

# Rotary

## District 6940 Newsletter



Volume 109, Issue 1

July 2022

### What's Inside?

#### Monthly Messages

DG Dan Sulger .....	2
RI Pres. Jennifer Jones .....	3

#### Club News

Blountstown .....	4
Chiefland .....	5
Crestview .....	6
Emerald Coast .....	7
Gulf Breeze .....	8
Lynn Haven .....	10
Mid-Bay .....	11
Monticello .....	15
Niceville-Valparaiso .....	16
Pensacola .....	17
Pensacola SubWest .....	18
Seville .....	20
Tallahassee .....	21
Tallahassee Capital .....	23
Tallahassee Northside .....	24

#### District News

HANWASH .....	25
Youth Camp .....	26

**Assembling Bicycles**  
see page 20



## District Governor Dan Sulger



After years of reading messages from our now Past District's Governors I must write I am humbled to have the same honor. Thank you all for affording me this opportunity.

This journey of preparation that Kim, my wife, and I have been on over these past three years has been wonderful. It has opened our eyes to the vastness and accomplishments of You, Your Club, our District and Rotary at large.

Two questions have been consistent throughout this time.

The First, what exactly does a District Governor do? Well, the most official explanation I have been told is:

District Governors provide leadership, motivation, and guidance to Rotary clubs under the general supervision of the RI Board of Directors. Governors act as officers of RI, fostering achievement in their district at the club level.

That statement certainly describes the responsibilities, but I would go further in the detail. In my opinion, I am tasked with helping you achieve goals bringing to bear all the resources of our great organization. For ultimately, it is all about you, a member of this incredible family. You can truly achieve anything you can think of in service to your community and the world. My focus is on providing you the information to do so.

Second, what are your goals for this year? First

and foremost, it is to provide value to you and your club. Each member of the District Leadership is focused on that simple premise. As each of them will tell you every time an idea was raised the question I posed was the same; "Does it bring value to our members and clubs". If yes, we proceed. If no, then let's change focus or keep working on the idea.

There are certainly things I would like to focus on. Making sure your good works are promoted across the district and Rotary world, providing you tools to be more successful, sharing the life changing gift of Rotary membership, increasing the amount of dreams that become a reality through giving to Your Foundation, making sure that you and every member of the district never has a

doubt regarding how much I, our District and Rotary care about each of you, and some would shout, "To have FUN" with each of you.

In the coming months I will focus on fun facts about Rotary and perhaps your club. I hope you will find the information useful and entertaining,

I look forward to meeting each one of you and to be inspired by your Rotary moment.



**District Governor  
Dan Sulger**

All My Best,  
Dan

Your District Governor



## RI President Jennifer Jones

Every month since I joined Rotary, I've looked forward to reading this magazine, especially the opening essay from our Rotary president. I'll admit that as much as I appreciate a digital copy, I still revel in the tactile sensation of sitting down and leafing through the glossy pages. They are a treasure trove of photos and memorable stories about our great organization -- the one we all know and love. I have learned so much over the years about service projects and lives that each of you have transformed.

As a communications professional, I have longed for the day that our stories were a regular part of mainstream media and that our flagship magazine might populate doctor's offices, coffee shops, or anywhere else people sit, wait, and browse. It's great that Rotary members are better informed about all we do, and wouldn't it be that much better if more people knew our stories.

All this was top of mind as I thought about our plans for promoting Rotary worldwide in the upcoming year. Over the next 12 months, we are going to shine a light on projects that put Rotary service on display to the world, and we are going to do it strategically.

Nick and I will focus on some of the highest impact, sustainable, and scalable Rotary projects from our areas of focus in what we call the Imagine Impact Tour.

We are inviting top-tier journalists, thought leaders, and influencers to use their channels to help us raise awareness by reaching people who want to serve but have not yet realized they can

do it through Rotary.

But there was another important issue to consider — our carbon footprint. I take seriously Rotary's emerging leadership position on environmental issues. The example set by our members during the pandemic is fundamental to how we carve out our future.

