

Rotary
District 6960



**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**

March 2025

District 6960 Newsletter

MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

Rotary
District 6960



Kelsey Mitchell
RD 6960's Governor

2025 District Conference

June 6-7 at The Westin, Cape Coral

**Don't Miss Out on the
Event of the Year**

Rotarydistrict6960.org

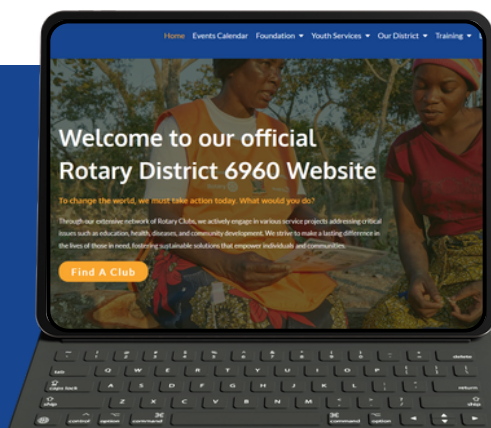
Registration Open Now!

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

[Register](#)

Have you visited District 6960's **NEW** website yet?

Redesigned to connect our
communities to the world of Rotary.
Check it out at RotaryDistrict6960.org



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

As we continue this incredible Rotary year, I am inspired by the power of our collective efforts under this year's theme: The Magic of Rotary. At the International Assembly, our President Elect, Mario from Brazil, announced next year's Presidential Message: Unite for Good. Across our district, we are witnessing the profound impact that happens when passionate individuals come together with a shared purpose—to serve, to uplift, and to make lasting impact.

Our district is filled with outstanding projects that exemplify the spirit of Rotary. From feeding the hungry and supporting literacy programs to providing clean water and disaster relief, we are transforming lives. But what makes these efforts truly remarkable is how we have leveraged relationships—not just within our clubs, but across our great state and beyond. By collaborating with clubs throughout Florida and the world, we are expanding our reach, amplifying our impact, and creating sustainable change.

This month is also a pivotal one for our future as we prepare to train our President-Elects at PETS (President-Elect Training Seminar). Leadership development is key to Rotary's success, and this training ensures our clubs remain strong, vibrant, and innovative. Collaboration and continuity between our past, present, and future leaders are essential in maintaining the momentum of our service and growth. Let's support our incoming leaders and help them build on the legacy of those who have come before them.

As we continue to Unite for Good, let's also focus on sharing the magic of Rotary with our friends, family, and colleagues. Membership is the foundation of our success, and growing our clubs means expanding our ability to serve. By inviting others to experience the fellowship, service, and impact of Rotary, we ensure that our mission continues for generations to come. Each of us has the power to introduce someone to Rotary—let's make it a priority to welcome new members, engage them in meaningful service, and inspire them to be lifelong Rotarians.

But above all, I want to recognize each of YOU—our members. You are the heart of this organization. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to service are what drive Rotary forward. Every project, every partnership, and every act of kindness starts with you. Thank you for being the force for good in your community and beyond.

Let's continue to **Unite for Good**, strengthening our connections, expanding our impact, and changing lives—together.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Kelsey Sola



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

The State of the District with Membership

As of today, we have 8 clubs that have not invited a single member to their club. Am I talking about your club? We have 11 clubs that have only brought in one new member. That is a sad state of affairs.

Of the 8 clubs that did not invite 1 new member the attrition is 5 members in the 8 clubs.

The 11 Rotary clubs that brought in 1 new member the attrition is 35 members.

That adds to a net loss of 40 members in our District.

There are some clubs that are growing; The Rotary Club of Babcock Ranch has a plus 7, The Rotary Clubs of Englewood Sunset, and the Rotary Club of Marco Island both clubs are plus 6. The Rotary Ft Myers South is plus 5, the Rotary Club of Sanibel-Captiva are at plus 4.

Congratulations go to the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda; your club is the only club in the district to grow membership for four consecutive years. Way to go!

We all need to think outside of the box if you want to grow your clubs.

Does your club have a new member application available to every member of your club?

