

*50th
Anniversary*

The Rotary Club
of Sarasota Bay



Congratulations!

For 50 years of community "service above self" and for making Rotary Park at Beneva Oaks a dream come true for persons with disabilities.



GOODWILL

The Hand UP People

50th Anniversary

1958 – 2008

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay

***Celebrating a Half Century of
Service Above Self***

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*Cover photo and all interior color photographs courtesy of Keith Millard.
Black and white photographs on back cover courtesy of Sarasota County History Office.*

Introduction and Dedication

For any institution—a business, a college, even a marriage—to make it past 50 years takes a good bit of hard work and not a little luck. A lot can happen in five decades. In the case of The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, which celebrates its 50th anniversary November 18, the last half century has witnessed a change of venue, the arrival of new friends, the sad passing of old ones—and always the shouldering of new projects that placed demands on our time and treasure. Yet, in spite of the inevitable changes that five decades have wrought, the common call to Service Above Self



The editors: Allen Jelks, Keith Millard, and Tim Cole

connects members to one another across the years. Indeed, the always timely and forever timeless Four-Way Test echoes back to the middle decade of the preceding century, when community minded businessmen in Sarasota stepped forward to proclaim, “I will!”

This commemorative book was assembled to mark this time. It’s an homage to Rotary members who have come before us—and a monument for those who follow. Scanning these pages will give you a sense of the history of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, embodied in all the community service activities our past presidents describe, but also the color photography that catalogs more recent times and activities. Significantly, the book is dedicated to the following individuals, the founding members of the Ro-

tary Club of Sarasota Bay: We are blessed that one of the original founding members, Cyrus G. Bispham, has consented to offer us his thoughts in an interview beginning on page 38.

Karl B. Albritton	Charles N. Kimble	Lawrence G. Sapp
Cyrus G. Bispham	Millard M. Moore	Grover Sewell
Charles C. Binns	James R. Morgan	Lester H. Stein
Rodgers A. Bradley	Paul P. Perry, Jr.	Clarence V. Symonds
H. Clyde Brantley	Paul P. Perry III	William G. Waidlick
W. Bruce Damron	J. Martin Ross	Robert T. Wallace
Edward L. Jackson	Lewis E. Rothrock	George W. Whiting

This book would not have been possible without the help and guidance of many people. First, I wish to thank my co-chair Dr. Allen Jelks, who filled in historical gaps, supplied needed source materials, proofed dozens and dozens of pages of copy with his usual professionalism and generally spurred us onward. Allen is a sage, a seer, and a pillar of our community. Second, we are fortunate indeed to have a president this year in Keith Millard who offers high-minded good spirit when it comes to projects to benefit his beloved Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. The color cover and interior photography are all Keith's—and his work to scan our presidents was both laborious and skilled. Susan Steele Miller is credited with obtaining our dignitary greetings, a project she tackled with characteristic vigor. Steve Lowther and Donna Clarke have led the charge in promoting the club's 50th anniversary. Mike Murphy, as always, has kept a steady hand on the financial tiller and his support of this project has been crucial.

Lastly, I have stood on the shoulders of these fine individuals in an effort to compile these pages. However, any mistakes herein are mine and mine alone. I have enjoyed putting this together, as it's given me a chance to better know this fine Sarasota institution and all the great people—past and present—who consistently meet the test.

Sincerely,
Timothy H. Cole



**HONORING 50 YEARS OF
MEMBERSHIP IN ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

**The Rotary Club of
Sarasota Bay (Sarasota), Florida, USA**

admitted 13 November 1958

**is recognized for its dedication
to the Object of Rotary and its commitment
to the ideal of Service Above Self.**

Date 13 November 2008


D.K. Lee
President, Rotary International



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

November 18, 2008

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay on celebrating your 50th Anniversary!

Our nation was founded upon a spirit of volunteerism, and the talents and energies of volunteers continue to be one of our greatest resources. Each year, the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay encourages volunteerism and promotes goodwill towards the citizens of the Sunshine State.

As you celebrate your 50th anniversary, spend time reflecting on the many significant contributions that the Rotary Club has had on Sarasota Bay.

Again, congratulations on celebrating your 50th anniversary!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist



CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

November 18, 2008

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay
P.O. Box 755
Sarasota, FL 34230-0755

Dear Rotarians:

On behalf of the people of Florida's 13th Congressional District, I thank you for your dedication to helping our community and congratulate you on 50 years of putting service above self, building good will, and encouraging fellowship.

Through the past five decades, you have served the underprivileged in our community. You have touched the lives of countless individuals with your compassion, and have made a positive impact on the lives of others and the community as a whole.

Your work on such projects as the Centennial Park clean-up, the construction of the Goodwill Beneva Oaks Recreational Area, the Salvation Army Kettle Drive, and Children's Medical Center Toys for Kids drive have been a great aid to our community, and they merit recognition and appreciation.

I appreciate this opportunity to thank you for your efforts and wish you well in the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance with any federal matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Ron Reagan

District 67

Email:

Ron.Reagan@myfloridahouse.gov

District Office:

7011 15th Street East
Suite B-1
Sarasota, FL 34243
(941) 727-6447
(941) 727-6449 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:

317 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 488-6341

May 13, 2008

Dear members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay:

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary Celebration!

For half a century the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay has provided humanitarian service, encouraged high ethical standards in all vocations, and helped to build goodwill and peace in the world. Your countless projects on behalf of the community have benefited and improved so many lives.

I am extremely proud of our local Rotarians who have worked diligently to provide a remarkable variety of charitable, educational, and cultural exchange programs that touch people's lives in our local communities and our world community. You have given so much of yourselves to which I and the community will be continually grateful.

Your time, selfless acts, and goodwill is truly appreciated. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Reagan", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Ronald Reagan
State Representative
District #67

Committees:

Jobs & Entrepreneurship Council, Chair
Policy & Budget Council
Rules & Calendar Council



Dear Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay:

On behalf of the City Commission and the citizens of Sarasota we would like to congratulate the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay on their 50 year Anniversary of providing "Service Above Self" to the Sarasota Community!

The City of Sarasota is fortunate to have your organization whose members are dedicated to helping our community, building good will and encouraging fellowship. The many service projects that the Rotarians have given so many hours of themselves to accomplish has improved the quality of life in our community

Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay has become the largest Rotary Club in Sarasota and acknowledged as "The Friendliest Club, welcoming visitors far and wide, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations and peace throughout the world.

Again, congratulations on your 50th Anniversary!

Lou Ann R. Palmer
Mayor



SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1660 Ringling Boulevard
Sarasota, Florida 34236
Telephone 941-861-5344
Fax 941-861-5987

November 3, 2008

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay
P. O. Box 755
Sarasota, FL 34230-0755

Dear Rotarians,

On behalf of the citizens of Sarasota County, we are pleased to be part of the 50th Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay.

One of the greatest strengths of our community is the extraordinary efforts put forth by groups such as yours that improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. It is such contributions, as much as the weather and our natural beauty, that make our County one of the most desirable places to live in the nation.

You are to be commended for all the community service that your group does to enrich the lives of the citizens of Sarasota County.

It is our honor to say thank you on behalf of all citizens of Sarasota County. Best wishes to you as you celebration your 50th Anniversary.

Sincerely,

Shannon Staub
Chair

Jon Thaxton
Vice-Chair

Joseph Barbetta
Commissioner

Paul Mercier
Commissioner

Nora Patterson
Commissioner

“The Miracle of Rotary”

In 1905, Paul P. Harris met with three invited men in Chicago to start a club that might bring together leaders from business and the professions where men could meet regularly and enjoy fellowship and friendship. Within a short time, a Rotary Club organization was completed. Harris modestly declined the presidency until two years later. The name “Rotary” came from Harris’s idea of the rotation of meetings from office to office. Rotary Magazine had its start in 1911. The slogans “He Profits Most Who Serves the Best,” and “Service Above Self” had their origin at the 1911 convention in Portland, Oregon. That year there were 28 Rotary Clubs with some 2,500 members.

Forty-one clubs were represented at the 1912 Convention in Duluth. Clubs in Glasgow and Edinburgh made Rotary international in scope. That year there were 50 clubs and 5,000 Rotarians. In 1915, Rotary spread to the Pacific Islands. The Havana, Cuba Club came into being in 1916—the first non-English speaking country. There were now 247 clubs and 27,000 members. Rotary growth took on new life as World War I ended. Clubs had been added in several countries across the world, and the 500th club was organized in Fremont, Nebraska. In 1925, the 2000th club was organized in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dramatically, year by year, Rotary has reached out to more new Clubs and members. Early in 1983, there were almost 20,000 clubs with 900,500 members in 157 countries. Today, there are more than 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to 33,000 clubs in 200 countries.

There was no Rotary in Sarasota prior to 1926. In late 1925 and early 1926, through the efforts of three men: J.C. Hughey, city ticket agent of

ACLRR; Harrison E. Barringer, local attorney; and Ben Kagay, real estate agent, District Governor John B. Orr of Miami appointed a committee to make an official survey of Sarasota. All three men were former Rotarians from the north. The committee appointed included Ora Chapin of Ft. Myers, the original three men, plus Dr. Walter C. Kennedy, Homer Dickson and L.H. Thompson.

The Provisional Rotary Club of Sarasota was organized February 17, 1926. The application for membership and charter were filed with the District Governor for Rotary International. Robert R. Walden, representative of District Governor Orr, presented the charter to the new club on April 12, 1926.

Because of the desire and willingness of members of Sarasota Rotary Club to share Rotary privileges, opportunities and responsibilities with others in the area, the formation of a second Rotary Club in the Sarasota area was made possible. Many months elapsed between preliminary discussions of such a possible new club and its actual charter meeting on November 20, 1958. Much had to be done before a new club could be chartered.

A nucleus of business and professional men met on June 5, 1958 at the dental office of Dr. J. Martin Ross. Rotary information, history, principles and purposes were discussed. Some months prior it had been recog-

A sister cares for her younger brother in Saradapally, India, the site of several village integration initiatives.

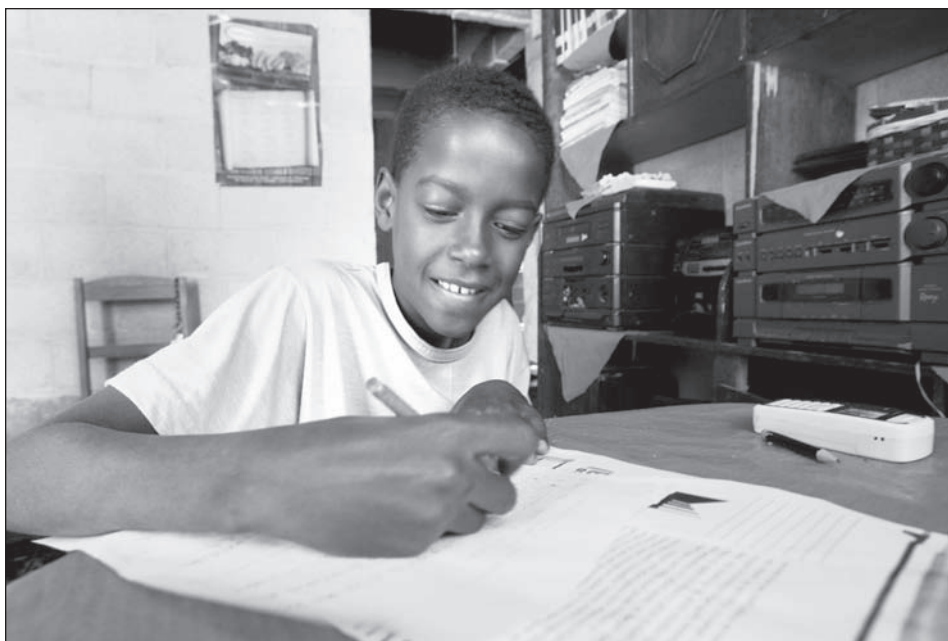


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nized that the south area of Sarasota (South Gate) was developing rapidly. Originators of the idea of a new club, Don Self and George Ray of the Sarasota Club, were appointed co-chairmen, with Ed. St. Phillip and Edwin Bartoletti completing the committee. The original new Club members were Rodgers Bradley, Karl B. Albritton, Robert T. Wallace, Edward L. Jackson, Clarence V. Symonds and Dr. J. Martin Ross.

The first actual business of the new club was drafted July 3, 1958, and a name for the proposed club was adopted: “The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay.” Discussion with parent club members identified and defined the territorial limits of the area. Club constitution and by-laws were discussed and drafted. Tentative club procedures, time and place of meetings and other matters were decided upon. Membership invitations were answered and the tentative membership was sixteen.

Angelo dos Santos learned to read at the Santa Braga da Cruz Ribeiro Silva school in Contagem, Brazil and is now a poet. The CLE literacy method was introduced to Brazil schools with the help of a Rotary Foundation 3H matching grant.



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On July 15, 1958, the constitution and by-laws of Rotary International were adopted and the Club constitution and by-laws were accepted as presented. A club election produced the first slate of officers and Board of Directors.

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay was born, taking its place as a vital element in the wider body of Rotary International. Today, RCSB is a part of something big...

ROTARY TODAY

Rotary International is a volunteer organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary clubs exist to improve communities locally and around the world. Rotary also encourages high ethical standards in business and professions. Rotary clubs work to advance international understanding by partnering with clubs in other countries.

EXAMPLES OF ROTARY'S FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE:

Polio Eradication — In 1985, Rotary International created PolioPlus – a program to immunize all the world's children against polio. To date, the PolioPlus pro-

P. Jahanthi, a polio survivor and recipient of vocational training at the RRMCT Worth Trust Rehabilitation Center, teaches typing to other students.



gram has contributed more than US\$620 million to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. These funds are providing much needed polio vaccine, operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment and educational materials for health workers and parents.

With its community-based network worldwide, Rotary volunteers assist in vaccine delivery, social mobilization and logistical help in cooperation with the national health ministries, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Peace — In an effort to educate tomorrow's peacemakers and ambassadors, Rotary launched the Rotary Centers for International Studies in 2002 at seven prestigious universities worldwide. They are: Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA; Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina; University of Bradford,

A student looks out the window at the Rotary Guidance Clinic and Health Center in Calcutta, India. This village integration project also takes place thanks to the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan (District 3290), along with international cosponsors.



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West Yorkshire, England; International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan; University of California, Berkeley, USA; and University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

Humanitarian Projects — Rotary clubs initiate thousands of humanitarian projects every year. These projects address problems that create instability and trigger conflicts --hunger, poverty, poor health, and illiteracy.

Water Management — Recognizing the importance of clean water, many Rotary clubs help to install wells and develop water treatment and distribution systems to increase access to fresh drinking water for communities in need, especially in developing countries.

International Education — Since 1947, The Rotary Foundation has awarded more than US\$1.1 billion in humanitarian and educational grants and is the world's largest privately-funded source of international scholarships. Each grant is administered by local Rotary clubs. Each year, about 1,000 university students receive Rotary scholarships to study abroad. Rotary clubs also coordinate a high school-age student exchange program that sends nearly 8,000 students abroad for three months to a year.

Ambassadorial Scholarships — Approximately 1,000 scholarships are awarded yearly to university students around

Rotarian Dr. Naresh Goyal, from the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan, is the health care coordinator for a project that has adopted four villages helping more than 10,000 families.



the globe to study in another country for three months to two years. These students serve as ambassadors of goodwill.

Youth Exchange — Some 8,000 teenage students around the world study in another country and learn about its history, language and culture each year. They too serve as goodwill ambassadors.

Rotary Grants for University Teachers — Grants are awarded to about 20 university faculty members yearly, who can teach for up to 10 months at an institution of their choice in developing countries.

Group Study Exchange — Another goodwill initiative, this program enables groups of young professionals aged 25-40 to participate in four-to-six-week exchange visits between countries.

Literacy — Rotary clubs are engaged in the fight against illiteracy worldwide.

In 1985, Rotary declared basic literacy to be a pre-condition to the

Children get out of school at the Rotary Guidance Clinic and Health Center in Calcutta, India.



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development of peace. Through this organizational emphasis, more than half the world's 32,000 Rotary clubs address the full range of literacy and mathematical challenges for primary, vocational, and adult learners as well as teacher training. Many Rotary members promote what is called “lighthouse” literacy projects—those that can be replicated easily, thereby increasing the scope of their impact. Lighthouse literacy projects have been created for formal schooling, older children who are not in school, functionally illiterate adults (particularly women), special groups, and teacher's training. The purpose of these projects is to inspire, guide and support national authorities toward alleviating mass illiteracy in developing countries. In Thailand, for example, the “lighthouse” literacy effort has been so successful that the government adopted it as a national program. Similar literacy initiatives have been sponsored by Rotary clubs in Australia, Bangladesh, and South Africa.

Early Childhood and Primary Education — Early literacy training is critical to the success of a child's later education. Rotarians work with children, parents, and educators to encourage and build reading skills at an early age.

The Rotary Club of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the Rotary Club of Footscray, Australia, helped introduce the Concentrated Language Encounter

Microcredit recipients make pottery in Saradapally, Calcutta, India, a joint project of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metropolitan (District 3290) and the Rotary Club of Medicine Hat Canada (District 5360).



methodology to Dhaka's primary schools. The Bangladesh government is supporting the effort underwritten by a 3-H grant.

The Rotary Club of Honolulu-Sunrise, Hawaii, USA, developed a "Read to Me" media campaign, encouraging parents to read aloud to their children. The project has been replicated in six other U.S. states and in Canada, and Mexico.

Working with Human Rights Now, the Rotary Club of Lahore Midtown in Punjab, Pakistan established the Kasure Village School, paying teachers salaries and providing materials for students who would otherwise have no access to education.

Canadian and Indian Rotarians established the Bombay Pavement College to give street children both literacy training and entrepreneurial skills. Students receive loans for such small business ventures as shoe shining, car washing, and bicycle repair.

A little boy sits in a dusty courtyard at the Saga feeding center in Niamey, Niger.



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Adult Literacy Programs — Many adults in both the developed and developing world lack the skills they need to hold a job or perform basic tasks required by everyday life. The hardships caused by illiteracy, from the difficulty in finding employment to the constant pressure to cover it up, often lead to a host of other problems. Rotary clubs work with adult learners to improve basic literacy skills and reeducate them to meet new job demands.

The Rotary Club of Johannesburg, South Africa, in cooperation with The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary district in Alabama, USA and the National Literacy Cooperation established adult learning centers to teach literacy.

Eight Rotary clubs in El Salvador are working with the national ministry of education and a five year program to establish a network of literacy centers which utilize local high schools students as tutors, supervised by state-selected teachers.

Rotarians partner together on a National Immunization Day in Moradabad, India.



The San Antonio, Texas, USA adult literacy program enlists Rotarians, spouses and others to tutor adults 18 and older on basic reading skills and practical applications such as reading newspapers and filling out job applications.

The Rotary Club of Mataram Yogyakarta, Indonesia set up literacy classes in a rural community's health center.

Literacy and Women — Because girls do not have access to education in many parts of the world, the illiteracy rate among women exceeds that of men. Studies of illiteracy rates in low-income countries have shown a 20 percent difference between the genders. Providing women with literacy skills can have far-reaching positive effects. A mother who can read will teach her children to read, helping to break the cycle of poverty.

The Rotary Club of Islamabad, Pakistan has established two female lit-

Mariana Ponce, a single mother once crippled by poverty and the impact of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, sells soy products thanks to small interest loans called Micro Credit organized by Rotarians.



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eracy centers. The literacy classes also train women on subjects such as family health care, hygiene, and income-generating activities.

Nigerian Rotarians are addressing low literacy rates for women in their country. In Osogbo, a Rotary program provides two hours of daily literacy training to market women. In Ibadan, Rotarians coordinate the literacy training component of the vocational training conducted by the National Directorate of Employment.

The uncle of Leslie Yaneth Rodriguez's, whose home and business were destroyed by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Eight years later she is back in business selling savory pastries in Zarabanda, Honduras, thanks to a microcredit loan from the Nueva Esperanza Foundation.



Rotary District Organization in Florida

It is interesting and almost unbelievable as one traces district organizational patterns in Florida since Rotary began in 1905. The first club organized in Florida was Jacksonville in 1912—the 41st Rotary Club to be organized in the world. New Orleans was the only other club at that time in the ten Southeastern States. Louisville became the third in the 10 states, and the district was then called the Southern Division of Rotary. This district existed from 1912 to 1915, with Tampa and Pensacola added to make a five-club district. Tampa took the lead in chartering clubs in Cuba and Puerto Rico in 1918. District Eight was formed in 1918 with Cuba and Puerto Rico added to the other five clubs.

District 39 was formed in 1922 with Georgia and most of Florida included. By 1928, during the “boom” days in Florida, many new clubs were formed including the Sarasota Club in 1926. One might have expected some of the new Rotary Clubs to disappear because of the “bust” that followed, but Florida clubs have rarely failed through the years. District 39 was revised in 1928 to include the entire State of Florida. Major Garland Powell, Retired, was a PDG when the District included all of Florida, and hired PDG Welch Whitesell to be office manager of WRUF, the University of Florida radio station, in Gainesville. All clubs survived The Great Depression. District 167 was formed in 1937 and lasted until 1943. It included 67 clubs and 2,780 Rotarians. World War II caused a state of “little expansion” during the war years. At that time it was one of the three largest districts in the Rotary World. Three separate districts were formed in 1947—districts 167-A, 167-B and 167-C. The Sarasota Club became a part of 167-C with 26 Rotary Clubs. In 1949 this group of three districts was renamed 242, 243

and 244, and Sarasota became a part of District 244. Dr. Walter Kennedy of the Sarasota Club became the first DG of 244. He was later to play an important part in the formation of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay in 1958.

Our current District 6960 (originally 696) came into being in 1956 with 46 clubs. Our own Sarasota Bay Rotary Club became the second Rotary Club in the Sarasota area in 1958. At that time Rotary International consisted of almost 500,000 Rotarians and 10,291 clubs in 41 nations. Forty-six Interact Clubs had been organized within district 696 by 1967. District 696 reached its maximum size of 4,730 members in 70 clubs and the time had arrived for more changes. The district was set to include that portion of Florida south of the northern boundary of Pasco County, west of Interstate 75, south of the eastern boundary of Hillsborough County and consisting of Manatee, Hillsborough, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and the western part of Collier County. By 1975 the Rotary World had been divided into 357 districts in 151 countries.

In 1981 another change was made in District arrangements for Florida. Our club remained in 696. But some clubs east of our former boundary were added and some clubs in the area around the north of Tampa were shifted to another district. Welch Whitesell Jr., a member of the Paul Harris Society, with continuing contributions since 2006, was the District Governor of District 696 in 1983-1984 when the District included Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hendry, Polk and DeSoto counties. Hank Dawson was Governor of the newly designated District 6960 in 1993-1994 when Polk County was excluded.

As Rotary International expands, and as clubs add membership strength, and as more new clubs are therefore added, the exact alignment of districts may not remain fixed but may be subject to later changes.

The Four Avenues Of Service Of Rotary International

1. CLUB SERVICES

There are many facets of Club Services involving most club members on committees. THE REGISTRATION TABLE begins the greeting of club members, guests, and speakers as we want to continue to be known as “The Friendly Club”. The club secretary and treasurer are seated here and attendance is recorded. Tri-fecta tickets are sold with a drawing at the end of each meeting.

CLUB ATTENDANCE is promoted with annual perfect attendance pins. There are numerous local clubs (and the internet) for easy make-ups.

MUSIC has been a vital part of the club with current honorary member Fred Hetherington providing piano music before the meeting. Dr. Todd Morgan leads the “Bay Singers” each week with printed lyrics in The Bay Breeze.

