

## Upcoming Events!

By Ashvin Maharaj on Thursday, December 22, 2022

Have you realized how busy our club has been over the past few weeks? Since our scheduled meetings are a bit "off" for the next couple of weeks, I wanted to make sure we all knew what the schedule looked like. So, I tried my best to break it down.....the Dacdb calendar is a great resource to see what else is going on.

### Meeting Schedule:

**December 23rd, 2022:** No meeting and no scheduled Happy Hour .

**December 30th, 2022:** Breakfast at Panera?- see below.

**December 30th, 2022:** No meeting, Happy Hour, maybe ??????

**January 6th, 2023:** Regular morning meeting. Our speaker that morning will be Melanie Griffin, Florida's Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulations. This is a great opportunity to bring a guest to one of our meetings. Let's grow our membership.

### Breakfast:

Since we don't have a meeting on **Friday December 30th**, would you want to meet for breakfast at Panera Bread? This was one of the recommendations that was made for supplementing our meeting schedule and this might be a perfect time to test it out. If you're interested in meeting up for coffee, let us know.

[Register to meetup at Panera For Breakfast Here!](#)

### Fireside:

If you haven't registered for the Fireside on **January 18th**, please do so. We are being hosted by Rotarians Karen and Ren and we need to get them a courtesy headcount before the event. Remember, spouses and guests are invited.

[Register for Fireside Here!](#)

## Children's All Abilities Park Ribbon Cutting

By Ashvin Maharaj on Thursday, December 22, 2022

The All Abilities Park is Open! Rotarians and Rotaractors came out to support the community and witness one of our supported projects come to life. Peter Gambacorta had the honor of representing the Rotary Club of New Tampa after spearheading the fundraising efforts for our donation to the park. Peter, alongside the Mayor of Tampa, Senator Jay Collins, Councilman Luis Viera and others all gave opening remarks. Check out the photos here and thank you for all that donated to the water misting station! There are tons of other photos on [Facebook!](#)

## Events

December 30th

**Breakfast at Panera Bread**

January 6th

**New Tampa**

**Weekly Club**

**Meeting: Melanie**

**Griffin, BPS Secy**

**Speaker: Melanie**

S. Griffin,

Secretary of the

Florida Department

of Business and

Professi

January 11th

**New Tampa**

**Board of**

**Directors Meeting**

January 14th

**New Tampa**

**Culinary Night-**

**Tentative**

January 18th

**New Tampa New**

**Member Fireside**

**Speaker: Rotary**

Club of New

Tampa

January 20th

**New Tampa**

**Weekly Club**

**Meeting--Major**

**Donor**

**Recognition**

## Club Leaders



**Ashvin Maharaj**  
President



**Ken Guidera**  
President-Elect



**Craig DiCecco**  
iPast President



**Matthew Palmer**  
Secretary Club



[Read More](#)

## All Abilities Park Ribbon Cutting

By Karen Frashier on Thursday, December 15, 2022



### All Abilities Park Ribbon Cutting Dec. 21

At 10:30 a.m., Dec. 21, our Rotary Club will be celebrating the opening of the city's first fully accessible park for people with physical disabilities and sensory challenges.

"The Rotary Club of New Tampa raised more than \$20,000 to purchase and install misters that will cool park goers and make the park a destination even during our Florida summers," said Peter Gambacorta, RCNT All Abilities Park mister fundraising chair.

[Read More](#)

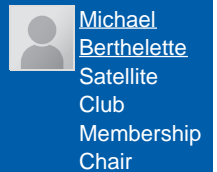
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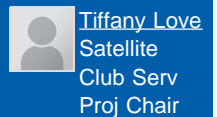
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Club Serv  
Proj Chair



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Sergeant-  
at-Arms



[Jason M  
Contino](#)  
Satellite  
Club Chair

[Paul V.](#)



## Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

By Karen Frashier on Thursday, December 15, 2022



The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation is the state regulator for more than 1.6 million licensees across more than 30 industries. [Read More](#)

## President's Message- Holiday Greetings!

By Ashvin Maharaj on Thursday, December 15, 2022

### President's Message - Holiday Greetings!

This Friday, December 16th, will be our last meeting of the year. We will kick off 2023 with an amazing guest speaker, Melanie Griffin, who serves as the Florida Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulations.

