

Issue 9: September 4, 2024

— OUR VISION —

Our vision is to cultivate a SOCIAL, FUN AND INCLUSIVE Rotary club where every member feels VALUED AND MOTIVATED to drive MEANINGFUL CHANGE and be a CORNERSTONE OF SERVICE, locally and globally.



Find out more about our club:
DunedinNorthRotary.org

2023-2024 LEADERSHIP

- President: Candice Kelly
- PP/Vice President: Doug Campbell
- President-Elect: Rob Walker
- President-Elect Nominee: Tom Miller
- President-Elect Nominee Designate: Jay LeFebvre
- Secretary: Angie Eisele (meeting)
- Treasurer: Rob Walker
- Directors: 1-Yr: Bill Huntley, Kris Gray, Open; 2-Yr: Mel Ora, Jaquelin Nuila, Teresa Cordova O’Dea; 3-Yr: JoAnn Rooney, Tom Miller, Jay LeFebvre
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Coughlin
- Foundation Chair: Steve Schwartz
- Admin Chair: Candice Kelly
- Membership Chair: Gary Coughlin
- Service Chair: Open
- PR/PI Chair: Sherrie Davis Kinkead
- Programs: Jay LeFebvre

MEETING TIME/LOCATION:

7:30-8:30 am on Wednesdays
The Hale Center, 330 Douglas Ave.

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 307, Dunedin, FL 34697

Friends, family and others are welcome at our meetings and volunteer opportunities.

Meeting Notes from August 28 – Sherrie Davis Kinkead

DUTIES: Greeters: Douglas O (Jay P forgot—oops!); Invocation: Mary Beth C, who asked for a moment of “Peacefulness”; *Pledge of Allegiance*; *Pledge of Allegiance* and “5”-Way Test: Priscilla H; Sgt-at-Arms: Gary C; “Emcee”: PP/VP Doug C



VISITORS: Tom Cordova (Aunt Teresa, aka TJ to her nephew); Alyssa Andres (speaker)

HAPPY BUCK TIDBITS OF NOTE: Mary Beth C - her husband moved in with her after 17 months! John T - spent time with Manny, who is doing well. Dick S - officially 1 week in new home (George Ann B offered to share her \$5 with Dick, who first decided he was too broke to be happy.). Jay L - he finished Terry Fortner’s grandmother’s book and decided to kayak the Caladesi mangrove trail from the marina

to her homestead, when he was swarmed by 9 billion mosquitoes. Lesson learned? Don’t go near the mangroves in the summer. George Ann B - no pickleball courts on Honeymoon! Douglas O called attention to John T’s signs everywhere. Jaquelin N saw John T on TV and mentioned to Dick that she and Jorge also live in Highland Lakes. Angie E - volunteered at the YMCA Triathlon and her grandkids took home two big boxes, making her wonder why we buy toys when boxes are so much more fun. Gary C googled Dad jokes and now he’s bombarded with them (yes, everything is spying on you!!!!). JoAnn R worked the triathlon Sunday and one smart aleck used the “F” word when interviewed (his parents warned them).



50-50: Mary Beth Carroll tried her luck with a new deck of cards after Doug C won last week. She pulled a 5, so at least got her investment back.

PROGRAM: Alyssa Andres loves sharks and currently works on learning about the bull shark nursery in King’s Bay and Crystal River. Interesting fact: baby sharks have belly buttons for about 45 days after birth from the umbilical cord. Radio receivers are planted on the sharks to facilitate acoustic monitoring. The larger bull sharks stay at the mouth of the river, protecting the baby bull sharks in King’s Bay. Monitoring the shark population can help with species and springs management and conservation, mitigate human/shark interaction, and complement educational and research training efforts from grade 6-undergrad. King’s Bay/Crystal River is the only spring habitat known from TX to NC—others are wildly different. If you purchase an acoustic tag, you can name the shark and get updates. Does our club need a Rotarian shark?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Membership meeting at Veskolini’s Café after our regular meeting.

FL MINUTE WITH DR. BILL: None

Membership Meeting Discussions of Note

Everyone in our club knows potential Rotarians and the committee plans to take advantage of that knowledge by asking for dentists, doctors, pastors, chiropractors, massage therapists, CPAs, mechanics, repair people, restaurants, store owners, hair stylists, friends, etc. from each member. Flyers or postcards will be developed and placed at the Chamber office to target those new to our area and looking for ways to meet friends and volunteer. Morning meetings are tough for teachers when they must be at school before our meeting ends.

We need to call our members who do not come for several meetings to be sure nothing is wrong or if it is, to offer to help. Is this a task you would like? If so, let Gary and Angie know. We’ll figure out how to work as a team to show we care.

Club switched to mornings and touted volunteerism to grow

It was 2020 and the world was, as Sarah Garrette puts it, “a dumpster fire,” roiled by the global pandemic, unrest over police violence against Black Americans, and a divisive election in the United States. “I felt pretty isolated and wanted to give back, but I felt out of control with things

happening in the culture and with the pandemic,” she says. “I thought, I can’t change the big things, but if I start on the microlevel – in the community – those little impacts add up.”