The BAY BREEZE our weekly club information bulletin began September 1, 1959 and in recent years has had Mike Murphy as editor, succeeded by Susan Steele Miller, with photos by Keith Millard. Advertisements by club members have helped defray expenses. Absentees and others receive it by mail or internet.

Induction of new members is a memorable “I will” experience and an opportunity of the inductee to meet past Club presidents and the current Board of Directors.

THE BAY BOOSTERS are members of other clubs who spend several months in this area and are a vital part of our club and social activities. There are no dues. They receive a special badge and are listed in the annual Directory.

Club programs are varied and include Club assemblies. Some of our best programs are from our members.

Our loose-leaf annual CLUB DIRECTORY has in recent years been compiled by Mike Murphy, Allen Jelks, and Club Photographer Keith Millard. It contains not only photography and information about each club member, but the Bay Booster reports, Constitution and By-Laws of the Club and Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation.

The Sergeant-At-ARMS wields his power in varying degrees of intensity to levying fines for mention in the local media, and extracting “Happy Dollars” and answering quiz questions.

2. VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Some of our earlier projects included an EXPLORER POST #40 sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America for boys and girls to learn through monthly meetings future opportunities in professional and business careers.

FOUR-WAY TEST posters were distributed to local high schools for bulletin boards, restrooms, and faculty and staff areas.

THE SEMINAR FOR TOMORROW’S LEADERS began in 1980, and we participate annually for a week-long supervised leadership of selected high school students in District 6960 now meeting each spring at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

Each new member is allowed to speak of his vocation to the Club (without a fine) soon after his or her induction.

We have participated in 4-H and FFA projects, with one unusual program at the Shrine Club involving two prize live bulls shown in a discussion of judging methods.

3. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Some of the community projects that were undertaken in the first twenty-five years of our history are still present today: the TENNIS COURTS AT BEE RIDGE PARK dedicated to Rotarian Andy Rhodes; the TRACK AT

SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL dedicated to Lou Means; PALM TREES ALONG SOUTH TAMiami TRAIL planted by the Sarasota Garden Club with funding from our club; and CEDAR TREES PLANTED IN BEE RIDGE PARK.

Other important community service projects for many years were: THE ROTARY BLOOD BANK ACCOUNT begun in 1960 during the presidency of founding member, Dr. Martin Ross, with club donors awarded exemption from fines for the month in which they donated; the Greater Sarasota BASKETBALL FREE-THROW TOURNAMENT; formation of a ROTARACT CLUB (ages 18-30) 1974-1976; sponsorship of a BOY SCOUT TROOP and a LITTLE LEAGUE Baseball Team.

Community projects which have continued include: the annual HOLIDAY KETTLE COLLECTION for the Salvation Army; the periodic roadside cleanup on Tamiami Trail near our meeting site at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall; sponsorship of an INTERACT CLUB at Riverview High School; the annual SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ROAD-E-O initiated by Carl Emmel; and TOYS FOR TOTS donations to the Children's Medical Services families.

During these past 50 years, the Club and the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation have made donations each year to many other community organizations. These details are noted in the section on Past Presidents' Reports.

4. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Since its origin, the Club has supported the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. A few years ago, 100% of our members were in the PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY (donors who had given \$1,000 or more). Today, we encourage all new members to become Sustaining Members. Several members are Benefactors after many years of financial support. Some have pledged annual donations of \$1,000, and the Club has also pledged annual support. Worldwide there are more than one million Paul Harris Fellows.

When the POLIOPLUS CAMPAIGN to eradicate poliomyelitis was introduced in 1984, Rotary International asked our Club to raise \$7,000. The

Board of Directors doubled that amount, and on the initial drive, the Club raised over \$50,000. In 2007, \$650 million had been raised, two billion children immunized, and the world 99% polio free.

For many years, beginning in 1963, we participated in the INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE program where a foreign high school student came to Sarasota to live with host Rotarian families, and a Sarasota student was sent abroad. Many friendships with these exchange students and their families persist.

A project begun in 1969 was the collection of cancelled US postage stamps resulting in boxes of stamps taken to Rotary International Conventions for free distribution to interested philatelists worldwide.

We have participated in many DISTRICT-SPONSORED PROJECTS such as in Savannah-la-mar, Jamaica, and Santa Barbara Hospital, renovations and the establishment of a sanitary water supply and catastrophe relief programs by the growing Shelter Box distribution.

An outstanding annual event is the hosting of DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEES for a week in Sarasota staying at Rotarian homes prior to the International DGE Training Session in California.

We Will

WORK TOGETHER THROUGH FELLOWSHIP;

IMPROVE THE LIVES OF YOUTH AND THE DISADVANTAGED;

LEVERAGE OUR TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES;

LEAD BY EXAMPLE!

THE ROTARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY STATED PURPOSE OF THE AWARD:

To honor in a special way, one Rotary member who has made a special contribution to the club, to Rotary and the community throughout his/her time as a Rotarian.

The award may be given by the club to a member of Rotary at any time. The award will not necessarily be given each year, but will be given when a Rotarian is obviously worthy of receipt of this outstanding honor.

Past and continued service should be honored by the award. The award need not be given for action or service in this particular year.

Only under the most unusual circumstances will the award be voted to a Rotarian who has not been a member for at least twelve months.

The award will be represented by a suitable presentation which will be consistent year to year. A list of names of recipients will be kept by the club historian.

The club President-Elect, President, and immediate Past President will not be eligible for the award and will continue to serve as a nominating group for the award.

The Rotary Distinguished Service Award recipient will be selected as follows:

1. A ballot for nomination will be presented to the entire membership at least once a year. This will be done in the direction of the nominating group normally in the month of October or April. This will

be advertised in the “Bay Breeze” for one week before the nominating ballot is presented to the membership.

2. The nominating ballots will be counted or reviewed by the nominating group. This group will inform no one of the count of the nominating ballots and will present to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled board meeting
 - (a) one
 - (b) more than one or
 - (c) no nominees to be considered by the Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors by written and secret vote will select
 - (a) one
 - (b) more than one or
 - (c) no award recipients from the list given to them by the nominating group.

Any Rotarian or Rotarians who receive fifty percent of the vote of the Board will be honored with the Rotary Distinguished Service Award.

The Rotary Distinguished Service Award will be presented to the recipient at the next major and suitable club event.

Criteria to be considered in the selection of the recipient of The Rotary Distinguished Service Award are:

- Leadership in Club Activities
- Strong Leadership in Fund Raising
- Supporter Behind the Scenes
- Supporter of Rotary International Activities
- Supporter of Rotary District Activities
- Supporter of Existing Club Activities
- Development of New Club Activities
- Outstanding Promotion of our Club
- Rotary International Foundation Activity
- Sarasota Bay Club Foundation Activity
- Sponsorship of New Members
- Leadership from the floor of Club Meetings
- Lives the 4-way Test
- Past Service

THE ROTARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Allen N. Jelks Sr., MD.....	1990
Rodgers A. Bradley	1991
J. Martin Ross, DDS.....	1991
Cyrus G. Bispham	1991
Karl B. Albritton	1991
Edward J. Hellmich	1992
I. Welch Whitesell, Jr.	1993
Gerry White	1995
Carl Weinrich	1995
Elija Hicks, Jr.....	1997
Jerry Guiles	1997
Michael R. Pender, Jr.	1999
Lt. Gen. Howard G. Crowell	2004
Michael W. Murphy.....	2007
Dave Eisenmann.....	2008

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY FOUNDATION

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation was organized July 21, 1985 as a project of Club President Joseph Danna, who raised \$500. The founding trustees were: Michael Pender, Jr., John Berteau, Joseph Danna, Larry Robinson, Gary Houts, Gerald Clark, Ed Herrold, and Welch Whitesell.

John Berteau donated his services to form a Florida Not-For-Profit Corporation and Mike Pender, Jr. helped us obtain our 501 c 3 status on October 21 1986. The \$5,000 goal was reached that first year and five donations of \$11.60 each were distributed.

In 2008 (23 years latter) the Foundation has assets over \$300,000 with dividend and interest income increasing donations to more than \$7,000 annually.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Michael R. Pender Jr.	1985-1987	Steve Briggs	1998-1999
Larry Robinson	1987-1988	Jerry Schwarzkopf	1999-2001
Ed Herrold	1988-1990	Bill Folz	2001-2002
Welch Whitesell	1990-1992	Frank Hurlburt	2002-2003
Gerry Greig	1992-1993	Elija Hicks	2003-2004
Janet Post	1993-1994	Robert Strasser	2004-2006
Elija Hicks	1994-1996	Paul Thatcher	2006-2007
Greg Hart	1996-1997	Brian Flynn	2007-2008
Michael R. Pender Sr.	1997-1998		

ROTARY ANNS

The Rotary Ann Club was established on September 24, 1959. All spouses of Rotarians are Rotary Anns or Andys, but our club was a bit different. We were separate with our own governing body, a set of by-laws and annual dues of \$15.00. Our first president was Roselyn Stein, and our club was open to all wives, daughters and sisters of Rotarians. We first met in the homes of the Rotary Ann members and went on to meet in some of the local churches. Later we met for many years at the Cypress Inn, and when it closed, we continued to meet at the Forest Lakes Country Club until its closing.

Our goals were to foster friendship and to support the activities of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. We certainly did accomplish this over the years. We supported the Polio Plus campaign, worked at the Ed Smith Stadium and the School Bus Road-E-O, and participated in the Christmas Toy project, the Easter Basket and other toy projects. We hosted DGNs and DGEs in our homes. We folded and mailed invitations and made centerpieces for the DGE, and many other dinners.

Over the years, we made monetary contributions to SPARCC, Marie Selby Gardens, Mote Marine Laboratory, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Children's Haven, Mobile Meals on Wheels, the Senior Friendship Center, Christmas at the Pines, All Faiths Food Bank, Channel 40 Christmas Toys for Tots, Resurrection House, Guide Dogs for the Deaf and the Pelican Man. We also provided clothing for less fortunate children attending a Sarasota elementary school and hosted Bingo parties at the Pines. Speaking of the Pelican Man, we adopted two pelicans, Rotary and Ann.

Ours was a vibrant club for many years, meeting for lunch once a month.

One of the first signs of a long goodbye began when Rotary began inducting women into its membership. Our membership became static and we stopped growing. This was due to changes in our demographics country wide. Younger Rotarians coming into the club had spouses who worked or were caregivers to young children. One of our Rotary Ann members, Norma Garber, went to the Lakewood Ranch Rotary Club and became its president. Ways to improve membership were discussed ad infinitum. Nighttime meetings were discussed, but this would not accommodate the long time members, many of whom were Rotarian widows, and no longer wished to travel at night. The Rotary Ann Club was their only contact with Rotary since the loss of their spouses. Each new Rotarian was contacted, and for one reason or another, their spouses had no interest in joining Rotary Anns. At the time, there were five Rotary Ann clubs in Sarasota to draw from, so Inner Wheel was discussed at great length. Again there was little interest.

Slowly, our membership dwindled down to a nucleus of fourteen members. Those members who stayed up to the disbanding of the club were either officers or chairpersons. It was hard to watch the club come to an end because we loved meeting with each other. Finally the Rotary Ann Club disbanded in June 2006.

Long time Rotary Anns included Bili Perkins, Jeanne Emmel, Doris Bispham, Evie Huntington, Shirley Cutler and Marj Milks. We had a lot of talent in our club. We had a juried photographer, a talented musician, a poet or two, an artist, a champion Scrabble player, gardeners, professional volunteers, mothers, talkers, gourmet cooks and many gourmands.

Before disbanding in 2006, the Rotary Ann Club passed a resolution to donate the balance of its bank account (\$1,054,66) to the Rotary Goodwill project for a park bench with the stipulation that the Rotary Ann Club be recognized as an integral part of the Rotary Club for nearly fifty years. The Rotary Ann Club included members from the Gateway Club as well as the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay.

All of us have had a feeling of loss since the Rotary Anns parted company. -- *Courtesy of Fran Pender*

Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Membership

50 YEARS

Cyrus Bispham

J. Martin Ross

25 – 49 YEARS

Kent Bartruff

John Berteau

Robert Davis

Jacques Esclangon

Elija Hicks

Allen Jelks

Wendel Kent

Clyde Lockie

Mike Pender, Jr.

Mike Pender, Sr.

Warren Spurlin

Welch Whitesell

11 – 24 YEARS

Donald Healy

Joseph Horne

Zoltan Karpathy

Charles Laundry

Dan McLeroy

Todd Morgan

Mike Murphy

Vincent Rockel

Robert Sechrist

Paul Thatcher

Jim Todora

Carl Weinrich

1 – 10 YEARS

James Allan

Carl Anderson

Michael Angers

Richard Angers

Arthur August

Michael Bender

Robert Blinch-Edwards

Richard Bratton

Cheryl Perkins Buick

Donald Butler

Donna Clarke

Timothy Cole

Frank Curtis

Mark DeSouza

Wayne Dictor

James Dufly

David Eisenmann

Roger Farquhar

Brian Flynn

James Flynn

Raymond Frugia

Frank Gooch

Arthur Hamilton

Fred Hetherington

Merle Huntington

James Johnson

John LaCivita

Richard Litke

Stephen Lowther

Richard Mahaffey

Marge Maisto

Joseph Mathis

Keith Millard

Susan Steele Miller

Dona Morgan

Lance Parker

James Phills

Edward Potter

Pedro Reis

Frank Reuss

Renee Richardson-Kling

Regina Sakezles

Jeanette Spencer

Robert Strasser

Derek Templeton

Jerry Thompson

Jason Ziarno

In Memoriam

Earl Rubini
June 12, 1966

Andrew B. Rhodes
August 16, 1966

Edward L. Manigault
August 16, 1967

Charles N. Kimble
November 28, 1967

Clarence V. Symonds
December 15, 1967

Lewis E. Rothrock
December 12, 1969

Donald E. Dickason
August 28, 1971

Theodore Reininga
December 10, 1971

Douglas K. Hammett
March 26, 1973

John W. Pugh
July 30, 1973

Simon N. Davidian
December 4, 1974

Robert B. Wright
October 13, 1975

Elmer Sulzer
February 15, 1976

Daniel R. Pinkham
August 3, 1976

Raymond W. Stearns
September 1, 1976

Clifton F. Brown
March 17, 1977

Charles L. Cutler
April 4, 1977

Julian Cowin
March 21, 1978

John Wagner
January 1, 1979

H. Max Tindall
January 21, 1979

Charles E. Bechtold
November 1, 1979

Paul L. Hecht, M.D.
December 21, 1979

H. Russell Stapp
January 3, 1980

Mike Morgenroth
June 5, 1980

Orville Walker
July 22, 1981

Walter L. French
April 15, 1983

Harry F. Borden
May 19, 1983

Louis E. Means
August 25, 1983

Theodore A. Haller
November 1984

James A. Steward
December 28, 1984

Don Laurent, Sr.
June 23, 1987

Garrett Kempers
November 20, 1987

Raymond E. Perkins
March 3, 1988

Neil R. Korzuck
May 27, 1988

J.W. (Red) Stretton
July 12, 1989

William C. Baum
February 7, 1990

Felix Dospil
July 17, 1990

Frank J. Welch
March 25, 1991

Richard Robinson, Jr
September 4, 1991

Jack W. Milholland
November 14, 1991

Richard W. Milks
December 28, 1991

Allison Thatcher
December 27, 1993

Arthur R. Wienke
March 18, 1994

George M. Cooley
October 18, 1994

Haldean G. Polley
January 26, 1995

Gerald White
January 19, 1996

George D. Spache
February 3, 1996

Clarence H. Jones
May 10, 1996

Donald Weber
June 19, 1996

Peter Hearden
July 11, 1996

William B. Budny
October 1996

Chaunecy B. Mcnelly
December 1, 1996

George M. Calvert
January 31, 1997

Fanny Eisenberg, Phd
March 11, 1997

Carl A. Emmel
March 1, 1998

Dr. H. Karsten Schmdt
September 23, 1998

Richard T. Adams, Pd
December 28, 1998

Edward John Hellmich
January 28, 2000

Edward Siantz
June 18, 2000

Edward P. Cebulski
October 1, 2000

George F. Sommer
March 10, 2001

Rev. Robert F. Hays
March 7, 2002

Karl Benjamin Albritton
April 13, 2002

Hugh E. Wriggelsworth
May 13, 2002

Richard E. Nelson
December 14, 2002

Robert J. Stinnett
December 27, 2002

Glenn V. Troyer
August 22, 2003

Martin I. Moss
September 9, 2004

Miles R. Weaver
March 26, 2006

A. Russell Buffaloe
May 13, 2006

Rodgers Bradley
July 21, 2008

Present at the Creation

*Founding Member Cy Bispham looks back on
50 years of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay.*

Tim Cole: I am talking today with Cy Bispham, one of the founding members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. So I'm just going to ask you some questions, Cy, and you just go ahead and give us some answers right off the top of your head.

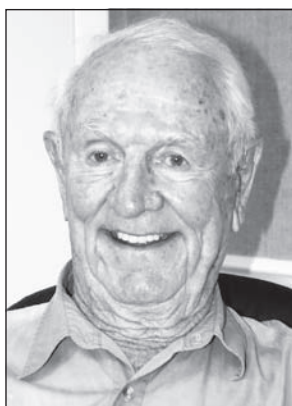
Cy Bispham: Some of the things I remember didn't really happen.

Tim: Well it doesn't matter, that's fine. But one of the things I'd like you to do is to take us back to 1958. Talk a little bit about the founding members and the original establishment of the Rotary Club. Tell us what the scene was like back then so we can really get a sense of the early, early days of this very fine Rotary Club that's now a half-century old.

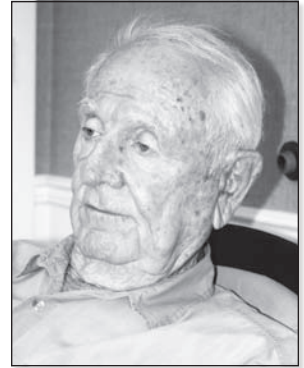
Cy: I was working on my dairy farm and one of my old neighbors came out to the farm and looked me up and said they were starting a new Rotary Club. His name was Karl Albritton, who was also the fifth president of our Club. Carl was a very well established businessman in Sarasota.

If he had lived he would be a 109 years old today. But anyway he was the one who recruited me and said that they were having a meeting and wanted to know if I would have some interest. So I thought yes I'd like to fit in. So I came to the meeting. The Rotary Club hadn't even started. It wasn't formally a club. And some of the members from downtown--we called them the Downtown Sarasota Club--told us about Rotary and what we had to do to get a new club started.

Tim: What was the original motivation for establishing a new club? Just to spread the word of Rotary?



Cy: Yes. The downtown club made it a point of creating a new club. We kind of divided up the city, putting a boarder line where we weren't supposed to go north of Hillview Street or something like that and because that was their territory. For us to get somebody from north of that we had to get their permission. We had some funny rules just to help to establish it you know... and it really worked. There were couple of guys in the club who really worked and helped us to get started. We were fortunate that Rogers Bradley, who just died in July of this year, was our first president. We first met at an old restaurant, which is now gone, but it was right there near the hospital and it's right where Blockbuster's is now. And we just had twenty five original members and recruited a few along the way but in the winter we would have more visiting Rotarians than we had members-- we called them the Bay Boosters --and they just crowded that room and it was just amazing how well we got along because we were just bunched up so close together. In those days people were more interested in keeping up their 100 % membership you know.



Tim: Well people are busy, so it's understandable but you clearly knew how to get motivated in order to maintain attendance.

Cy: I never was one to try to go out of my way to keep a one hundred percent attendance because I traveled a lot. It's a hard enough job to keep a hundred percent attendance but we were always way up there in the nineties.

Tim: What originally attracted you to Rotary? What appeal did Rotary have for you?

Cy: Well, I've always been very civic minded but it just gave me an opportunity to meet with fellow businessmen and people who were interested in the community. And it was not necessarily the wealthy people either. I remember the lunches were three dollars and we passed a collection plate. We used to put a quarter in it. It was just an opportunity to be a good fellow businessman and I really did this because it kind of fit my program.

Tim: You mentioned just a minute ago that the whole idea of community was very important to you and one of the original things that attracted you to Rotary. Let's talk about the community that you were serving back in 1958. What were some of the things that Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay was looking at in terms of community service back in that day? Do you remember some of the projects that you were working on?

Cy: Yes. We were small in number but it wasn't too long before we started the School Bus Road-E-O, which is still active and has really been a successful program.

Tim: For those who might not know, what exactly is The School Bus Road-E-O?

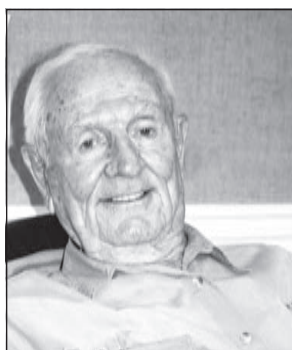
Cy: It's a safety program for school bus drivers, who can win an award if they correctly pass through a parking and driving course. It brings together drivers from all over the state. We also had a really successful fundraiser where we sold raffle tickets for a new car. We also began the annual DGE program for incoming district governors, who stop in Sarasota for a few days before continuing on to the international conference. All these programs are still in place.

Tim: I am a relatively new Rotary member, so last year was the first time I was able to attend your amazing Pig Roast for DGEs from all over the world. You made quite an impression.

Cy: Let me tell you how it started. One of our real active members, Ed Hellmich, did a lot of international travel and he started talking about inviting the incoming District Governors to Sarasota. For many, many years a part of the entertainment for those Governors during their home stay was to go out on a boat. But some of the people didn't care about boats so much and they asked me to put on a local picnic. I said sure I will be glad to do that and so three or four couples and their whole family came out, we had more the next year and more the year after that. So they gave up the boat ride and the picnic became kind of an institution.

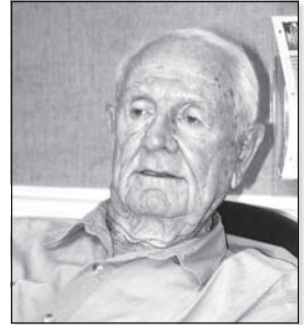
Tim: Right. First time in my life I had frogs legs...

Cy: And we had deer meat and shrimp and ferret meat and hog meat and squirrel, doves and I don't know what



and everybody brought a dessert or salad or vegetable.

Tim: A terrific occasion. I want to turn next to your experiences growing up in Sarasota because all of us are really newcomers here. All kinds of things have taken place in your lifetime in this community... I just wanted to maybe get some flavor of the life back then. At one point I recall your father owned some land on Longboat Key. You had cattle out there?



Cy: It was a vegetable farm. My father was born in Palmetto in 1891. And in 1910 they moved out to Longboat Key to grow vegetables because in Palmetto they used to have frost that would kill the vegetables. So, they needed to get nearer the water. . So they went out there and started farming. And everything was delivered by boat since there were no bridges or anything.

Tim: Was there a little ferry dock out there?

Cy: Yes and the ferry would come in, and in our time we had a boat that would come and pack our vegetables and it would go to Tampa where there was a train. They would put our vegetables on the train to go to the northern markets.

Tim: Did your family live out there?

Cy: Yes they lived there for 15 years. And in 1921 a hurricane came and just wiped them out, they had nothing left. And he kept his old boat.

Tim: That's a good reminder that hurricanes are very capable of hitting the Sarasota area.

Cy: Yes and that's why he started the dairy business. That was in '22. Well I was born in 1925 and so he was in the dairy business when I was born.

Tim: Now the dairy business was on the Tamiami Trail down at this end of town, and at the south end of Sarasota?

Cy: Yes right, where The Landings shopping center is now.

Tim: And did you have cattle grazing out there or did you have actual milk production there, or both?