As we complete the first half of the 2022-2023 Rotary Year, let me highlight what we have accomplished so far:

- Added 5 new members
- Awarded 10 Paul Harris Fellows
- Turkey Trot
- \$2500 to the Polio Plus Fund
- \$13,049 to the Annual Fund
- \$1800+ for families in need for the Holidays
- Total contribution to the Rotary Foundation (All Time): **\$380,005!**
- Completed 415 volunteer hours.....that's not even with everything entered yet
- Multiple service projects and social events and more are planned

As we head off to celebrate the holidays with friends and loved ones, thank you for making the first half of my year as President an experience that I'll never forget. Hopefully, we will keep the momentum going for the rest of the Rotary Year.

Kitty and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Spectacular New Year 2023!

Yours in Rotary Service,  
Ashvin Maharaj  
President-2022-2023.

## Holiday Happy Dollars Help 7 Families

By Karen Frashier on Thursday, December 15, 2022



Suppich  
Esq.  
Club Admin  
Chair



Lesley S.  
Zajac  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair



Alfred Allen  
Club  
Service  
Chair



Constance  
F. Bladon  
CFRE  
Club  
Fundraising  
Chair



Lesley S.  
Zajac  
Assistant  
Governor

### Birthdays

Ines Starkey

January 4th

Matthew Palmer

January 4th

Cam Caudle

January 8th

Lesley S. Zajac

January 21st

### Wedding Anniversaries

Ken Guidera

December 26th



IMAGINE  
ROTARY



Thank you for your generous support of our holiday families in need! We were able to help seven families this year. Because of your generosity giving to our Holiday Families Happy Dollars we gave each family wrapping paper and scotch tape so they could wrap presents. We also included a holiday card to the family, signed "from your friends at the Rotary Club of New Tampa."

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of New Tampa Social Event: Culinary Night!

By Ashvin Maharaj on Saturday, December 3, 2022



## We're Invited To President Rhea Law's Inauguration Ceremony

By Ashvin Maharaj on Thursday, December 8, 2022

The University of South Florida Board of Trustees  
requests the honor of your presence at  
The Inauguration of  
**RHEA F. LAW**  
as the eighth president of the University of South Florida

**Investiture Ceremony**  
Thursday, January 19, 2023  
1:00 p.m.

Yuengling Center  
12499 USF Bull Run Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33617

**Inaugural Reception**  
St. Petersburg Campus  
Tuesday, January 17  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
University Student Center Ballrooms

**Inaugural Reception**  
Sarasota-Manatee  
Campus  
Tuesday, January 17  
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
FCCI Rotunda

**Inaugural Reception**  
Tampa Campus  
Thursday, January 19  
immediately following the Investiture  
Ceremony  
Indoor Performance Facility

Refreshments will be provided at the  
campus receptions.  
No RSVP is required.  
For further information, visit  
[usf.edu/inauguration](http://usf.edu/inauguration)



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SPECIAL EVENTS



**Want to be a sponsor? Just send Ashvin an email.**

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**District Conference 2023-- AHOOY!!!**



IMAGINE ROTARY DISTRICT 6890 CONFERENCE  
BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS  
Royal Caribbean Cruise Line  
5-NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE  
SAILING MARCH 27, 2023 FROM TAMPA

Cruise Itinerary:

March 27 Depart Tampa, FL  
March 28 At Sea  
March 29 Cozumel, Mexico  
March 30 Grand Cayman  
March 31 At Sea  
April 1 Arrive Tampa



Brilliance of the Seas

Find Your Way to Fun



Celebrate your accomplishments for this Rotary year at your 6890 District Conference. Join our Pirate-themed voyage to Caribbean destinations while relaxing in your comfortable stateroom, lounging by the pools and dining on delectable cuisine.

