



BE THE INSPIRATION

Issue 10 • April 2019

RI President 2018- 2019: Barry Rassin

The District Newsletter



ROTARY DISTRICT 6950 • ZONE 34 • FLORIDA • USA

The Vast and Wonderful World of Rotary

I still remember the day that I became a member of Rotary. Eleven years ago, on my first official day as a Rotarian, I was asked to come up to the lectern at the front of the room and formally introduce myself to the club members. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, Rotary gets you out of your comfort zone. For me, that discomfort started from Day 1.

As is the custom in my Rotary club, new members are asked to say a little bit about themselves, their families, their professions, and maybe talk about why they joined Rotary. For me, talking about my wife and two sons was easy, as was talking about my recent retirement from the Miami-Dade Police Department. But I wasn't quite sure what I was going to say about why I joined Rotary, and what special talents I would bring to the club to make it a better organization. So... I remember saying something like, "I don't know what my purpose in Rotary is going to be, but I'll be glad to help set up tables and

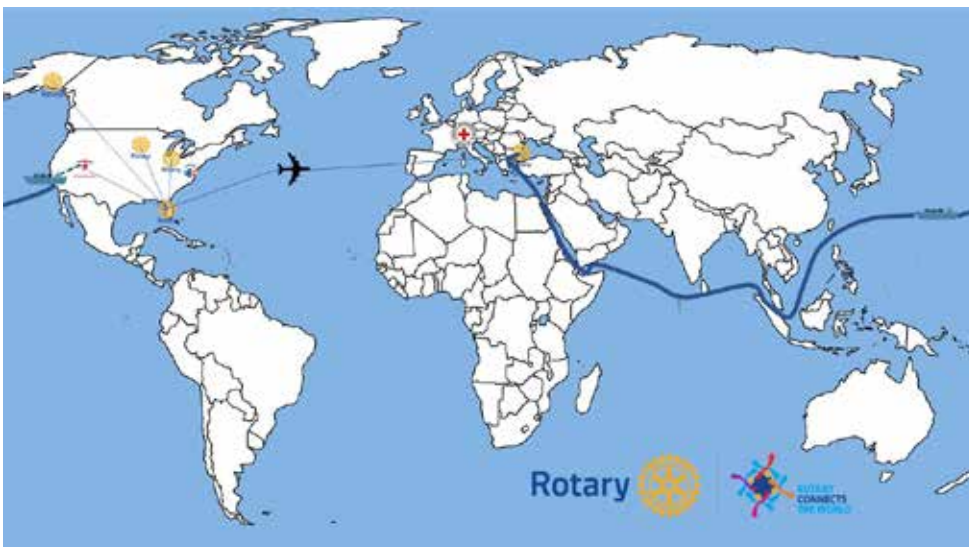
tents, and to pick up the garbage at the end of special events."

Looking back at that statement, I now realize I was a bit naïve at the time, but that's OK because all new Rotarians go through a process of learning more about Rotary, and finding out where they will fit in. I had no way of knowing at the time, what a wild ride I was about to go on.

How Does a Young Lady's Story, Plus \$500 = \$400,000 in Medical Supplies?

It wasn't long after I joined the Rotary Club of Inverness that I started to understand the depth and the breadth of Rotary. My first lesson came only a month after I became a member. My good friend Doug Lobel asked me if I could help write a Rotary International Global Grant to help a dilapidated hospital in a town called Sredetz, in the Eastern European nation of Bulgaria. A year earlier, Doug's daughter, Courtney Lobel had sustained a laceration injury while working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bulgaria. Courtney was taken to the hospital in Sredetz to get stitched up, but when she got there, she was overwhelmed by the deplorable conditions that the patients had to endure. The hospital lacked beds and the most basic supplies, such as bandages, syringes, and disinfectants. Most of the hos-

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pital's surgical tools were rusted and had to be reused under unsanitary conditions, thereby exposing patients to bacterial infections. Courtney described the hellish conditions at the hospital to her father and asked, "Dad, what can we do to help these people?"

That request from a daughter to her father was the beginning of a remarkable project. Being the good father and Rotarian that he is, Doug started out by convincing a not-for-profit organization named Project C.U.R.E. to commit to the delivery of \$400,000 worth of medical supplies to the hospital in Sredets. The catch was that we had to come up with \$20,000 to pay for the overseas shipment of the large container in which the medical supplies would be sent in.

Doug started out on his quest to raise the \$20,000 by asking our club for \$500 in seed money, and then somehow, he was able to convince a Rotary club in Alaska, for \$4,000, and another in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to join the project by each giving a \$500 donation. Doug also got the Rotary Club of Burgas-Pyrgos (Bulgaria) to agree to be the "host club" for the project and to contribute \$100 out of their coffers.

