



BE THE INSPIRATION

Issue 11 • May 2019

RI President 2018- 2019: Barry Rassin

The District Newsletter



ROTARY DISTRICT 6950 • ZONE 34 • FLORIDA • USA

Thursday Evening, April 25, 2019

I am writing the first part of this article on the eve of the 2019 District Conference at the Plantation on Crystal River. I should have probably waited until after the Conference is over, but I didn't want to miss the publication deadline, and I know that I won't have time during the event. So, by the time you are reading this in early May, we will have heard whether the Conference turned out to be successful, or whether it was a complete disaster. I say that because the extended weather forecast for Friday night's outdoor Jazz Under the Stars concert looks like it may wash out due to a line of thunderstorms heading this way. I'm also feeling a little uneasy about our first-ever Facebook Live livestream video of the main events. We've never done this before, and honestly, I don't even have a Facebook page of my own. So, to say I feel a bit uneasy right now would be an understatement. Maybe I should have written two letters like General Dwight Eisenhower did right before the D-Day invasion. One letter lauded the success of the mission, and the other letter apologized for a total disaster.

Friday, April 26, 2019, 11 PM

The rain came earlier than expected. The good news is that the main squall line passed through Crystal River prior to the Conference kickoff. The bad news is that we had to cancel the "Jazz Under the Stars" concert event due to the wet conditions of the grass area on "The Point" of the hotel grounds, where we were supposed to have set up. Past District Governor Ted Johnston had his District Conference at the same location four years earlier, and it turned out to be a beautiful evening on the Crystal River, lit with tiki torches and filled with good entertainment. It's too bad that we had

to move the concert indoors today. As it turned out, it wasn't as nice as a concert on The Point, but the band, Southern Exposure, featuring my favorite jazz singer – Kim Evans, made it a magical night anyway.

The Human Trafficking Panel earlier today was a huge success. I received a lot of positive comments about the eye-opening discussion by the four subject-matter experts on the topic. We had Dr. Leonard Territo, from Saint Leo University; Pamela Woody, the executive director of Advocates Against Human Trafficking; Pastor Bill Losasso, president of the Florida Dream Center; and Corporal Alan Wilkett, of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. In addition, there were several other subject matter experts in the audience, including Janine Kell, of the Rotary Club of Brooksville, and the Program Manager at the Hernando County Children's Advocacy Center; Harry Heuman, from the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg Sunrise; and Detective Sergeant Stephen Conley, Citrus County Sheriff's Office.

In addition, I had two of my top students at Saint Leo University, who are focusing on the human trafficking issue for their doctoral dissertations. Detective Sonja McCaughey, of the Tampa Police Department; and Director Ken Killian, from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Child Protective Investigations Division. I am very



Rotary District 6950 TV

satisfied that the first day of the Conference turned out well, but I am very disappointed that the Facebook Live video streaming that I promised did not work out as planned. I had a feeling that this idea would not turn out well. In any regard, I'm exhausted, and I'm going to sleep because I have to get up very early for tomorrow morning's Rotary Celebrates Youth event.

Saturday, April 27, 2019, 11:45 PM

Wow... what a day! I'm exhausted, but I'm relieved that everything turned out well. Despite my many oratory mess-ups, the day's events turned out very nicely. I think everyone enjoyed the magic show and Dr. Erik Musiek's keynote speech on Alzheimer's research was very informative and well-received by the audience. Of course, making a grand entry wearing my Miami Dolphins pajamas was a bit awkward, but I think the crowd enjoyed this silly stunt. If you weren't there, you missed seeing our Governor in a very uncomfortable situation.

A big "thank you" to District Conference Chairman, Tom Feeney and his team for making the Conference a fun, informative, and meaningful event. Tom worked hard, as did his entire team. I am very grateful to these dedicated Rotarians for volunteering their entire weekend. Tom has been planning and preparing for this event for over three years.

We just finished picking up most of the banners, flags, and other stuff. We have four very heavy 5-gallon buckets full of coins from the Super Duper, Big Bad and Bouncy, Blue Bucket Roundup that followed Dr. Mus-

iek's speech. I don't know how much money we raised for the CART fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust), but I bet it's a substantial amount. These buckets were heavy. I just took them and placed them inside my garage at home for safe-keeping. I'll take the rest of the stuff to my mini-storage on Sunday. Oh no! I just realized that I left my Dolphins' pajamas in the Sabal B room. I left them there after I changed into my suit and tie for the rest of the event.