Contact Craig & Linda Sherman Dream Vacations to book your cruise now!  
(863) 216-8666  
csherman@dreamvacations.com  
lsherman@dreamvacations.com  
www.myvacationpros.com

Ahoy Mateys!! We are going to set sail on March 27th 2023 and take over the Brilliance of the Seas ship (just kidding!!) We are going to cruise the Caribbean just as the Pirates of the Old did, looking for treasure and fun! We hope you can come along for the adventure as we celebrate our District Conference with our mates aboard the beautiful Royal Caribbean cruise ship, the Brilliance of the Seas. If you hurry and sign up with a paid deposit of 100.00 per person, you will be rewarded with a treasure of 100.00 onboard credit per cabin! The deadline for this opportunity is October 20th. After that you can still register up until December 20th while cabins last! We are planning a Pirate-themed costume contest one night, so don't forget your pirate wear! There will be speakers, fun in the sun, a cocktail party and two stops along the way, one in Cozumel at the next stop. Hurry up so we don't force you to walk the plank! Your Wench in charge, KimTyson, Rotary Club of FishHawk-Riverview.

## Imagine What's Next – 27-31 May 2023 – Melbourne, Australia

By Gary Michael Gunter



### The Melbourne 4 Way test

1. **Is it the truth? Have you registered?** Register at <https://convention.rotary.org> – Take advantage of the early bird pricing up to 15 December 2022 (\$475 for those 31 and older, \$125 for age 30 and under, \$20 for guests aged 5-18, guests under 5 are free). You can also reserve your hotel room once you have registered, and there is no hotel deposit – just give them your credit card info to hold your room. Tip – If you want easy access to the General Sessions, book a hotel close to the Rod Laver Arena.
2. **Have you booked activities for all concerned?** Go to [www.Rotarymelbourne2023.org](http://www.Rotarymelbourne2023.org) and click on the Events tab for nightly events you can sign up for (Remember that General Sessions are from 10am to noon each day, followed by Breakout Sessions in the afternoon, along with entertainment at the giant House of Friendship).
3. **Will you build goodwill and better friendships by participating in a tour before or after the convention?** Yes! Once you have looked at the Events on the above site, look at the Tours tab and you will find many options. Also, our friend and former RI Director Brad Howard is offering tours just for Rotarians that are quite good – go to [www.HowardTours.net](http://www.HowardTours.net) and check them out. You can also find other tours listed in the Rotary magazine.



4. **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?** It most certainly will be beneficial to those who attend! Melbourne's iconic tram network – the largest operational network in the world – is free for you within the central business district. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity! Did we mention the nice cool weather?

Need help? Contact Patrick Eakes, Zone 33 Melbourne Promotion Chair at [Patrick.eakes@cpeakes.com](mailto:Patrick.eakes@cpeakes.com), or Gary Gunter, Zone 34 Melbourne Promotion Chair at [gary@garygunter.com](mailto:gary@garygunter.com)

## Let's Finish Strong

By Duane Williams

We have come to expect and understand, that when RI issues the Semi-Annuals Dues invoices, our membership will sometimes show a reduction at the same time. Now this is not because members suddenly decide to leave rather than pay, but it is more an annual ritual created by Clubs clearing their rolls in preparation for the invoice, frankly speaking, not wishing to pay for non-members. This could be done marginally, but is often left until the last moment, causing the apparently bigger drop.

As we sadly noticed, our gradual healthy growth over the past few months has been eroded as seen from the latest figures. This is not a time for us to drop our heads, give up and grieve the lost growth, but the loss should inspire us to create even more growth so that we can sustain the next 'purge' in June, and as a result end this year positively and successfully.

With half of the Rotary year in front of us, it is time to redouble our efforts, because there is still plenty of time to push for New Rotary Clubs, Satellites, and Club growth initiatives. This is also an excellent time to have District Membership Meetings, in-person or on Zoom involving District Leadership and Club Membership Chairs to discuss progress, challenges, and exciting new Membership drives. Action now will pay results in a strong finish to this Rotary Year and allow us to fulfill RI's encouragement to us, to Grow Rotary.

*Let's look forward towards growing together and having a great year.*



Duane Williams  
District Membership Chair  
Rotary E-Club of Tampa South

## The Rotary Foundation

By Mark Gilbert Scolnick



**Polio Update:** *World Polio Day* was a huge success here in District 6890. Thank you to all the clubs that participated

with events, fundraisers, and donations. You all did a stellar job in raising awareness and supporting Rotary's #1 Cause....to END POLIO!!!! Plus, word has it that you all had a lot of fun in the process. That is the Rotary way!

