:

<https://www.hondurascompassion.org/teams/important-forms/apply/> A non-refundable \$250 deposit is required. Dates are Saturday June 29th to Saturday July 6th. Rotarians and friends age 10 and up are invited to come to La Paz, Honduras and work on projects with Honduras Compassion Partners staff, volunteers, and local Rotarians to help the people of La Paz become self-sufficient. You will impact lives of the people there as well as your own. You will build relationships, change your perspective, and change your life!

**Rotary District 6890 Annual Installation For 2024-2025 District Governor Chevon Baccus** - Wednesday, June 26th here in Lakeland at the Magnolia Room. Let's show up and support our incoming District Leadership team including members of TLRC - Marsha Leap, Karen Warren, Stacy Campbell-Dominick, Mark Scolnick, Irma Cole, and Carol Wallace.

**District Conference** is June 8th at Camp Florida in Brandon. This will be a one day family friendly event. sign up via Ignite App.

Contact [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com) for more information about items mentioned in our Weekly News Updates

## Events

April 23rd

**BINGO - Lakeland Fellowship Event**

May 14th

**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

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