Monday, April 29, 2019, 9 PM

I'm finishing this article because I need to turn it in to our District Newsletter Editor, Scott Post by the end of tonight. I spent a couple of hours today, sorting and counting the money that was donated to the CART fund on Saturday's Big Blue Bucket Roundup. So far, I have counted \$1,459.17 in checks, paper money, and we still haven't finished counting the loose change in four buckets. I will take them to Brannen Bank tomorrow, where they will be counted by machine. Special thanks to Rotarians Joe Brannen and Connie Lobel for offering to do this at no cost to Rotary.

I sent out a Survey Monkey to all the attendees earlier today. The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive. I have also received a lot of positive emails and text messages, as well as personal testimonials about the Conference. Many Rotarians have told me that this was the best District Conference that they have ever attended. My favorite testimonial came from Joyce Thies, who told me that for the first time ever, she didn't feel compelled to knit during a District Conference. That's because she was fully engaged in everything that was going on during the two days. Wow... what a compliment!



Eloy Nuñez
District Governor



Rotary District 6950 TV interviews during the 2019 District Conference at the Plantation on Crystal River.

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District Calendar

May 4th - 4 pm

Hats and Horses

Kentucky Derby Party benefiting the Pasco education foundation. Waller Ranch
17307 Powerline Rd. Dade City. Contact Rebecca Smith rebeccasmith@gmail.com

May 17th - 6 pm

Hawaiian Luau to benefit CASA

Tickets: \$50 per person.
Tampa Bay Watch Community Room
3000 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde
Contact paula@sprotary.org 727-822-3277

May 18th - 8 pm

Craft Beer and Wine Festival

Come join us for our Craft Beer and Wine Festival. This will be a good opportunity to come out and have a relaxing day by Cotee River, sampling some of the local beer, wine and food from the area. The best part is that those who come out and join us will be support a great cause! Sims Park, NPR

May 22nd - 6 pm

Westside 7 Event

Spartan Manor 6121 Massachusetts Ave. \$15 tickets. Contact Amanda Hart amanda@blackjackmg.com
Rotarian Tiffany Ervin presenting "Life is Short... Buy the shoes!" You will laugh and cry with her and go home motivated to continue reaching for your goals.

June 15th - 6 pm

District Awards Banquet

Spartan Manor 6121 Massachusetts Ave. Join us for a very different and fulfilled evening to see if your club has a President of the Year.

Cypress Elementary Butterfly Garden Project



Rotary Westside 6 helps Cypress Elementary rebuild their Butterfly Garden.

On March 2, 2019 the six clubs of West Pasco (better known as the Westside 6) headed by Trinity Rotary came together to rebuild the Cypress Elementary School's Butterfly Garden and Outdoor School Room. The garden serves as an area where the students can come and read books and enjoy a little bit of nature as well as parents can come and spend time with their child during the day and enjoy lunch with them.

Over the years the garden was decimated by hurricanes and droughts. The school could not afford the funding to bring the garden back to its original grandeur. Maria Hixon, a member of Trinity Rotary saw the

need to rebuild and brought it to the Trinity Club for a possible district project.

After several Club members toured the facility the decision to take it on was immediate. The paperwork was submitted and the other Clubs of West Pasco jumped on board. With quick approval by the District, the Cypress Elementary Butterfly Garden Project was given the Green light.

With the assistance of the New Port Richey Garden Club and several donations from local nurseries and a lot of sweat equity from not only the Rotary Westside 6 but also the NPR Rotaract Club and several Interact Clubs the garden and outdoor school room was completed on a very active Saturday morning.



Two Rotarians given Honors



Photos by Curtis Camp

L-R: Gary Marcus, Doug Meyer, George Bessler

L-R Gary Marcus and Mike Hendry

On Friday April 25th, the Rotary Club of Seminole Lake made presentations to two Rotarians.

Doug Meyer was made an honorary member after being an active member for over 25 years. Doug was Chairman of the S4TL program for over 10 years and was President of the Club three times.

Rotarian Michael Hendry was presented with his Paul Harris + 7 pin for having donated \$7000 to The Rotary Foundation. The major initiative of The Rotary Foundation is to rid the world of Polio.

For more information please contact Gene Stern, Public Image Chair, 727-369-1512 gene.stern@LFG.com

Rotary 
Club of New Port Richey

&

Rotary 
Club of Hudson

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR WEST SIDE 7 EVENT

Rotarian Tiffany Ervin Presenting

“LIFE IS SHORT...BUY THE SHOES!”