No sooner that I had become a Rotarian, Doug asked me for help to write a grant request, and I gladly obliged. In my previous profession, I had written several successful grant applications to get bomb suits, explosive detection robots, radiation detectors, and armored SWAT vehicles, just to name a few. Of course, I don't think that our success at grant writing at Miami-Dade Police had much to do with my writing skills, as it did with working to protect a large Urban Area Security Initiative population area such as Miami-Dade after the September 11 terror attacks. In 2001, many agencies of the Federal Government were falling over themselves try-

ing to give out money and supplies to local agencies in order to beef up our response to terrorist incidents. But now, I was being asked to write a very different type of grant application. I thought it would be a cool thing to do, so I agreed to go along and be a small part of something very big. It wasn't like setting up tables and tents or throwing out the garbage at the end of a Rotary event, but I figured I would help in any way I could.

In my first month as a Rotarian, I was thrown into the deep end of the pool, and I had to quickly learn about Rotary's inner workings. I started out by asking for help from some senior Rotarians who had previously written Global grants (using the old system). The late Paul Slosberg was a great help in guiding me through the

process. He was a great source of information and a true mentor for me. The result was a matching grant from District 6950, and yet another matching grant from Rotary International that combined to bring the total to the \$20,000 that we needed to pay for the shipping charges from a port in Long Beach, California, to the port in Burgas-Pyrgos, and then by land to Sredets.

I spent the next couple of months talking on the phone with Rotarians from

the Burgas-Pyrgos club, a doctor from Project C.U.R.E, representatives from the Peace Corps, and the International Red Cross, in order to get all these moving parts to work in unison. I made timelines and flowcharts illustrating significant milestones to try to make simple sense out of the complexity. We needed to make sure that once the fully loaded cargo container arrived at the port in Bulgaria, that all the supplies would get to the intended recipients. That is why it was so important to have "boots on the ground" from the Peace Corps, the International Red Cross, and local Rotarians in Bulgaria,

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Courtney Lobel speaking with a nurse, as Rotarians and Red Cross volunteers unload hospital supplies in Sredets Bulgaria.

to make sure that no security seals were broken on the container, and that none of the supplies would be pilfered along the way.

Less than a year after we started the grant-writing process, the container arrived at the port in Burgas-Pyrgos, after a one-month journey across the Pacific and Indian Oceans, up through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. The final leg of the journey to the inland village of Sredets was accompanied all the way by Rotarians. Our Inverness Rotary club paid the airfare for Courtney Lobel to be there to witness it happening, and to help unload the supplies into the hospital. The shipment of hospital beds, bandages, syringes, surgical instruments, disinfectants, and much more arrived at its intended location with no sign of tampering or pilfering by longshoremen.

The project that I just described was my baptism into Rotary. It didn't take me long to realize the global reach that Rotary has. There are an estimated 7.5 billion people on Earth, and 1.2 million of them are Rotarians. Rotary serves as the banner under which a tiny proportion of the population can accomplish extraordinary things. I don't know of any other organization that can connect people from all over the world to work together to get things done like Rotary does. And all this is possible because of our high ethical standards that make us a trusted name brand throughout the world. Rotarians are People of Action.

Rotary's new vision statement: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

I'm a New Rotarian, Where Do I Fit In?

It has been my experience that oftentimes, you don't find your purpose in life... the purpose finds you. At least for me, that's how it has turned out. When I was a kid, I thought I would be an astronomer or perhaps an archeologist when I grew up. I never ever thought I would be a police officer. Yet, I became one, and had a meaningful and satisfying 26-year career. Later on, I never imagined myself becoming a college profes-

or, and certainly, I never thought I would join a Rotary club. The thought of going to lunch meetings and shaking hands with strangers, and making small talk was not something that appealed to me. Yet, here I am. Eleven years later, and as District Governor, I'm shaking a lot of hands, and handing out awards, and taking a lot of pictures. More importantly, I'm actually enjoying all these things. Being a Rotarian has allowed me the privilege of meeting some of the most remarkable people that I've ever met, and I now have many friends from all over the United States and the world.

For those of you reading this article who are new to Rotary, and still don't know exactly how you will fit in, I hope that by sharing the story of my first month as a Rotarian will help you to find a role in your new clubs. I can say that for me, there is no greater intrinsic satisfaction than to be a small part of something much bigger than oneself. I hope that you will all find where it is that you belong... or better yet, that it finds you.