Cy: We had cattle and we milked our cows and bottled the milk and delivered it. And so dad would go down early in the morning and load up

the milk truck. We lived on Route 41 there and as he left the dairy he would blow his horn. I would hear, and I would run down and jump on the milk truck and help him deliver milk. He'd drop me off just outside school.

Tim: So you would jump off the truck with the milk and get back on the truck? Your father would drive?

Cy: Yes I was called a hop boy.

Tim: So that's what they call a hop boy, huh?

Cy: Hop boy. Yes, my brother and I took turns. He'd go one morning and I'd go the next.

Tim: That's great.

Cy: We did that for quite a few years. Some days I would help to milk cows by hand before I went to school in the morning.

Tim: So you've seen a lot of changes on Tamiami Trail. What was it like back then in the days?

Cy: Just a two-lane road, and you could drive your bicycle right down the middle. I used to ride my bike. We always had a bus, but if I played football, I'd miss the bus so I'd ride my bike to get home.

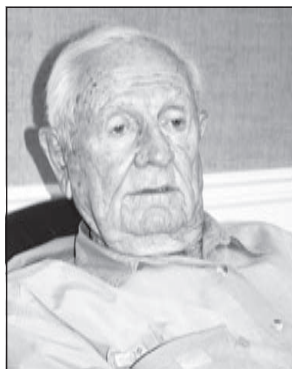
Tim: And was Sarasota the tourist destination that it is presently?

Cy: Yes in fact during the depression tourist money was all the money we had in Sarasota. Earlier, we had had a land boom and everybody was coming and buying land and next thing you know everybody quit and left. And if any of them had any money they took it with them. The year I was in the second grade, they closed the schools for five months. If parents wanted to send their kids to school the parents had to pay

the teacher. So there were five of us kids and I was always a kind of hard learner. The rest of the Bispham kids didn't go to school during those times. But my dad and mother insisted that I go because I was having a hard time learning. They delivered a pint of milk a day to the teacher to pay for my training. But I flunked the second grade anyway.

Tim: Looks like you turned out alright.

Cy: Anyway it was really hard. And they used to have what they called a 50-cent a year tuition fee that each



student was supposed to pay and most of the kids never paid it. And they had a lunch program, they had a cafeteria and lot of them brought their own lunch.

Tim: So you were at South Side, and then you transitioned up to Sarasota High School?

Cy: Yes and I still have a granddaughter in South Side School.

Tim: That's great. You were obviously a teenager in Sarasota going to Sarasota High. What was it like being a young man, a teenager, in this town during that period I guess this was in the early '40s.

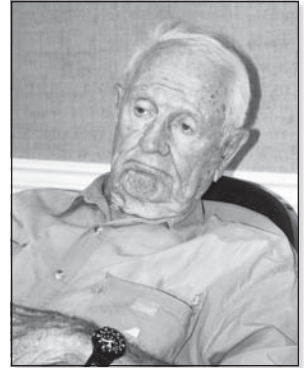
Cy: The early '40s during the war, I was about 15 when the war started. And of course I wanted to go and volunteer like everybody else did but my dad insisted that I finish high school. So I didn't go in the army until '44.

Tim: What was Sarasota like during the war years?

Cy: Sarasota grew because they had air bases in Sarasota and in Venice and they really had a lot of activity and of course we didn't have any tourists because tourists couldn't get gas to come down. Few of them sent their cars down in trains. But tourism was way down. But a lot of the military people stationed in the area came down with their families. We just couldn't expand the dairy business because we didn't have any money. We could sell all the milk but we'd still lose. So there was always a shortage of milk, same as it was with wheat and butter and sugar and everything else.

Tim: Well I guess the Bispham family owned a lot of land however.

Cy: We always had some. We just had twenty acres there where The Landings is now but we rented which is now Oyster Bay and The Field Club. We rented that for a quart of milk a day. There were a hundred acres there and we gave the owner a quart of milk a day for twenty years. And then during the war my dad would get a little money ahead and wound up owning four hundred and eighty acres. In 1949 we built a barn over there and sold the land where The Landings is. We sold some of it earlier to get money to build the barn buildings. The price of



land was going up. In '55 we sold our bottling and distribution business to another dairy and produced milk for them rather than have our own business because we were too little to be big and too big to be little.

Tim: To circle back, we're coming up on the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. What has Rotary meant to you?

Cy: I think the contact with people from other cities and countries is the part I have enjoyed the most. To me the DGE home stay is very important to Rotary. I think people from all over the world will remember Sarasota because of that, so it is amazing how many people from other countries have formed their impressions of America by what they experience right here in Sarasota.

Tim: Well that international contact is extremely helpful in so many ways. Cy, you've been a great ambassador.

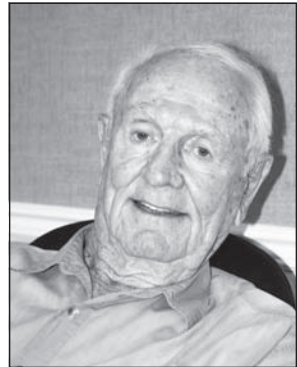
Cy: It is just getting so big that it is hard to find homes and everything but we need to push and get more and more people from the other clubs to get involved.

Tim: Have you ever traveled to visit other Rotary clubs?

Cy: Yes. I have gone to make up Rotary in foreign countries but not in recent years.

Tim: Tell me what you want to say to young Rotarians, new Rotarians emerging...You have 50 years of perspective. What do you want to say to the next generation coming up?

Cy: I would say just find an avenue within Rotary that you enjoy and follow through with that. Don't try to volunteer for every thing that comes up. Find some branch within our club and in Rotary that they could have a little expertise in and enjoy doing that.



HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

*The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay celebrates
a half-century of service...*



By President Keith Millard

Travel back with me to 1958. The Barbie Doll and the Hoola Hoop were all the rage, NASA had not yet been established, Dr. Zhivago and Breakfast at Tiffany's were the summer buzz books and gasoline was 29.6 cents per gallon. It was also the year that local area business leaders like Karl Albritton, Rodgers Bradley, Dr. J. Martin Ross and our own irrepressible Cy Bispham came together to form the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay.

Originally an expansion club sprung from the "Downtown" Rotary Club, which itself dated from the middle twenties, The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay quickly adopted a personality all its own, borne of the personalities who became its members. The founders quickly came to exemplify the Rotary credo of Service Above Self—founding the now legendary School Bus Road-E-O, tag-teaming the concession stand at Ed Smith stadium, putting Sarasota in the international spotlight with annual DGE visits, and taking on tough but necessary signature projects like the Beneva Oaks Park for the disabled in partnership with Goodwill Industries. Inspired by its founders' vision, Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay is today helping children through Great Kids and Seminar For Tomorrow's Leaders—and is leading the way in disaster preparedness through Prepare to Share.

You can find inspiration for all these initiatives by reading through the end-of-year presidents' letters chronicled here, standing for all time as a record of this club's achievements. It is hoped that future Rotarians will look back on our own achievements and become just as inspired by what we've done as we are in honoring the work of those who came before us. The privilege of introducing the parade of presidents on the following pages falls to me. But it can be truly said that I stand on the shoulders of all the great individuals who came before me.

Moreover, we hope that this record of our past half century assumes a prominent place in your bookshelf—with histories and people and events that express your personal involvement with The Miracle of Rotary.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Millard
President 2008-2009

A History in Letters

*Learning about a half-century of service from the
parade of presidents who made it possible*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1958-1959

Rodgers Bradley



On July 22, 1958, after months of preliminary meetings, planning, and assistance from the parent Sarasota Rotary Club, the first unofficial-official meeting of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay was held. The original group of 13 prospective members was increased by four new candidates, making a total of 17. Guest speaker was Dr. Walter Kennedy, the only remaining charter member of the Sarasota Rotary Club. Dr. Kennedy stressed the beginning of Rotary International and the ultimate creation of the Sarasota Rotary Club.

The following five meetings gave the neophyte club members an insight to Rotary. The following members of Sarasota Rotary Club presented facts and information about duties of each officer, the four avenues of service, Rotary responsibilities, and classification principles. They were Ken Tutin, J. Wyman Hollowell, O. K. Fyke, George Reeves and George Ray.

The following four meetings were designed solely for new club business. Of primary importance was the need to obtain more members, to enable the new club to secure the official charter. Soon six new members were added, with the loss of only three, thus adding three for a starting roster of twenty prospective members.

October 7, 1958 was the date of recognition as a provisional Rotary Club, with formal application sent to Rotary International for charter. The twenty-one charter members were:

Karl B. Albritton	Charles N. Kimble	Lawrence G. Sapp
Cyrus G. Bispham	Millard M. Moore	Grover Sewell
Charles C. Binns	James R. Morgan	Lester H. Stein
Rodgers A. Bradley	Paul P. Perry, Jr.	Clarence V. Symonds
H. Clyde Brantley	Paul P. Perry III	William G. Waidlick
W. Bruce Damron	J. Martin Ross	Robert T. Wallace
Edward L. Jackson	Lewis E. Rothrock	George W. Whiting

Distinguished guests for that memorable meeting were Don Self, special representative for the District Governor; George Ray, Past District Governor; Dr. Walter Kennedy, Past District Governor; Art Sloan, President, Sarasota Rotary club; Ed. St. Phillip and Edwin Bertolett, extension committee members; Art Kitchen, Representative to the District Governor; Arthur Adair, Representative for West Coast, St. Petersburg; and C. L. McKaig, Speaker for Rotary International.

On November 18, 1958, the first social evening was planned by members for their wives. It proved to be the first of many such events. It was the first opportunity for wives to meet each other. On that evening, the announcement was made that Rotary International had accepted the petition for charter and that the official charter had been delivered to the Sarasota Rotary Club. The presentation banquet was planned for November 20, 1958, in the ballroom of Zinn's Restaurant.

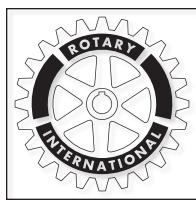
The official charter date of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, November 20, 1958 saw an overflow crowd of 240 Rotarians, wives, and guests. Host for the event was the Sarasota Rotary Club, the parent group. Presiding was Art Sloan, President. Main address was given by District Governor Richard C. Cumming of Ocala. Special guests were James Keith of Orlando, Past District Governor who presented the charter; Past District Governors Dr. Walter Kenneth and George Ray; and the Presidents and Representatives of 52 clubs in District 6960. Charter President Rodgers Bradley acknowledged each of the outstanding gifts to the club, and received the charter in the name of the club. Secretary

Jack Ross presented a contribution check for the Rotary Foundation to Governor Cumming.

The period from November 25 to June 30 was devoted primarily to solidification of the club and its members. Emphasis was given to membership growth. Programs of high caliber were presented each week. Entering into community activities early, work was begun on the first club project, a newly formed school for retarded children, “Children’s Haven.” Twenty four members finished the year of club life.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1959-1960

H. Clyde Brantley



The second year of the club started with 24 members. New members soon added were James Hicks, O.K. Cummings, Dr. Martin Lawson and Ralph Parent. Losses due to resignation were Rev. Grover Sewell and Robert Wallace.

On September 1, 1959 the first issue of Bay Breeze created excitement. No bulletin had been attempted during the first year. The Bay Breeze cites several items of interest. Among them was the tribute paid to Edith Albritton’s cherry pie. The Board met at the homes of several board members that year. Early issues of Bay Breeze carried football score results. The amount of bets was not announced. Rodgers Bradley seemed to win most often on scores.

The Bay Boosters were first organized in late 1959, and membership rapidly grew, in fact outnumbering the membership roster of the club itself. Bay Boosters started with 19 at year’s end, but soon after grew to 28 Boosters, then up to 32. On February 2nd the meeting registered 13 visitors, 32 Bay Boosters, most of the club members, and an assorted group of members of the Sarasota Rotary Club. On March 2nd 107 guests were present.

An early “Testimonial Dinner” acknowledged and praised the work of Rodgers Bradley as he gave much of himself holding the young club together and giving it perspective. Charley Kimble chaired this fine affair. The Bay Breeze spoke of Football Specials on the railroad, running each Saturday from Sarasota to Gainesville for football games.

A custom was established whereby one student each week from both Sarasota and Riverview High Schools became club guests. Rodgers Bradley and Ed Jackson headed an effort to give needed companionship and friendship to boys without fathers. Many weekend and evening hikes, fishing trips, and other recreational events were developed. The first Annual Christmas Dinner Dance was held at the new Terrace Roof Garden. Price was \$7 per couple. The club sold 200 tickets for the Charity Ball sponsored by Sarasota Rotary Club. Ernie Wade and Syd Farlinger headed up the Bay Boosters organization. Assistance was given the Sarasota Club in starting the Sarasota Keys Rotary Club late that year. Dr. Kenneth Cooper was one of the early Keys officers. Other accomplishments were: gifts to new Rotary Clubs, new uniforms for some band members at both high schools, Children's Haven, helping to send boys to the fourth Convention, sponsored a boy to Tallahassee Boys State, plus a gift to Past-President Rodgers Bradley.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1960-1961

Dr. J. Martin Ross



All available records indicate that the year 1960-61 was most successful. All members were actively engaged in club projects. President Ross stressed the importance of twenty-eight proposals and objectives in the four avenues of service. The Board announced proudly at year's end that twenty-two of these had been realized.

An outline of the major events included high attendance records of almost 95% attained, a series of outstanding programs featuring leading community citizens, new area classification survey completed, the club's first blood bank initiated, and 24 new members were added, thus reaching and exceeding the goal of 40 set by club officers at the outset.

New club members added were: Dr. James A. France, Charles Bechtold, Ken Ferguson, Roy Goodwin, Robert D. Rigg, Dr. Robert Thompson, David Rice, Freeman H. Vaughn, C. Stewart Fisher, Harry Alber and C. W. Kaylor. Eight members were lost – the year ending with 41.

Vocational service was stressed with active work of committees with leaders of business and industry. The Four-Way Test received strong emphasis in schools, businesses and clubs.

Aid was given to the establishment of a community recreation area within the club's territory on Wilkinson Road. The chartering and initiation of Boy Scouts into Troop 91 was accomplished and much club attention given to their activities. Funds were sent to Rotary Foundation for international projects. Another feature was the presentation of a year's subscription to Rotary Magazine to each program guest speaker. The practice of exacting a dollar for each member's birthday and anniversary was started.

A unique fund raiser was the selling of lottery chances on a new Chrysler Valiant automobile. The project netted about \$700 profit. Many members attended the charter night for the new Port Charlotte Rotary Club. One luncheon served to host all high school students who had attended meetings during the year.

Cash support was given to Children's Haven, new Rotary Clubs, Happiness House, expenses of boys to 4-H Conference, expenses of youth as representatives to Boys State at Tallahassee, Boy Scout Troop 91, and expenses to foreign exchange students. After some two years of getting started this year provided the club a stabilizing and strengthened year of dedication to Service Above Self.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1961-1962

Cyrus G. Bispham



An ardent and dedicated core of charter and early members carried the club through its fourth year with success, great fellowship, and modest growth. The year started with 38 members and ended with 42. New members added were Raymond W. Stearns, Robert E. Brock and Francis W. Brown.

A feature throughout the year was a series of student visitors and speakers from both Sarasota and Riverview High Schools. The weekly basket collections were budgeted for Foreign Student Exchange activities. One student

was hosted from South America. The “Million Dollar Meal” contributed substantially to Rotary Foundation where the club attained 200% rating.

Boy Scout Troop 91 was earlier created and supported by the club and this year saw added closeness and vital help for the Troop. The entire Troop was entertained at one club luncheon. Bennie Brown and several other Rotarians took the Scouts on eight overnight camping trips and one week of full camping at home.

The opening Installation Banquet and ceremony was held at Azure Tides on Lido Key with Rotary Anns. Larry Sapp acted as Master of Ceremonies. A joint service club meeting was staged at Ringling Museum where three Rotary Clubs and two Kiwanis Clubs cooperated. Good club attendance and participation was gratifying at the District 696 Assembly at Clearwater. A Christmas holiday musical program given by the director, pianist and twenty Sarasota High School vocalists was a noteworthy event.

An unusual feature occurred during the year when “Competitors Day” was held. Members brought as guests at least one visitor engaged in their own business or profession.

Members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay who were members in 1961-62 recall that the year was one of close and warm fellowship, constant attendance by a small but closely affiliated group of Bay Boosters, and punctuated and enlivened by the home-spun humor of President Cy Bispham.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1962-1963

Karl B. Albritton



The year started with 41 members and finished with 43. New members added were George Motter (a club pianist), Milton Rubinow, Emmet Greeley, Dr. James E. Paulk, Don Laurent, Dr. Allen N. Jelks, Earl Atkinson, Ed Russell, J. R. Bohannon, Sam T. McIntire, Harry H. Schall, and John W. Wagner. Some of those who resigned were Robert Brock, James R. Morgan, C. Stewart Fisher, James A. Hicks, Walter K. Keys, Paul Perry and George E. Whiting.

The year started off with an auspicious Installation Dinner with the Rotary Anns at the Terrace Hotel. Larry Sapp was master of ceremonies. The year ended with a lovely dinner served by Karl and Edith Albritton at their home for the current and incoming officers and Board of Directors.

Significant accomplishments were the continuing support and many camping trips with Boy Scout Troop 91, two student guests each week from Sarasota and Riverview High Schools, a BBQ shelter constructed for public use at Bee Ridge Recreation Park, cash to Rotary Foundation, Children's Haven, International Student Exchange Program, and the West Coast Educational TV Program. Again the "Million Dollar Meal" brought needed revenue for RI. Financial support was given to four Riverview High School students going abroad.

A fun and fund raising event was the fish fry held at the City Mobile Home Trailer Park. Scouts from Troop 91 assisted in ticket sales at \$1.75 – all you wanted to eat. A Rotary family picnic was held at Myakka State Park with Ken Ferguson as Chairman.

Sarasota Rotary Club, parent to Bay and Keys Clubs, hosted a three-club joint meeting. They later challenged the Bay Club to a golf match. Historical records do not reveal the actual results of this match. Ed St. Phillip hosted a three club picnic at Gulf and Bay Club on Siesta Key. The annual Christmas party with Rotary Anns was a gala affair at Colony Beach Club on Longboat Key.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1963-1964

John E. Dempsey



The year was marked by steady growth from 43 members to 54 at year's end, even with two resignations by H. Clyde Brantley and Neil Hannaford. New members were: Jack Schaffner, Rev. William V. Grosvenor, Ernie Wade, Dr. John Brooksbank, Mike Morgenroth, Rev. A. Russell Buffaloe, Ben Roberts, Raymond Perkins, Dr. Fred Martin, Joe Cramer, Charles Racht, John Broome and Stewart Fisher,

Financial support was given during the year to Children's Haven, County 4-

H Club, West Coast Educational TV Fund, Boy Scout Troop 91, and \$700 given to International Rotary Student Exchange Program. The club worked with their Scout Troop 91 to collect toys for the Salvation Army, entertained a group of 30 students from sister city of Santo Domingo, entertained a number of foreign exchange students, and worked hard at implementation of community service.

October attendance was 99.2 percent, and each month was in the very high 90 percent group. Fifty seven guests were at the club meeting on January 7th. Total present on February 18th was 165, and on March 3rd it was 166. The Annual Christmas Party with Rotary Anns took place at Top of the Terrace. Dr. Martin Lawson led in an effort to organize a Club orchestra. Many attended the District 696 Institute at Lake Wales.

One of the best remembered programs was a talk by Don Laurent's son, Don Jr., who spoke on the U.S. Security Guard of the Armed Forces. Roy Goodwin was acclaimed for his faithful work with Boy Scout Troop 91.

Rotary Anns hosted a delightful picnic supper at Sun N Fun Club on Fruitville Road. In addition to good food, a feature was miniature golf. The year ended with an Inaugural Dinner for new officers and directors at Colony Beach Club. William Grosvenor handled induction ceremonies.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1964-1965

Ken Ferguson



The year had an auspicious start with a dinner and induction ceremonies held at Colony Beach Resort with Rotary Anns invited. Bill Grosvenor was lauded for an excellent address and skillful management of installation rites.

Emphasis during the year was on fellowship and strengthening of our reputation for friendliness. Principal project in community service was the donation of \$840 to the Sarasota Garden Club for the planting of beautiful Cocoa Plumosa palms along the South Trail. The club continued sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 91 and supported it with cash and leadership. Cedar trees were presented for planting to the Bee Ridge

Recreation Park. Other beneficiaries of club largess were the Anglers Club, Florida West Coast Educational TV, the county 4-H Club, Childrens Haven, and the student exchange program at Riverview High School.

District 696 Conference was held at Port-of-Call in Tierra Verde, and the Club was well represented. Sergeant-at-Arms Cy Bispham levied a fine to Jim Paulk for wearing shorts to a club meeting. A hasty Board meeting was called and official action taken. Cy was visited, his measurements taken, and Cy was instructed to procure and wear appropriate shorts at the next club meeting or be denied club fellowship henceforth. Minutes of that period do not disclose whether this action was carried out as planned.

The annual “Million Dollar Dinner” was held to help increase club contributions to Rotary Foundation. The Annual Christmas Party was held in the Terrace Room at the Terrace Hotel. Cost was \$4 each.

A Rotary Family Outing was held at Buck Hawkins’ ranch which featured a barbecue dinner with the Rotary Anns. The latter also hosted a picnic supper at Casa Mar Apartments on Siesta Key where Ray and Bili Perkins had made the facilities available. The entire Boy Scout Troop 91 was entertained at a club luncheon. Riverview High School Interact Club was given the usual staunch support and enjoyed a good year of service and fellowship.

New members added during the year were Robert J. Munsell and Gene Stewart. Resignations were received from Al T. Taft and Earle Atkinson.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1965-1966

Bennie S. Brown



It was a year of close knit fellowship and growing maturity as a young club. The year started with 59 members, lost two due to death, and increased total membership to 65. New members added were: L. Welch Whitesell, Jr., Harold Underwood, Al Cruciger, LaVerne Boeck, Russell Hauk and Walter French. Two members deceased during the year were Earl P. Rubini and Robert Munsell.

This was the year our Interact Club was organized at Riverview High

School. Chairman for Interact was Andy Rhodes. At one meeting the entire Interact Club was entertained. The weekly baskets were passed to provide funds for the club's Student Loan Fund. Two scholarship loans were made.

Feature meetings were the luncheon meeting at Sarasota Memorial Hospital with Don Laurent as host, a luncheon to which all scouts of our own Boy Scout Troop 91 were guests, and the Annual Christmas Party with Rotary Anns held at Top of the Terrace. Rotary Anns and their Rotarians enjoyed a fine family picnic at Bee Ridge Recreation Park where so many past contributions of facilities had been made.

The Club Assembly was unusual as District Governor Franklin was surprised to find 52 members of our club plus 20 new members of the Interact Club. Formal induction ceremonies for Interact added color to the occasion. Jim France headed a project as Christmas approached inviting everyone to bring toys as a contribution to Salvation Army programs. Broken toys were solicited and Rotarians repaired these toys on the spot.

Our Rotary Anns assisted greatly in providing service at the County X-Ray Unit at South Gate where chest X-Rays were given to all comers. The District 696 Assembly in Lakeland was well attended by local members. A relationship was established with Rotarians in Bagalkot, India. Members carried on correspondence for months, and our Interact Club members did likewise.

An interesting excerpt from the Bay Breeze in October carried this remark:

“Mike Morgenroth combines his dulcet tone and outstretched fist in a manner which not only entertains, but brings in the cash. What a salesman.”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1966-1967

John W. Wagner



Great emphasis all year was a stress on regular attendance of the membership, a warm welcome to all Bay Boosters, and a reputation of being “headquarters for fellowship in Sarasota.” Added to this motif was a desire to support worthwhile community projects. Excellent attendance and

fellowship was enjoyed by members attending the District 696 Conference in Orlando, the District Assembly in Lakeland, and the installation of a new Rotary Club on Anna Maria Island.

