

# Rotary

## Club of Fort Lauderdale



[The Rotary Tarpon](#)

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Sunday, April 19, 2026

## Board Meeting



**APRIL 20, 2026**  
5:30 p.m.

Henderson Behavioral Health Center  
330 SW 27 Ave., 3rd Floor Conference Room  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

All members are welcome to attend.

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## Rotary Weekly Meeting

**Rotary Weekly Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 12:15 pm

[RSVP](#)

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

Rotary 

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## Club Meeting

Fort Lauderdale  
Meets at Café Vico  
1125 N. Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
Time: Wednesday at 12:15  
PM

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## Events

April 1st  
[Rotary Cares Collection Drive](#)

April 20th  
[Club Board of Directors Meeting](#)

April 22nd  
[Rotary Weekly Meeting - Speaker Doug McCraw](#)  
**Speaker:** Doug McCraw, African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC)

April 25th  
[Rotary Club Community Service Day](#)

April 29th  
[Rotary Weekly Meeting - Monthly Social](#)  
**Speaker:** TBA

May 6th  
[Rotary Weekly Meeting - Business Meeting](#)  
**Speaker:** Business Meeting



**Speaker: Doug McCraw**  
**African American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC)**

We meet at Cafe Vico, 1125 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale.

Join us at Noon; the meeting will begin at 12:15 pm.  
Email [rotaryftlaud@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryftlaud@gmail.com) with questions.

[Read More](#)

**Pay Membership Dues 2025-26**

Saturday, April 4, 2026



Please check your email for your quarterly dues statement.

*Zeffy's 100% free platform for nonprofits allows us to fundraise at no cost. They are entirely funded by voluntary contributions, and an amount will be suggested to you before you complete your payment.*

May 13th  
[Rotary Weekly Meeting - Speaker Mayor Trantalis](#)  
Speaker: Mayor Dean Trantalis  
May 18th  
[Club Board of Directors Meeting](#)

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**Birthdays**

Jerry Rosenthal  
April 20th

Carol Koepke  
April 20th

Robert M. Rodriguez  
April 22nd

**Years of Service**

Dirk Basting  
04-24-2006

**You can always change the amount to one of your choice (or "0") by selecting "Other" in the dropdown menu.**

20 Years

**[Pay Membership Dues](#)**

Summary

Order	\$300.00
1x Regular Membership	\$300.00

Help keep Zeffy free for Rotary International Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club ❤️ (optional)

Your generosity allows Rotary International Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club to use Zeffy's 100% free fundraising and emailing platform with unlimited support, making your impact even stronger.

Learn more

Contribution

Total	USD 300.00
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Payment method

Or you may choose to pay Membership Dues using Zelle:

## Send Money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay

### Rotary Club Of Fort Lauderdale



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## Last Meeting of the Month Social

# APRIL SOCIAL

**April 29, 2026  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**



**452 N. Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301**

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## **April Service Opportunities – Rotary Cares**

### **You're Invited to Join Us This April – Rotary Cares in Action**

Throughout the month of April, the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale is coming together to uplift our neighbors, support families in need, and strengthen our community through hands-on service. We invite you, your family, your business, and your organization to participate in any—or all—of the meaningful opportunities below. Every act of service, no matter the size, helps create a more compassionate and connected Fort Lauderdale.

### **April Service Opportunities – Rotary Cares**

#### **April 1–24: Rotary Cares Collection Drive**

Every day, hundreds of our neighbors face the realities of extreme poverty and homelessness. Throughout April, we are supporting Fort Lauderdale nonprofits by collecting essential hygiene items to assemble care packages. These packages will be distributed at Rock Island Elementary School during the first week of April (time TBD) and again at the Rotary Cares Event on April 25 at J. Carter Park.

Your generosity helps provide dignity, safety, and basic comfort to families who need it most.

#### **Ways You Can Get Involved**

1. Organize a personal or group collection drive for new or gently used items.
2. Create your own Amazon Wishlist and purchase essential supplies directly.
3. Host a collection drop-off site at your workplace or organization.
4. Drop off donated hygiene items at designated collection points.