Eloy Nuñez
District Governor



Attending PETS were the Presidents Elect from six Rotary clubs. Left to right Rick Wright Seven Springs, Mark Shelton Port Richey, Frankie Roman Sunset Club, Lisa Shippy - Gonzalez ADG, Stefanie Pontlitz Trinity and President elect, Derek Pontlitz.

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District Calendar

April 6th - 8 am**Rotary Runs the Beach 5K & 1Mile**

Rotary of Indian Rocks Beach presents the 2nd annual Rotary Runs the Beach - 5K run and 1 mile run/walk sponsored by The Original Crabby Bill's.

April 6th, 2019 at 8am on the beach at the beach access at 1700 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach. Join us for the after party at The Original Crabby Bill's restaurant in Indian Rocks Beach. Any questions about this race or sponsorship, please contact the race director at rotaryrunsthebeach@gmail.com

April 6th - 9 am**The Grove Planting**

Rotary Clubs of Citrus County Matrix Project for the next planting of 50 trees. Granton Avenue, Lecanto, FL just behind Anson's Nursery on State Rd 490 or Homosassa Trail. Please arrive by 8:45am with gloves and any shovels or buckets you may have.

April 6th - 2 pm**Cabaret**

George Washington Carver Community Center
95 Three Sisters Springs Trail- Crystal River, FL 34429
Call 352-382-0032 for more information.

April 12th - Noon**5th Annual Palm Harbor Golf Tournament**

SCRAMBLE FORMAT with all teams to choose only 4 clubs! Enjoy a fun filled day and support those that have done so much to protect and help us.
Jan Stephenson's Tarpon Woods Golf Club
1100 Tarpon Woods Blvd Palm Harbor FL 34685
727-784-6606

April 27th - 4:30 pm**Shuffle, Brews, and BBQ**

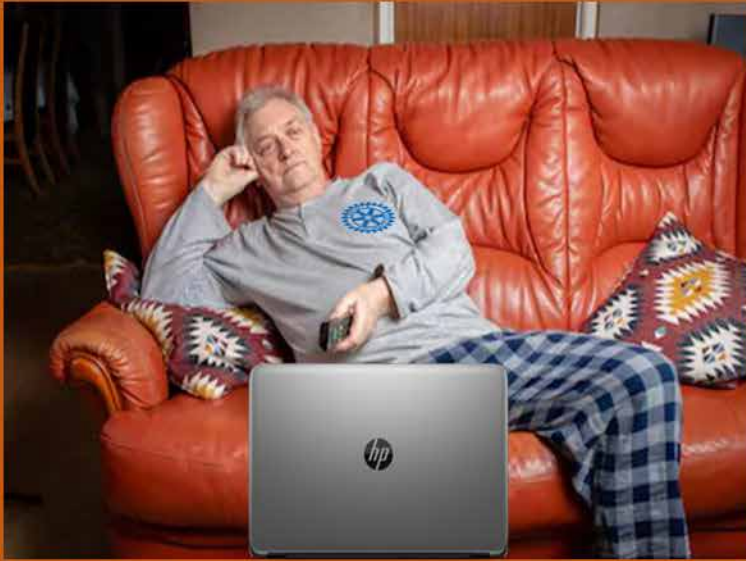
Join St. Pete Sunrise Rotary for a fun evening of shuffleboard, brews and delicious bbq in downtown St. Pete. Contact Paula Martel, Sunrise Rotary, at 702-556-6546.
St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club
559 Mirror Lake Drive North St. Petersburg, FL 33701

District 6950 Conference

SOLD OUT



April 26 - April 27, 2019



Did you know that you can watch the District Conference in your pajamas from the comfort of your home via Facebook Live?

... or better yet, invite some friends, and watch it together. It's so much more fun that way!

Live Streaming on Facebook Live

Human Trafficking Panel Discussion

Friday, April 26 12:00 PM
Plantation at Crystal River

SOLD OUT

Sponsored by **KIM MARSTON**

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY
Premium Title Inc.