In this humorous and insightful presentation, Tiffany shares personal stories of successes & challenges in her life, including her divorce, the unexpected death of her sister, buying a clothing store (hence the title), & becoming a television personality a mere 20 years after graduating from journalism school! You will laugh & cry with her and go home motivated to continue reaching for your goals!



SPARTAN MANOR

6121 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34653

May 22, 2019 • 6 PM

\$15.00 Per Ticket

**EVENT
BENEFITING:** 

For more information, please contact Amanda Hart - Amanda@blackjackmg.com • 727-859-6540

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROTARY CLUB OF NPR

Scott Post, editor

Suncoast Printing • 3601 Grand Boulevard • New Port Richey, FL 34652 • www.suncoastprinting.com

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

Deadline: May 25, 2019 for next issue

Richard O. Jacobson Technical High School



On Friday, April 12, Principal Marti Giancola of the Richard O. Jacobson Technical High School at Seminole (formerly known as

the Vocational Technical School or familiarly, "The Ag Farm") presented the revamped curriculum and presence of the Technical School, located at the corner of 125th St and 86th Avenue in Seminole. The school had always been part of a curriculum that included stints by students in other schools but today is a "stand alone" school catering to the technical and vocational needs of students who wish to be taught a trade.

These trades and curriculums are for: Building and Construction; Commercial and Digital Arts; Electricity; Gaming and Simulation; Marine Mechanics; Nursing and Veterinary Science. Many businesses are partnering with the school in an advisory capacity and to be available as places of employment when the students graduate.

Principal Giancola indicated that the popularity of these curriculums and that students have graduated from the school to be immediately hired by firms looking for this type of educational experience, has created a student body of 350 students and that the continued growth and expansion will eventually have a student body of 600. Some of their students have been hired for six figure incomes upon graduation.

The school is named for a deceased philanthropist, Richard O. Jacobson, whose Foundation donated \$3 MM dollars to expand the mission of the institution of training students not interested in a formal college edu-

cation but to be trained to become productive members of our society in areas of critical vocational needs.

Photo: Rotarian Chuck Oldanie, Principal Marti Giancola, Club President Gary Marcus

For more information, contact the school at (727) 545-6405 or go to www.TechHigh.pcsb.org

Photo and article prepared by Gene Stern, Public Image Chair, (727)369-1512 gene.stern@LFG.com

The Cotee River Flats Classic

The Rotary Club of Seven Springs presented a donation to the James P. Gills Family YMCA in support of the water safety program offered at the YMCA in Pasco County. The proceeds were raised during the Inaugural Cotee River Flats Classic Catch and release fishing tournament held in November 2018.

The Cotee River Flats Classic pairs experienced captains with local business leaders, companies, sponsors and individuals in an exciting day of catch-and-release fishing and fun while supporting the charities of the Rotary Club of Seven Springs.

The excitement begins with the Captains' Dinner on Thursday night at the picturesque Whiskey Joe's waterfront casual restaurant. The competition kicks off with a silent and live auction during the cocktail hour and dinner.

On Friday morning, anglers board their flats boats captained by a professional fishing guide and set out on the pristine waters of the Gulf of Mexico. It's worry-free fishing for you and your friends or clients. Fishing licenses are not required and each vessel is fully-stocked with: Fishing tackle and bait, Beverages and food, Tips and instruction for new anglers. Help reeling in the big one!



**BE THE
INSPIRATION**

The District Newsletter

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

Welcome to our
new, returning and
transferring Rotarians!

April 2019

BELLEAIR
Arbutine, Christopher S.
Roberts, Shelly
Sullivan, Debra

BROOKSVILLE
Trump, Richard C.
Van Fossen, Larry

CLEARWATER
Lundstadt, Filip

CRYSTAL RIVER
Rogers, Melissa
Snyder, Lindsey
Barth, Michael
Jeansonne, Donald

DUNEDIN NORTH
Wilson, Jessica

GULF BEACHES
Porter, Michael M.