For more information, contact Jorg Hruschka at [Jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:Jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov).

#### **April 10 | 8:00 – 10:00 AM Real Men Read**

Dillard Elementary School is hosting their third Real Men Read event and is looking for male role models to read to their scholars. To register, contact Anyia Nesbeth at [anyia.nesbeth@browardschools.com](mailto:anyia.nesbeth@browardschools.com) or 954-554-3502. The school is located at 2330 NW 12 Ct, Fort Lauderdale 33311, and the students will put a smile on your face!

**April 14 | 6:30–7:30 PM**

### **Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Preparation**

RSVP required

Join us **every third Tuesday** as we spread kindness—one PBJ sandwich at a time. Volunteers gather at the Edgewood Clubhouse (1790 SW 32 St) to prepare meals for neighbors experiencing hunger.

Sandwiches are delivered Wednesday morning to partner organizations like Community Court and/or the Rotary Connection Bus serving individuals and families facing homelessness. It's a simple act with a meaningful impact.

For more information, contact Jorg Hruschka at [Jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:Jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov).

**April 15 | 2:00 – 4:00 PM**

### **Comfort Item Purchases to Support the Donation Drive**

Help us complement our hygiene collection by purchasing comfort items that will be added to the care packages. These small touches—socks, wipes, snacks, and more—go a long way in supporting families in crisis.

For more information, contact Jorg Hruschka at [Jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:Jhruschka@fortlauderdale.gov)

**April 25:**

### **Rotary Club Community Service Day as part of Fort Lauderdale Cares Day**

The Rotary Club will join the City of Fort Lauderdale's 13th Annual Cares Day, supporting two meaningful service projects. Family members and partner clubs are welcome to participate. Please share with everyone who might be interested. The more, the merrier.

#### **1. Power of One Hour – Street Cleanup**

This year, the Rotary Club continues its decade-long commitment to cleaning SW 11th Avenue, from Broward Blvd. to the swing bridge. Please participate responsibly, especially if you have allergies or special needs. Suggested volunteer guidelines:

Meeting Place: Fire Museum, 1022 W. Las Olas Blvd.

Time: 9:00–10:00 AM

Contact: Gabe Bodnar – [gaborbodnar15@gmail.com](mailto:gaborbodnar15@gmail.com)

Suggested Volunteer Guidelines:

Wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing you don't mind getting dirty.

Because this is an outdoor activity, we recommend a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and plenty of water and snacks.

All tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own gloves or protective gear.

#### **2. Rotary Cares Resource Event**

##### **Invitation-only event**

The Club is working with City park managers in underserved neighborhoods who are identifying homeless families who are known to rely on their facilities. Care packages assembled throughout April will be distributed during this event to select families.

Meeting Place: J.C. Carter Park Community Center, 1450 W. Sunrise Blvd.

Time: 9:00–10:00 AM

Contact: [Jhuschka@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:Jhuschka@fortlauderdale.gov)

[Read More](#)

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## Rotary Weekly Meeting

**Rotary Weekly Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 12:15 pm

[RSVP](#)



**Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis**

We meet at Cafe Vico, 1125 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale.

Join us at Noon; the meeting will begin at 12:15 pm.  
Email [rotaryftlaud@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryftlaud@gmail.com) with questions.

[Read More](#)

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## New Member Resources

### NEW MEMBER RESOURCES

Welcome to Rotary!

Rotary is proud to welcome you to our global community of more than 1.2 million Rotary and Rotaract members dedicated to building a better world.

You make Rotary stronger. By adding your skills, experience, and enthusiasm to your club, you can advance communities at home and on a global scale. Together, we can eradicate polio, train more skilled peacemakers, and provide lasting solutions for communities fighting disease, hunger, illiteracy, and poverty.

Through the Rotary community, you can exchange ideas and build lifelong friendships with people who share your passion for service. Take advantage of the resources and activities available through your club, district, and Rotary International to make your experience with Rotary both rewarding and fun.

## How do I start?

There are many ways to make the most out of your [Rotary experience](#).

