

Magical Year in Review



Chevon T. Baccus, APR
2024-25 District Governor

THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY

As I wrap up this incredible year as your District Governor for 2024-25, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve alongside each of you.

The Rotamobile traveled over 12,000 miles—visiting clubs, parades, and events—and every mile was a reminder of the passion and power of Rotary people in action. I'm excited to continue planting peace poles and spearheading other initiatives as the district's 2025-26 peace ambassador. Thanks to your support and a partnership with NS Designs I was thrilled in Calgary to present an electric peace cello to Rotary Peace fellow Diego Carneiro to support his work with Orchestrating Peace. Diego made 2 dozen presentations in our district.



Thanks for the Memories



Welcome
DG Linda



Celebrating D 6890 Rotarians



Because of you, children are healthier, communities are stronger, and our world is more connected through kindness and compassion. I am so very proud to have witnessed all that you've accomplished. And you throw great parties and festivals - celebrating veterans - serving watermelons, blueberries, crawfish, chili, pancakes, and wild game - hosting races and tournaments, all to raise funds to give back to your community and the world.

YOU are the MAGIC of Rotary!



Celebrating the Magic in Margaritaville



DISTRICT 6890 AWARDS 2024–2025

Let's celebrate the outstanding leaders and clubs who made an unforgettable impact:

