

Rotary



Club of Stuart-Sunrise

Club Meeting

Stuart-Sunrise
Meets at Banyan Creek
Country Club
1701 SW Crane Creek Ave
Palm City, FL 34990
Time: Thursday at 07:30
AM

Speakers

October 31, 2024
[Randy Pennington, South
State Bank](#)

November 28, 2024
[Thanksgiving](#)

Birthdays



John J. Fedorek
November 2nd



Dave Geller
November 10th



Carrie Straub
November 19th



Scott A Gilmour
November 20th



John Robitaille
November 20th

Club Member Anniversaries



John J. Fedorek
11-01-1990
34 Years

Thomas
Whittington
11-01-2007

Rotary News for October 31, 2024

President Tom led the Pledge and Sue offered the invocation.

Max Kotelevets was inducted into the club by Beth, membership chair, and Jason, his sponsor. When asked what led him to Rotary, Max stated that he has lived mostly in large cities and much prefers the small town feel. He wants to help make an impact in the community with like-minded people. Welcome, Max, and please follow up with any questions or ideas you may have!



Festival of Giving: Sue gave an update on the project. The festival is now being presented by the Children's Museum. Earlier

in the year, the club chose water as the theme of the tree. Sue discovered that it is a difficult theme to decorate. She will meet with Adriana Mancini, Founder of Citizens for H2O, for ideas and plans to have a 'forced fun' night at her house within the next couple of weeks to create decorations and decorate the tree. Fun nights at Whittington's are a grand time.

Dictionary project: Dictionary presentations are underway. HB is ensuring our newer members are involved. Thanks to Charles and Max, both of whom received copies of the book. Sue is presenting at Warfield at 8:30AM on Monday and help is always needed. HB requests donation ideas for the remaining books as a new version will be published next year. Home schoolers or the library Book Depot were brought up. Any ideas, contact HB.

Palm City Holiday Village December 4th 5:50-8:00PM. Club members will have a children's activity and it's a fun event. More info to come.

The Salvation Army bell ringing is scheduled for December 7th. More info to come.

Sign-ups for the United Way Holiday Project will be soon. Club members enjoy participating in the event in mid-December.

John F. gave a final accounting of the golf tournament. The Foundation took in \$10,400 and netted just over \$6000. Thanks to all sponsors, members who recruited foursomes and those who helped on the day. An event debrief will happen at the conclusion of the meeting.

John F. reported that \$4300 was sent to Disaster USA for Hurricane Helene help. Disaster USA is run by Rotarians in the DC area. \$1700 has been donated for Hurricane Milton relief. Donations can still be made. The exact destination for the funds is being determined, to ensure that they stay local and are used effectively.

Happy Dollars

Lisa returned from a business trip to South Carolina and reported that, despite damage, the city of Greenville was determined to recover quickly to be able to welcome business visitors and tourists. Kathy and Sue are happy to be home after great trips. JD is heading north to celebrate family milestones. Michael had already completed his dictionary presentation at Seawind. Gene has ongoing house improvements. Charles is happy to come to meetings which always give him a lift. Treasure Coast Brewfest is this weekend and is a co-branded event with We Do Good, which provides help to first responder families. John R. is happy to watch his son coach his grandson. Dave S. welcomed Harry Lerch back. Harry will be helping with the



17 Years

dictionary distribution at Citrus Grove.

Nils won the 50-50.

Randy Pennington, South State Bank

Randy, a long-time area resident, is the Senior VP of Commercial Lending at South State Bank and finds time to be involved in the community, currently serving as Chairperson of the Board at Healthy Start. As it is Halloween, he dressed as an Evil Corporate Banker.

South State, which started as Gulf Stream Business Bank in 1999, has grown through mergers and acquisitions. It now has a presence in Florida, Alabama, NC, SC VA and recently expanded into Texas, tapping into the robust business environment of Austin, Houston and San Antonio. The expansion takes advantage of population migration to the southeast due to the weather, business-friendly environments and the availability of technology.

South State is always monitoring the shifting check washing and fraud activities and are working with condo associations to manage finances after the legislative changes related to the Seaside condo disaster.

Randy enjoys the commercial banking business, from loans, lines of credit, specific needs of associations like HOAs and, when needed, helping businesses find debt solutions and designing custom products. South State also has a full line of retail banking services: mortgages, lines of credit, credit cards and personal loans. Also available is wealth management, making it a full-service bank.

South State is a well rated stable bank and is positioned to weather any storm in the banking environment. With the Texas acquisition, South State will oversee 65 billion dollars, which allows it to expand its reach. As a regional bank, it has more of a focus on local businesses, where national banks do not as much.

Community involvement is a hallmark of the bank and, locally, employees work with United Way, 4C's, Healthy Start, Leaders United, Molly's House, among others.