HOLIDAY
Balsamo, Lucine

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
Smith, Jim

INVERNESS
Wirthlin, John
Wirthlin, Kaley
Dempsey, Jennifer
Seeberg, John

OLDSMAR/EAST LAKE
Hobson, Montice

PINELLAS PARK
Krauss, Cory K

ROTARY E-CLUB
Reisdorf, Rob
Hersha, Stacy

SAN ANTONIO
Vincent, Alexandria

SPRING HILL
Celano, Helayne

SPRING HILL CENTRAL
Hennawi, Samar

ST. PETERSBURG
Lyons, Lisa

WESLEY CHAPEL
Dumas, Steve
Denbo, David

WEST PASCO SUNSET
Borree, Jacqueline Michelle

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	0	Thu. 12:15pm - Belleair Country Club (25 Belleview Rd.)
Brooksville	37	38	49.66	Thu. Noon - Southern Hills Plantation Club (State Rd 41 Brooksville)
Central Citrus County	19	22	77.27	Wed. 7:45am - Black Diamond Golf and Country Club
Central Pinellas	11	14	80	Tue. 5:45pm - Liberty Lanes (11401 Starkey Rd, Largo)
Cleanwater	89	78	56.12	Wed. 12:15pm - Belleair Country Club
Cleanwater Beach	13	11	40	Club is reorganizing....watch the DaCdB for updates
Cleanwater East	26	29	62.75	Cleanwater, Building ES, Rm 111 - check Facebook page for meeting dates
Crystal River	68	63	69.13	Mon. 12:15pm - Plantation Inn and Golf Resort
Dade City	40	43	70.51	Mon. Noon - Kafe Kokopelli (Citrus Room- 37940 Live Oak Avenue Dade City)
Dade City Sunrise	12	13	90.91	Thu. 7:00am- The Hampton Inn (13215 US Hwy 301, Dade City)
Dunedin	51	54	64.2	Tue. 12:15pm - Church of Good Shepherd (629 Edgewater Drive, Dunedin)
Dunedin North	49	53	77.09	Wed. 7:30am - Dunedin Golf Club
Dunedin Waterside	25	29	50.62	Wed. 6:30pm -Sea Sea Riders (221 Main Street Dunedin, FL 34698)
East Lake Sunrise	17	20	64.47	Thu. 7:45am - Daddy's Grill (1st Thursday of month meeting 6 pm at same location)
Gulf Beaches	45	38	68	Tue. 12:15pm - Treasure Island Yacht & Tennis Club (400 Treasure Island Causeway, Treasure Island)
Holiday	35	36	70.92	Tue. Noon - Brix 33 Bistro (8351 SR 54 Trinity 34655)
Homosassa Springs	16	15	67.19	Thu. 7am - Luigi's (4538 Suncoast Blvd. - US19)
Hudson	19	19	74.07	Thu. Noon - CARES Enrichment Center (12417 Clock Tower Pkwy. Hudson, Bayonet Pt.)
Indian Rocks Beach	35	39	76.28	Wed. 7:15am Jimmy Guana's Restaurant, Holiday Inn Harborside (401 2nd St.)
Inverness	83	81	78.75	Tue. Noon - Inverness Golf and Country Club (Inverness)
Kings Bay- Crystal River	67	70	71.68	Wed. 12:15pm - George Washington Carver Community Center
Land O'Lakes	21	24	63.33	Fri. 8:00am - Copperstone Executive Offices (3632 Land O'Lakes Blvd)
Largo	22	22	50	Mon. Noon - Alfano's Restaurant (Cleanwater)
New Port Richey	142	143	90.99	Wed. 12:15pm - Spartan Manor (6121 Massachusetts Avenue)
Oldsmar/East Lake	16	16	68.75	Thu. 12:15pm - Flamestone Grill (4009 Tampa Rd)
Palm Harbor	24	31	84.88	Wed. 12:15pm - Leo's Italian Grill (Palm Harbor)
Pinellas Park	38	35	89.93	Thu. 12:15pm - Banquet Masters (13355 49th St N)
Port Richey	41	36	76.69	Fri. Noon - The Columbian Event Center (5850 Farrell Way (KOC) Drive)
Rotary E-Club of SE USA	24	27	79.17	Anytime at www.rotaryclub34.org
Safety Harbor	17	17	94.12	Fri. 7:30am - Paradise Restaurant (5th and Main Street in Safety Harbor)
San Antonio	18	15	0	Tue. 6:30pm - 10641 Old Tampa Bay Drive, San Antonio
Seminole	55	50	63	Wed. 12:15pm - Lake Seminole Golf & Country Club (6100 Augusta Blvd.)
Seminole Lake	34	35	92.02	Fri. 7:15am - The Chapel on the Hill (12601 Park Blvd. Seminole, FL 33776)
Seven Springs	50	44	70.35	Thu. 7:30am - Seven Springs Country Club (3535 Trophy Blvd.)
Spring Hill	17	19	79.71	Thu. 7:45am - IHOP Restaurant (US19)
Spring Hill Central	18	20	59.55	Thu. 12:15pm - Silverthorn Golf and Country Club
St. Petersburg	91	94	69	Fri. Noon - St. Petersburg Yacht Club (11 Central Avenue)
St. Petersburg Mid-Town	14	15	40	Wed. 11:45pm - Callaloo Restaurant
St. Petersburg Sunrise	31	32	79.66	Tue. 7:45 am - St. Petersburg Yacht Club (11 Central Ave)
St. Petersburg Sunset	20	24	81.25	Wed. 6:15 pm - St Pete Museum of History (335 2nd Ave NE, St Pete) (2nd & 4th Wed. Only)
St. Petersburg West	35	31	70.65	Wed. 7:45am - Pasadena Yacht and Country Club
Sugarmill Woods-Citrus County	35	30	76.7	Tue. 5:00pm - Sugarmill Woods Country Club (Homosassa)
Tarpon Springs	109	102	73.1	Thu. 12:15pm - Tarpon Springs Yacht Club (350 S. Spring Blvd.)
Trinity	81	77	68.63	Fri. 12:15pm -Seven Springs Golf & Country Club (3535 Trophy Blvd.)
Wesley Chapel	60	55	50	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
West Pasco Sunset	0	26	81.48	Wed. 6pm - Whiskey River, Port Richey
Zephyrhills	36	36	58.2	Thu. 12:15pm - Zephyrhills Rotary Youth building (Shepard Park)
Zephyrhills Daybreak	24	20	94	Wed. 7:00am - First United Methodist Church (38635 Fifth Ave, Zephyrhills)