That means we will harness digital technology to tell these stories -- we will be tweeting, posting, and "going live" to anyone who will listen. We must consider our environment, and part of that means not always traveling but continuing to connect in meaningful ways as we have for the past two years.

Of course, we are social people, and we still need to be together. We simply need to be more mindful of our decisions and think about how we get together just a little bit differently. For example, if we travel

to visit a project, we will plan successive visits in neighboring areas.

So, what are your stories and who can help tell them? I hope you might consider your own Imagine Impact efforts -- your story might be something you can promote just as easily on social media or during a Zoom call. Think about ways to showcase notable projects in your clubs and districts.

We all feel the impact that Rotary service and values have on us. Now it's our opportunity to share that feeling with others.

Jennifer Jones  
Rotary International  
President 2022-23



RI President Jennifer Jones

## Blountstown Rotary Club

### All aboard at Altha Freedom Fest



The Blountstown Rotary Club train headed to Altha for the inaugural Altha Freedom Fest! Huge thanks to Danny Ryals and the Rotary Club for being so generous and allowing them to use the train!!





## Chiefland Rotary Club

### Club donates \$1,000 to baseball team



The Chiefland Rotary Club had the opportunity to donate \$1,000 to the Chiefland Area Athletic Association Cal Ripken baseball team. These boys worked very hard and will be competing in the state tournament. Our club is proud to support them on their journey to state! Best of luck and go Indians! Shown above are: Coach Rob Alexander, Drew Drummond and Brice Clemons.



## Rotary Club of Crestview

### Serving dinner at Rotary Youth Camp



Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Crestview provided and served dinner to the campers at the Rotary Youth Camp North Florida in DeFuniak Springs.

Allyson Oury and Samma Brannon presented Joyce Dove, Camp Director, with a check from the club.

#partofsomethingbigger #volunteering #Rotary



### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



The Rotary Club of Crestview awarded Caitlen Ball the Crestview Rotary Scholarship. Caitlen graduated from Baker High School, where she was the Team Captain for Softball and on the weightlifting team. She will be attending University of West Florida to obtain an Exercise Science B.S. Congratulations Caitlen! All the best to you as you begin your career journey. #Rotary #ImagineRotary #highereducation #partofsomethingbigger



## Rotary Club of the Emerald Coast

### President inducted, awards presented



The 2022-2023 Board for the Rotary Club of the Emerald Coast in Panama City Beach was installed. Area Governor Andre Boyd inducted Sarah Rackley (top photo) as club president. Congratulations to David Wesley (bottom left photo) for receiving the club's Service Above Self Award. Congratulations to Mile Fitzgerald (bottom right photo) for being the club's Rotarian of the Year Award.

## Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze



The 2022-2023 Gulf Breeze Rotary Board shown above are: (from left to right starting in the front) Lee Brown, Kristina Zimmern, Guy Gascard, Jo McAuthur, Paul Stanley, Beau Vignes, Cathy Hendrix, Mike Stahl, Eric Schneider, Aimee Dumas, and Jim Reeves.

## Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze appoints new leadership, recognizes Rotarians

New officers and directors were appointed and distinguished Rotarian of the Year and Service Above Self awards were presented at a change of command ceremony at the Pensacola Yacht Club on Tuesday, June 23.

The Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze appoints new officers and directors annually to serve one-year terms.

Appointed club officers & directors include: TJ Edwards, President; Jo McAuthur, President-Elect; Lee Brown, Past President; Mike Stahl, Vice President; Patricia Russo, Executive Secretary; Kevin Kropp, Treasurer; Carey King, Scholarships Director;

**Please see page 9**



## Rotary Club of Gulf Breeze



Gulf Breeze Rotary Service Above Self Award recipient Kevin Kropp

## Edwards becomes club's new president

### NEW LEADERSHIP - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Eric Schneider, Sergeant at Arms; Jim Reeves, Mr. Sunshine; Cathy Hendrix, Programs Director; Larry Kuhn, Membership Director; David Tillar, Youth Services Director; Guy Gascard, Vocational Service Director; Jeff Hendrix, Community Services Director; Jarrod Dawson, Grants Director; Kristina Zimmern, Club Services Director; Manda Moore, Flash Forward Director; Beau Vignes, Public Relations Director; Michael Hoeflich, Communications Director; Paul Stanley, Rotary Foundation Director; and TJ Edwards, Gulf Breeze Foundation Director.