Fun aside, we can not stop.... we need 100% of our clubs to join in the **End Polio Now** effort, and while most are doing this, is your club? Why do we need this? Why is it so important?

If each club gives \$1500, we will have the required \$50 Million, which then triggers the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2 to 1 match. They will give our Rotary Foundation an additional \$100 Million so we can give grants for the End Polio Now effort. Rotary started this work when nobody else thought it was possible, and yet look at where we are.....we are almost to the

FINISH line.

**Foundation Giving:** Some of our fellow Rotarians are taking advantage of a Rotary Foundation program that enables the Rotarian to *get an income from money you give to the Rotary Foundation*.

Here are the basics of how it works:

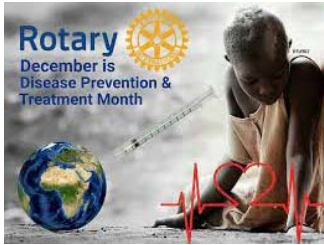
1. Give \$10,000 or more
2. The Foundation gives you interest at an agreed rate starting on an agreed date
3. You get some tax deductions for the transactions.
4. After you and your partner pass, the money goes to The Rotary Foundation.
5. If you want a no obligation and confidential plan tailored to you, please let me know.

[markscolnickrotary6890@gmail.com](mailto:markscolnickrotary6890@gmail.com)



**December is Rotary Disease Prevention & Treatment Month.** Globally, Rotary is recognized for its signature project, the eradication of polio in the world. It has been a long and hard battle but with the support of YOU, many governments, NGOs and volunteers throughout the world, we are close to seeing the end of this dreaded disease.

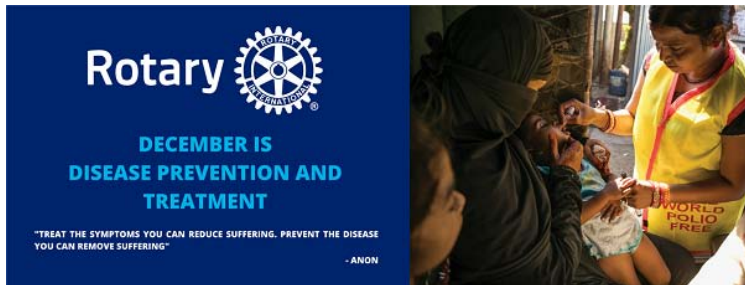
Despite this progress, there are many other problems facing our planet and populations around the world. One of the greatest causes of death and disability in developing countries today is from waterborne diseases resulting from a lack of adequate water supplies and improper sanitation. Rotary in its Water, Sanitation and Health or WASH program is committed to becoming a leader along with other organizations in finding practical and sustainable solutions to these major problems. In addition, each year malaria, despite awareness and advancement in medicine, continues to be a major killer of hundreds of thousands of people. Rotary can celebrate its successes in the field of health and disease prevention, but we, as Rotarians, cannot rest on our laurels. There is still much to be done. We can set an example for the rest of the world to follow.



Further, disease prevention must include attention to mental health. The stigma of mental illness is finally being lifted and Rotary has a unique opportunity to help our communities recognize and direct people with diseases that impact mental health towards proper treatment. We, as Rotarians, understand the silent turmoil within some communities that are homeless, or those who contend with post-traumatic stress disorder, like some of our military, first responders and others, as well as the difficulties some of our youth face in this age of digital communication and bullying. We can be trained to recognize and respectfully give support and direction before this invisible illness ends in suicide or acts of violence.

On the local front, here in Florida, we are one of the worst states in the US for childhood immunization rates. There are hot spots, some in well-educated and affluent areas of the state, where many schools and day care centers show inadequate immunization of their children, inviting unnecessary illness and even death not only for the unimmunized and the under-immunized, but also for those children who cannot be immunized for medical reasons. Most of this lack of immunization of our children is not for medical or religious reasons but rather because of misinformation surrounding the dangers of immunization, the lack of information about the benefits of immunization, and also the ease with which parents can opt out of shots for their children. The benefits of early and adequate vaccination of children and caregivers far outweighs any potential risks from this miracle of medicine. As parents, we have a right to care for our children as we see fit, but society also has rights to safe schools and safe environments for our children.