New members added during the year were: Gerry Clark, G. Russ Betts, William Overton, Arnold Whitmer and Richard L. Middaugh. A sad and serious loss to the club was the passing of Andrew B. Rhodes.

Officer installation ceremonies were held at Azure Tides Hotel on Lido Key in an evening affair well attended by Rotary Anns. The Annual Christmas Party took place in Top of the Terrace at Sarasota Motor Hotel.

The club hosted a memorable boat trip for members of the Interact Club of Riverview High School. Members furnished the boats which found their picnic destination on Silver Dollar Island.

The club accomplished its main project of providing a new a new tennis court at Bee Ridge Community Park in memory of Andy Rhodes at a cost of over \$1,000. Two student loans amounting to a total of \$500 were granted. Our Interact Club at Riverview received financial support to send their representatives to their annual conference in Orlando. A positive step was taken through amendments to the Club By-laws. It provided for a nominating committee and increased the Board of Directors to nine members in accord with the By-laws of Rotary International.

The year started with 65 members and ended with 68 members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1967-1968

Don Laurent



It was the tenth year of service of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay to the Sarasota Community. President Laurent described the hallmark of the year in club activities in International Service. Two projects concerned Viet Nam. Support was given to a District 696 project to build a children's hospital and orphanage at Roch Gia. Gift packages were sent to over 100 local servicemen serving overseas. Transportation and housing was provided for Per Laurenus from Sweden. An exchange student from Surat,

India, Nainish Tarekh was welcomed. Contacts were made with our matched club in Haldwani, U.P., India through correspondence with their members and gifts sent. Local high school exchange students were entertained. Harry Schall collected the India gifts.

During the year new members were added as follows: Russell Stapp, Ted Slingman, Neil LeFevre, C. Edgar Mikronis, Jack Milholland, Emil Levy, Robert Meetze, G. Dwain Glenn, Ed Hellmich, John S. Booth III, and Frank J. Janda, Jr. The club was saddened with the passing of two faithful Rotarians, Charles N. Kimble and Edward L. Manigault. The year began with 73 members and finished with 87. Charley Kimble started our custom of basket passing for project funds.

Exchange students during the year were Marget Wierda and Will Mittenberg from the Netherlands, and with sending Marian Vincent to England and Roddick MacGilleva to South Africa. Ed Hellmich and Mildred took the four students on a tour of Florida areas of interest including Miami Beach and Cape Canaveral. Special efforts were made to distribute and clarify the meaning of Rotary's Four Way Test to students and citizens of the community.

Three Rotary clubs joined in a family picnic hosted by District Governor, Ed St. Phillip at his Gulf and Bay Club on Siesta Key. Installation of officers took place at Forest Lakes Country Club. The "Million Dollar Luncheon" netted a substantial check for Rotary Foundation. Basket collections weekly were established for the Student Loan Fund. A charity auction was held at the Statler Hilton on Lido Key. The Christmas party with Rotary Anns was held in Convention Hall at Sarasota Motor Hotel.

The club won first prize with their float in the King Neptune Pageant. Support was maintained for the Interact Club at Riverview High School. Two scholarships were awarded. Substantial support was given to Boy Scouts at Camp Flying Eagle for a new Rotary Building.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1968-1969

Raymond E. Perkins



The year 1968-1969 was a good year – a busy year according to President Perkins. Member participation was the big objective. International Service was perhaps the best developed during the year. Many applicants were screened and a New College student was selected as a candidate for a Rotary Foundation Scholarship. Two students at Riverview High School were selected as Exchange Students to go to Australia and Sweden. Two Australian students were hosted in Sarasota, and two more from Sweden and Australia came to attend Riverview High under the club's sponsorship. Ed Hellmich did such an outstanding job with this program that he was appointed District Chairman of International Youth Projects.

New members added during the year were Dr. William Rudnick, James Owen, Charles Lacy, Ken Clark, Rex Sutherland, Charles Racht, Max Carr, J. William Stretton, Fred Hovey, Jr., James Wright, Robert McGrain, George Youngblood, Sr., and John W. Pugh. Lost through resignations were Bruce Damron, Chester Davis, Gray Gordon, Richard Middaugh, and Fred Reister. The year ended with 87 members.

Six assemblies were held during the year. Books were collected and several boxes shipped to a Rotary club in India. Cash support was sent to our matched club in Haldwani, India. Some \$1,800 was spent to help build and support the Rotary building at Scout Camp Flying Eagle. Student loans were again awarded. Club support also went to the County 4-H program, to the Sarasota Redskins, American Legion Boys State, Youth for Christ Campers, to the Interact Club at Riverview High, to United Appeal and to Rotary International.

The club was well represented at the Assembly in Ocala, at the Forum in Bartow, and at the District Conference at Cypress Gardens. The club assisted District Governor Leslie Anderson in the record chartering of seven new Rotary clubs, with gifts to each of cash and our club banner. The club was represented at the special Orlando meeting to welcome International President Kiyoshi Togasaki, and at the Golden Anniversary of the Ocala Club. We

were also well represented at the 59th Rotary Convention in Mexico City, and a greater showing at the 60th convention in Hawaii.

Installation of new officers for the year was held in the evening with Rotary Anns at the Forest Lakes Country Club. The Rotary Anns held one luncheon honoring Sarasota's mayor, William Overton, a member of our club. The Annual Christmas Party was a delightful affair at the Top of the Terrace. Once again our club was a leader in "ringing the Christmas bells" for support of the Salvation Army. An interesting news item was clipped from the Herald Tribune of October 27, 1968 which gave the following story: "Sarasotans were surprised when she stood up to speak at the Rotary Conference for District 696 at Cypress Gardens. She was Mrs. Raymond E. Perkins, wife of the president of Sarasota Bay Rotary Club, and was one of the very few women ever invited to talk at a Rotary Convention. Her topic was "Why I am Happy My Husband is a Rotarian."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1969-1970

John B. Davidson



The year got off to a fine start with the Installation program and Larry Sapp presiding. It was a good year with the following new members added: Dean M. Wilson, David D. Morris, Louis E. Means, Charles Rouse, Ed R. Vennewitz, Felix Dospil, John T. Berteau, Ronald R. Burdick, Daniel Pinkham, Leslie Heitel, Elmer Sulzer, Simon D. Davidian, Robert Loft, Charles M. Durham, Frank L. McCluer, Lost by resignation were: Russ Hauk, Frank Janda, Ken Clark, Dr. Lewis Hanan, Ken Rouse, and Sidney Beaver. Lewis Rothrock was greatly missed because of death.

The Youth Recognition Award Program was initiated with Bennie Brown as chairman. The monthly birthday table idea was started. The project to send stamps to Rotary conventions was begun with splendid results. Youth scholarships were changed from \$250 to \$500 each. Salvation Army assistance was given with help in ringing Christmas bells. A Rotary Golf "Blast" was held at Rolling Green Golf Course.

The auto license plate project under Emil Levy produced \$560 for the year. A Donation Art Auction held at Sarasota Motor Hotel with Gerry Clark as chairman was very successful in raising capital. Dues were raised from \$25 to \$40 per year. The “Million Dollar Banquet” netted \$250 for Rotary Foundation.

A good delegation of members attended the District 6960 Conference at Bradenton. The Annual Christmas Party with wives was held at Top of the Terrace at Sarasota Motor Hotel. At the District Assembly held at St. Petersburg Beach, our club set the pace for fellowship with “open house” on Bill Overton’s boat moored nearby. Attendance on February 10th was 180. There were 40 first time visitors on March 31. The April 21st meeting featured 88 visiting Rotarians and guests.

The Student Exchange program brought Clara Gutierrez from Argentina and sent Chris Dunn, son of member Phil Dunn, to Australia. The year ended with ninety members. Russell Stapp continued to provide exciting music at the piano each week.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1970-1971

Clarence H. Jones



The year started with 85 club members, and steady growth was achieved during the year. New members added were: Robert Norwine, Hal Levin, Fred Reister, George Charnock, Robert David, Robert Hunter, Art Lashier, David Rice, Holley Skidmore, H. Max Tindall, Bill Lee, George Fraley, and Clifton Brown. Resignations were received from Dr. Robert Thompson, Lyman Bell, Charles Lacy, Larry Sapp, George Youngblood, Sr., and Sam McIntire.

President Jones characterized the year as a “year of firsts.” He described these firsts as (1) the Art Auction handled in conjunction with the Junior Welfare League, which netted a profit of \$1,000; (2) the club honored all past presidents with a special meeting with each one giving a summary of events during his presidency; (3) a special ceremony birthday meeting was held to which Rotarians from other clubs were invited to pay tribute to the founding of Ro-

tary International. A splendid crowd gathered for this event. (4) the first Youth Recognition Award luncheon was held. Tommy Pearson of Riverview High School was the first recipient. (5) a first was claimed with the advent of Hotline News, a weekly feature by Hal Levin, which was widely acclaimed.

An International Service group sponsored an exchange student from Germany. Club Service, headed by Lou Means, had a very active year. Postage stamps were collected to be taken to the International Convention as a gift to foreign Rotarians from our club. This project was handled by Doug Hammett.

The Board revised the Student Loan program, doing away with loans to individuals and placing funds in the Youth Activities budget where strength was spread to several youth projects just getting under way. All outstanding loans to college students were cancelled and those who had repaid money on loans were refunded their payments.

Twelve members attended the District Conference in Ft. Myers. Again we continued to work with the Salvation Army by ringing their bells at Christmas time. Once again the “Million Dollar Dinner” was held, netting some \$300 to Rotary Foundation.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1971-1972

C. Edgar Mikronis



The year 1971-1972 was an excellent year for the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. President Mikronis felt the year was not spectacular, but was characterized by solid accomplishments in every area.

The following new members strengthened the club: Carl Emmel, Charles Turiano, Glenn Eichenauer, Donald Gummerson, Henry Hauser, Ed Black, Duncan McNaughton, Charles Alario, Bob Wright, George Spache, Jim Dilliplane, Gray Adamson, Paul Azuts, and Charles Cutler. Loss through resignation included Buddy Cummings, Fred Hovey, “Buck” Hawkins, Bill Lee, Robert Loft and Art Lashier. Two stalwarts were

lost to the club by death: Donald Dickason and Ted Reininga.

The cluster of eight youth projects got off to a fine start under the leadership of Lou Means who involved many club members in organizational meetings and leadership opportunities, with early meetings of Rotarians and school officials. Cash grants were made to Sarasota Boys Club, YMCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and others. Our club gave a gift of \$500 to the Boys Club, and in addition Lou Means prepared and published the first official bulletin ever attempted by the Boys Club. \$2,000 was granted to the Boy Scouts to provide an additional three acres for their Camp Flying Eagle.

Alex Cruikshank, one of our valued Canadian winter Rotarian faithfuls, presented a new Canadian Flag to the club. The Board raised the credit for a make up from \$1 to \$2. A joint meeting was held with the Sarasota Rotary Club to celebrate the birthday of Rotary International. Large numbers of visiting Rotarian guests helped to chock Martines' facilities to capacity, with 95 guests the top number for a single luncheon.

Club members rang bells for the Salvation Army prior to the holiday season. A plaque was awarded to us for our outstanding work on this project. Two Board actions were noteworthy: (1) that our club should consider sponsoring another Rotary Club only after we reached membership level of 100 or more, and (2) provided for staggered terms of two years for Board members in order to improve continuity.

The second Sarasota Bay Art Auction and Flea Market under able leadership of Bill Overton was a real success. It was held in partnership with ladies from the Sarasota Day Nursery. Well over \$2,000 was netted for both groups. Overton had a fine staff of club members helping with this venture.

Good fellowship prevailed at all meetings even though we were often crowded beyond capacity. President Mikronis gave much credit to the excellent year to our Rotarian greeters and door registration team of Red Stretton, Walt French, Ed Vennewitz, and others. He also appreciated the excellent work done by Hal Levin in continuing the weekly Hot Line News. Mikronis was very pleased to have Russ Stapp and Elmer Sulzer at the piano, both accomplished musicians. An able staff of members kept our Bay Breeze interesting and informative.

President Mikronis was given unexpected additional administrative responsibilities by his company which necessitated much absenteeism. Dozens of our members pitched in to keep things rolling along during this absence. Lou Means was called upon to preside for many weeks during the year. Our student exchange program maintained its high level of accomplishment through efforts by Ed Hellmich, Welch Whitesell and others. The annual Christmas Party with Rotary Anns was held in the Terrace Room at Top of the Terrace.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1972-1973

Louis E. Means (until 12-12)

Douglas K. Hammett (until 3-30)

John T. Berteau (3-30 – 6-30)



Fiscal year 1972-73 will go down in club history as the year of great promise, carefully planned organization, growth in service maturity, and unusual attendance records by both members and visiting Rotarians. Yet it must also be measured by its frustrations, unexpected changes in leadership, and shifts and changes which marred its continuity of purpose and its steady march toward excellence.

Following a year of unusual “pinch hitting” service as acting official at the podium, Lou Means began his year as elected president with early and very detailed organization, careful attention to budget and financial stability, and boundless enthusiasm. This was quickly translated into a movie benefit, “Fiddler On the Roof” which netted \$4,000 profit which eventually became a \$5,000 gift to the new city-county Selby Library. Theatre owner and Rotarian Charles Alario helped greatly in making this profit possible. A splendid committee assisted the president in getting a great job done: Henry Hauser, Doug Hammett, and Max Tindall especially.

District records were set by our club with greatest attendance at both the District Assembly at Clearwater Beach and the District Conference at Marco Island, plus an extremely well attended Assembly on the occasion of the of-

The Modern Era

The people and projects that have made The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay one of the leading clubs in Southwest Florida.

The following pages demonstrate the qualities of camaraderie and service that have been a club constant for a half-century. While the early years of RCSB were characterized by sponsorships of youth sports teams, boy scout troops and pitching in at the Ed Smith concession stand, recent years have seen RCSB members tackling hands-on major infrastructure improvements like Rotary Park at Beneva Oaks Apartments and Oak Park School playground. RCSB has put Sarasota on the map by sponsoring DGE visits by Rotarians from around the world. Indeed, RCSB has offered many Rotarians from different lands their first contact with America and our impact has been profound. Lastly, the forward march of The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation, from modest beginnings, has returned to the community far-reaching benefits that exceed our founders' vision. Always, it's the people of Rotary, the keyway in the Rotary wheel, who, singly and in sum, perform great works both close to home and around the globe.

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY
LUNCHEON MEETING TUESDAYS
GRAND FOYER – VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL**



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2004 – 2005



ROBERT MURPHY

MICHAEL J. ALLEN

ROBERT SHULTZ

MICHAEL J. ALLEN

JAMES C. ALLEN

ALLEN P. ALLEN

DAVID TAYLOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MICHAEL W. MUNN
PRESIDENT 2004

FRANK BOOTH
VICE PRESIDENT

OFFICERS



MICHAEL W. MUNN SR.
PRESIDENT 2004-2005



EDNA L. ALLEN
VICE PRESIDENT

FRANK BOOTH
VICE PRESIDENT

OFFICERS



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2005 – 2006



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2006 – 2007



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY
SARASOTA FLORIDA**

Officers and Directors 2006-2007:

- President:** [Portrait of a man in a white shirt]
- Vice President:** [Portrait of a man in a dark suit]
- Secretary:** [Portrait of a woman in a pink shirt]
- Treasurer:** [Portrait of a man in a blue shirt]
- Director:** [Portrait of a man in a patterned shirt]
- Director:** [Portrait of a man in a blue shirt]
- Director:** [Portrait of a man in a dark suit]
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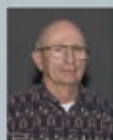
Other Photos:

- Group photo of club members.
- Photo of a man and a woman standing together.
- Photo of a man speaking at a podium.
- Photo of a group of people at a table.
- Photo of a man and a woman standing together.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2007 – 2008



James P. Lippert
President 2007-2008



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President 2007-2008



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President 2007-2008



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President 2007-2008

**THE JEFF AUGUST MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND
OAK PARK SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL PROJECT 2004-2006**





DISTRICT GOVERNOR HOME STAY PROGRAM



DISTRICT GOVERNOR HOME STAY PROGRAM



The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay

DGE Home Stay Program 2007
Our 33rd year !

District 6960

		<p>Sarasota Florida</p>				

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR HOME STAY PROGRAM



The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay

DGE Home Stay Program 2008
Our 34rd year!

Sarasota Florida

District 6960



MICHAEL R. PENDER JR. ROAST



ROTARY PARK AT BENEVA OAKS



Welcome to ROTARY PARK AT BENEVA OAKS

made possible by
ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY
Frank Gooch, 2006-2007 President

Project Leaders: Art August and Mike Murphy
Construction Manager: Dave Eisenmann
Architect: Fawley-Bryant
Engineering: Wilson-Miller
Goodwill President & CEO: Rev. Don Roberts

Goodwill Industries-Manasota and the Goodwill Foundation
gratefully acknowledge our generous project contributors.

GOLD SPONSORS (\$10,000+)

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Patterson Foundation Trust
John T. Berteau, Trustee

Renee Richardson-Kling
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SILVER SPONSORS (\$5,000)

Art August
Cy Bispham
Beatrice Friedman
Wendel Kent

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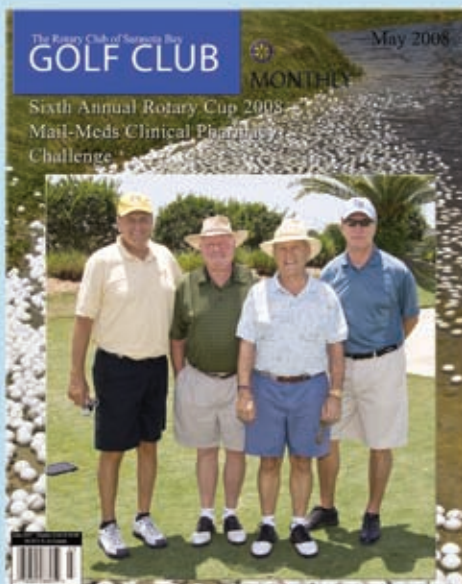
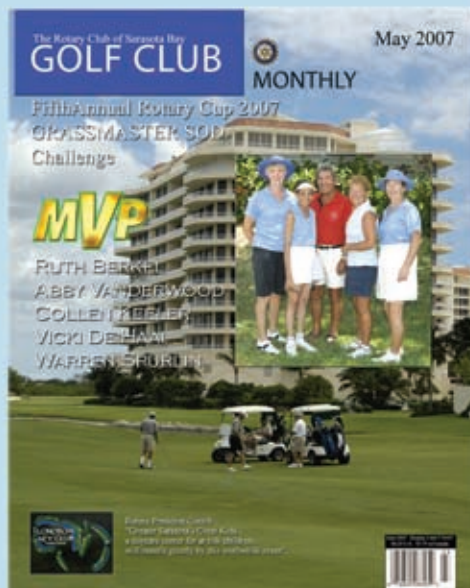
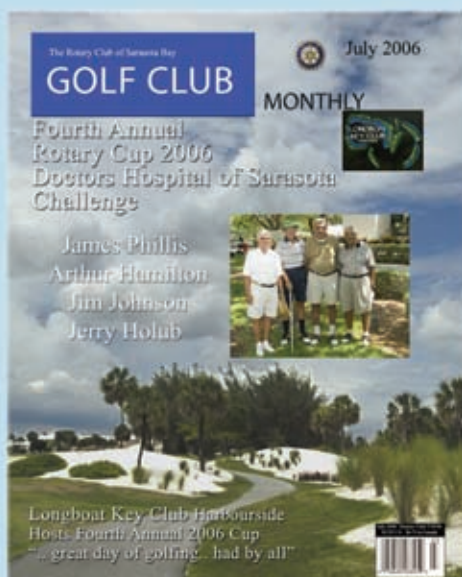
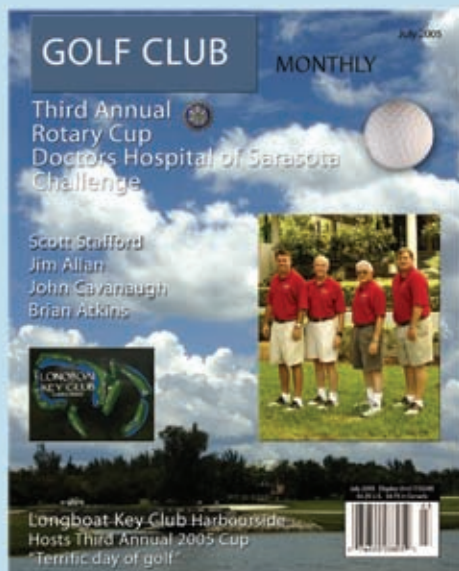
Jelks Family Foundation
Virginia Linscott
Zoltan Karpathy Family
Sarasota Bay Rotary Anns
Welch Whitesell



ROTARY PARK AT BENEVA OAKS



GOLF TOURNAMENTS



RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB



GLOBAL STUDY EXCHANGE



DICTIONARY PROGRAM



4 WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST



THE ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA BAY
CARDINAL MOONEY HIGH SCHOOL
4 WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST
CHAD TRIPLETON, KATHLEEN FORBES
ALLIYNE CHARLES JAMESON, KRISTIA WARD, JAKE PETER

SCHOOL BUS ROAD-E-O



ROTARY NIGHT AT CIRCUS SARASOTA



*Circus Sarasota & The Rotary Club of Sarasota
Presents
Rotary Night at Circus Sarasota
February 5, 2008*



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[illegible]

THIS IS ROTARY TODAY



THE MANY FACES OF ROTARY



THIS IS ROTARY TODAY



THE MANY FACES OF ROTARY



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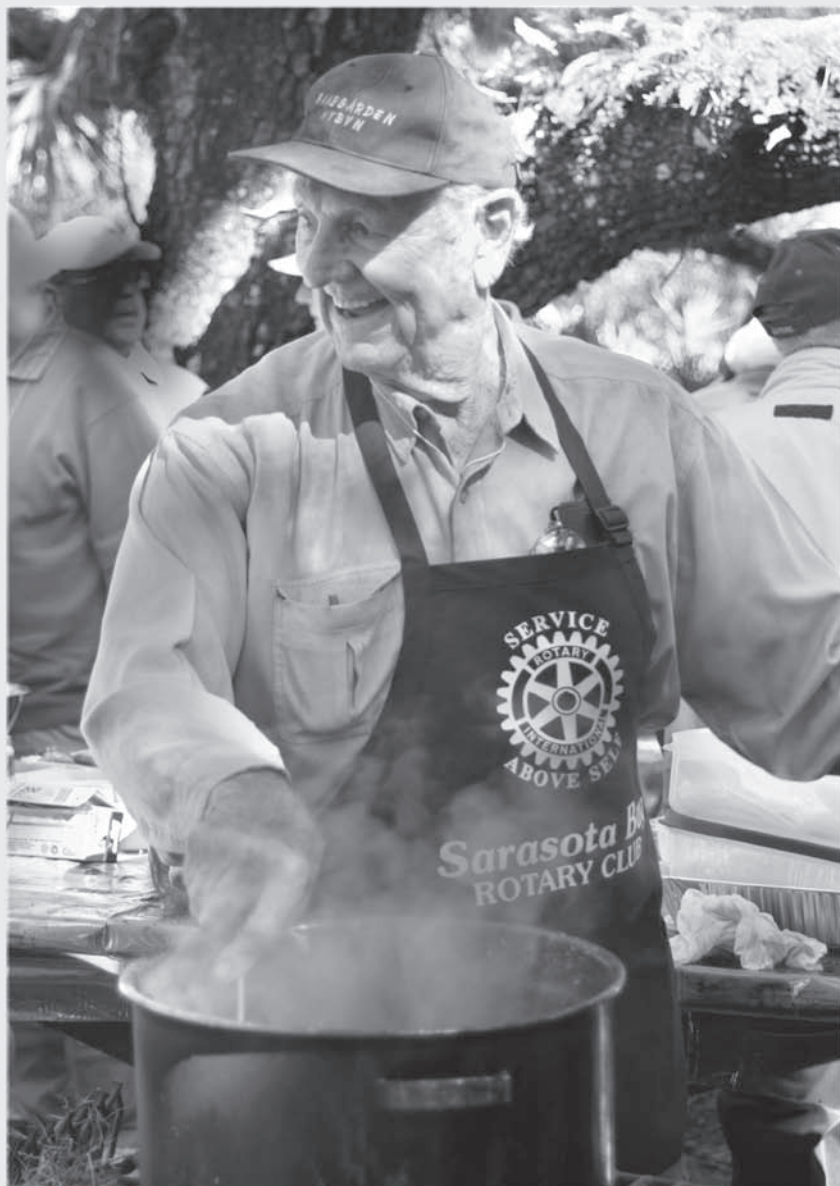
THIS IS ROTARY TODAY



THE MANY FACES OF ROTARY



THIS IS ROTARY TODAY



CYRUS G. BISPHAM

ficial visit of District Governor Joseph L. Selden, Jr., of Ft. Myers. An able and very effective Board guided policy throughout the year.