The new club president, TJ Edwards, succeeds the previous president, Lee Brown. A retired utility contractor and lifetime Gulf Breeze resident, Edwards has served in various leadership roles in the club over the past few years.

The Rotarian of the Year award was presented to Mike Stahl as he has been a distinguished example of Rotary values.

Kevin Kropp was recognized with the 'Service Above Self' award for his leadership and commitment to the club's Gumbo Fundraiser, extensive volunteer efforts,

and general selfless act to benefit the community.

"It is with great honor to welcome these outstanding leaders to our Board and recognize Mike Stahl as 'Rotarian of the Year' and Kevin Kropp with the 'Service Above Self' award," said Edwards.

"The commitment and devotion to serve our community expressed by these amazing Rotarians is inspiring."



Gulf Breeze Rotary's Rotarian of the Year Mike Stahl (center) with Guy Gascard (left) and Lee Brown (right).

## Rotary Club of Lynn Haven

### Club holds July 4 pancake breakfast

On Monday, July 4, 2022, The Rotary Club of Lynn Haven hosted the club's annual Independence Day Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

The event was from 6 a.m. – 9 a.m. at The Lynn Haven Senior Activity Center where the community enjoyed fluffy pancakes, sausage, orange juice, and coffee for a suggested donation of \$7.

Proceeds raised supported Rotary youth programs at Lynn Haven Elementary School, Mosley High School, and Rotary Youth Camp.

Elizabeth "Liz" MacLean, president of The Rotary Club of Lynn Haven commented, "As a civic

organization serving our Lynn Haven, FL community, The Rotary Club of Lynn Haven was honored to have the annual Independence Day Pancake Breakfast. We are equally proud to raise funds to support our Rotary Youth Programs. We have to invest in our youth so they see the benefit of Rotary International's motto of 'Service Above Self.'"





## Mid-Bay Rotary Club



Mid-Bay Rotary Club's past presidents.

## Installation dinner highlights include passing the president's gavel, awards

During Mid-Bay's installation dinner, Mid-Bay Past Presidents "passed the gavel" to the Mid-Bay Rotary Year 2022-2023 President.

Rotarian Bert Melnick (Mid-Bay's First President - Rotary Year 1993-94), Major Donor, and 34 years of

**Please see page 12**



Rotary District 6940 Area Governor (Area 4) Clayton Hicks administers the President's Oath to Dave Wolcott.



Mid-Bay's Rotary Year 2022-23 President Dave Wolcott



## Mid-Bay Rotary Club

### Paul Harris Fellows recognized as well

#### INSTALLATION DINNER - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

perfect attendance) started the passing of the gavel.

The gavel was then passed through 11 Past Presidents and ended in the hands of Mid-Bay Rotary Year 2022-23 President Dave "Wally" Wolcott (Arch Klumph Society member).

Wally was met by Rotary District 6940 Area Governor (Area 4) Clayton Hicks, who administered the President's oath.

Also, during the installation dinner, Mid-Bay's 2021-22 President Steve Wolfrom recognized Rotarian Dave Underwood as Mid-Bay's Rotarian of the Year; Rotarian Bob Hoffman as the recipient of the Service Above Self Award; and Rotarian Rory Cahoon as the recipient of the President's Award.

In addition, Past Mid-Bay Rotary President and Past District 6940 Governor and Current District 6940 Foundation Chairman Dave Rauch recognized two Paul Harris Fellows (PHF) +1, two PHF +2, one PHF +5 and one new Bequest Society member.

Mid-Bay thanks Rotarian Art Jean for his Master of Ceremonies expertise.



Dave Underwood - Rotarian of the Year



Bob Hoffman - Service Above Self



Rory Cahoon - President's Award



## Mid-Bay Rotary Club



## Mid-Bay's second annual Cornhole Tournament another huge success

Mid-Bay Bridge Rotary held its Second Annual Charity Cornhole Tournament Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 3rd Planet Brewing, with net proceeds topping 2021.

