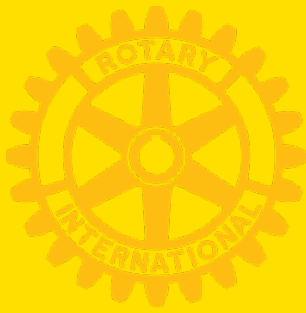


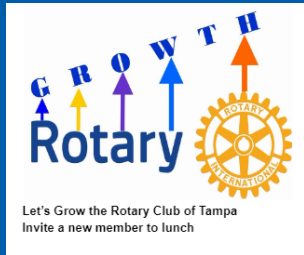
Rotary



Club of Tampa

Friday, December 20, 2024

Invite a Friend!



Upcoming Events

December 21st
**Metropolitan Ministries
Holiday Tent - Service Event**

January 7th
Club Luncheon Meeting
Speaker: Eric Newman
Subject: JC Newman Cigar Co. - Overcoming 130 years of adversity

January 28th
Club Luncheon Meeting
Speaker: Casey Gonzmart
Subject: The Columbia Restaurant Group - Growing with Tampa for 120 years

February 4th
Club Luncheon Meeting
Speaker: Bryan Stern
Subject: Strength & Will to Survive - Grey Bull Rescue

Happy Birthday!



Mark Allen Abdoney
December 23rd

Your Leaders



Kathleen Luzier Bogolea
President
iPast President



Connie F. Gage
President - Elect

Sunny Alexander
Secretary

RCT takes a break until January 7



Happy Holidays, Rotarians! We are taking a well-earned break for the next two weeks. When we return in 2025, it is with a new president, Connie Gage, a new treasurer, DJ Gothe, and a new sense of resolve to serve our community, support our neighbors, and build fellowship in a uniquely Rotary way.

Join us again on January 7 for a joyful start to the year, featuring our own Eric Newman as our guest presenter. His story of his family's cigar business, and its impact on Tampa in the past, present, and future will be inspiring! Stay tuned for some exciting changes to the club lunch meetings as well. There are lots of reasons to join us!

THANK YOU to all the members that make the time to share your energy, talent, resources, and enthusiasm with us. YOU make a difference!

A December Passing of the Gavel



At our December 17 luncheon, we celebrated the dedicated leaders that keep going above and beyond to make our club stronger. **Kathleen Bogolea** has served us as President for an unprecedented 18 month term, and deserves all the accolades! The past presidents gathered for the traditional passing of the gavel to our new President, **Connie Gage**, who will also serve an extended term. She shared her gratitude and her plans for the upcoming year.



But there's more! **Larry Vickman** stepped in this fall as Chairman of our foundation, and incoming chair Ralph Sevelius was all praise for this tireless servant leader. Lastly, past president **Larry Brown** was celebrated as our newest 1914 Platinum member, with cumulative giving in excess of \$10k.



District Governor Chevon Baccus performed the oath of office for Connie. In her remarks she noted the joy she has every time she visits our club, meets our members, and hears about all our efforts in the community.



Community service chair Carolyn Wilkinson shared the **20 local causes that will receive nearly \$70k in grants** from us this year, and Jamie Adair presented a heartwarming look at our holiday gift project. [Click here to watch for yourself!](#)

The meeting was packed with so many members and guests on hand to celebrate the changing of the guard and to ring in 2025. Of course, a champagne toast was involved!

Saturday we serve in the MetMin holiday tent!

Every year, we get in the spirit of giving together at the **Metropolitan Ministries holiday tent**. Thousands of local families come here every holiday season for meals and gifts that create HOPE and cheer. We had a big turnout of 16 for our shift just before Thanksgiving.



John B. Kelly
Treasurer



Lonnie Veasley Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms



Did you miss out? Or, are you ready to join again? Our club will serve again TOMORROW, **Saturday, December 21 from 11 am- 2:30 pm.** 5 spots remain to shop with clients for holiday toys and a delicious feast!

Family members are welcome to join as well. [Use this link to RSVP!](#)



It isn't too late to join a new club committee!

The new year = a new look at how we prioritize our time. We hope that Rotary service is part of your vision board! It is never too late to sign up for a club committee. We are in great need of members to join the **meeting hospitality, membership, and fundraising committees**, and anywhere you want to serve you will be welcome!

Ready to raise your hand? [Just click here to let President Connie know.](#) Thank you for sharing your time and talent with Rotary!