Sizeable grants were made in a continuation of the club's ACCENT ON YOUTH to the YMCA Camp Hamilton with a fleet of new aluminum canoes, to added acreage for Camp Flying Eagle of Boys Scouts, for an administrative unit at the new Girls Club, for the new physical fitness equipment supplied to the Boys Club, and for additional scholarships and recognition for deserving youth.

Unusual new committees developed innovations in club social and recreational activities. Community service plans were developed. Youth, community and International service all took new dimensions. The start of a new Rotaract Club was made with Glenn Eichenauer and Antone Reeves leading the way. Interact Club at Riverview High School was strengthened.

The club moved to the forefront as it endorsed and gave heavy financial support to the District 696 major project in developing a much needed new hospital at Santa Barbara, Honduras. Led by Dan Pinkham, a great group of members went to Arcadia to pick up much needed medical and hospital equipment to be transported to Honduras. The Auto License Plate project headed by Emil Levy netted over \$500. A new Speakers Bureau was established and distribution made to clubs and groups. The Philatelic Project was continued under help from Dan Pinkham. Don Gummerson headed a committee that helped to raise considerable cash with ticket sales for the play "Two by Two" at Van Wezel Auditorium, a theatre party at the Golden Apple, and a musical at Van Wezel featuring Patricia Munsel. Bob Wright worked hard to strengthen our Bay Boosters. A joint meeting was held with the Sarasota Club. The "Million Dollar Banquet" netted \$420 for Rotary Foundation.

The Student Exchange program brought to us Reto Rouse from Switzerland. A golf outing brought twenty Rotarians together at Sarasota Golf Club.

Multiple leadership problems began when President Lou Means resigned his office upon advice from his physician who urged less tension and activity. Douglas Hammett then assumed the presidency and was moving ahead positively with plans and projects when his presidency was sadly interrupted by sudden death in late March. Vice President John Berteau then moved into

the leadership role and completed many unfinished projects, and brought his own brand of thoughtful leadership into action.

The year could be characterized as one of almost total club involvement in assignments of responsibility. One of the crowning events of the year was the elevation of Charter Member Karl B. Albritton to special honorary life membership, the only such honor ever bestowed by this club. No other year - and possibly no other club - has equalled the record of having given the club three past presidents, a unique record it is hoped will not again be necessary.

During the year, twenty new members were added as follows: Hal Hecklinger, Dr. James Kent Bartruff, William Law, Orville Walker, Clarence Peterson, Julian Cowin, Franklin Borden, Antone Reeves, Dr. Paul Hecht, Roy U. Johns, George Connelly, John S. Krause, Hal Houlton, Clyde Johnson, Orville Henning, George D. Pickhardt, Edwin Gleason and Don Swearingen. Lost through resignation were Hal Levin, Robert David, Bennie Brown, Emil Levy, Don Laurent, and Fred Reister. The club finished with 103 members.

An unusual event of the year was the purchase and selection of our club organ - a Conn. The selection committee included Donald Gummerson, Elmer Sulzer and Lou Means.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1973-1974

Roy Goodwin



One of the highlights of this year was the official founding of our Rotaract Club. The preliminary planning had taken place in 1972 and finally became a reality with unusual leadership from Glenn Eichenauer and Antone Reeves. Another highlight, according to President Goodwin, was the spirit and successful completion of Lou Means' ACCENT ON YOUTH, cluster of youth oriented projects. Ed Black gave unusual leadership to our Interact Club at Riverview High School. One of their major projects was a "Bike-a-thon" which succeeded in obtaining almost \$1,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy cause.

Sizeable contributions were made to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Y.M.C.A.,

Boys Club and for awards for the County Junior High Track and Field Meet. Active support of a vigorous student grant program was continued. Bob Meeze again led our project on Youth Recognition for outstanding citizenship. Welch Whitesell hosted an exchange student from Brazil, Don Gummerson's Community Service Committee's efforts reflected their success by awards from the Salvation Army and Sarasota Board of Realtors. Gray Adamson headed the creation of a speaker's bureau which was widely publicized and used by other groups.

Paul Chaney and Welch Whitesell guided the Charity Auction through trying moments and eventual financial success, with profit exceeding \$1,200. Elmer Sulzer and Carl Emmel were lauded for excellence in producing the Bay Breeze. Elmer Sulzer and William Appleton provided beautiful music each week at our new organ. Allen Jelks continued to update the best club directory in Florida. Support was given to the newly chartered Ft. Myers East Rotary Club. Our support was given to the formation of the new Gulf Gate Rotary Club. Colleen McGarry was awarded a \$250 scholarship.

New members inducted during the year were: William Appleton, George R. Petty, Ragnar Swanson, Dr. Kenneth Cooper, Charles Schmid, Edwin Gleason, Julian Cowin, Antone Reeves, Wallace Knight, Donald Tripp, Garrett Kempers and Joseph M. Kushner. A great loss came with the unexpected decease of John Pugh.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1974-1975

I. Welch Whitesell, Jr.



The year 1974-75 saw the induction of nine new members: Gary Houts, James R. Long, Fred Reister (reinstated), John T. Bryce, Ray Routh, Nixon J. Huddleston, Alvin Pappert, John M. Regan, and C. M. Mac Parker, Jr. A real loss came with the death of Simon Davidian. Resignations came from Robert Hunter, Fred Reister, Ernie Wade and George Pickhardt.

President Whitesell felt that the major project of the year was the Sarasota Bay sponsored Basket Free Throw Tournament Program headed by Lou Means. His report on this event in 1975 is quoted:

“We believe that since almost 6,000 boys and girls out of a possible 13,700 pupils participated in this first event of its kind, a great measure of success emerged. As these several thousand youths became involved, interest gradually increased, motivation was intensified, and the 240 boys and girls who became top leaders in the various schools began to ‘get the feel’ of a sense of achievement and purpose.

It was a real thrill to see the sparkle in youthful eyes, to watch each child match skills in each match, until only eight champions remained following about 120 matches in the three gyms where finals were held on April 18th. Here was the setting and the laboratory for new learning experiences, a setting where each child stepped forward for each new match with a desire to excel, to do his or her best, and with a realization that some adults of the community really ‘cared’ about each of them.

On April 18th, at the three final gymnasiums, many parents and school officials were present. It was evident from their comments that what started out to be ‘just a free throw affair’ had become a vehicle with great potential for increased pupil motivation, an example of how school officials, assisted if need be by community leaders, could develop a program that could make a tremendous difference in the outlook of boys and girls toward schools and education in general.”

Principal fund raising project for the year was sponsorship of The Players “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” Harry Schall and Don Gummerson led the drive that netted almost \$1,500. Karl Albritton continued his weekly gift of fruit to visiting Rotarians. The Speakers Bureau was continued as a service to other groups.

The club gave total financial support of almost \$5,000 to Boy Scouts, The Players, Boys Club, YMCA, Scholarship grants, Salvation Army, the Fishing Reef project, Youth Recognition awards, Sarasota High School Chorus, Rotaract and Interact. The student exchange program sent Frank Chaich to Germany and plans to host a German youth here soon. District

Conference and Assembly were both well attended by members of this club. The conference was held in Naples.

Robert Hunter left the city and had to resign both membership and the secretary post which was ably filled by Gary Houts. The Annual Christmas Party and Rotary Anns Installation Banquet, both at Holiday Inn on Lido, were enjoyed by all. The installation dinner at Forest Lakes Country Club was another fine affair.

The \$4,000 raised in 1972 for the new library had been drawing interest and this year final presentation of \$5,000 (principal plus interest) was made - the first sizeable contribution to the new library made by any service club. The Philatelic Project was continued and foreign Rotarians profited thereby. Elmer Sulzer again delighted everyone with great organ music each week.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1975-1976

Donald H. Gummerson



Our many visitors attested to the fact that our reputation as a most friendly club is justified. This was a good year for club growth with twenty four new members. Our losses were deeply felt through the death of Elmer Sulzer and Robert Wright - two stalwarts. Lost through resignation were Paul Chaney, Emmett Greeley, Tony Reeves, Max Carr, Ken Ferguson and Frank Boyce.

This year the club won first place in District 696 for several months with top attendance, possibly augmented with use of the "the Buddy System." Club Assembly featured the official visit of District Governor Clyde Anderson. A second Assembly took place in January. A "Fresh Air" column was added to Bay Breeze features. Again we assisted the Salvation Army with our bell ringing at Christmas. Rotarian Jim Hardcastle took the gang on a tour of the County Jail. District 696 Assembly was held at Hyatt House which also was the locale for the annual Christmas Party with Rotary Anns

and guests.

Major fund raising project was “My Fair Lady” at The Players - a sell-out due to efforts of Harry Schall and Charley Turiano. More than \$2,000 was realized. The president gave Harry Schall unusual credit for a series of excellent programs. The club contributed to many worthwhile projects during the year. Several hundred dollars was sent to Santa Barbara, Honduras for the drilling of new wells for drinking water. Substantial sums went to the Boys Club, YMCA, Boys Scouts, Girls Club, Sailor Circus, Meals on Wheels and a cluster of youth projects headed by Lou Means who was ably assisted by some 45 Rotarians in the Kids Fun Jamboree, and the basketball free throw tournaments which involved over 6,000 boys and girls.

A golf outing attracted many members with Ken Cooper capturing medalist honors. The School Bus Safety Roadeo was launched with capable leadership from Carl Emmel, assisted by a host of members. A special program directed by Karl Albritton featured fellowship and brought as guests seven widows of former Rotarians. Two youth exchange students were brought to Sarasota – Maria Victoria Ungala from the Philippines and Gabi Theine from Germany

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1976-1977

Harry H. Schall



President Schall discussed his year in office succinctly: “We heard it from our visitors - we heard it from our District Governor, Woody Register - we hear it every week - Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay is the friendliest club in the area and beyond.” Schall gave much credit for this situation to the Hospitality and Reception Committees and to each Bay Rotarian and Bay Booster.

It was an action year of interesting projects and events, some new and some continuing. The First Annual School Bus Safety Roadeo was a real success headed by Carl Emmel. It promised much for the future. The Bas-

ketball Free Throw Tournaments, again headed by Lou Means, involved thousands of youth. The Kids Fun Jamboree held at Camp Hamilton of the YMCA involved hundreds of younger boys and girls and was headed by Carl Weinrich.

Don Gummerson chaired a fund raiser in a production at the Players – “Where’s Charley?” A heavy percentage of club members participated in the above projects.

New members inducted during the year were George M. Cooley, Jim Scheb, Charles Fulton, Ronald Jenkins and Mike Pender. Sad moments came as farewell was said to departed friends – Dan Pinkham, Raymond Stearns, Charles Cutler, Brownie Brown and Gil Gunn.

President Schall chooses the event which gave the greatest thrill as the election of Karl Albritton as a Paul Harris Fellow by the club. No one was more deserving than Karl. Other outstanding events were the Slave Auction held to benefit our Interact Club at Riverview High School, an unusual banquet organized by Interact, two club assemblies, hosting of exchange student Maria Marivac, and Rotary Anns Dinner Dance and Barbecue, and participation in District 696 Assembly and Conference, and assistance with installation of a new Rotary Club at South Venice.

Financial assistance was given to the Girls Club, Alice McPherson School at Ocala, and awards luncheons were held for sports winners and for the Youth Recognition Project in the high schools. The Christmas Party with Rotary Anns was held at the Shrine Club. The Philatelic Project was continued with Lou Means in charge. Schall’s closing comments for the year were noteworthy:

“Being your president was a joyful experience for me. To name names in expressing thanks would be to read the club roster. You are a great bunch. I will always remember my year as president of ‘The Friendliest Rotary Club.’”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1977-1978

Carl Emmel



President Emmel suggested that another monicker should be added to “the friendliest club” - the “workingest club.” This year, the club grew to 110 members - an all time record to date. New members added were Charles Alario, Robert Turner, Walter Johnson, Walter Lingard, John Reich, and Jerry Stoltz. A fine member was lost in the passing of Julian Cowin.

Club Assembly brought to us District Governor Gerry Hubbell. A “think tank” session came up with our selected fund raising project, The Lippizan Stallion Show at Roberts Arena which was a great success with well over \$8,000 profit. \$5,000 was pledged and given to the YMCA to provide a special laboratory for cardio vascular fitness activities. Another \$1,000 was given to the Physics Department at Riverview High School through our Interact Club to purchase sophisticated equipment. Presentation was made to their outstanding teacher, Miss Reed. Another play was sponsored at The Players and added to the treasury. Harry Schall again assisted in this project.

After 19 years of club meetings at Martines, it became necessary to find a new headquarters. Since that time, the club was held forth at the Shrine Club.

The Second Annual School Bus Roadeo was a real success with almost 100 buses and drivers participating from Sarasota County Schools. Glenn Price and several Rotary Anns handled the food concession with great results. Another Saturday, several Rotarians went with the President to help Hillsborough County Schools conduct their first bus Roadeo.

Another fine event was a family Rotary Picnic at Camp Hamilton with good food and aquacade shows provided by Carl Weinrich. The auto license plate project again produced sizeable cash for project efforts.

The annual Kids Fun Jamboree attracted several hundred younger boys and girls to a series of unusual events with hot dogs and cold drinks at Camp Hamilton with Carl Weinrich as host. Dozens of Rotarians judged

events and joined in the fun and excitement. A golf jamboree took place at Gulf Gate Country Club, with our golfers winning the championship. The young Gulf Gate Club finished second. The annual Youth Awards Luncheon brought some 36 guests and youth to receive awards for the free throw tournaments which attracted 8,000 boys and girls. President Emmel surprised Lou Means with a plaque award recognizing his leadership in youth activities, and officially declaring that the future free throw tournaments should carry his name.

An additional youth project was launched with members donating golf equipment so that golf clinics for beginners could be sponsored at county junior and senior high schools. The Holiday party with Rotary Anns was held at the Shrine Club with good attendance. The District 696 Conference was held at Clearwater Beach and the club was well represented.

A contribution of \$500 was made to Sarasota First Step. The Philatelic Project again sent thousands of stamps to the RI Convention in Tokyo with Franklin Borden, with weekly contributions handled by Lou Means.

Ed Hellmich was surprised at one meeting when several district governors presented him with a Paul Harris Fellow Award for his meritorious work as host to district governors in Florida.

Once again the club provided all awards for the annual Sarasota County Junior High Track and Field Meet. It was a real year for action.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1978-1979

Gary W. Houts



Our club was especially privileged this year in being asked by Governor Bob Perkins to share in the planning for and hosting of the District 696 Conference. Our Club's several Planning Committee members, including Conference Chairman, John Wagner, met on many occasions with Committee members from other clubs in an effort that resulted in one of the best District Conferences in history. During the Conference,

our club was recognized for having the highest percentage of members registered; our Bay Breeze received honorable mention in the club bulletin competition; and our club's display received the blue ribbon for first place. Our club activity booklet, edited by Club Historian Lou Means, was distributed at the conference.

Paul Harris Fellows, Karl Albritton and Ed Hellmich were joined by Lou Means who became a Paul Harris Fellow during the District Conference. In so honoring Lou, our club achieved the 700% level of participation in support of the Rotary Foundation.

In spite of its heavy manpower commitment to the District Conference, our club was able to successfully conduct the Third Annual School Bus Roadeo during the conference. For that project, we received the First Annual Isherwood Safety Survey Award, given at the Spring Assembly in Naples by MJC in recognition of the best safety activity project by an individual Rotary Club in district 696. Our pride in the active involvement of so many members in our various projects is certainly justified.

Youth service projects continued their emphasis beginning with the fall Youth Jamboree held at YMCA's Camp Hamilton. The great assistance of the Interact Club was highlighted by their rescue, after a lengthy chase through adjacent pastures, of a greased pig that tried to "get away." Several thousand students from grades 4 through 12 in the greater Sarasota area participated in our Club's 5th annual Lou Means Basketball Free-Throw Tournament, and a youth golf project was initiated this year, utilizing equipment donated by Rotarians from our club.

Thousands of U.S. stamps were hand trimmed and sent to the Rotary International Convention in Rome in support of our Philatelic project. Our blood bank, under the chairmanship of Ted Haller, was able to add 26 pints to our account. Alex Zoltai's 4-Way Test Committee was praised by the District Governor for the manner in which it presented the 4-Way Test at four meetings. Among the new committees established this year were the Council of Past Presidents and the Club Historian. We again spent a day ringing bells for the Salvation Army.

Recreational activities included interclub golf outings at Village Green

and Fox Fire, an old fashioned Christmas party hosted by the Rotary Anns, and a night at the Players to see “Kiss Me Kate.”

Our club was doubly saddened during the year with the loss of Past President John Wagner and Vice President Max Tindall.

Many fine programs were presented at our weekly luncheons with some of the best given by our own members. One such program was given by our 90 year old wandering minstrel, Russ Stapp, in which he treated us to some of his excellent piano arrangements.

Although our major fund raising activity misfired, our secondary project, handling the LPGA ticket sales during the five days of the tournament, netted our club nearly \$2500. Ron Jenkins and his crew of 40 or 50 Rotarians and Bay Boosters did a superb job of selling tickets and loading shuttle buses. Our club is indebted to Welch Whitesell for the use of his Winnebago as a “mobile office” during the tourney.

As has become a tradition with our club, Red Stretton and Walt French, assisted by Mike Morgenroth, Don Tripp and Ed Vennewitz provided a warm and friendly welcome for members and visitors alike at weekly meetings.

The club was strengthened by the addition of the following members during this Rotary year: Wayne Seidl, Bill Stewart, Jim Wilson, Art Wienke, Jerry Hansen, Jack Cox, Phil Klepper, Charlie Norwood, Glenn Brede-meyer, Joe Gore, Orville Allen, Bob Hearnden, Dave Wiegand, Dr. Warren Spurlin, Tom Swan. The gain of 15 members was somewhat offset by the loss of 14 members.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1979-1980

Dr. Kenneth N. Cooper, DMD



During this year the club continued on its course of fellowship, community involvement and service. The Annual Basketball Free Throw Program again attracted some 8000 boys and girls, followed by the annual Awards Luncheon for champions and their teachers. The Kids Fun Jamboree was again held at YMCA's Camp Hamilton, with some 500 youth participating, some 30 Rotarians officiated and served hot dogs and beverage.

The Annual Philatelic Project sent a large quantity of stamps as our good will offering to Rotarians from all countries and their wives and children at the RI Convention. Members were very generous in contributing blood to the Blood Bank, and the Kidney Foundation was a thankful recipient. Several members manned the Salvation Amy Kettle at Maas Brothers. Carl Emmel again put on an excellent School Bus Safety Roadeo with large numbers of drivers participating.

Exchange student Jill Cowell from Gargrave in Northern Ireland spent a profitable year at Riverview High School and in Rotary homes. Several news casts were given by our radio executives at noon meetings. Four local Rotary Club members participated in a golf jamboree at Forest Lakes Country Club.

Our Club's 21st Birthday Party was held at the Shrine Club with Lou Means as MC and Alberto de Sant-Anna and his wife from Rio de Janeiro as guests. The Club holiday party took place at Forest Lake Country Club. Walt Lingard ably chaired the arrangements. Lingard also won first place in quantity of stamps contributed for our Philatelic Project, closely followed by Joe Danna, Allen Jelks, and Art Weinke. An honor plaque was presented to Dr. Gene Pilot, superintendent of schools, for his usual cooperation with so many of our youth projects each year.

Club coffers were replenished, thanks to most of our members participating in fund raising with the Lipizzan Horse Show and the Bent Tree LPGA Classic. Carl Emmel and Ron Jenkins gave much leadership.

New members were welcomed to club membership during this year as follows: Bill Baskett, Bill Lea, Marshal Echols, Wayne Baumberger, Tom Ay-

cock, Mike Hess, Bill Stamen, Mike Drake, Bob Geer, Charlie Jones, Merv Lippman, Tom Williams, Ted Rogers, Tom Houser, and Carl Kreider. We were all saddened with the decease of three members: Paul Hecht, Russel Stapp, and Charles Bechtold. Others who resigned were Bob Meetze, Jim Wilson, Wallace Knight, Bob Geer, and Joe Gore.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1980-1981

Carl Weinrich



The Club continued to do an outstanding job of supporting youth service projects this year beginning with the Lou Means Basketball Free Throw Program for the 7th year, donations to the Sarasota Boys and Girls Choirs, and sponsorship of three Riverview High School students to attend the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders at the University of South Florida.

Bell ringers for the Salvation Army, with leadership from Holley Skidmore, raised over \$1,581 for the Army's Christmas Fund. Our Club lead the service club division of the United Way with a gift of \$1,000 and received the attendance award for the civic club division. Eight donations to favorite charities named by Free Throw champions were given. Cash was donated to help send school bus drivers to the National School Bus Roadeo in Boston.

Ted Haller and Bob Cashmore directed our blood bank drive adding 32 pints of blood to our account. The Club donated a total of 75 pints of blood to the Kidney Foundation this year. Members continued to support Lou Means in his effort to collect stamps for the Philatelic Project.

Another successful project was the Fifth Annual School Bus Roadeo, which involved ten counties in Florida. Our Club received the Isherwood Safety Survey Award at the District 696 Assembly in Punta Gorda for sponsoring this project. Carl Emmel again directed this effort.

The District Governor saluted our membership for the number of quality projects we have supported in 1980-1981 and for our sponsorship of the new Sunrise Rotary Club. Gary Houts did an outstanding job of representing our

club in this effort. Again, the club supplied all awards for the annual junior high school track and field meet.

During the year new members were added as follows: Ed Wolfe, Ralph Trites, Coleman Knott, Jim Meyer, Paul Delaney, Dick Reynolds, Bill Crawford, Bob Cashmore, Joe Bedard, Peter Hearnden, Dick Lawrence, Stan Carlock, and Gerry White. Lost to the club were: Tom Aycock, Charles Jones, Ron Jenkins, Jim Scheb, Tom Houser, Ken Cooper, Marshal Echols, Tom Williams, Dick Russell, Lennie DiTaranto, George Connally, Ralph Trites and Wayne Saitl.

A family picnic was a major event held at Camp Hamilton.

Fund raising projects included the LPGA golf tourney ticket sales which netted \$2,500, “Annie Get Your Gun” at The Players with \$500. Ron Jenkins and George Brown handled these projects very effectively.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1981-1982

Lawrence J. Robinson



During this year, the Club was forced to move twice - the Sea Ketch Restaurant (formerly Martines - our old home) and later returning to the Shrine Club. The move caused some dislocation and problems. A joint meeting was held with the Gulf Gate Rotary Club and another meeting with the Sunrise Club. A serious and sad loss was the passing of a superb Rotarian, Orville Walker.

