



April 2025

District 6960 Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR KELSEY SOLA

As we enter the final few months of this Rotary year, I am filled with immense pride as I reflect on the incredible efforts of District 6960 in making a lasting and positive impact on both our local and global communities.

It's been a year of remarkable achievements, and as we observe Environmental Month this April, it's an opportunity to pause and celebrate the many ways our clubs have contributed to preserving the environment and fostering sustainability. Our district's commitment to environmental stewardship is evident in the numerous initiatives that have taken place throughout the year.

From beach clean-ups in local communities to tree planting campaigns around the globe, there are endless ways to get involved in preserving and protecting our environment through Rotary.

As we look ahead to the next few months, I encourage all of us to keep up the momentum. Let's continue working together, inspired by The Magic of Rotary, to create lasting change in our communities and the world around us.



# Registration Now Open

**Woodland Middle School  
2700 Panacea Blvd, North Port, FL 34289**



**APRIL**

**12**

**9:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
SATURDAY**



## **RLI Parts 1, 2 & 3**

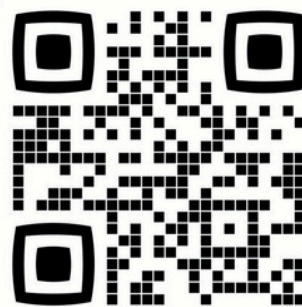
- **Cost: \$100 per class**
- **Wear your club badge for environmental purposes.**
- **Lunch is provided.**

**ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
GULF COAST FLORIDA DIVISION  
MASTER CLASS**



## **District Grant Writing Master Class**

- **Cost: \$100 (Includes lunch)**
- **Limited to the first 15 Registrants.**
- **No Pre-Requisite RLI Course Required.**



**Rotary**  
District 6960



**Scan the QR Code or visit  
DACdb.com to register!**

## **For questions, contact:**

**Sherry Penfield | splenfield@yahoo.com | (802) 380-1109  
Judy Hammond | judyhammond@ymail.com | (479) 283-8980**



2024-25 District 6960  
Rotary Foundation Team

**Jim Hinck**

District Foundation Chair

**Barb Spangler, PDG**

District Foundation Vice-Chair

**Julie Pedretti**

District Global Grants Chair

**Cindy Cedeno**

District Grants Chair

**Steve Schlueter, PDG**

District Legacy Gifts Chair

**Dr. Tam Mustapha, PDG**

District Major Gifts Chair

**Pam Akins, PDG**

District Paul Harris Society Chair

**Doug Smoot**

District Paul Harris Fellow Chair

EREY Chair

**David Lusty, PDG**

District Major Donors Chair

**Eldon Bohrofen**

District Endowment Chair

**Nancy Ross**

District Wealth Transfer Chair

**Tom Setchel**

Annual Fund Share Chairman

**Cheryl Willett**

District Polio Co-Chair

**Richard Willett**

District Polio Co-Chair

**Rich Kirschner, PDG**

Zone Foundation Advisor

*Click a name to contact a  
member of your  
District Foundation Team*

# THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

by Jim Hinck, District 6960 Foundation Chair

Welcome to the final 3rd of the Rotary year! Where did the first eight months go?

We had an amazing Rotary Foundation Gala last month and for those that were unable to attend you were missed. For those in attendance we were able to hear from Past Rotary International President Barry Rassin, who as our keynote speaker. He updated us on the great work of our Rotary Foundation. We recognized several donors who reached prestigious levels of Major Donor Level one, two and three. We also had some Rotarians who were recognized for future bequests in their respective estate plans. The most amazing part of the evening was to find out \$6,000,000 has been raised since July 1, 2024 here in D6960 for our Rotary Foundation. This was a shock and utter surprise to all in the room, including Barry Rassin. What an incredible district we have filled with so many generous Rotarians. I thank you! The Rotary Foundation thanks you too!