More than 30 teams signed up, but the first date was rained out, so a few teams were not able to make the new day. Most teams who could not attend generously donated their entry fee back to Rotary. Funds from entry fees, sponsors, raffles and silent



Tournament administration – Rotarians Steve Wolfrom and Tom Whittemore.

auction will raise nearly \$2,000.

A special “side game” called Air Mail kept players and spectators entertained between matches while raising additional funds for the club. The double-elimination partner tournament lasted more than 4 hours.

Winners were Melissa Hoke and Shelly Butler, first;

**Please see page 14**



Tournament administration – Rotarians Steve Wolfrom and Tom Whittemore.



## Mid-Bay Rotary Club

### Net proceeds will benefit charities

#### CORNHOLE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Sam Spangle and Eric Vanheteren, second; and Lauren Perren and Noah Riley, third. The final four matches were moved to a center stage court so that all could enjoyed the outstanding shot making by the players.

Mid-Bay Rotarians and their Rotary Partners all pitched in with the multiple jobs needed to put on this successful tournament. These included set up and tear down, registration, tournament administration, observers, scoring, announcer, raffle sales, silent auctions and selling non-alcoholic drinks.

Prizes sponsored by 3rd Planet Brewing, totaling \$300 in gift cards, were awarded for first, second and third place. Mid-Bay thanks Heather Julseth, 3rd Planet events manager, for her help. Net profits will be earmarked for local and international charities.



First, second and third place winners



Rotarian Harry Holmes managing the Air Mail Contest



The winner of the Air Mail Contest receiving cash from Rotarian Tom Johnson.



## Rotary Club of Monticello



The Rotary Club of Monticello congratulates Club President Dr. Anna Likos and her Board of Directors: Franklin Jay Brooks, President Elect; Mary Frances Gramling, Secretary; Frank Stone, Treasurer; and Mark Kessler, Sergeant at Arms.

## Club's board of directors recognized



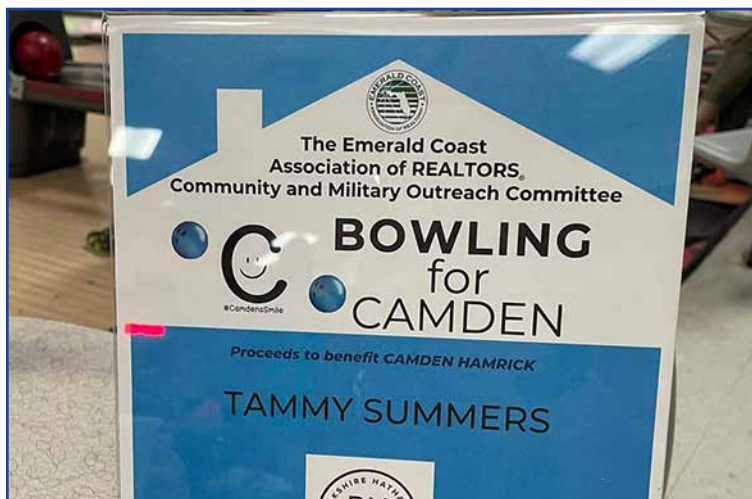


## Rotary Club of Niceville-Valparaiso



## Rotarians bowl for Camden

The Rotary Club of Niceville-Valparaiso had a wonderful night promoting their awesome club while benefiting sweet Camden. Thank you, Tammy Fraser Summers for sponsoring this event. This is what Rotary is all about! Supporting our community and those in need, while making lasting memories! #CamdensSmile





## Rotary Club of Pensacola



## Rotarians from across the District honored DG Dan and wife, Kim, by attending his Installation

Rotary Club of Pensacola Members attended the installation of the new District Governor Dan Sulger.

Past District Governor Larry Kubiak celebrated his year by noting and thanking Rotarians for the year's accomplishments.

Dan along with wife Kim, hailing from Navarre Rotary, accepted the governance of 50 clubs and more



than 2,000 members representing 25 counties in the Florida Panhandle.

New Area Governors were recognized including our club's Sally Fox.