New members added during the year were: Jerry Guiles, Gary Wells, Jim Tobin, Dick Henderson, Elija Hicks, Frank Carr and Charles Hollen. Unfortunately the club lost the following members during the year: Paul Delaney, Coleman Knott, David Wiegand, Jim Wright, Dave Morris, Jim Meyer, Hal Houlton and Jim Tobin.

Approximately 8,000 boys and girls participated in the Eighth Annual Basketball Free Throw Program which culminated in an awards luncheon presided over by Lou Means. The 8 champions selected the object of their charity

and the club contributed cash contributions to each cause in their name. Some 4-1/2 million stamps were collected over months and sent with five member delegates to the RI convention in Dallas – our goodwill gift to foreign Rotarians. The 8th annual School Bus Rodeo under the usual leadership of Carl Emmel was again a great success.

More than a dozen members attended the District 696 Conference at Lakeland and were cheered when the announcement was made that our own Welch Whitesell has been nominated as District Governor Elect. \$5,000 was donated to Sarasota Day Nursery; \$500 given to Community Coalition for Families, Inc.

Holley Skidmore again handled the Salvation Army Kettle at Burdines at Christmas time, assisted by several members. The Blood Bank again conducted a campaign for blood for our blood reserve. Secretary Glenn Bredemeyer received an award from the District Governor as one of the top three secretaries in the district. Awards were again furnished for winners at the Sarasota County Junior High Track Meet.

Donald Laurent received the second honorary life membership ever awarded by this club – the first going to Karl Albritton earlier. The club hosted exchange students Doris Boesse from Germany and Marika Hannele Larvila from Finland.

The annual holiday party featured fun, fellowship, good food and gifts at Holiday Inn on Lido. The Sarasota Boys Choir gave their usual fine program and received a financial gift.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1982-1983

Dr. William V. Grosvenor



The Sarasota Bay Rotary Club is a unique club. There are distinguishing characteristics of almost any Rotary Club. Some might be described as “an old man’s club”, while others simply “meet and eat.” Neither of these describe the spirit of Sarasota Bay. There are those who boldly suggest that the Sarasota Bay Club is the friendliest club in the dis-

trict. I have neither had this challenged nor endorsed by the other 49 clubs. Yet as one steps inside the meeting room door, an atmosphere of friendliness and fellowship is sensed. This begins with a firm, warm handclasp from the greeters, through those who register the folks at the “greeter’s table”, and on to the interplay at the table amongst members and guests.

The Rotary year 1982-83 might well be described as a supportive year for “our family.” We undergirded one another with a sense, of what it meant to belong not only to a local club, but also to a world-wide fellowship.

The year was one of growth in numbers with 18 new members: Charles Turiano, Alan Thompson, Gerald Greig, Norman Sterner, Wayne Emery, Jack Bowden, William Rauhauser, Ronald Jones, Howard Buckner, Robert Secrist, Donald Weber, Donald Bradley, Edwin Herrold, Glenn Price, Jr., Richard Figura, Robert Agnew, Robert Tolsma and Clifford Wallace. We were saddened with the passing of two fine Rotarians, Walter French and Frank Borden and the loss of James Meyer, Phillip Klepper, Charles Turiano, Alan Thompson, Howard Buckner, Clifford Wallace, William Lea and Ted Slingman. The year ended with a membership of 102.

The “Thought for the Day” at all club meetings was reinstated, being first used in 1972. This was an endeavor to have each member look at life in a new and dynamic way and in turn to apply the principles of Rotary to everyday life. No doubt many will carry these thoughts for many days. In almost complete antithesis to these thoughts, there was an honest effort to add wholesome humor that would encourage fun and fellowship. Groans, quite audible at times, were indications of the success of the “Thought for the Day” idea.

Each month officers and directors met to set policy and club program. A listing of these may be enlightening. Without any given chronology, some of these were: an active blood bank program which had an emphasis not only on blood in general, but blood for a special case: the annual School Bus Rodeo reaching beyond the borders of our country was highly successful; our annual basketball free throw program at the P.P.G.A.; a rummage sale as we prepared for the 25th Anniversary of the Club; a finger printing program in local schools; a new organ made possible by board action plus a gift from Bob and Kitty Secrist; three Paul Harry fellows were added to our roster; an inter-club

meeting with the Keys Club, which is to be an annual affair; the establishment of a four-way outstanding program emphasizing Rotary and community service; the continuation of our philatelic program for the Rotary International Convention; our support of the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders; sponsorship of Boy Scouts; et al.

I am grateful for the privilege of serving as president of the Sarasota Bay Rotary Club for the year 1982-83 and thereby becoming a link in the chain of presidents who have served faithfully and well since our birth in 1958. In such a report, I would be amiss if I did not thank the officers, board members, committee chairmen, committee members, the Bay Boosters, and all others involved in so many ways in making the most of this successful year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1983 -1984

Michael R. Pender, Jr.



We were the home club of the District Governor of District 6960-- I. Welch Whitesell, Jr.--and this was our twenty-fifth anniversary year. These events made quite a challenging year for me.

We started off the year with a picnic held at the Florida Power & Light Bayside Park. Ken Campbell, our social chairman, set the stage for a fine year of social events. Norm Sterner and Dick Reynolds did the cooking. About thirty Rotarians and their wives attended the event. It was so successful that we declared it should be an annual event.

The Sahib Temple was closed the first two weeks of July so we met jointly with the Sarasota Club and the Gulf Gate Club. I set the stage with my theme for the year on July 19--"A return to basics in Rotary Information".

August brought us a new method of vocational talks. Three new members, each speaking for ten minutes, made up the program. From August, Ray Routh presented us with two storage "coffins" - a greatly needed place for our Rotary valuables.

During the summer months Carl Emmel, Gary Houts, Lou Means and my-

self met weekly to plan the Anniversary celebration. We were all saddened on August 25, 1983 when Lou Means passed away. This was a great loss for our club. He was a great Rotarian.

September was the kick off of our 1983-84 membership campaign. A new classification survey was distributed to the club. The 1983-84 Rotary International theme, "Share Rotary," gave us a goal of a net gain of five new members.

On September 24, we were the sponsor of the first five Sarasota clubs picnic. Our club and the Sunrise Club showed up in full force and a good time was had by all.

October was a month that would be long remembered. We were host, along with the other four Sarasota Rotary Clubs, for the District Conference. The Conference was held at the Hyatt Sarasota on October 13-16, 1983. Many of our members chaired conference committees and all did an outstanding job. We coordinated a donation with the other Sarasota Rotary Clubs to present the American Red Cross with five "Annies". We made this presentation at our host luncheon on the Saturday of the District Conference. One of the highlights was Governor W. W.'s Rodeo Round up and Bar-B-Que.

October 22, 1983 was the Sarasota County School Bus Roadeo. As usual Carl Emmel and our members did an excellent job.

On November 19, 1983 we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary in grand style. We heard from our past presidents, Rotary Anns, cut birthday cakes, honored our charter members Rodgers Bradley, Karl Albritton, Cy Bispham and Jack Ross, and presented our Charter president - Rodgers Bradley - with a Paul Harris Fellow. Ninety percent of our club members were present. We signed a special anniversary charter and gave each member and Bay Booster a copy of our club history which was written by Lou Means. We challenged our members to greater service in the next twenty five years.

November 22 was our first Ladies Day - we were entertained by the Sahib Temple Banjo Band and gave them a \$100 donation.

On November 29, our district governor, I. Welch Whitesell, Jr., came home. He had left our club for his last visit and said he saved the best for last. He gave an excellent talk on Rotary. We presented him with a bound copy of our club history and an engraved pen set. The engraving noted that he was the first

member of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay to be District Governor of District 696 and we were very proud of him.

December 1st was the kickoff of the annual Rotary Lou Means Basketball Free Throw and Curt Toale did an outstanding job of carrying on the tradition. We moved on to a wonderful Christmas party at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Ken Campbell did a fine job along with our host for the evening, Dick Kerlikoske.

December was also the month for the Salvation Army Bell Ringers. Jim Peck, a new member, took over this event and did an excellent job. We raised \$2012 and came in third place.

The annual Future Farmers of America program was held in December. As usual, Carl Emmel, had a surprise for us. I came in riding a horse around the room. This was not to be the only horsing around I was to do this Rotary year. We presented the Future Farmers with a \$400 scholarship for their fine service.

The final event of 1983 was very special for two of our members. We made Garrett Kempers and Ted Haller honorary members of our club. I moved the head table to the back of the room and Norm Sterner, our Sargeant-at-Arms, came as a Christmas Elf. He made us pay the piper that week.

January 25th, 1984 was the finals for the Rotary Lou Means Basketball Free Throw. Many of our Rotarians participated as judges and scorekeepers and we completed another year of that outstanding project. Also in January I made a T.V. commercial, with Winn Armstrong of Coast Federal, riding a Lipizzaner stallion. This was part of the advertising for our biannual performance of the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions of Austria. It appeared on T.V. on January 30th and February 1st. We made about \$8000 on the event.

February 8-12 was the Sarasota Classic (LPGA) at Bent Tree, sponsored by Coast Federal. Bob Hayden and Bill Law headed up the ticket sales and we raised \$3000 on this event.

February 14th was another Ladies Day-Valentine's Day--we were entertained by Charles Hall, President of Cape Coral Club - he told us all about Cat farming. Mimi Helmich was made a Paul Harris Fellow by District Governors, she and Ed have hosted from around the Rotary World.

March 17th was the first annual St. Patrick's Day party at the Rain Forest Restaurant. Ken Campbell came with green hair. Lige and JoAn Hicks won the

prize for the best dressed couple.

March was also the month in which we made Col. Otto Herrmann our fifth honorary member. We also announced that we were to be agents for Col. Herrmann for Rotary Clubs around the United States.

May 5th was the District Assembly in Winter Haven. Carl Emmel was presented the “Rotarian of The Year” award for the Sarasota area. This award is sponsored by the Sunrise Club and Carl was the third recipient of this award.

May 8th was the second annual joint fellowship meeting with the Keys Club and a good time was had by all. May 11th & 12th was the First State of Florida School Bus Roadeo. Twenty-two counties participated and it was a great event. We were made honorary members for the State of Florida School Bus Roadeo Committee. This was the culmination of many years of work by Carl Emmel and as usual he did a great job.

May 15th we hosted the Visiting District Governors who were on their way to Boca Raton for the annual training session.

New projects this year included the following:

1. Rotary Survival Swim program - Bob Cashmore, Chairman. A program done in conjunction with the Sarasota School System and the American Red Cross. It teaches fifth graders how to survive afloat. .

2. Southside Community Fitness Center dedicated to the memory of Lou Means. This project included a paved track, basketball court with educational line games and fitness apparatus. Our donation towards this project was \$5,000.

New members this year included: Maurice (Jim) Peck, Fred Laundry, Greg Hart, Kevin Russell, Col. Otto Herrmann (Honorary), David Mills, Jerry Serene, Thomas Brown, Bill Conte, Andre Neumann, Fred Payne, Rod Macon, Jack Milholland, Richard Riley and Vincent Pearson.

We sponsored two exchange students from Sweden this year. They were Tina Embring and Maria Larsson. We also sponsored Lisa Delano of Sarasota to study in Germany.

This was an extremely busy year for me; but I had a fantastic time as president. My thanks to my board of directors and officers for an outstanding job. My thanks to our club members for outstanding service. This will be a year I will long remember. Thank you for the opportunity to be your president.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1984 -1985

Joe Danna



The annual picnic held at the Florida Power & Light bay-side park once again kicked off the Rotary year. A new effort by a new committee “new blood” headed appropriately by Greg Hart, related the needs of area hemopheliacs and outlined what could be done to assist them.

The year's first meeting was a combined effort with the Sarasota club. As the Sahib Temple was closed; this administration's first official meeting was held at the Crown House, where plans were suggested for our major project: Following many suggestions and committee meetings it was decided we would operate a food booth at the county fair. This effort was a cooperative venture with the Phillippi Creek Oyster Bar. At the downtown association's Old Fashion Sales Days we tried out our venture and learned a great deal. And in March at the fair, we again learned a great deal. Our project was successful and produced revenue to seed the Foundation of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. This long needed vehicle was established with proceeds of the event and the long hours of work are credited to John Berteau and Carl Emmel.

Ken Campbell is to be commended for his continued excellent leadership as Social Chairman, not only for the annual picnic but for Christmas hosted at SaraBay Country Club by P.D.G. Welch Whitesell, and for St. Patrick's Day, a new twist, St. Pausqualli, a special party for the Sicilian who didn't make it to his own party, and of course, the installation of officers June 29 at the Yacht Club.

Each week we were treated to a special program and Jerry Grieg, who headed that committee with his four quarterly chairmen, is to be thanked for a job well done. One special program stands out - The Visitation. During World Peace and Understanding Month the Visiting District Governors from round the world assisted Karl Albritton in presenting Russ Buffaloe as a Paul Harris Fellow.

In February the LPGA golf tournament and the basketball free throw contest were projects we again were involved in and as per our tradition, they ended well. During this time the swim program for 5th graders continued to serve the area students under expert guidance by Bob Cashmore.

In April we traveled to Seminole County to officiate at the state school bus Roadeo. Sarasota County drivers finished second, but our club established itself again as the only fully trained and totally experienced judges in the state and probably the nation. This journey followed a successful local Roadeo.

The fund raising activities, social occasions, the opportunity to work with Inez Stohr, our foreign exchange student, and the new members we were able to bring in, all have created a memorable year.

The Board of Directors and committee chairmen have made this a successful year due to the ideas of service they have given of themselves, and I am most fortunate to have been with them. As the president I followed an excellent tradition and am pleased to know the tradition will continue.

You have honored me more than I could return and I thank you for your faith and an excellent year to serve you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1985 -1986

Walter Lingard



“YOU ARE THE KEY” was our Rotary theme for this year. Our first meeting was held with our new Governor Neal at a Club Assembly in July. September brought us into our Youth Activities month and a District Conference. October saw us in our local School Bus Roadeo. November was our Foundation month. December was party time. January was Home Stay with the visiting District Governor. February was Rotary’s 81st Birthday. We again worked hard at the LPGA and also we had the Royal Lippizan Show. March was not successful - we bombed out at the County Fair. April was another State School Bus Roadeo judging. May saw the one millionth Rotarian. All of this could not have been accomplished without the support and dedication of our fine Rotarians and our dedicated Bay Boosters.

Our weekly programs were well planned and included a wide variety. My thanks go to Dick Riley, Gerry Clark and especially Bob Sechrist. They all made our Tuesdays worthwhile.

Bouquets to all the Committee chairmen for a fine job. Our Home Stay Program needs special mention and applause for Ed Hellmich and Lige Hicks.

Our Fund Raisers did not work out as we expected. The Lippizzan Show did not have the enthusiasm it had in the past. Then we tried our hand at cooking at the County Fair - we should have raised rabbits instead.

I only wish I had more time to accomplish what I had started out to do in the beginning of the year. I hope I have not disappointed the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. My hat is off to my Board of Directors who, without their guidance, I could not have survived.

I am confident that the new leadership will continue the fine tradition.

Thank you again for the privilege and opportunity to serve as your President. May God bless you all.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1986 -1987

Glenn L. Bredemeyer



“ROTARY BRINGS HOPE” was our theme for this Rotary year. Our new District Governor, Bob Koo, addressed our club early in July to present his challenges and goals for the year.

Our fund raising activities were limited this year. The Marine Band Concert did not provide the funds we projected. However, both performances were outstanding, and were in themselves a great contribution to the community. A very special “Thank You” to Ed Grigoli who served as chairman, and to everyone who worked with him to present this excellent concert to the people of Sarasota.

During this Rotary year, we have supported the Rotary Operation Aware Program, The Suncoast Foundation for Handicapped Children, The Little League Program, The Boy Scouts Of America, Explorers Program, the School Bus Rodeo, the Salvation Army, the West Coast Blood Bank, the Mini Seminar, the Seminar for Tomorrow’s Leaders, Big Brothers, and Big Sisters. Under the direction of Dr. Allen Jelks, through our Polio Plus Pin sales, we are progressing on schedule toward our goal of \$30,000 for Polio Plus.

We have hosted Miss Katy Frommherz, a Rotary Exchange Student from Bremen, Germany, and we sponsored Mr. Tom Newman on the Group Study Exchange Team which went to the Phillipines. The District Governor Nominee Home Stay Program was a tremendous success this year thanks to the efforts of Ed Hellmich and Lige Hicks.

The success of each one of our meetings has been due to a great team effort. Special mention for their contributions goes to Neil Korzack and Clyde Johnson for their music, to Lige Hicks and his committee for making our guests and visitors feel welcome; to Bob Agnew, who had the difficult task of being Sergeant-at-Arms and keeping everyone smiling at the same time; to Don Swearingen for keeping the club's finances in order; to Jerry Guiles, who has served as secretary to this club since 1982; to Bill Grosvenor for his many thoughts and anecdotes; to Ed Herrold who saw to it that the programs were interesting and varied, and to Don Tripp, Bill Law, Red Stretton, and Warren Spurlin for their excellent management of the Registration Table. "Thanks" to all of the committee chairmen and to those who took the time to extend their hand in friendship to all who entered, and to the Board of Directors for their support, encouragement, and wisdom.

I wish to thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your President.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1987 -1988

Warren L. Spurlin



Early this past year it seemed that finding a location for the expanded number of Board of Directors to meet was going to be a major problem. However, with the help of club member Jeff Houfek, we located at his First Watch Restaurant. The percentage of attendance at Board meetings was outstanding. This helped the club to form an annual agenda that allowed us to accomplish many worthwhile goals. This was a great Board with which to work. The Board's first annual working retreat at Useppa Island, hosted by Glenn

Bredemeyer, allowed the Board members and their families an opportunity to combine business and pleasure.

District Governor, E.E. “Jim” Eshleman, visited with the club in August to share his perceptions about the opportunities for Rotary to serve locally at the 6960 District level and on a worldwide basis; and become “UNITED IN SERVICE-DEDICATED TO PEACE” as his theme suggested.

Special thanks to Allen Jelks and Mike Pender, Sr. for their dedicated work in leading the club to exceeding its target by over one hundred percent in the PolioPlus fund drive.

Our club, cooperating with other area Rotary Clubs, hosted a very successful District 6960 Annual Conference. By all reports, our club-sponsored Saturday Evening Bash at the Quay was the social highlight of the meeting. Gerry White managed the registration process, which turned out to be a model for future conferences.

Even with the massive emphasis on the PolioPlus campaign our “Sara-Bay” club provided significant support to local agencies who sought our help. Donations Screening Committee Chairman Frank Welch and his members reviewed dozens of requests and recommended to the Board of Directors that club funds be allocated to organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Sweet Adelines, the new Avon Park and Sarasota Sunset Rotary Clubs, Mote Marine Laboratory, Girls Choir, YMCA, School Bus Roadeo, Seminar for Tomorrow’s Leaders, Little League, Girls Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Sarasota Welfare Home.

With the leadership of Ken Crawford and his committee, the weekly programs were outstanding. The series on “law” in May, introduced by Bob Sechrist, drew praise from all who had the pleasure of attending the entire series.

Club visits by Carl Emmel, as he recovered from a stroke, were welcome reminders of Carl’s many contributions to our club over the years.

The frequent “golf outings”, managed by the ubiquitous Czar Joe Bedard, did much to bring members and prospective members together in an informal setting. The participation was good and should be even better next year.

One of the first honors bestowed on the club in 1987-88 was the winning of the Golden Gavel Award for Youth Services as an acknowledgment of our Toys for Kids program lead by Gerry Greig.

The induction of ten Paul Harris Fellows at the Ladies Day Meeting in November was a landmark for our club. The event was orchestrated by Mike Pender, Jr. in conjunction with the Rotary International Foundation. Members who were inducted as Paul Harris Fellows were: Joseph Bedard, John Berteau, Cy Bispham, Edward Mikronis, Jack Ross, Lige Hicks, Robert Hayden, Don Gummerson, Ray Perkins and Clarence Jones.

Janet Post was inducted as the club's first woman member. After months of study and input from the membership, Bay Breeze editor Rodgers Bradley and his committee made several dramatic changes which made the publication easier to read and now provides more useful membership data. Our own Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation Board of Directors headed by Larry Robinson was expanded and accelerated fiscal growth for the 1988-89 Rotary year was its goal.

Bill Douglas as "Social" Chairman, added the dimension of a trip to the Buc's – 49ers game last fall. The outing could become an annual event as may the Bar-B-Que that took place after the School Bus Roadeo. A crew of questionable chefs, lead by Norm Sterner and Lewis Okonkwo, proved again that good food may depend on something other than the cook. The potluck dishes were even more impressive.

The return to our club of the Blood Donation Trophy was more than just symbolic of our club's continuing commitment to service; it was the result of hard work by Jerry Guiles and Greg Hart, et al. Our club also judged the VFW Voice of Democracy Contest under the leadership of Greg Hart.

The "Sara-Bay" Club will close out the 1987-1988 Rotary year in excellent fiscal condition. This is due to several factors: The membership approving a dues increase early in the year, excellent financial rewards from the golf tournament work projects, teed up by Bob Hayden, Bill Law and Jerry Guiles, the continuation of generous contributions from friends and guests, and especially good management by Treasurer Don Swearingen and the Board of Directors. Our most ambitious fund raising project, Rose Day, coordinated by Dave Mills, took place on June 11. The proceeds will be used for a much-needed liver transplant for little Valerie Tokajer. At this writing the final accounting has not been made.

The loss of three of our most committed members: Garrett Kempers, Ray Perkins, and Neil Korzuck was felt by old and new members alike. Also while

we have a great replacement in Illah Collier, we still miss the “character” of Neil Korzuck at the organ.

Finally, realizing space alone will not permit me to mention by name all those who have made this a good year, I most sincerely wish to thank all the committee chairmen and the many club members who personally expressed support for a successful 1987-1988 Sarasota Bay Rotary Year.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT 1988-1989

Robert C. Cashmore



This, the 30th year of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, can be recorded as a very successful year due to fortunate events that offered the Club several unusual opportunities coupled with the enthusiasm and support of all the members.

Carl Weinrich made a significant contribution by recommending that we work at the new Ed Smith Baseball Stadium during the White Sox games as dispensers of hot dogs, beer, and popcorn. This project not only earned \$9,600 for the Club to help deserving charities, but also served as a great way to increase the fellowship between the club members. Wives, Rotary Anns, Rotaract members, and friends worked 17 games (5 hours per game) in March and April. It was the ideal project for the club and will be looked forward to with enthusiasm next year.

The baseball game project was followed by ticket sales at the second annual Chrysler Golf Tournament by a number of our members and Bay Boosters. Carl Weinrich was also responsible for bringing this opportunity to us and we quickly responded to the call to make money from hard work. The Club netted \$1600 from this effort.

Almost immediately following this event we sponsored the second annual Rotary Rose Day Sale. This event was brought to us by Dave Mills as an idea from his previous Rotary Club in Wisconsin. After an initial successful trial last year, we decided to expand the sale to 1000 dozen roses for Mother’s Day at \$15 per dozen. Dave did an excellent job of coordinating team captains and team

members resulting in an absolutely great success story. These three projects have produced the highest revenue for one year in recent memory (and possibly in the history of the Club!). The club is now in excellent financial condition.

The weekly meetings were highlighted by speakers selected by Program Chairman Bob Sechrist and his 12 Committee members. They did an excellent job with a diversity of programs from all areas of the community and all areas of interest—from personal skin care to drug awareness to aid for Haiti. The luncheons were enhanced each week by the inspired organ music of Illa Lorsbaugh, whom we were fortunate to have join us after the passing of Neil Korzuck. A change from waitress-served meals to a buffet style turned out to be a very successful arrangement that increased efficiency, reduced noise during the meetings, and let everyone select their own meal for the day in this calorie-conscious community.