Get started today:

- Sign up for a My Rotary account to access the [benefits of Rotary](#)
- Learn about Rotary and The Rotary Foundation in [Rotary Basics](#)
- Take a course in the [Learning Center](#)
- Serve on a club committee where you can use your skills
- Identify a need in your community and suggest a hands-on project to address it
- Work with a youth service program sponsored by your club, such as [Interact](#) or [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#) (RYLA)
- Recommend a colleague or friend for membership in your club

## How can I meet other members?

Rotary's global network provides a great opportunity to expand your contacts and friendships to other countries while creating a foundation of support with communities around the world.

Consider these opportunities:

- Visit [another club](#)
- Connect with members around the world who share your [hobbies and personal interests](#) or your [expertise](#) and make a difference in projects outside your club or district
- Participate in a [Rotary Friendship Exchange](#)
- Attend the [Rotary International Convention](#)

## Stay Connected — Join Our Rotary Club WhatsApp Group!

Rotary has always been about connections — connections to service, to our community, and to each other. In today's world, staying connected has never been easier, but it does require trying something new from time to time.

That's why The Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale invites all members, especially those of us from the Baby Boomer generation, to join our club's official WhatsApp Group. Think of it as the digital version of gathering around the lunch table — friendly, informal, and a great way to stay in touch between meetings.

## Why consider joining?

- **Stay in the Loop:** Receive timely updates, reminders, and news from fellow Rotarians — all in one easy-to-use app.
- **Foster Friendships:** Share photos, celebrate milestones, and enjoy light conversation beyond the weekly meetings.
- **It's Simple:** If you can send a text message, you can use WhatsApp. No technical expertise required.
- **Privacy is Protected:** Only club members are included. It's a closed group

meant just for us.

Rotary is built on relationships, and this is simply another tool to help strengthen the bonds we've already built. Whether you're snowbirding, traveling, or just busy with life, WhatsApp keeps you part of the conversation.

### Ready to give it a try?

Click the links below to join or reach out to [Barbara Sanchez](#) or [Carol Koepke](#) for help getting set up. You'll be surprised how easy — and enjoyable — it is.

**Let's keep Rotary strong, connected, and moving forward — together.**

### Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale WhatsApp Community

[Rotary Fort Lauderdale Members](#) - chat group

[Rotary Moments Gallery](#) - Please share your photos from projects, socials, meetings, or other Rotary events here.

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook Business Page - <https://www.facebook.com/rotaryfortlauderdale>
- Facebook Members Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/173995709341224>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/rotarycluboffortlauderdale/>
- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/rotaryfortlauderdale>

### Where do I go for help?

Want to learn more? Talk to your club members or committees, and if we can help, let us know. Email the Rotary [Support Center](#).

<https://my.rotary.org/en/knowledge-and-resources/resources-and-reference/resources-by-role/new-member>

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## New Mobile App - IGNITE



### Stay Connected with the New IGNITE App!

Great news — the new IGNITE App is here! It's a simple, fun way to stay up to date with everything happening in Rotary. You can check upcoming events, see what other clubs are doing, and connect with members — all right from your phone.

Here's how to get started:

For iPhone users:

1. Open the App Store.
2. Search for "IGNITE App" (look for the Rotary flame logo).
3. Tap Get to download, then open it once it's installed.
4. Sign in with your Rotary email or follow the quick setup steps.

For Android users:

1. Open the Google Play Store.
2. Search for "IGNITE App."
3. Tap Install, then open it after it downloads.
4. Log in or create your account — it only takes a minute!

A few quick tips:

- Turn on notifications so you don't miss important updates or meeting reminders.
  - Add a photo and update your profile so fellow Rotarians can recognize you.
  - Explore the menus — you'll find lots of useful tools and ways to connect.
- The IGNITE App is designed to make Rotary engagement easier (and a bit more fun). Give it a try today and stay connected wherever you are!