Alan Willett
Commander, Pasco Sheriff's Office
Human Trafficking Taskforce

Dr. Leonard Territo
Distinguished Professor
Saint Leo University
Department of Criminal Justice

Patricia Woody
Tampa Bay Advocates
Against Human Trafficking

PDG Jamie Mick
Facilitator

Pastor Bill Lusseno
Florida Dream Center

Friday, April 26
12 Noon

Rotary **BE THE INSPIRATION**

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
ROTARY CELEBRATES YOUTH
BREAKFAST BUFFET 7:30 AM - 9 AM

SOLD OUT

Rotary **rotary youth exchange**

Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club

Rotaract
Rotary Club Partner

S4TL
Seminar 4 Tomorrow's Leaders

Rotary's Camp Florida

Sponsored by
KIM MARSTON

Premium Title Inc

Inspire

Saturday, April 27
8 AM

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
DISTRICT CONFERENCE BANQUET
RECEPTION AND DINNER 6:00 PM

SOLD OUT

Featured Speaker
Erik Musiek, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of
Discipline
University School
of Medicine
Saint Louis, MO

John T. Cripps

Sponsored by
KIM MARSTON

Blackjack

Saturday, April 27
6:20 PM

Friday Night
Jazz Under the Stars Reception

SOLD OUT

Southern Exposure

Live Stream Not Available

This District Conference has been made affordable and available to all... thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and our volunteers.

Thank you to our District Conference Sponsors

Rotary Club of Inverness, KIM MARSTON, SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY, BENT SINKS CAR GROUP, Rotary Club of Crystal River, Premium Title Inc, HOVERSOCIAL, Inspire, Rotary, Central Oklawaha County, T&T Computers, Alan Collins Realty, Inc., Blackjack, and others.

Plantation at Crystal River, April 26-27

Scott Post, editor

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E-mail news to: RotaryNews6950@gmail.com (Please send text as word documents and photos as jpgs)

Deadline: April 25, 2019 for next issue

2019 Pow Wow a Big Success



The Rotary Club of Seminole Lake was awarded the honor of Beer and Wine Sales at the 2019 Seminole Pow Wow held at the Seminole Recreation Center 9-11 March. The great weather contributed to robust sales of liquid refreshment and the many rides offered children of all ages the chance to experience the fun of a Carnival-complete with funnel cakes and a large Ferris wheel.

Many members of the Seminole Lake Rotary Club participated in manning the beer concession.

Pictured (L-R): Jim McConnell, Darlene Sheets, Dora Komminos, Deb Bebell

Photo by George Bessler

Prepared by Gene Stern, Public Image Chair,
gene.stern@LFG.com 727-369-1512

Service Above Self



**Basic Education and Literacy is one of
Rotary's 6 Areas of Focus!**

Tip of the month:

Know any preteens? Invite them to read the instructions on over-the-counter medicine containers and then explain the instructions to you in their own words.

Reading is good for everyone

Grant Noakes Inducted As New Member

The Rotary Club of Seminole Lake inducted its newest member, Grant Noakes, at its regularly scheduled meeting in their new location, Chapel on the Hill. Past District Governor Tim Schuler and Club President, Gary Marcus, conducted the ceremony for Grant.

Photo: (L-R): Tim Schuler, Grant Noakes, Gary Marcus

Prepared by and photo by Gene Stern, Public Image Chair,
gene.stern@LFG.com 727-369-1512





**BE THE
INSPIRATION**

The District Newsletter

**District 6950 Attendance &
Club Meeting Location for
February 2019**

Welcome to our
new, returning and
transferring Rotarians!

March 2019

Will be added at the end
of the month

Meeting locations have been updated. Please refer to this list when checking on club meeting days and locations.