- Are your members inviting guests to your meetings?
- Is your club set up and looking like a real Rotary Club?
- Is your club warm and friendly?
- Do you talk to your members each week about growing your club?

Please make membership the main priority at your club's meetings.

If your club would like a program about membership, please contact me.

DISTRICT 6960 ROTARY FOUNDATION LEGACY GALA

***With Deep Gratitude for Everyone
Who Lifted Lives Higher***



Suncoast Walk for Water 2025

Saturday, March 22

Join the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch for this virtual Walk for Water and help save lives this World Water Day! Sign up!

High Tea with the Rotary Club of Charlotte Harbor Sunset

The Rotary of Charlotte Harbor Sunset went English for the day by holding its first "High Tea," fundraiser on Sunday, May 2. Over sixty ladies came in dressy outfits and hats. The food consisted of traditional tea foods including finger sandwiches, scones and tea, served on fine China and silver.



The profits from the Tea are going to support our Club's on-going service project, "Shop with a Rotarian." For this project we have the schools identify children in need of school clothes. We pick days in the year, meet the kids at the mall, pair them with one of our members and a budget and let shop for clothes. If you like information on our High Tea or Shop with a Rotarian, contact Suzi Jamrog, sjamrog@yahoo.com.

Save the Date
Saturday, March 22
11am-3pm

Veteran's Park

901 Park Ave, Marco Island

Join Rotary Club of Marco Island Sunrise, Noontime & the Marco Island Kiwanis for fun for the entire family! Live music, cornhole, food, drinks, and more!

To learn more, contact marcocornhole@gmail.com

Click Here to Register!



SAVE THE DATE
Tossin' in Paradise
CORNHOLE
EVENT

All proceeds collected will go to local charities



Students and Parents “Shop With a Rotarian”!

The Rotary Club of Charlotte Harbor Sunset recently completed this year's Shop With A Rotarian, a signature service project started by one of our first presidents. The concept follows the Shop with a Cop idea, only instead of Christmas presents, we purchase school clothes for under privileged school-aged kids. This year, we focused on middle school children. Our goal is to set up again for around the time school starts next August.

Each child receives about \$200 to purchase any type of clothing they need for school, from shoes and pants, to dresses or undergarments. A total of 10 middle school students families made great selections, using clearance items, sale prices, and bin- reductions. Along with the 30% off that JCPenney's provided, many much needed items were purchased. At the end of shopping, it was hard to see who enjoyed the day more!



Rotary Club of Babcock Ranch Hosts Charity Golf Open on May 22



The Rotary Club of Babcock Ranch will hold its first annual Charity Golf Open on May 22, 2025. 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 Rotary Club Golf Open beneficiaries are Babcock Neighborhood School, Josh The Otter water safety program (drowning awareness/prevention) and ACTAbuse, Inc., a Fort Myers- based domestic violence shelter serving multiple counties.

“As a club, we are very involved in supporting families and children, so we’re pleased to focus on these three worthy organizations for our inaugural year,” said Bronwyn Stoner, Golf Open Chair.

The rain or shine golf open will include contests, raffle prizes and a barbecue lunch at the new Babcock National Club House. Registration opens at 7am; 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 or rotaryclubofbabcockranch.org/fundraisers. Questions: Bronwyn Stoner, bronwynstoner@yahoo.com, (574) 274-1397

Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch Celebrates Literacy Efforts in Manatee County Schools

As Manatee County educators work hard to improve grade-level literacy, the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch is doing its part to help. Through its Books for Kids program, specially trained volunteers are visiting classrooms to read aloud selected books and engaging students in discussion to improve their concentration on reading, listening comprehension skills, critical thinking and more.



Superintendent Jason Wyson, principals, and volunteers from participating schools will celebrate the success of the program during the Books for Kids Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club, located at 7650 Legacy Boulevard in Lakewood Ranch.

"This literacy effort is crucial in bringing up grade-level reading scores in our community," said Ted Lindenberg, Director of Books for Kids. "By providing children with access to books and one-on-one mentorship, we are not only fostering a love for reading but also equipping them with the skills they need to succeed academically."