She hopped on Facebook and typed “volunteer opportunities” into the search bar. The Rotary Club of Springboro popped up.

Her dad had been a Rotary member, so Garrette reached out over Facebook. Because of the pandemic, meetings were held over videoconference, and she dropped in to check a few out. She found a dynamic group of people of all ages, about 50/50 women and men, who want to strengthen their community.

This thriving membership wasn’t always the case for the club. It chartered with 25 members in 2004, but by 2007, that number had shrunk, perilously, to 13. Doug Buchy, a member of the Rotary Club of Dayton, was asked to transfer his membership to help bring the Springboro club back to life. While he was Springboro club president in 2009-10, it grew to 17 members. “We stopped the bleed,” he says. “We kept growing and growing.” Today club membership stands at almost 40.

The club made adjustments to attract new members. It switched from a lunch club to a breakfast club, which offered more convenience in a suburb where residents often work in the larger cities of Dayton or Cincinnati. “People couldn’t come back to Springboro for lunch from where they were working,” explains Buchy. “That’s why we were losing membership.”

To lower costs, a concern especially of younger members, the club decided to meet for coffee instead of breakfast. Occasionally, someone brings doughnuts. “We try to make things really simple,” says Past President April Walker.

A highlight of meetings, members say, is the monthly “get to know a Rotarian” presentation, in which club members take the floor to talk about themselves. One member told about how his dad was a clown; another showed a senior photo from high school in the ’80s in which he sported a mullet and gold chain. “You think you know people in the hour you spend with them, but you don’t,” says Walker, who instituted the club favorite when she was president in 2021-22. “It really added a level of fellowship.” At many meetings, the club also asks “get to know you” questions, such as “Which is your favorite Muppet and why?” and “Did you name your family car when you were a child and what was its name?”

“I know fun is a plain, boring word, but I can’t think of a better way to sum up this club,” says member Scott Marshall. “No person in their right mind wants to be up and at a meeting at 7:30 in the morning. But I really look forward to these things. It’s just a blast.”

In another change, the club increased the number of service opportunities and is involved in more than 20 fundraisers and projects each year. On a sunny day in April, the club hosted a “build a bed” project in partnership with the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The group collaborated with nearby Rotary clubs to raise \$22,000 to purchase materials and bedding. More than 100 volunteers – club members and their families, high school students, and other community members – gathered at the county fairgrounds in Cincinnati to work assembly-line style to build 150 beds in less than six hours. “These aren’t Ikea ready-to-assemble beds,” Marshall says. “There was wood coming off the truck. We were measuring it, cutting it, drilling holes, branding with the logo.”

To quickly bring new members into the fold, the club surveys them about which committees, projects,

and fundraisers they’d like to be involved with. They’re put to work on their choices. “You have to get them involved right away,” says Buchy, the 2023-24 governor for District 6670. (All club members receive the same survey annually.)

When Walker joined the club in 2019, she was “voluntold” to lead its nascent social media efforts. She started taking pictures and livestreaming videos of service projects to put the club out there. “I think people are inherently good; they want to do things in the community but don’t know how,” she says. “We give them an opportunity.”

The club continued to gain members even during the pandemic. When Walker became club president, she made recruiting women and elevating them to leadership positions a centerpiece.

One of them was Garrette, who within six months became club treasurer. And as she tallies what she’s given through Rotary versus what she’s received, the value of her membership becomes clear. “I joined the club in a very polarized time. I was looking for something to ground me, make me more open-minded to others,” she says. “If we can find common ground through giving back to our community and surrounding area, it gives me a lot of hope that people aren’t all that different after all. I’ve gotten back tenfold.”

And she’s able to lead by example for her two young children. “Now my kids think Rotary is super cool,” she says. “They always ask if they can go to meetings, probably because it’s before school and they can get a doughnut.”

First Friday HEP Servers Needed?!

UPCOMING MEETING DETAILS

Date	Invoker	Greeters	Pledge & 5-Way Test	Speaker
9/4	Jay Pitts	Dick Spong, Alan Gustafson	Dennis Suarez	The benefits of Stretching, in keeping with our recent speakers with holistic health procedures, stretching improves performance, increases range of motion, reduces muscle and joint pain and improves posture.
9/11	John Tornga	Rick Lawrence, Jennifer Bullock	Douglas Oppenheimer	Robert DuBoise, he spent 37 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. An amazing, but sad story of survival.
9/18	Tom Miller	Sherrie Davis Kinkead, Jody Craig		Jaclyn Citarella, Community Engagement and Recruitment Manager at Family Support Services (FSS). FSS provides services, resources, education and support, with care, empathy and understanding for children and families. And, they provide safe homes for abused and/or neglected children and teens through foster care and find forever families for children through adoption.
9/25	No morning meeting - Special program at Dunedin Library - 5:30pm			