Many of us recently spent a day of gratitude with family and friends. This year let us carry our gratitude into action and do our best to create awareness and change in the world, particularly when it comes to health. In our district, we are blessed with access to immunizations, healthcare, and resources, and despite the limitations of the system, we are incredibly lucky to have this access and thus reap its benefits, from disease prevention and treatment to longer life spans. Now it is our duty as Rotarians to expand these resources to our entire communities and beyond.



## DG Debbie's Message for December

By Debbie Meegan

As the end of the year approaches, and before we get too wrapped up in all of the excitement December brings, let's all take a moment for reflection and keep the spirit of *Thanksgiving* in our heart.

Part of what brings forth a thanksgiving mindset is remembering that *GIFTS* are not limited to material possessions we give. As *Rotarians*, we offer the precious *GIFT* of our time and talents in our communities everyday throughout the year.

This month, especially, *Rotarians* are filling up the days with *GIFTS* that brighten and lighten the lives and hearts of so many.

The *Rotary Club of New Tampa* is inviting Rotarians from all over our District to gather together to help clean up *Rotary Camp Florida* so that children with special needs can have an inviting and safe place to camp.

The *Tampa Carrollwood Rotary Club* will be spreading Holiday Cheer at *Hugs for Kids* – a weekend Holiday Camp for children with Cancer.

*Brandon '86 Rotary Club* will be hosting a Holiday Party complete with presents and a visit from Santa for the foster care children living at *Everyday Blessings*.

The *Rotary Clubs of Hardee County and Lake Placid* will be hard at work ringing the bell for the *Salvation Army* to raise money for the many services they provide for people in need.

And the *Sun City Center Rotary Club* will be donning Holiday Attire and spreading their vocal version of Holiday Cheer by serenading the residents in their local assisted living facility.

Other *Rotarians* in our District will *GIFT* their communities by delivering food to people in need or collecting toys to brighten the lives of children.



So many of the wonderful **GIFTS Rotarians** give are intangible. We can't "see" love, kindness, empathy, or joy. We have to feel them and to do that we have to believe that they exist. Thank you for believing in their existence.

**Rotarians** are truly a **GIFT** to the world and my heart is filled with **Thanksgiving** because of each of **YOU**.

*Have a wonderful Holiday Season,  
Debbie*

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## DGND Has been Selected!



The nominating committee of District 6890 convened on Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> at the office of PDG Tom Wagner to interview four very deserving candidates for the position of District Governor Nominee Designate for the Rotary year 2025-26. Its always very uplifting to have so many willing members in the leadership process, but it also makes the decision that much harder. The final vote was cast for Rotarian Linda Devine from The Rotary Club of Tampa.

Linda has been a member of the Tampa Club since 1995 and served in many capacities, including Club Foundation Chair, Sergeant at Arms, Board of Directors, planning committee and more. She most recently served as club President and then immediately moved to the role of Assistant Governor for Group 3 in our District.

Her status as recently retired from her 40+ years with the University of Tampa, the last 27 of that as the Vice President of Operations and Planning, makes the timing of her pursuit of District leadership especially advantageous.

Linda lives in Tampa with her husband of 35 years, Dave. She has three grown children, Robbie (Heather), Kelly (Ian) and Danny (Kayla) and one fur baby, Pizza Marie.

To view Linda's complete resume, Go here; [RESUME](#)

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## Rotary Club of New Tampa Mission Statement

**We promote the development of genuine friendships by helping members build their strengths to apply the ideal of "service above self." We positively impact the lives of others in our community and support Rotary International's global and service efforts.**



## What Is Rotary?



We are 1.2 million community and business leaders who create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world. Our differing occupations, cultures, and countries give us a unique perspective. Our shared passion for service helps us accomplish the remarkable. We are [people of action](#).

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Speakers

January 6th  
[Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary of the Florida Department of  
Business and Professi](#)

January 18th  
[Rotary Club of New Tampa](#)

Club Meeting

New Tampa  
Meets at Currently meeting via Hybrid format (Zoom and in-person) until further notice. Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club  
5811 Tampa Palms Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33646  
Time: Friday at 07:00 AM