Now that we are in the final third of the Rotary year, it is important to confirm all Rotary Foundation money has been sent in from the club level to The Rotary Foundation. Clubs have done a really good job of this. The Annual Fund contest in the first half of the Rotary year started the push of sending in money early. Remember the gifts made to our Annual Fund-Share is the fuel for our grant program here in District 6960. If we didn't have donors giving regularly to the Annual Fund, we would not have the vibrant Global grant and District grant program that we do here in our District.

This is also a time in the year where if your club earned a District grant those projects need to be started and finished up quickly. Remember those District grants must be finished and closed out before the end of our Rotary year which is in June.

As always, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity. Your continued gifts to our Rotary Foundation allows us to "Do Good in the World" each and every day!

## 2024-25 District 6960 Membership Team

### Donald Thomas

District Membership Chair

### David Lowden

District Membership New Clubs

### Teresa Brennan

District Membership Committee

### Brad Corbett

District Membership Committee

### Jim Henry, PDG

District Membership Committee

### Bob Knight

District Membership Committee

### Carol Peterson

District Membership Committee

### Darryl Keys

District Membership Committee

***Click a name to contact a  
member of your  
District Foundation Team***

# ROTARY MEMBERSHIP

**by Don Thomas, District Membership Chair**

As we start the last three months of this Rotary year, here are some ideas that can help your club to grow and make your club irresistible.

1. Create a list of all the great things about your club.
2. Keep a list of potential members.
3. Know your club's strengths.
4. Make membership growth your club's top priority.
5. Look to young Rotarians for fresh perspectives.
6. Identify occupations that are lacking in your club.
7. Appeal to local volunteers.
8. Connect with member's or prospective member's passions.
9. Talk about Rotary wherever you go.
10. Make a list of a club member's responsibilities.
11. Emphasize service.
12. Celebrate when you get a new member.
13. Get new members engaged right away.
14. Be persistent.
15. Be vibrant.
16. Get them in the door.
17. Have good quality programs.
18. Make your members know where they can obtain a new membership application, and...
19. Make it fun.

I know not everyone can close the deal, but if you can bring in a perspective member, I do know that every club has a member that can be the closer.

I want to congratulate the following clubs:

Rotary Club of Babcock Ranch plus 8, Rotary Club of Englewood Sunset and the Rotary Club of Marco Island plus 6, Rotary Club of Ft Myers South plus 5 and the Rotary Club of Naples and the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch both are plus 4.

We still have six clubs with zero new members. Please make an effort to increase your membership.



# Gift of Life Needs Your Help to Heal Little Hearts

Saturday  
April 26, 2025

5:30-9:00 PM

\$125 Per Ticket

*Dinner & Live Entertainment  
Cocktail attire*

The Forest Country Club

5990 Forest Boulevard

Fort Myers, FL 33908



*Rotary Gift of  
Life of Florida  
provides  
lifesaving heart  
surgeries to  
children with  
congenital  
heart defects in  
developing  
countries.*



Scan to Buy  
Tickets  
or  
[Make a  
donation](#)



**Make a donation to Gift of Life of Florida**

**PO Box 49348, Sarasota FL 34230**

For more information call or text Louis Auricchio at 941-587-7741

# Rotary Club of Cape Coral Makes a Difference in Their Community!

We're excited to continue supporting local initiatives, including the Burrowing Owl Festival at Rotary Park held on February 22nd. This beloved event celebrates Cape Coral's official city bird and promotes important conservation efforts. At the festival, we came together in fellowship and fun to sell hot dogs and drinks, with all proceeds benefiting Friends of Wildlife, a local charity dedicated to protecting our native wildlife.



The 2025 Cape Coral Arts Festival this past January was a tremendous success, bringing together art, culture, and community spirit for an unforgettable event. A big thank you to all our volunteers and supporters who made it possible!

Our commitment to keeping Cape Coral beautiful continues through our Adopt-a-Road partnership with Keep Lee Beautiful. Rotary members clean Pelican Blvd. (south of Cape Coral Parkway) quarterly, ensuring a cleaner, greener community for all.