Club	Members 6/30/18	Members Current	Average Attend %	Meeting Location
Belleair	30	24	47.31	Thu. 12:15pm - Belleair Country Club (25 Belleview Rd.)
Brooksville	37	40	41.96	Thu. Noon - Southern Hills Plantation Club (State Rd 41 Brooksville)
Central Citrus County	19	22	53.03	Wed. 7:45am - Black Diamond Golf and Country Club
Central Pinellas	11	14	66.67	Tue. 5:45pm - Liberty Lanes (11401 Starkey Rd, Largo)
Cleanwater	89	80	60.07	Wed. 12:15pm - Belleair Country Club
Cleanwater Beach	13	11	40	Club is reorganizing....watch the DaCdB for updates
Cleanwater East	26	29	60	Cleanwater, Building ES, Rm 111 - check Facebook page for meeting dates
Crystal River	68	63	72.47	Mon. 12:15pm - Plantation Inn and Golf Resort
Dade City	40	43	67.52	Mon. Noon - Kafe Kokopelli (Citrus Room- 37940 Live Oak Avenue Dade City)
Dade City Sunrise	12	13	95.45	Thu. 7:00am- The Hampton Inn (13215 US Hwy 301, Dade City)
Dunedin	51	54	69.89	Tue. 12:15pm - Church of Good Shepherd (629 Edgewater Drive, Dunedin)
Dunedin North	49	52	76.11	Wed. 7:30am - Dunedin Golf Club
Dunedin Waterside	25	29	48.15	Wed. 6:30pm -Sea Sea Riders (221 Main Street Dunedin, FL 34698)
East Lake Sunrise	17	20	61.84	Thu. 7:45am - Daddy's Grill (1st Thursday of month meeting 6 pm at same location)
Gulf Beaches	45	38	65	Tue. 12:15pm - Treasure Island Yacht & Tennis Club (400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island)
Holiday	35	34	63.77	Tue. Noon - Brix 33 Bistro (8351 SR 54 Trinity 34655)
Homosassa Springs	16	16	79.68	Thu. 7am - Luigi's (4538 Suncoast Blvd. - US19)
Hudson	19	19	70.83	Thu. Noon - CARES Enrichment Center (12417 Clock Tower Pkwy. Hudson, Bayonet Pt.)
Indian Rocks Beach	35	39	75	Wed. 7:15am Jimmy Guana's Restaurant, Holiday Inn Harborside (401 2nd St.)
Inverness	83	81	81.18	Tue. Noon - Inverness Golf and Country Club (Inverness)
Kings Bay- Crystal River	67	70	65.16	Wed. 12:15pm - George Washington Carver Community Center
Land O'Lakes	21	24	75	Fri. 8:00am - Copperstone Executive Offices (3632 Land O'Lakes Blvd)
Largo	22	22	50	Mon. Noon - Alfano's Restaurant (Clearwater)
New Port Richey	142	143	94.03	Wed. 12:15pm - Spartan Manor (6121 Massachusetts Avenue)
Oldsmar/East Lake	16	16	67.18	Thu. 12:15pm - Flamestone Grill (4009 Tampa Rd)
Palm Harbor	24	31	81.32	Wed. 12:15pm - Leo's Italian Grill (Palm Harbor)
Pinellas Park	38	35	81.52	Thu. 12:15pm - Banquet Masters (13355 49th St N)
Port Richey	41	37	79.85	Fri. Noon - The Columbian Event Center (5850 Farrell Way (KOC) Drive)
Rotary E-Club of SE USA	24	27	83.33	Anytime at www.rotaryclub34.org
Safety Harbor	17	17	92.16	Fri. 7:30am - Paradise Restaurant (5th and Main Street in Safety Harbor)
San Antonio	18	18	0	Tue. 6:30pm - 10641 Old Tampa Bay Drive, San Antonio
Seminole	55	49	56	Wed. 12:15pm - Lake Seminole Golf & Country Club (6100 Augusta Blvd.)
Seminole Lake	34	35	88	Fri. 7:15am - The Chapel on the Hill (12601 Park Blvd. Seminole, FL 33776)
Seven Springs	50	48	71.04	Thu. 7:30am - Seven Springs Country Club (3535 Trophy Blvd.)
Spring Hill	17	18	81.69	Thu. 7:45am - IHOP Restaurant (US19)
Spring Hill Central	18	19	47.06	Thu. 12:15pm - Silverthorn Golf and Country Club
St. Petersburg	91	90	62.8	Fri. Noon - St. Petersburg Yacht Club (11 Central Avenue)
St. Petersburg Mid-Town	14	15	43.33	Wed. 11:45pm - Callaloo Restaurant
St. Petersburg Sunrise	31	31	83.04	Tue. 7:45 am - St. Petersburg Yacht Club (11 Central Ave)
St. Petersburg Sunset	20	23	78.26	Wed. 6:15 pm - St Pete Museum of History (335 2nd Ave NE, St Pete) (2nd & 4th Wed. Only)
St. Petersburg West	35	31	71.43	Wed. 7:45am - Pasadena Yacht and Country Club
Sugarmill Woods-Citrus County	35	30	77.4	Tue. 5:00pm - Sugarmill Woods Country Club (Homosassa)
Tarpon Springs	109	105	74.8	Thu. 12:15pm - Tarpon Springs Yacht Club (350 S. Spring Blvd.)
Trinity	81	77	61.11	Fri. 12:15pm -Seven Springs Golf & Country Club (3535 Trophy Blvd.)
Wesley Chapel	60	56	55.45	Wed. 12:15pm - Lexington Oaks Golf Club (26133 Lexington Blvd Wesley Chapel 33544)
Wesley Chapel Sunrise	8	8	100	Fri. 7:15am - The Happy Hangar Restaurant -1st and 3rd Friday of the month
Zephyrhills	36	36	61.24	Thu. 12:15pm - Zephyrhills Rotary Youth building (Shepard Park)
Zephyrhills Daybreak	24	20	100	Wed. 7:00am - First United Methodist Church (38635 Fifth Ave, Zephyrhills)