Membership has increased for the year from 98 to about 110 due to the efforts of President-Elect Curt Toale and the general enthusiasm of the Club members. This is one of the largest increases in membership in a number of years and reflects the feeling of a need by many to contribute to the community in which we live.

In this regard we have contributed to many local charities such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Rotaract, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, School Bus Road-eeo, Blood Bank, and Polio Plus. Now that our cash position has been enhanced, we will be able to make significant contributions to many areas of need that were not possible previously.

We are fortunate to have our area Rotaract Club move into its second year under the capable leadership of Mary Lloyd. They received and entertained a group of 7 young adults from Sweden last year and at this moment in May they are on a reciprocal trip to Sweden. This is a great opportunity to spread goodwill and friendship to the World Community. In this respect our Club established a World Of Rotary Map to recognize the million-plus members and 22,000 Clubs throughout the world who are Rotarians. Rotary, as we know, is a major factor for peace and friendship In the world today and tomorrow.

Jim Henry, the President of the Rotary Club of Sarasota, headed the Group Study Exchange and brought us a group from Bangladesh. This program was

of great interest to all of us.

We began the Rotary year with the great accomplishment of PolioPlus, reaching an unbelievable goal of \$220 million dollars. This is the greatest achievement by any social

organization in the history of the world. It signifies what great accomplishments can be achieved through the worldwide contributions of each individual member of Rotary.

As we learned so well this year of 1889-1989, it is the contributions of time, energy, and commitment by each one that makes the difference to the Club as a whole and to the movement of Rotary throughout the world for peace and understanding.

To recognize the individual accomplishments to the Club, the Board of Directors initiated the Sarasota Bay Rotary Distinguished Service Award to be awarded at the discretion of the Board to a Club member that has made an unusual contribution to our Club, the Community and the World of Rotary.

With this base that has been formed by the individual contributions of our members over the past 30 years, we look forward to a great new year in 1989-1990 under the leadership of President Curt Toale. I thank you sincerely for the privilege of being President of such a fine group of people.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1989-1990

Curt Toale



As we end one Rotary year and begin another, I think it is good to look back on many comments and many encouraging remarks of the past. As all of us know, we build by our experiences and by the encouragements of yesterdays.

Our Rotary Club's successful projects and programs are a direct result of Rotary idealism. The spirit of Rotary has been exemplified



in many ways. The steadfast belief that everyone, regardless of their level of performance, does experience the spirit of Rotary competition and the thrill of success within our club and ourselves.

“It is far more important that a man should play something himself, even if he plays it badly, than that he should go to see someone else play it well.” Theodore Roosevelt

That quote, included in the preface to one of Lou Mean’s many books, was obviously one of his favorites. “Service Above Self” is held up as a vital and meaningful part of our Rotary life.

A ladder is a means of ascent for one who is willing to climb upward. We’ll never get to the place where we may regard ourselves as having reached the summit of Rotary’s ladder. However, we must not become discouraged because we are slow in attaining our ideals or perfecting our goals. We only strive for perfection and we only hope for improvement daily.

The success of the year has come out of the dedicated service of the officers, the board, membership and Bay Boosters. Some of the programs, projects and activities which marked a most active year include the following: Adopt-A-House Project; 14th Sarasota County School Bus Roadeo; 7th State School Bus Roadeo; Hosted the visiting District Governor Nominees Meeting; set-up an exchange student for next year; presented the first “Rotary Distinguished Service Award” in honor of Allen Jelks through the club foundation in the form of Vocational Scholarships; updated the By-Laws; Toys For the Handicapped; started an Interact Club; created the Project Development and Screening Committee to evaluate projects; International Project – Fluoridation of the Cook Islands; encourage the club foundation by Club Foundation Month; Third Annual Chrysler Cup Golf Tournament; Third Annual Rose Day Sale; 2nd Annual White Sox Baseball Concession sale; Seminar For Tomorrow’s Leaders; bonded the Officers and Board; gave the Officers and Board direct committee responsibilities; sent a representative to The Rotary Peace Forum in Toronto, Canada; used the Past District Governors and Past Presidents as advisors; we

became a 100% Paul Harris Club, etc.

The list could go on because our club is an ongoing team of committed individuals to the ideals of Rotary.

I want to thank all the members, board members and officers for their support throughout the year. You have made my year as your President a most enjoyable experience.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1990-1991

Gerald W. Greig



“You will become as small as your controlling desire, as great as your dominant aspiration.” — James Allen

There is no greater honor than to be president of one's Rotary Club, especially if his club is the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. This is no exaggeration. There may be positions with more honors but none with more honor. The Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay is the greatest civic organization in this area and a part of the greatest civic organization in the world.

Along with this honor comes responsibility. We have the responsibility to carry on the tradition of our club to be different and forward thinking enough to continue to be the leaders that we have been.

The courage to be different, to try different things and different ways. It doesn't always work, but then we just keep on going. Sometimes this courage to be different comes to nothing, but sometimes it creates the new norms and the new standards of which we are so proud.

Again this year, our club decided to do something different, we decided to make our club foundation grow to the point where it is meaningful and will give a new dimension to the members of this club to impact our community and world as never before. How did we do? Very well. How did we do it? The same as before.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1991-1992

Bob Agnew



“There is no greater honor than to be president of one’s Rotary Club, especially if this club is the Rotary Club at Sarasota Bay.” — Gerry Greig

I am very proud to have served as the 36th president of the Bay Club, following a long list of distinguished hard-working past presidents who generously gave their time and talents. From the 1991 Convention in Mexico City to the 1992 Convention in Orlando, my year has been challenging, rewarding, and most fulfilling.

Through the combined efforts of our club members, WE increased our total membership, WE initiated an innovative bicycle restoration project, WE continued our “Deputy of the Month” recognition program, WE hosted Johnny Ludwig (an exchange student from Hungary), WE joined hands with the local “Adopt-A-Highway” ecology program, WE hosted 20 visiting D.G.N’s from overseas, WE worked many ballgames and a concert selling hotdogs, soda and beer, WE increased our commitment and involvement to the Riverview Interact Club and Explorer Post #53, WE sponsored two delegates to the Seminar for Tomorrow’s Leaders (S-4TL) Program, WE strengthened the financial status of our club foundation through donations and project sales and WE continued our support of Community Service Projects by donating almost \$12,000 to local organizations.

My greatest personal challenge as your club president was to make sure our Tuesday meetings were filled with fun, fellowship and interaction with our visitors and guests and also to resolve our dilemma with meal prices and good quality.

I am pleased to report that at year end, our club is “alive and well” and looking forward to another good year under Mike Pender, Sr’s leadership.

Our success this year can be attributed to a club of over 100 dedicated men and women who truly believed in the idea “Look Beyond Yourself.” I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1992-1993

Mike Pender, Sr.



This was the year that RI President Cliff Dochterman selected as his theme “Real Happiness is Helping Others”. Our club has always unconsciously adhered to this theme and this year was no exception. Our members know that our ongoing and new programs do bring happiness to others.

Early in the year Hurricane Andrew hit parts of Florida with devastating force making many people homeless in the Homestead-Florida City Area. Our club members dug deeply into their pockets and, with two matching gifts, were able to donate \$2,800 for the disaster relief for the area. The actual implementation was handled by Rotary District 6990. This effort brought us Real Happiness!

Next our club was the host of a foreign exchange student, Marie Mechin-aud from Paris, France. Marie attended Booker High School and learned much about American ways. While here she also had to study French correspondence courses and at the end of the year go to Miami to take French exams so that she could get credit for her junior year in high school. Marie is thinking of a journalism career when she finishes school next year. Many of our members hosted Marie for outings, concerts, sporting events, etc. She spoke very beautifully at our meetings. This experience definitely brought us Real Happiness!

In the fall we received a plaintive request from the local HRS office for assistance in developing new crowd control facilities for their office where food stamps are distributed. A group of Sarasota Bay Rotarians met with the people, determined the problem, and constructed a super divider system to solve this ongoing problem. This experience brought us Real Happiness!

Through our ongoing birthday and anniversary fund raising and the donation of hundreds of toys, sports items and other equipment, we were able to continue and enhance the program of donating toys to the handicapped children



and their siblings mainly during their hospital visits. The Rotary Anns are very active in this activity. This experience always brings us Real Happiness!

In March many club members volunteered their time and effort to serve as judges and scorers for the Annual School Bus Rodeo. We also donate the trophies handed out to the winning school bus drivers and teams. This activity helps to improve the drivers' skills. For years this activity has brought us Real Happiness!

For 19 years club member Ed Hellmich and his wife Mimi have coordinated the Home Stay program in Sarasota for visiting District Governor Nominees on their way to their DGN Training Session. This year 18 Rotarians and their spouses participated in the program and learned about Americans and especially Sarasotans' hospitality. This always brings our club Real Happiness!

For the past two years the club has lent its financial support to a very worthwhile YMCA project known as Black Achievers. Under this program minority students are recognized for their academic and other activities. This support brings us Real Happiness!

Another project that our club has been strongly supporting is the development of a new Hospice House. This project provides valuable comfort and support for citizens who are terminally ill and need constant care. Support of this project brings us Real Happiness!

We could go on and on talking about our other activities such as the Boy



Scout Explorer Post, the Bicycle Rehabilitation Program, the Interact Club, the Little League team, the annual Holiday Season Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army, the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup activity, Stamps for Rotarians at RI Conventions, the Florida House Learning Center, the S4TL program, the 4 Way Test Speech Contest, etc. etc. Real Happiness definitely results from helping others!

In order to support all these activities, and those on the donation list attached, we depend on the generosity and the support of the mem-

bership. This includes the donations to the baskets, the fines, the ticket sellers at the Chrysler Cup Golf Tournament, the hot dog cookers and sellers at Ed Smith Stadium, and the week to week efforts of many, many more. We thank EVERYONE for their outstanding support this past year!



This past year started with a stimulating and informative introduction to worldwide Rotary International at the Convention in Orlando. This spirit continued with the official visit by District 4960 Governor Bernie Soep. With this personal theme of “I Know Rotary” we were off and running. Next we had the District Conference held in Sarasota and hosted by the six Sarasota Rotary Clubs. We were assigned the Saturday Breakfast Meeting for our activity. We had our special Thanksgiving Dinner and the outstanding Christmas Party. In January we were treated to an uproarious skit on the values of the Rotary Foundation. In March we hosted the visiting DGNs for a great homestay activity. In April your President attended the Rotary International’s President Conference of Goodwill and Development at the United Nations in New York City. The theme was “Health, Hunger and Humanity - Paths to Peace”. We are becoming involved with the local Sarasota-Manatee Chapter of the United Nations Associations (UNA) to help further these goals.

At our wind-up dinner the gavel was passed to our new President Howard Crowell after his installation by incoming District Governor Hank Dawson. We also honored one of our own, I. Welch Whitesell Jr., as the club’s recipient of its 1993 Distinguished Service Award. We also presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award to outgoing Treasurer, Bob Albritton. We also received word that the club had been honored by a Presidential Citation from RI President, Cliff Dochterman.

It was a good year and I want to personally thank all of the Board Members, Club Members, Bay Boosters, Rotary Anns and a very special thanks to our organist, Ilah Lorshbough.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1993-1994

Howard G. Crowell Jr.



OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE. The rest of that line is that...they just fade away.. You would probably debate that point in the case of this old soldier. Never mind, the present fades quickly into the past as this Rotary year comes to a close.

Each of us views a given year in a different way, obviously through his own eyes. Your individual contributions to this club over the past twelve months have lifted my year to rival any in my extensive career.

It isn't just that we have donated over \$45,000 to over 36 local, national, and international charities or risen to become the largest Rotary Club in Sarasota, or that for several months have achieved the highest attendance of all the big clubs in the District, or that we have been among the best represented at District and International events, or that we have earned much of our money through hands on hard work, or that we have had one of the best news bulletins in the District, or that for the second year in a row we received



the R.I. President's Balanced Club Award, but that we have done all that and more while having fun at the same time.

Acknowledged as THE CLUB in Sarasota, visitors come from far and wide to

enjoy our fellowship. The extent to which we have benefitted from our Bay Boosters cannot be exaggerated. Friends and family members slinging hot dogs and beer, bankers, lawyers, doctors, business men and all sorts of professionals gathering to ring bells at Christmas, sell tickets and park cars at the Chrysler Cup, police our adopted street and build children's playgrounds all serve to create indelible memories.

Club picnics, hockey game bus trips, golf outings, special holiday dinners and an auction where we bought and sold our own stuff added to our multifaceted activities. The School Bus Rodeo, Police/Fireman of the Year,

Stay in School Award, the DGN Homestay Program, Toys for Tots, Pecan Sales for a Matching Grant, Blood Bank contributions and the high school Four Way Speech competition all served to highlight the diversity of our endeavors.

This club's sponsorships must not be ignored either. The Riverview Interact Club, the Scout Explorer Post, our participation in this year's GSE visit, our scholarship student in Costa Rica, and our extensive support to S4TL at Florida Southern College make one wonder how so much can be accomplished in one year.



Our international focus has been not only on Bombay, India, but medical equipment to Savanna La Marr, Jamaica. and a new Rotary club in Vladimir, Russia, and over 15,000 stamps and a four person contingent to the International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan.

Enough? Some would say “too much.” Fair enough, but those who have benefitted from our efforts, whether they be near or far, would simply say “thanks!” I am one of those. For the opportunity, challenge, and continued support I, too, can only say “thanks!” And now it's time for this old soldier to “just fade away!” Well, at least make the effort. Cheers!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1994-1995

Greg Hart



“Very Interesting,” the actor Artie Johnson used to say on the television show Laugh-In. Well, the 1994/95 Rotary year for this club was more than just merely interesting. It had some unique trials and tribulations which the club had not faced in recent years, and none were “laugh-



able". I'm pleased to report that the club was up to the challenge and had a most successful year.

The year was marked by a decline in the club's ability to reliably raise funds for charity. Fortunately, these losses were more than offset by the productions of

high quality service projects putting their all into bettering community, environment, international relations, vocational awareness and yes, there was also the personal largess of charitable giving from the bulk of club members.

Perhaps the financial successes of the last several regimes had created a false expectation of continued surpluses of funds for charitable giving. However, those presumptions fell asunder with the complete loss of one reliable \$5,000.00 revenue producer and the diminution of another \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 revenue project. Without a slam dunk fund raiser alternative waiting in the wings, the club learned that overnight fund raising successes can be few and far between.

Our various club services committees continued a legacy of programs, services, and fellowship activities. Golf outings, holiday dinners, musical starts to every meeting, a new club directory, an exceptional speaker program, birthday and anniversary recognition, and even more, marked the club services agenda.

Community service projects ran the gamut from soup to nuts (pecans to be precise) and included human development projects such as toys for handicapped and chronically ill children, Salvation Army bell ringing, Little League team sponsorship, a Four Way Test speech contest, promotion of a local all-star football contest, and blood drives every tenth week. An adopt-a-highway cleanup project constituted our main environmental protection project. Our "signature" community development project featured rehabilitation of a living facility for handicapped and disabled adults. A shining star this year was our partner in service, the Riverview High School Interact Club. Initiated and invigorated by a stirring induction ceremony, the Interact Club, boasting some

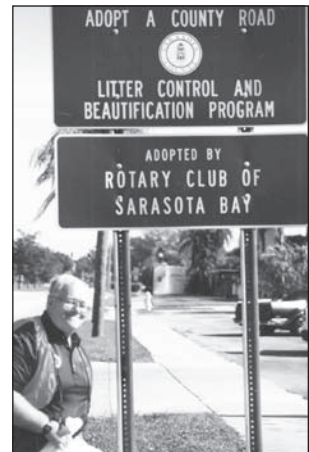
55 members, became the school's most active service club. Interact members attended the annual Interact conference, collected toys and clothing for a Russian Hospital, hosted Rotarians at picnics, and still had time for numerous community service projects.

International service was once again highlighted by the club's DGN Homestay Program. This year twenty DGNs from 11 different countries enjoyed the hospitality and fellowship found only in Sarasota, Florida. Another international service focus looked toward India where an R.I. matching grant adult literacy project required a commitment of club monies in the amount of \$5,000.00. A record number (some 40,000) stamps were collected, trimmed, boxed and sent to the RI convention in Nice, France. Arrangements were made to sponsor a group study exchange member, and we identified and ultimately sponsored a youth exchange student who will study in Bolivia next year. The club's connection to a potential Rotary Club extension in Vladimir, Russia was strengthened through three cultural exchanges; in the fall representatives of our club traveled to Vladimir and in the spring two contingents from Vladimir visited Sarasota.

Three major vocational service projects were conducted. The club gave quarterly awards and recognition to outstanding public safety officers, sponsored and judged a school bus driver skills contest (the School Bus Rodeo), and sponsored three students who attended a week long leadership training program (S4TL).

Visitors came from every corner of the globe to partake of the Sarasota brand of Rotary. Our "Bay Boosters" continued to be key elements in fellowship activities, charitable giving, and in our service projects. Rotary Anns pitched in whenever possible and continued to be valued allies in every service project.

A well rounded club you might say. I certainly would, and apparently, by virtue of awarding the club the Presidents Citation for Community Concerns, the District Governor and the President of Rotary International agree.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1995-1996

Steve Briggs



I remember thinking, as I began my year as President, how am I ever going to pull this off? Then after a short time I started to realize (and should have already known) that at the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay no man or woman stands alone in their quest to do the best job they can.

This club is a shining example of how the members, working together in the spirit of Rotary, make our club a great success.

This year, like last year, one of our greatest challenges was in fund raising. We did have a successful and enjoyable auction early in the year and we once again worked concessions at the White Sox spring training. This latter project, as usual, proved to be a very intense effort to man the concession stand properly. I would like to thank all of the club members, their families and friends who worked so hard to make this project work again this year. We also had a chance to raise funds through hard work at a golf tournament this year, a project that our participation in was uncertain until very shortly before the actual event. But once again, our dedicated Rotarians managed to rally to the task and the project was a success.

Another huge challenge was presented to us this year by Rotary International. R.I. President Herb Brown wanted to see Rotary grow and we did not let him down. With 27 new members we met the challenge. As I write this the official tally is not in, but we do know that we took either the number one (hopefully) or number two spot in the district for new members. This was no small task and I would like to thank everyone who made our club a real “stand out” in the district.



Our club can also be very proud of the fact that after almost three years, we became the sponsor club of the Rotary Club of Vladimir, Russia. Although this was not a labor intensive project on the part of the whole club, I do want to thank the club as a whole

for the support that was needed to make this new club a reality. As everyone knows, this was sort of a pet project and dream of mine and a few others in the club and I am very happy to see our efforts bearing fruit. Although we were not able to



have a representative from our club present at the charter ceremony in Russia this past April, we are hoping to present the President of the Rotary Club of Vladimir, Ms. Elena Potapova, an official Rotary bell as a gift from our club to theirs during the Rotary International Convention in Calgary.

Club services this year were successful as always in providing fellowship, weekly music, golf outings, great holiday programs, and outstanding programs of weekly guest speakers, and much more.

Community services were highlighted this year with our continued support of the Interact Club at Riverview High School. The adopt-a-highway program, where we continue to clean up a section of Beneva Road on several occasions during the year is an on-going project. Our annual Sarasota County School Bus Drivers Rodeo has caught the attention of the new Superintendent of Schools and will hopefully be even bigger next year. We also pitched in, as usual, and helped the Salvation Army with their holiday bell ringers project. Our Signature Project this year was actually a continuation of sorts from last year's project. We contributed over \$5,000.00 towards the remodeling of the kitchen facilities of the group home Eagle House, located at the Children's Haven and Adult Center, Inc. on Desoto Road. This project also provided improvements that make the house safer, more accommodating for handicapped use and simply a more delightful home for the 10 gentlemen who live there.

Vocational services this year included our continuing program of recognizing and honoring a local police officer, sheriff's deputy, fireman, and an E.M.T. We also sponsored our annual Four Way Test contest for students from Cardinal Mooney High School. As usual, we were provided with four different views on how the Four Way Test affects our lives and the lives of those around us. This is always a very popular program each year. We also implemented a more regular

program of classification talks. Although this program sometimes suffered due to a shortage of time it never suffered from a lack of possible participants and I am sure we will continue to enjoy hearing from our members in the future as we continue classification talks on a regular schedule.

In International Services we have been active as stated before with the formation of a new Rotary Club in Vladimir. We also completed a matching grant program with the Rotary Club of Thane, India. This project has also spanned a period of time and we were finally able to see the efforts come to a successful end. Our club also sponsored a member of the recent G.S.E. team to Italy and we are looking forward to having a report from Cindy Cannon and the rest of the team on that trip. We have also submitted applications for a couple of people for our G.S.E teams for next year. And what is probably our most outstanding annual international project is, the D.G.N program. This project was started over 20 years ago by Ed and Mimi Hellmich and has continued every year to attract a number of District Governor Nominees to our beautiful area to participate in an excellent program of Rotary fellowship at its very best.

As I have been thanking the members of the club throughout this letter, I must also mention and thank three other groups who make our projects and efforts a success each year. These are the Rotary Anns, the Bay Boosters and our families. I would hate to think how difficult it would be without the enthusiastic support of these three groups.

Well now that I am finally becoming comfortable with the role, I find it is time to pass the gavel on to our new President! Once again, I would like to thank the club for making me understand just what it is that makes such a suc-

cessful club team work. As President I have received many compliments for running such a shining example of what a Rotary Club should be but I have always tried to remember that it was not anything I did, it is what we all did together. Thank you all for making my year a success.



No PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1996-1997

Robert M. Dunning



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1997-1998

Steve Doster



WHAT A YEAR! What an incredible year. This is truly the most dynamic Rotary Club. I must thank the Officers and Board of Directors for taking the initiative and making things happen in ALL of the Four Avenues of Service.

The NFL All star Golf Tournament, what a great day, and who can ever forget the 56th Annual Reunion of the Doolittle Raiders. In April, the School Bus Roadeo project, Our Adopt-a-Highway project, the District Governor Homestay Program, the TWO Group Study Exchange Teams, one from Japan and the other from The Phillipines. The Sr. PGA golf cart parking project, The Salvation Bell Ringing project and the lunchroom improvement project, Kids Voting program, Bicycle Safety program, Toys for Children, the 4 Way Speech contest, Interact, our continuing program to honor our Firefighters/EMT and Law Enforcement officers and on and on--including some \$23,000 that we raised and gave to many organizations this year.

Many thanks to all of you for your support, attendance and participation in these and other areas. We are fortunate to have our own Foundation of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. To the Officers and Directors, thank you for your support. I must also mention our wonderful group of Rotary Anns. They are involved in many of our projects as well as programs of their own.

We all do so much to make our corner of the world a better place. More than can be mentioned here. This has been a wonderful year, but remember: The best is yet to come.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1998-1999

Rita Aughey



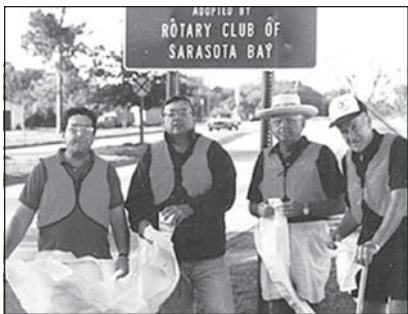
(Written by Edward Mashburn)

What a year! No doubt, the Club experienced another incredible year. This is truly a most dynamic Rotary Club and for this I thank the Officers and Board of Directors for leading the way and making things happen in all Four Avenues of Service.