Dan asked all to IMAGINE ROTARY and then action the plans, make new friends, follow the objectives of Rotary, continue the eradication of Polio, promote peace, fight disease, save Mothers and Children, provide clean water, and support education in our communities and worldwide.

A big thank you to Navarre Rotary and all for a splendid celebration.





## Pensacola SubWest Rotary



## Helping the people of Ukraine

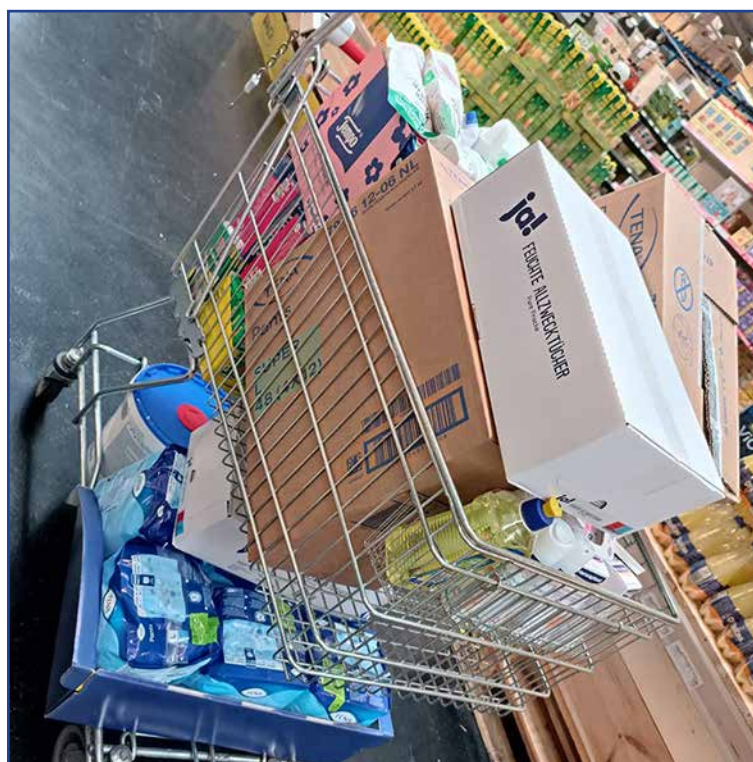
Dear District 6940,

My name is Juanita Harvin , and I am a member of the Pensacola Sub West Rotary. I have just returned from Ukraine, and would like to share some of our humanitarian relief trip there in June 2022.

I have been overseas the past 3 months working for my travel agency and taking groups to various Humanitarian projects, In India and Nepal. Yet, I am so blessed that I was able to do the humanitarian delivery of medical supplies and food for orphans and the Ukrainian people, of Uzhgorod.

Our Rotary club Pensacola Sub west gave a \$10,000 donation to assist the fleeing families and orphans the past 2 months by funding busses and food distributions.

**Please see page 19**





## Pensacola SubWest Rotary

# Next trip will deliver more aid and needed medical supplies

### UKRAINE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

I was also honored to have met Volodymyr Starosta, a former President of the Rotary Club Uzhgorod-Skala (<https://www.facebook.com/rotary.club.uzhgorod.skala>).

I am humbled of the Pensacola Sub West Rotary

award for "Humanitarian in Action Award." Yet this is not the end, as I know the people of the Ukraine are still in need of assistance. So I am looking forward our next monthly trip to deliver additional aid and much needed medical supplies.

I so look forward in sharing this International awareness of the people who are suffering.

"Service before Self" #rotaryinternational #EurwayToursWasThere

Juanita E. Harvin





## Seville Rotary Club



## Assembling bikes for those in need

Seville Rotary Club of Pensacola's own Sergeant at Arms Rotarian Donnie volunteered to repair, assemble, and piece together bikes for @brightbridgeministries.

Bright Bridge is on a mission to help those in need become contributing members of society, leading lives they are proud of.

Are you looking to get involved with our club and the Pensacola community? Reach out to the club by email: [info@sevillerotary.com](mailto:info@sevillerotary.com).