MEMBERSHIPPLUS

A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR ZONE 34 ROTARY COORDINATOR AND MEMBERSHIP TEAMS

YOUR ZONE 34 COORDINATOR TEAM



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Projects that INSPIRE

Rotarians remain motivated if their Club is giving them a return on there investment of time, talent and treasure. That return can come in many ways, and is dependent on the members expectations, aspirations and motivation.

For many, the return comes in the glow of achievement, when they and their Club are involved in a great project, improving the life of someone less fortunate, or enhancing their community, or perhaps filling a need somewhere remote from their location.

Great projects inspire Rotarians, and help make our Clubs more vibrant and attractive to those in the community who seek to do good and be involved - the very 'People of Action' we seek.

So not only should we ensure that our projects are inspiring to our current members, but also we must make sure we let the community know what our club is doing in the community and in the world at large, to hopefully connect to potential additional members.

And if our projects need refreshing or changing, there is a world of possibility out there, after all the only limitation to our capability, is our imagination - and Rotarians are not short in that department.

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Beyond the Club

With District Conferences and District Training Assemblies appearing on our Calendars, it is perhaps a good time to remind ourselves of the value of opportunities afforded to us, beyond the Club. While the Club remains the foundation of our membership, being involved in District, Zone and RI opportunities, greatly enhances our fellowship and networking capabilities, expands our knowledge of Rotary, and gives us a wider possibility for development of our leadership skills. Conferences, seminars, and assembly sessions not only offer a wealth of information, they also expose us to the wider Rotary family, and the ideas of people outside our immediate group.

Our Districts also offer a wide variety of leadership positions and opportunities to serve, letting current leadership know of your interest may open the door to a new added value to your Rotary Membership. New possibilities await - Beyond The Club.

Zone 34 Membership Progress 2018/19

Zone 34 progress to MembershipPlus. This is a simple +/- table. For full details of Attraction and Retention figures, please see full report from ROTARY INTL. Figures as of 4/15/19

District	Start Membership 7/1/18	Latest Membership figures	+/-
District 7020	2326	2499	173
District 7030	2131	2247	116
District 6990	1797	1882	85
District 6910	3203	3262	59
District 6970	3312	3368	57
District 6890	1686	1719	33
District 7000	929	944	15
District 6930	1562	1577	15
District 6900	4228	4240	12
District 6950	1863	1872	8
District 6940	2236	2243	7
District 6960	2314	2311	-3
District 6980	1771	1754	-17
District 6920	3054	3030	-24
Total	32421	32947	526