We also had a fantastic time at the Doxie Dash, hosted by Cape Coral Parks and Recreation on March 15th! This fun-filled race for dachshunds and their enthusiastic friends was a huge hit, drawing an excited crowd. Once again, we sold hot dogs and drinks, with proceeds benefiting Skyway Dachshund Rescue, a local dachshund rescue group, helping to support these lovable pups in need.

Next up: Cardboard Boat Regatta on March 29th! Get ready for a day of creativity and friendly competition as teams put their homemade boats to the test on the water. Stay tuned for more details!

**Rotary**  
District 6960

**2025 District Conference**  
June 6-7 at The Westin, Cape Coral

**Kelsey Mitchell**  
RD 6960's Governor

## Registration Open Now!

It's never too early to  
get yourself registered for the  
2025 Rotary District 6960 Conference

[Register](https://www.rotarydistrict6960.org)

Don't Miss Out on the  
Event of the Year

[Rotarydistrict6960.org](https://www.rotarydistrict6960.org)



# PUBLIC IMAGE BOOT CAMP

PREPARE FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2025-26 ROTARY YEAR!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22 | 6PM EDT**

Register at [ElevateRotaryZones3334.org](https://ElevateRotaryZones3334.org)

[Register](https://ElevateRotaryZones3334.org)

**Rotary**  
Club of North Fort Myers



## CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26**  
AT MAGNOLIA LANDING  
COUNTRY CLUB  
3501 AVENIDA DEL VERA BLVD



Check-in: Noon  
Shotgun starts 1:00 p.m.

\$125 - Per Player  
Includes Golf Range &  
Buffett Lunch

Hole Sponsors Available  
Team and Individual Prizes

Register now, space is limited

Register at [rotarygolf.org](https://rotarygolf.org)



## Showcase Your Golfing Talent with Friends and Family!

Get ready to tee off at the North Fort Myers Rotary Club Golf Tournament! We're excited to invite golfers of all levels to enjoy a fun and challenging day on the beautiful course at Magnolia Landing. With a welcoming atmosphere and top-notch facilities, this event promises to be a memorable experience for everyone. Whether you're sharpening your skills, working on your putting, or simply playing a round with friends, you'll have everything you need for a great day of golf. Visit our website to learn more, register for the tournament, and stay updated on event details. We can't wait to see you on the greens!

[Learn more](https://rotarygolf.org)



# Kitson & Partners Secures A Top Sponsorship for Rotary of Babcock Ranch Charity Golf Open

The Rotary Club of Babcock Ranch welcomes Kitson & Partners, developers of Babcock Ranch, as its Gold sponsor for its inaugural charity golf open on May 22. Joined by the Charlotte Community Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Dura-Trac Flooring, Owl Creek Landscaping, NV Realtor Wendy Riha and others, the Club is holding the event to benefit Babcock Neighborhood School, Josh the Otter water safety program, and ACTAbuse, Inc., a Fort Myers domestic violence shelter serving multiple counties.

Players will have an opportunity to test their skills on the Babcock National Golf & Country Club's 18-hole course, designed by Gordon Lewis, the award-winning architect who has designed more than 80 golf courses in Florida. Babcock National is a par-72 semi-private course, challenging for golfers of all skill levels. It features multiple tee lengths, wide landing areas, and strategically placed bunkers. Most players particularly enjoy the course for its natural beauty.

The rain or shine golf open will include contests, raffle prizes and a barbecue lunch at the new Babcock National ClubHouse restaurant, The Enclave. Registration opens at 7 am; practice range available. Shotgun start is 8:30 am, scramble format. Singles, foursomes and sponsorships are available.

More information and a sign-up link are available at [tinyurl.com/babcockopen](https://tinyurl.com/babcockopen).



# Wheelchair Foundation recognizes the Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva

The Wheelchair Foundation recognized the fundraising efforts ("Wheels for Wheels") of The Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva at their 6th annual "Wheels for Wheels" fundraiser Saturday April 5th on Sanibel Island. A recognition plaque was presented by District 6960 Wheelchair Foundation Co-Chairs, Gary Dworkin and Jim Fabry to the Club President and Wheels for Wheels committee. Approximately \$28,000 will be raised this year and generate another container of wheelchairs for Equador or Belize.