The graphic features the DACdb logo at the top left. The main title is "IGNITE Mobile App". Below the title are four blue horizontal bars with white text and icons: "COMMUNICATE WITH PUSH NOTIFICATIONS" (with a notification bell icon), "ADD VOLUNTEER EVENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR" (with a calendar icon), "PAY INVOICES ON YOUR PHONE" (with a document and dollar sign icon), and "LOG SERVICE HOURS WITH A CLICK OF A BUTTON" (with a 24-hour clock icon). At the bottom, there are two QR codes labeled "APPLE" and "ANDROID". To the right is a smartphone mockup showing the app's interface with a user profile, a message notification, and a grid of icons for "Prospective Members", "My Service Hours", "Messages", "Calendar", "Upload Service Selfies", "Find Club Members", "Pay", and "Foundation".

### What is the **IGNITE App**?

The Ignite App is a mobile app for smartphones and tablets designed by DACdb. This app takes the most common tools and features from DACdb and makes them easier and more convenient to use from your mobile device. Whether you love or loath DACdb, you're sure to find their new Ignite App to be both clean and simple to use. The screens are clutter-free making it effortless to find exactly what you need.

### How to **Download** the **IGNITE App**:



1. Open up the App Store (Apple) or Google Play Store (Android) on your device.
2. Enter "Ignite" in the search bar.
3. Scroll down until you find the IGNITE app and click on the red fire icon.
4. Download the app by clicking the "Get" or "Install" button.

### **Sign in** to the **IGNITE App**:

Simply enter your DACdb login credentials.

*Remember, IGNITE is powered by (and is effectively just a better version of) DACdb.*

- Username: This is your email address (the one you received this message on)
- Password: If you don't remember your DACdb password you can reset it by going to [www.DACdb.com](http://www.DACdb.com) and click "Forgot/Reset Password?"

### **IGNITE App Features!**

- Log service hours in seconds from anywhere
- View club calendar
- Look-up, call, text, or email club members directly
- Send messages within the app to club members (like Facebook Messenger)
- Check your foundation points (Paul Harris Fellow)
- Donate directly and securely to Rotary Foundation
- Share photos with our Public Image Committee to use on social media/website
- Add prospective members
- Pay dues (not available at this time)

#### THE FOUR-WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY, OR DO:

1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned? 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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## Rotary Connection Wish List



At the October 1st meeting, Gwynne shared about the Rotary Connection and the ongoing needs of the individuals who rely on the bus services. If you'd like to support this effort, you can contribute by purchasing items from the Amazon wishlist linked below.

All donations will be shipped directly to Rick Riccardi at Fellowship Recovery. Whether you're able to give a little or a lot, every contribution makes a meaningful difference.

[Click here to view the wishlist and help support the Rotary Connection.](#)

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## Photo Release for Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale

To share the spirit of Rotary with our community, the Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale may use photographs of members and guests taken at meetings, socials, and volunteer events in publications and on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube. If you prefer not to have your image used, please notify the [Club Executive Secretary](#) or Club President.

Thank you!

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## Donate Your Happy Dollars

# Happy Dollars



Happy Dollars support special projects, club operations, and other important expenses.  
Feeling happy? Share the joy—make a contribution today!

[Click here to Donate](#)

Thank you!!

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## Club Leaders



[Jeffrey Michael Shaffner](#)  
President



[Gabor Bodnar](#)  
Vice President  
President-Elect  
Vice President  
President-Elect



[John Aquino](#)  
Club Director  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair  
Club Young  
Leaders Contact  
Youth Exchange  
Offic  
Youth Services  
Chair



[James J Grant](#)  
Treasurer



[Susan Clark Shaffner](#)  
Club Administrator



[Gwynne Beatty](#)  
Club Director



[Cynthia Fardella](#)  
Club Director  
Service Projects  
Chair



[Christopher M. Kerlin](#)  
Club Director



[Carol Koepke](#)  
Public Relations  
Chair



[Kristin LaFleur](#)  
Club Director



[Melissa Lane](#)  
President-  
Nominee  
Secretary



[David Sage](#)  
Club Director



[Barbara C. Sanchez](#)  
Club Director  
Club Executive



[Linda M. Cooke](#)  
Membership Chair



[Les R. Campbell](#)  
Youth Services  
Chair



[Jorg Hruschka](#)  
Community Service  
Chair

Secretary  
Webmaster

[Rick Riccardi](#)  
Past President