🏆 Rotarian of the Year

Chad Norgard – Brandon '86 RC

🎯 Club President of the Year

Christopher Stumpf – RC of Auburndale

🌟 Interact Hero Award

AnnMarie Walker – Winter Haven RC

👏 Service Above Self Award Winners

Jamie Adair – RC of Tampa

Irma Cole – RC of Lakeland

Steve Githens – RC of Bartow

Christopher Jones – FishHawk–Riverview RC

Mariah Marvel – Tampa Carrollwood RC

Rick Montney – Winter Haven RC

Kim Tyson – FishHawk–Riverview RC

Bernie Rush – RC of Auburndale

Levi Stovall – Lakeland Sunrise RC

Bill Wicker – Plant City RC

👛 Amazing Assistant Governors

Joanna Allison – Tampa Westchase RC

Angela Cowden – Sebring RC

Connie Huber – Sun City Center RC

Walter Page – Winter Haven RC

Clarice Roth – Bartow RC

Craig Sherman – Highlands County RC

Connie Tritt – Brandon '86 RC

Carol Wallace – RC of Lakeland

Louis McCracken – USF Rotaract

📣 With Thanks Awards

McQueen Small – District Treasurer

LaVaughn Williamson – Magical Minute

Producer

Scott Dudley, PDG – Membership Chair

Ed Odom, PDG – Foundation Chair

Chad Norgard – Public Image Chair

Terri "Awesome" Miller – Chief of Staff

Mike Baccus – Governor's Arm Candy

Tom Wagner, PDG – Mr. Rotary



★ 5-Star Club Status

University of South Florida Rotaract

Florida Polytechnic Rotaract

New Tampa RC

Winter Haven RC

Rotary E-Club of Winter Haven

Tampa Westchase RC

★ 4-Star Club Status

Auburndale RC

Brandon '86 RC

FishHawk–Riverview RC

RC of Hardee County

RC of Highlands County

Lake Placid Noon RC

Lake Wales Breakfast RC

RC of Lakeland

RC of Plant City

RC of Tampa

Rotary on the Ridge

Ybor City RC

🌺 Kitto Rotary Spirit Award

Auburndale Rotary

Avon Park Rotary

Bartow Rotary

E-Club of Winter Haven Rotary

E-Club of Tampa South Rotary

FishHawk–Riverview Rotary

Hardee County Rotary

Lake Placid Noon Rotary

Lake Breakfast Rotary

Rotary Club of Lakeland

Lakeland South Rotary

Lakeland Sunrise Rotary

Lakeland Tigertown Rotary

New Tampa Rotary

Sebring Rotary

Sun City Center Rotary

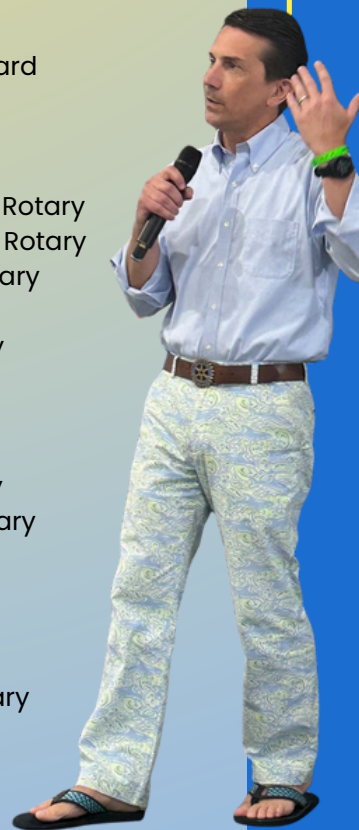
Rotary Club of Tampa

Tampa Westchase Rotary

Rotary on the Ridge

Winter Haven Rotary

Ybor City Rotary



To every club and Rotarian recognized here—thank you. You are the heartbeat of this district. Thank you to the incredible Jen Bricker-Bauer, her husband Dominik for sharing their time, talent, and treasure with us.

Your District. Our Memories.

What a wonderful experience we've had hosting Rotary International Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro, a master cellist from Brazil. Thanks to all who helped schedule more than two dozen local performances where Diego charmed audiences and spoke passionately about Rotary and his mission to promote peace through music. Those of you who heard Diego play were truly blessed, not only by his artistry but by his warmth and joy for life. While Diego was in Florida we planted a peace poles and raised funds to support youth orchestras in Ecuador and Uganda. We received donated instruments for students or refugees. But there are still so many needs. Diego will be returning in September. Reach out if you want to get involved.



100 Years of Service. Congratulations to:
Avon Park, Bartow, Haines City, Sebring Winter Haven

Two New Satellite Clubs Forming



Benham

Rotary International has approved the creation of two new satellite clubs in the district. The Rotary Club of Tampa Carrollwood is realigning with 8 members forming a satellite of Tampa Westchase. Mariah Marvel received a district Service Above Self award for her leadership. Rotary on the Ridge is supporting a new Heartland satellite with 22 members. Jane Benham, who was honored with a Distinguished Service Award from Avon Park Rotary, led recruitment efforts and will chair the new Heartland Rotary on the Ridge.



Marvel

Foundation Giving, Membership Showing Positive Trend

District 6890 Rotarians continue to show their generosity in giving to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Rotary Foundation Chair Ed Odom will be reporting end of year totals, soon and it looks like good news. Ed also ensured that local District Designated Funds got earmarked for local club projects. Two clubs, Lake Wales Breakfast Rotary and Rotary E-Club of Tampa South, received special recognition as 100 percent of their members are now Paul Harris Fellows. Membership has been showing a positive uptick with Tampa Westchase, Winter Haven Rotary and Rotary on the Ridge leading in growth. District Membership Chair Scott Dudley expects to report out some good news depending upon end of year adjustments.

Immediate Past District Governor isn't really retiring. She will be available to assist your clubs, especially with peace initiatives and membership growth. Reach out.

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Stampeding into Calgary

Going global . . .

The energy. The pageantry. The inspiring speakers. All incredible.

But what truly makes a Rotary International Convention special?

The people—friends old and new who become family.

The 2025 Convention in Calgary was a powerful capstone to a year filled with purpose and passion, and a perfect launch into all that lies ahead.



Inducted Before the World!

One of the highlights was welcoming Kashinath Bhoosurmth into the Rotary E-Club of Winter Haven on the Peace Park stage in Calgary. Though he lives in Calgary, Kash connects with our global club family via Zoom. Thank you to Anil Ghai for making the moment possible, and to Tony Sharma for founding this vibrant, international E-Club.



Proud convention moment: As part of the Irresistible class of District Governors DG Chevon led the opening flag ceremony and carried not one, but three flags.



Special Thanks to Newsletter Editor Nich Bique and Magical Minute producer LaVaughn Williamson