## Rotary Club of Tallahassee



## Providing dinner for youth campers

The Rotary Club of Tallahassee (RCT) team members participated in the annual Rotary Youth Camp dinner.

RCT President Sherwood L Brown, Past District Governor Charlie Rockwood and Rotary Youth Camp Executive Director Joyce Dove led the way for another successful RCT team event. RCT organizers and participants include Kim Koutnik, Pam Griggs, Eric Clark, Wallisa Cobb, PP Nancy Stepina-Robison, and PP Stephen Leignadier Liner.

A great time was had by all!

*(See more photos on next page)*



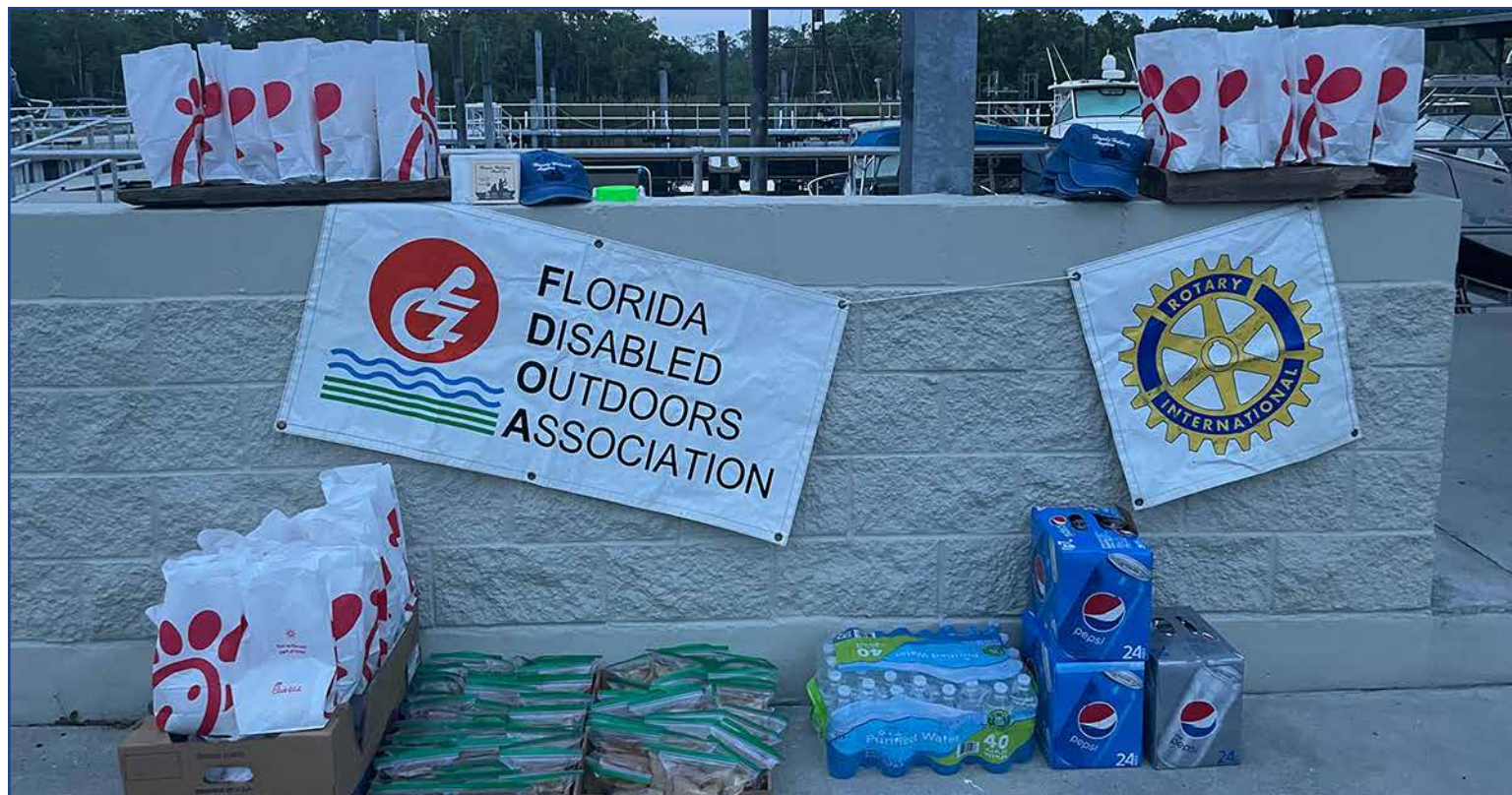


## Rotary Club of Tallahassee





## Tallahassee Capital Rotary



## Delivering lunch to hungry anglers

Each year, the Capital Rotary Club and the Northside Rotary Club in Tallahassee sponsor the Hands Helping Anglers Fishing Event.

Our Rotary Club traditionally prepares the lunches for this event. Here you can see a gathering of several members who have prepared the sandwiches for this

year's event as well as happy fishermen at the event.

The happy sandwich makers were Joy Blomeley, Justine Dale, Tom Carella, Susie Graves, Gene Kelley, Jim Wadsworth, Kelly Russell, Ed Acuff, and Sylvia White.

A good time was had by all!





## Tallahassee Northside Rotary



## Club celebrates its 50th anniversary

District Governor Dan and first lady Kim's first DG visit to the Rotary Club of Tallahassee Northside was extra special as they were celebrating 50 years as a club!

Dan had the honor of installing new President Shirley Campbell and her board, and we met charter member Earl Bacon and his wife.

The club has a rich history of partnership with Ukraine, and they've been actively involved in relief efforts since the conflict with Russia began.

Their flagship event is a Daddy/ Daughter dance every February which draws 800-1000 participants each year!

Thank you to Area Governor Clint Alexander for coordinating the visit and for the warm hospitality of Tallahassee Northside members.







## HANWASH working to organize NGOs to overcome past failures

By PDG LEON HIRSH

When we started this trek as a Lead District for the HANWASH water project for Haiti, PDG Ted Kirchharr took the chair and got the ball rolling for us.

PDG Jan Pooley has been involved from Day 1 and also served as Co-Chair for this operation. Jan took over the Chair position on July 1, 2022.

This state-of the-art water quality program continues to grow. Some districts around the country are committing a portion of their DDF to the project, just like they do for Polio.