Over the past 5 years, Wheels for Wheels has raised over \$140,000, which equates to over 1,400 wheelchairs provided for those in need of mobility in the Caribbean, Central and South America. [Learn more.](#)



# SWFL ROTARY CHARTER NIGHT

(Southwest Florida Rotary Club - Rotary District 6960)



## CHARTER NIGHT CELEBRATION

**AN EVENING TO CELEBRATE DISTRICT 6960'S  
NEWEST ROTARY CLUB!**

DINNER - SPEAKERS - ENTERTAINMENT  
ALL ARE WELCOME AS WE CELEBRATE AND USHER  
IN THE 'NEXT GENERATION' OF ROTARIANS!

**THURSDAY**

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025**

**6 PM**

*(INCLUDES DINNER, DRINK TICKET, & ENTERTAINMENT)*

SCAN THE QR TO RSVP ONLINE OR MESSAGE 415.802.5001

**LOCATION: COLLABORATORY IN FORT MYERS  
2031 JACKSON ST, FORT MYERS, FL 33901**



Thank you to our **SWFL Rotary Community Partners** for joining us and supporting our mission to make a lasting impact across the region.



[IMPACT@SWFLROTARY.ORG](mailto:IMPACT@SWFLROTARY.ORG) | [WWW.SWFLROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.SWFLROTARY.ORG)



A bold new chapter is unfolding in the Rotary world with the launch of **SWFL Rotary – Southwest Florida Rotary in Rotary District 6960**, the **first Rotary Club** intentionally designed to represent and serve an entire region rather than a single city or town. Spearheaded by passionate Rotarians **Priya Ahluwalia** and **Mohit Pohani**, this revolutionary club model was inspired by Rotary International President-Elect **Mario César Martins de Camargo's** address during PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar) in Orlando this March.

Celebrate **SWFL Rotary's** official Charter Night on Thursday, May 1 at 6 PM at the Collaboratory in Fort Myers.



# Support the Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset with a Chance to Win!

Listen to rock music with The Rotary Club of Bonita Beach Sunset on May 13, 2025, while we draw the lucky winner of a trip for 2 to see Billy Joel and Rod Stewart Live at Yankee Stadium in NYC. Trip Includes: Billy Joel & Rod Stewart Live in Concert in Yankee Stadium in NYC on July 18, 2025, with Dinner and 4-Star Manhattan Stay for 2 Nights for (2 people) Airfare not included. The value of this trip is \$3,000.

**[Learn more.](#)**

ONLY 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!

Tickets are \$100 per ticket, or \$200 for 3 tickets.

The winner does not need to be present to win.

**The drawing will be held at the Rotary Club meeting on May 13, 2025.**



Rotary  
Zones 33/34



The  
**GATHERING**  
Family and Friends from Zones 33/34

Join us in  
**CALGARY!**  
JUNE 22, 2025 | 5-8PM

**[Learn more](#)**



In support of charities  
across District 6960

E-Club of  
**Rotary**  
District 6960



# RAFFLE: HAND CRAFTED CHARCUTERIE BOARD (\$250 VALUE)



**11 x 19.5 glazed Serving Tray /  
Charcuterie Board valued at  
\$250**

- This 11 x 19.5 glazed Serving Tray / Charcuterie Board was donated to the Rotary E-Club of District 6960 by Karen Kostrewa valued at \$250.
- The perfect gift for Weddings, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Housewarmings, Christmas and more.

**Drawing at District  
Conference June 8th 2025**

**\$5 - 1 ticket  
\$10 - 3 tickets**

Purchase tickets online at <https://givebutter.com/XIErmE>  
or contact Judy Hammond at [judy@rotaryclub6960.com](mailto:judy@rotaryclub6960.com)