Our programs and projects completed this year clearly demonstrate the diversity and impact we have on our community - the NFL All-Star Gold Tournament, the School Bus Rodeo, our Adopt a Highway project, the District Governor's Homestay program, the YMCA Golf Parking project, the All-Star Grid Iron Classic, Spring Training Baseball Concession, the Selby Gardens Conservatory, the Interact Club, our honoring Firefighter/EMTs and Law Enforcement Officers, the 4-Way Speech Contest, and who can forget John Towner winning \$1,450 picking the Queen of Hearts in the 50/50.

A special feather in our hat this year has been having Howard Crowell, Jr. as a club member and as our own District Governor. Another honor for our club was having Frank and Dawn Hurlbert being awarded District 6960 Rotarians of the Year.

Many thanks to all of you for your support, attendance, and participation in our programs, our projects and other areas. I also thank the Foundation of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, the Officers and Directors, and



I thank the Rotary Ann group for both their involvement in our projects and programs, but also for their own programs. All of us do so much to make Sarasota a notable corner of the world. This has been a wonderful year and I know the upcoming year will only be better.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1999-2000

Ed Mashburn



I remember reading a book about Charles DeGaulle in which he stated, “How do you rule a country with 245 cheeses?” Perhaps DeGaulle would have been of a different frame of mind had he seen that our success is dependent on the variety of opportunities that the Sarasota Bay Rotary Club offers its members.

This last year 1999-2000 we began by completing a two-year Signature Project for the benefit of the residents of the Pines of Sarasota, a health care facility. It was an Aviary complete with bricks and landscaping as well as baby birds.

We re-initiated our long-term student exchange program. Our German exchange student, Maren Hofler, was a feather, not only in our cap, but also throughout the community, especially with the Sailor Circus.

Our DGE Program again gave our members the opportunity to get to know other Rotarians from around the world. Our School Bus Roadeo, Bike Helmet Program, Aids Day Benefit and Toys for Kids programs gave our club members hands-on experience with the members of our community. The Vocational Visit Program allowed us to visit the businesses of our members and our on-going Road Clean-Up Project gave us the opportunity to have experiences with each other. The Baseball Concession Fundraiser brought out our members' variety of talents. Our YMCA car parking showed how each of us were literally “Out Standing in the Field.”

We reached far beyond our borders and built grain siloes for four small villages in Guatemala. This effort will enable them to double their current food supply. An educated mind is made possible through a healthy body. But, we never forgot that charity begins at home and we gave more generously than ever to over 25 community charities.

Our committees are extremely busy. Earlier this year I initiated a revision of our outdated bylaws.





Our Paul Harris fellows have grown to 113 of 147 members. Our work for District 6960 brought in 850 pairs of shoes for the needy. (No small feet!) We earned the Presidential Citation and we are No. 1 in the District for Annual Giving.

Special thanks to the Sarasota Bay Rotary Anns for their support throughout the year; without them some of our events would not have been possible.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2000-2001

William R. Brown Jr.



I will be forever in your debt for the opportunity you have bestowed upon me to serve as the President of our club over the past year. The transition from the 20th to the 21st century brought with it plenty of new and exciting challenges for club members and you have met the challenge. Our club has transitioned into the new millennium bringing with it the rich traditions and associations built over the years. Through our collective efforts we have taken an active role in expanding Rotary's influence in our area. Through your efforts we have undertaken:

The "Children's Village" joint project with the Rotary Club of Plattenberg, South Africa to care for needy children with food, supervision and medical assistance

The purchase of wheelchairs and special equipment for children with cerebral palsy in a joint project with the Rotary Club of Ioannina, Greece and Rotary District 6960

Reroofing the American Hispanic Alliance of Sarasota service office as the Club's Signature Project

Purchasing and distributing bicycle helmets in support of Kids' Safety Day

In coordination with the Sarasota School District, conducting the

“School Bus Roadeo” and awarding prizes and trophies to the best drivers

Conducted the 4-Way Test Speech Contest with Seniors from Cardinal Mooney High School

Hosted an Exchange Student from Sweden, Richard Lindblad

Continued active sponsorship of the Riverview High School Interact Club

The Children’s Toy Program and Monetary support to the Youth Basketball League

Inducted 20 new members into the club and sponsored the formation of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch with 32 charter members

In cooperation with the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office, participated in a local program for Aids awareness and drug use prevention



Participated in the Salvation Army Red Kettle Program at Christmas

Participated in fund raising efforts for the Rotary Gridiron Classic in support of spinal cord injury research

Sponsored an Ambassadorial Scholar Lisa Greenman in Puebla, Mexico at the University of the Americas

Hosted the 27th Annual District Governor Elect Homestay Program

Operated baseball concession to augment Sarasota Bay Foundation giving to approximately 17 service agencies and organizations

And many more individual acts of community giving.

Every day holds the promise for many exciting opportunities for us all. With Rotary in our lives the world will surely profit by our collective efforts. Lets keep the momentum going.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2001-2002

Don Ryals



Leading the club the past year has been among the most fulfilling experiences in my lifetime. I am proud that we worked hard to earn the designation “Outstanding Rotary Club” for the year and a special Presidential Citation from Rotary International President Richard King.

Our club managed to keep very much alive the traditions of our charter members and to develop new programs and fundraisers to meet the challenges of a new century. We accomplished the following:

Provided wheelchairs and computers for disadvantaged and disabled children in Ioannina, Greece, in a joint project with our district, the Ioannina Rotary Club, and Rotary International, totaling \$12,000.

Inducted 22 members into the club and continued support of the Lakewood Ranch Club, which we sponsored in 2000.

Supported the YMCA Foster Children's Christmas Party.

Participated in the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Program during Christmas.

Hosted the 28th Annual District Governor-Elect Home Stay Program.

In coordination with the Sarasota County School District, conducted the “School Bus Roadeo” to award drivers for high marks in safety.

Provided needed school supplies to disadvantaged children through the F.A.N. Club.

Participated in the area immunization program to inoculate area migrant workers and their children for flu and pneumonia.

Supported two Little League teams and provided the funding and the “sweat equity” to install bleachers for the new T-ball field at Twin Lakes Park.

Sponsored the Group Study Exchange to Argentina.

Conducted the 4-Way Test Speech Contest with seniors from Cardinal Mooney High School.

Continued active sponsorship of the Riverview High School Interact Club.

Supported The Children's Toy Program and monetary support to the Holiday Youth Basketball Program.

Participated in fundraising efforts for the Rotary Gridiron Classic in support of spinal paralysis.

Nomination of our member, Aaron Hyatt, for International Rotary President for 2003-2004.

Adopted a new program to increase fellowship among members by co-hosting events at Selby Botanical Gardens, Van Wezel, Albritton's Fruit Market, and Flanagan's Wine Market.

Sponsored an area student to Rotary's "Students For Tomorrow's Leaders" (S4TL).

Initiated a new fundraiser: Sarasota's Largest Garage Sale, which directed a considerable amount of money for our Foundation in its first year of operation.

Continued our twice-annual clean up of Beneva Road under the auspices of "Keep Sarasota Beautiful."

Decorated Cy Bispham's fishing boat in Rotary regalia for the Annual Holiday Boat Parade.

Additionally, we experienced many more acts of selfless giving which added up to a record year of Rotarians' time, talent, and capital back to the Sarasota Community and its youth. Our international outreach made a difference to lives in other parts of the world. Let us continue our great efforts to improve our community and the world in which we live!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2002-2003

Joseph Mathis



First, let me thank you for the honor of leading this fine Rotary Club and you, its members, on our collective journey of Service Above Self. I am grateful to all those who volunteered their time, talents and money to make this year a success in the life of this Club. For our efforts the club is a recipient of the coveted 2002-2003 Presidential Citation from Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul.

Our journey has touched the lives of so many in our community and, indeed, in the world; let me touch upon the ways:

Community Service

Provided both financial and personnel support for the Area 7 project to immunize area migrant workers and their families against flu and pneumonia.

Designed and built a pavilion at the Swamp Oaks Camp operated by the Foundation for Dreams, for mentally and physically challenged youth.

Built a wheelchair ramp for physically challenged children and adults at the Easter Seals of Southwest Florida facility in Sarasota County.

Collected toys from the Tiger Bay Club, the Florida Westcoast Woodworkers Club and from member Rotarians for distribution to the Children's Medical Services of the Florida Department of Health and to the Helen Payne Day Nursery in the Newtown community of Sarasota.

Collected nearly \$1,300 by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's Christmas program to bring toys to over 10,000 needy children.

Participated in the Florida Rotary Gridiron Classic through member ticket purchases to send 25 members of the Sarasota Boys & Girls Club to the game.

Sponsored two T-ball teams in the Central Sarasota County Little League.

Collected and donated over 50 boxes of food and \$170 to the Mayor's Feed the Hungry Program, covering Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

Collected miscellaneous non-food items for Bethesda House serving families affected by the AIDS virus.

Participated in the 10th Anniversary Reunion & Graduation of the Home Instruction Program for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) for low-income families.

Took a leadership role in developing a Centennial Project to be sponsored by Area 7 Rotary Clubs.

Purchased American flags to fly over each building of the Sarasota County School District.

Continued the Club's semi-annual clean up of Beneva Road as part of the "Keep Sarasota Beautiful" program.

International Service

Responded to R.I. President Bhichai Rattakul's call for participation in the PolioPlus Campaign to complete Rotary's drive to eradicate Polio from the World

by 2005. Members unanimously pledged \$300 per capita over the next three Rotary years (three times President Rattakul's goal) and contributed nearly \$28,000 to the campaign in this first year --77 percent of the Club's three-year goal.

For the 29th consecutive year, hosted District Governors-Elect and their Spouses from several countries on their way to the International Assembly in Anaheim, California.

Sponsored two members of the District 6960 Group Study Exchange team to Australia. The Club also hosted the Australian team from District 9650 at a picnic at Cy Bispham's Wilderness Camp -- a highlight of their stay in the United States.

Hosted an exchange student (Adriana Escobosa) from Mazatlan, Mexico.

Joined in a matching grant project to purchase a specialized vehicle to transport eye corneas for the India Eye Bank to medical facilities in rural areas of that Country.



Vocational Service

Continued sponsorship of the Interact Club at Riverview High School, in Sarasota.

Sponsored and officiated at the annual School Bus Roadeo with the Sarasota School Bus Drivers Association and the Sarasota County School District.

Conducted its 15th annual Four-Way Test speech contest among honor seniors at Cardinal Mooney High School.

Sponsored three high school students (two from Booker H. S. and one from Sarasota H. S.) to attend the "Students For Tomorrow's Leaders" (S4TL) Seminar at Florida Southern College, in Lakeland, FL.

Successfully defended the Club's championship title in the Sarasota Literacy Council's 2nd Annual Spell-A-Bration to raise funds for its adult and family literacy programs.

Club Service

Conducted the 1st Annual Rotary Club Challenge Charity Golf Tournament,

at Laurel Oak Country Club, raising nearly \$15,000 to underwrite the Club's philanthropic endeavors.

Inducted 16 new members.

Promoted Club fellowship through a festive holiday party and a fabulous night at the Sarasota Circus.

Published a Club Leadership & Committee Organization Manual for distribution to all members.

Honored five distinguished members with life memberships in Rotary International and in this Club. Three of them were Charter members officially inducted into Rotary on November 13, 1958.

This Rotary year has ended and a new year is upon us. As we move forward, let us remember that the future doesn't just happen; it is created. What we do and where we go is ultimately up to us. Our journey of "Service Above Self" is a journey that never ends!

No PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2003-2004

Marilyn Masiero



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004-2005

Michael W. Murphy



Our Centennial Year, 2004-2005 paid tribute to our past and laid the groundwork for our future. Our past was celebrated in the continuation of the DGE Homestay Program, Roadside Cleanup, 4-Way Speech Contest, School Bus Roadeo, S4TL Sponsorship, support of The Rotary Foundation as well as the Club Foundation. Our biggest effort however, was in building, in concert

with the other seven clubs in Area 7, a \$300,000 handicapped playground at Oak Park School.

The Jeff August Memorial Playground is a tribute to the 100 years of Rotary's "Service Above Self." The Sarasota Bay Club can be proud of its leadership and generosity in that effort. We set the benchmark for time, talent, and treasures donated to the combined project. The playground is unique. It is not an able-bodied playground that was modified for handicapped children. Rather, the playground was designed to supplement the therapies the disabled children of Oak Park were receiving in school and it is fun for able-bodied children. It was the largest project that the area Rotary clubs have ever undertaken. All of our efforts were repaid by the smiles and joy of the children of Oak Park School when they got their turn to play on the 7,200 square foot playground.



We also researched, had lengthy discussions, and in April voted to change our venue of almost 20 years from the Sahib Temple to the Grand Foyer of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. The membership resoundingly approved the move with only 11 votes wanting to stay. The change resulted in a venue that could actually help attract new members; with a venue consistent with the stature and prestige of Rotary; in having food we look forward to; in parking and egress that is easy; and finally, the Sarasota Bay Club actually overlooking beautiful Sarasota Bay.

I congratulate the membership for their courage to make bold decisions and undertake unprecedented challenges. I am proud to be a member of the Sarasota Bay Club and honored to have been President during this Centennial Year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2005-2006

Robert Blinch-Edwards



It was an honor to be your President and an honor to have you as friends. Before I give a short overview of my year as President, I must first thank all the members of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay for making my year really special. Those first few months in July and August 2005 were a test of your loyalty and for that I will remain forever grateful. Being a Rotarian is not just a matter of showing up on Tuesday; Rotary becomes a way of life for which our fellowship every Tuesday is just a part of. We are all unique, we are all giving of ourselves for those in need. 2005-2006 the theme was “Service Above Self” and without doubt you have demonstrated its true meaning. Your commitment and resolve made it possible to finish our year on a positive trend that will spur on our new President, Frank Gooch, to “Lead the Way.”

When I was inducted into Rotary I pledged to use our 4-Way Test as a guiding principle in my life, to support our club and Rotary International with my presence, talents, time, and treasures, to become an added source of strength, character, and fellowship to this club, and lastly, to maintain my commitment to Rotary. It was this pledge that made Rotary my family, and every Tuesday we all renew that pledge.

This last year was a turning point in the history of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. We not only moved our location to the Van Wezel, we also experienced a rebirth of our values and traditions. I want to thank all of you for supporting our club during those first few months of change, and for standing by me when you were needed most.

This last year: We completed our commitment to the Centennial Project at Oak Park School that was due primarily to Art August and Mike Murphy. We supported the dictionary and literacy projects. We had a very successful DGE program that was the talk of San Diego. We had a fundraiser for Katrina that brought in over \$52,000 net. Our Rotary club was the second largest donor in Sarasota to the American Red Cross New Orleans relief fund. We also supported the Shelter Box program that provided relief (3000 Shelter Boxes) in the aftermath of the Tsunami that caused untold damage, loss of life and displaced

thousands who lost their homes and jobs. New Orleans, America's worst natural disaster, the Pakistan Earthquake, and in the Congo, Darfur, and Uganda, and the list goes on.

We also supported the Polio Plus Program that will soon eradicate polio from the world. And another very important program, clean drinking water projects in Africa.

In June we had our Fourth Annual Golf Tournament at the LBK Club and raised approximately \$11,000. This will go towards our pledge of \$50,000 to help fund the construction of an outdoor recreational facility at Goodwill's Beneva Oaks Apartments.

The achievement I am really proud of during my year is the induction of 18 new members.

But above all we had a great year of fellowship and our Rotary Club became a family again.

Sometimes we tend to forget all those dedicated people behind the scenes and I would like to take this moment to thank a few; one of many was Bob Strasser, President of our Club's Foundation, Fred Laundry, club Secretary, Clyde Lockie, Treasurer, Allen Jelks who consistently is there helping to run our meetings. And, there are many others who are there making sure our Tuesday's run smoothly. Two others I would like to thank are Gregory Alexandria, who is responsible for editing the Bay Breeze, and for Mike Murphy who takes the notes every week that end up in the Bay Breeze.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006-2007

Frank Gooch



Following such a distinguished group of predecessors and their historic traditions was an honor, pleasure (most of the time!), and always rewarding. Being your president has been an exceptionally fulfilling personal growth experience. A simple "thank you" to our exceptional Board and all of you seems inadequate, but it truly comes from my heart.

After 14 transitional months at the Van Wezel, our iconic “new” meeting venue, we were ready, willing, and able to ambitiously “Lead the Way” by reinventing some of our past programs including:

Roadside cleanup of Centennial Park;

School Bus Roadeo;

Distinguished Service Award - Mike Murphy Recipient;

Re-birth of the Riverview High School Interact Club;

Sponsored Ambassadorial Scholar Josh Goldstein;

Our Club repeated the following accomplishments;

Participated in Salvation Army Kettle Drive;

Distributed dictionaries to 900 plus 4th graders;

Provided hundreds of Toys for Kids at the Children’s Medical Center;

Sponsored our 5th Annual Golf Tournament netting \$11,000, to benefit our 2007-08 signature project for Greater Sarasota Great Kids Day Care;

Conducted the 4-Way Test Speech Contest with Students from Cardinal Mooney High School;

Sponsored Chris Brown, a Sarasota HS student’s participation in the Seminar for Tomorrow’s Leaders;

Assisted the Sarasota Jazz Club at the Jazz Festival.

New Initiatives:

In order to “fund” our ambitious Goodwill Beneva Oaks Recreational Area project, Mike Pender, Jr. agreed to be roasted by Dick Smothers, Larry Thompson, Marjorie North, Debra Jacobs, and Cliff Walters in front of 260 “friends” at Michael’s on East. We netted over \$18,900. The proceeds, along with the RCSB Foundation Grant, allowed us to meet our \$50,000 cash pledge. In cooperation



with Goodwill, individual Rotarians further enhanced the cash contributions to bring the total to over \$70,000.

Additionally, our members, Dave Eisenmann, Mike Bell, Art August, Zoltan Karpathy, and Mike Murphy, provided another splendid example of leveraging our time, talents, and finances. Including Goodwill Foundation’s involvement, and RCSB “in-kind” donations, this project may exceed \$250,000. The mobility challenged

residents in 40 apartments of Beneva Oaks Apartments will forever live a better life enjoying their wonderful new outdoor recreation area.

RCSB initiated quarterly fellowship social mixers for potential members, families

and friends hosted by Selby Gardens, Eisenmann Construction, Harris Bank and Dennis Campagnone.



We conveyed a new Service Above Self award to Ryan Halstead and Jenna Jones of Cardinal Mooney & SMA respectively.

We added the position of RCSB Foundation President as a voting member of the Club Board to improve communication and synergy. The Sergeant of Arms was also officially added to the Board.

By expanding our enormously successful District Governor Elect Home Stay program, Robert Blinch-Edwards, PP, tireless worker and inimitable Chair, invited club members from Areas 6,7, & 8 to host. The result was 41 DGEs from 21 countries!

Ageless Welch Whitesell, PDG. was recognized by District 6960 & RI for his outstanding service as TRF Chair. The Club contributed over \$127,000 to TRF through Welch's encouragement. This included Paul Harris Society members--Allen Jelks, Welch Whitesell, and Wayne Dictor.

The Club also received the District Governor Award. Andy Lymon awarded the first Area 7 "President of the Year" Award to me because of my shy and unimposing demeanor.

Thirteen new men and women, in high profile positions, became Rotarians, further validating our change in venues, our dedication to the community and the world.

We were one of the few clubs awarded a \$1,700 RI Public Relations Grant that Donna Clark leveraged to a \$6500 Public Relations TV Campaign.

We certainly made a difference through "Fun, Fellowship, Fulfillment!"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007-2008

Derek Templeton



The past year was one of growth and accomplishment for the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. Our meeting location at the Grand Foyer of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall continues to be the most comfortable and spectacular Rotary meeting place in District 6960. The views of New Pass and Sarasota Bay are a fitting backdrop to the Friendliest Club in Rotary. Please invite your friends and associates to enjoy our Tuesday Noon Rotary meeting.

The meeting programs achieved new heights of interest and engagement this past year. The program is the heart (slightly more important than the meal?) of the Rotary meeting and we benefited from a great lineup to help us be better Rotarians and Sarasotans. The very capable and dedicated programs committee is chaired by Marge Maistro. Our membership has continued to expand with the addition of younger professionals. We are achieving a more even gender balance and are benefiting from the diversity and energy of our new Rotarians. We finished the year with a momentum of growth and fellowship. Our membership in June 2008 stood at 82 members.

The year 2007 saw the completion of the Rotary Park at the Beneva Oaks Goodwill Apartments. The walkways, shade structures and landscape have been a great improvement for the disadvantaged residents of the complex. This major project involved a tremendous amount of Club “sweat equity” and dedication from our Construction Committee, ably chaired by David Eisenmann. Our 2007-2008 Signature project is the playground shade structure for Great Kids of Greater Sarasota, which was fully funded from the 2007 golf tournament. Design and permit work is underway, with the vagaries of construction permitting in Sarasota setting its own schedule.

The District Governor Elect Homestay program was expertly chaired by Past-President Robert Blinch-Edwards. We hosted a record forty-seven DGEs, placing them with host families from our and area Clubs. This was our thirty-fourth year of inviting the world's DGEs into our homes and Club. The 2008 School Bus Road-E-O was very well attended by Rotarian judges and bus drivers. The weather was as fickle as any Finicky Florida February but a great time

was had by all. We were impressed by the control and skill of the drivers, both rookies and veterans. Participation from the Club was excellent under the very effective chair Brian Flynn. The Sarasota School Board is very appreciative of our interest and support for their transportation team.

February 2008 saw the inception of the Rotary Circus Night at the Sarasota Circus. Pedro Reis and Sue Steele Miller chaired this event, marketing to all area Clubs and building the enthusiasm. The event generated over \$10,000 for Rotary projects. We are very grateful for the extraordinary generosity of Circus Sarasota and Pedro Reis. Please join us for our upcoming Rotary Circus on February 4, 2009. Let's fill the Tent and double our fundraising. The 2008 Golf Tournament was very ably chaired by Ray Frugia. With assistance from Club members we had a great tournament at the Heritage Oaks course. A record number of golfers participated and over \$15,000 was raised for our coming projects.

In the spring, Rotarian Tim Cole proposed a unique hurricane preparedness effort called Prepare to Share, which assembles emergency kits for Rotarians who agree to donate their kits to people near weather impact zones who might need them more. Despite a late start, Prepare to Share—ably assisted by Keith Millard, Wayne Dictor, Donna Clarke and Steve Lowther—assembled 66 kits that will be distributed through sister Rotary clubs.

Our Club Board of Directors must be recognized for their dedication and wise counsel, keeping an at times reluctant President focused on the business of the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay. The time and commitment of our directors is frequently under appreciated. President Elect Keith Millard masterfully kept our meetings lively under his second hat as Master of Arms/Quizzer. Our Treasurer Clyde Lockie did a wonderful job of keeping the Club solvent and current. His service is greatly appreciated. Secretary Mike Murphy was invaluable in keeping our board meetings on target, fully informed and recorded. Mike is a great Rotarian, continuing to serve above self, even after his great Presidency 2004-2005. Of course we all benefited from the sage advice and great enthusiasm of Past-President Frank Gooch.

Thank you all your support and service. Yours in Rotary.

Thank you Cy



*For all you have done for us personally
And for so many years of devotion to the Rotary ideals
Sharing with generosity and leading our club by your example*

*You and Doris have touched countless lives
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- ◇ District Governor 1983-1984
- ◇ Past President – Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay Foundation 1990-1992
- ◇ District Service Award 2006-2007
- ◇ Virginia and Welch Special Achievement Award District 696 1984-1985
- ◇ Past President – Sunny Land Council, Boy Scouts of America 1985
- ◇ Vice President and Founding Trustee, Hospice Foundation 1988-1994
- ◇ Past President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director – Sarasota County Bar Association
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