Pignon remains a stable and quiet town, as do most of the more rural communities in Haiti. The capital of Port au Prince, however, remains a hotspot of criminal activity, and robbery and kidnapping continue to be viable means of making a living. The police are stepping up enforcement efforts, however, and gang arrests are becoming more frequent.

The police department understands the positive impact that a program like HANWASH can have on the entire country, and it is rising to the occasion.



**HANWASH**

Haiti National Clean Water,  
Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy

Ryan Rowe offered his latest updates:

The fundraiser in Houston raised \$20,000 for HANWASH. Neil VanDyne chaired a meeting with Steve Warner and the WASHRAG program, and Ryan informed us that the World Bank now has Haiti on its radar.

HANWASH also is working to organize many of the NGOs and help them upgrade and standardize the work they do. The goal here is to overcome past failures of water related projects as NGOs did not work together or offer sustainability for their endeavors.

HANWASH has contacted qualified people in the global university community to offer training and engineering expertise in the country. So... the progress continues, and we eagerly await the completion of the first leg, still several months away.



## Rotary Youth Camp of North Florida

By **JOYCE DOVE**

Rotary Youth Camp opened for the summer on June 27. Camp is for children with disabilities and they stay for free, overnight for a week, by age.

The reason the camp is free is because of YOUR donations! Our costs for a four week summer plus one week of training is \$165,000 this summer. Only ten Rotary Clubs have sent in a donation; please consider donating.

We have had quite a few new campers with us this summer. Usually we have at least 50% repeat campers, and we are always ready for more. The reason we added another week in 2022 is because of high demand over the past two



summers despite COVID.

Our theme this summer is King Arthur and his Round Table of Knights. Everyone ( even the counselors) is loving being royalty as you can see in the pictures! We have a stable full of hobby horses & an amazing sword Excalibur.

Rotary Clubs are serving meals every night but Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m. CST -- come join the fun in Defuniak Springs, just off I-10 at exit 85.