Books for Kids began 11 years ago by distributing 300 books. As the program nears the 200,000-book distribution mark, approximately 170 volunteers are helping kindergarten students at Ballard, Daughtrey, and Oneco Elementary Schools, and visiting first, second, and third-grade classrooms in a total of 10 Manatee County schools. After each volunteer's visit, they distribute a book to each child to take home.

Disaster Relief Fund's \$25,000 Matching Grant Brings Hurricane Relief in District 6960

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria has worked locally with the Cortez Village and Anna Maria Island residents after the devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Working with support from Rotary Clubs of Lakewood Ranch, Bradenton, Port Charlotte and other local donors, they produced \$25,000 to receive matching funds from our Area Disaster Relief Fund. Here's a brief summary of how that money helped families recover.



- 70 affected residents provided with appliances and/or bedding
- 2,000 meals served to post-hurricane service workers and displaced individuals
- Over 200 Thanksgiving dinners served and gift cards for food and supplies distributed
- 4 Rotary Clubs involved
- Over 220 Rotarians helping directly or supporting through funding
- 3 new members for AMI through outreach and community work
- **[Read more](#)**

Rotarians Create Easy, Fun Way to Collect CART Funds at Rotary Club of Bonita Springs



At a breakfast meeting last summer, Rotarian Angela Swanepoel came up with an idea to make it easier for members of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs to collect coins for the CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) buckets. These buckets appear every Thursday morning on the tables throughout Spring Run Golf Club. Even though CART chair Nanci Landy regularly reminds members to place coins and cash in the blue buckets, the response was modest.

Angela, a retired grade schoolteacher, used her craft skills to create 15 jars that she and Nanci distributed to members to take home to collect coins. The response exceeded expectations. Contributions to the CART Fund have more than tripled and members have a renewed interest in raising funds to support Alzheimer's research.

Your Rotary Club is welcome to "borrow" this concept. Contact one of our Club leaders for more information.



ELEVATE YOUR ROTARY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY! RLI PARTS 1, 2 & 3 AND DISTRICT GRANT WRITING MASTER CLASS

12

April 2025
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Saturday



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

Register now at DACdb.com.

Rotary Club of Fort Myers South's 8th Law and Order Ball Rescheduled to April 5th

Step right up partners! Get ready to dust off your finest duds and strap on those spurs for the most electrifying event this side of the Mississippi - our Wild Wild West Whiskey and Wagers Law and Order Ball (rescheduled due to last fall's hurricanes) will now be held Saturday, April 5th at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena in Fort Myers. Doors open at 6pm. Saddle up for a night of high-stakes fun, where the saloon doors swing open to reveal a world of western wonders.



The Law and Order Ball honors all seven local branches of law enforcement in Lee County and especially officers who exemplify the Rotary motto "Service Above Self". This year's event will feature saloon style casino games, whiskey tastings, gourmet western cuisine, mingling with law enforcement officers and community leaders, and a silent auction. It will be topped off with a presentation of the K-9 of the Year and Officer of the Year Awards. Proceeds benefit the community through the Rotary Club of Fort Myers South Foundation (a 501(c)3 non-profit) and law enforcement youth programs.

Tickets are \$200 per person, and you can also "fund a cop" (cover the cost of an officer's event ticket), donate to the silent auction, or be an event sponsor. For details, visit www.lawandorderball.org.

See What's Happening around the Rotary Club of Fort Myers East!

Fort Myers East Rotary congratulated 3 members who have received Paul Harris recognition in the first quarter. Club Rotary Foundation Chair William McClure presented Rotarian Ron Mattox with his PH+3 pin while Rotarian Olivia Lloyd received her PH+2 (first photo). Club Rotary Foundation Chair William McClure presented rotarian Robert Rewis with his PH+2 pin (second photo). Wonderful job Rotarians and keep up the good work!



Golf for Good! Charity Golf Scramble

We are a "Hole in one" for our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Scramble. It will be at River Hall Country Club on May 3, 2025. All you golf fanatics, grab those clubs, meet us on the green for some fun!

[CLICK HERE](#) on the link to register or sponsor!