



## ROTARY CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND NOONTIME



Club 4327  
Chartered 1966

### ***Noontime News*** *April 1st, 2021*

District 6960  
Area One  
Zone 34

#### ***President's Message***



I am proud to recognize our club's members for becoming Paul Harris Fellows, once again, each supporting the Rotary Foundation with a \$1,000 donation:

Please see the details on the next page.

#### ***Upcoming Speakers***

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 4/15/21 | Dr Habermehl, Eye Glasses for Mexico                |
| 5/6/21  | Mike McGovern                                       |
| 5/20/21 | Keith Wohltman, President Marco Sports Fishing club |

#### ***Happy Birthday!***

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| • Gene D'Onofrio | April 4th  |
| • Tarek Ayasun   | April 18th |



For the latest information on meetings, events and more, visit

[marcoislandrotary.org](http://marcoislandrotary.org)

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## Paul Harris Fellowship Recognition

One of the unique characteristics of Rotary is our participation in international service to persons and communities around the world through The Rotary Foundation. Named for our Founder, Paul Harris, who founded Rotary in 1905, the presentation of Paul Harris Fellow recognition is The Rotary Foundation's way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs. We move closer to a world of peace and good will today as Prem Advani, Cindy Love, Durell Buzzini and Phil Penzo add additional jewels to their Paul Harris pins for additional contributions of \$1000 or more to The Rotary Foundation.

A gift to The Rotary Foundation's educational and humanitarian programs is a commitment to peace and to a better life for people the giver may never meet. This is a truly selfless action. It is because of such gifts that The Rotary Foundation is able to carry out an array of programs that achieve beneficial changes in our world: improved living conditions, potable water, increased food production, better education, treatment for the sick, shelter, improved international understanding, brighter hopes for peace, and of course the eradication of Polio.

A contribution to The Rotary Foundation funds many good works. But more than any of that, a contribution to The Rotary Foundation is an affirmation of faith in the promise that our world can be improved, of hope for better days to come, and the joy that joining together for the common good brings each of us. In reaching beyond ourselves we become our best selves. An ideal expressed in Rotary as "Service Above Self".

- It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, to present Prem Advani with his Paul Harris Plus 2, Cindy Love with her Paul Harris plus 3, Durell Buzzini with her Paul Harris plus 5 and Phil Penzo with his Paul Harris plus 6. Each PLUS represents another \$1000 gift to The Rotary Foundation. Thank you for your generosity. We congratulate and thank you for your commitment to the objectives of The Rotary Foundation and the millions of people we serve.



## **“A Night of 1,000 Paul Harris Fellows”**

Our Rotary District is celebrating all the good The Rotary Foundation does locally and around the world with **“A NIGHT OF 1,000 PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS.”** And all Paul Harris Fellows are invited.

Our club has 29 Paul Harris Fellows out of our 38 members which means you personally have given \$1000 or more collectively to The Rotary Foundation for doing good in the world. ***Thank you.***

You should have received your personal invitation by email from DACdb mail service. If not, please let me know and I will follow up.

Our guest speakers will include Brenda Cressey, the first woman Chair of the Rotary Foundation Trustees, and Past District Governor Carl Treleven who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise money for PolioPlus.

Additionally, we'll feature the many grants that our own Rotarians do through The Rotary Foundation. We can all be proud to be Rotarians and I am proud to say that The Rotary Foundation is my choice for changing the world, one grant at a time.

The gala, black-tie-optional dinner will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center, which is centrally located in Punta Gorda. And don't worry, we'll be observing masking and distancing safety protocols. I hope you will sign up for this event- it will be so much fun for lots of us or all of us to enjoy this very special evening together.

Please let me know when you sign up on DACdb so we can organize tables together.



## Opportunities to serve our Community

- Volunteer for Friendship Phone Tree: Calling Team or Intro Seniors that may benefit from this service. Team Captain-Kathy Pasternak
- 
- June golf tournament to support the Marco Island Charter Middle School. Email me to join the planning committee
- 
- Save all your [wine corks](#) to raise money for Meals of Hope packing event. Drop off at 486 Clifton Ct- my front porch- Rotary Central!
- Save your glasses for [Glasses for Mexico](#) annual project- drop off at 486 Clifton Ct- my front porch- Rotary Central! Sharon Lewis is our new advocate and Dr. Brad Habermehl will be here to report in April.
- The Marco Island Historical Society and [Museum](#) need volunteers: docents to greet visitors and gift shop [volunteers](#) to assist customers.
- The Y needs someone to oversee the [Bread Run](#).
- The Y needs [“Y READS”](#) volunteers. This could be virtual help as well as in person.
- The Y needs grant/administrative help.
- Call anyone you know that you think might be lonely to add sunshine to their day
- Let me know if you are involved with serving the community in a venue that needs more [volunteers](#)





## Upcoming Scheduled Meetings & Events

- **April 15, Thur- 11:30 Social 12-1 Zoom Meeting-** Guest Speaker Dr. Brad Habermehl, Glasses for Mexico
- **April 29, Thur- Noon -** Picnic & walk around the lake at Mackle Park (limited to 29 - sign up early!)
- **May 6, Thur- 11:30 Social 12-1 Zoom Meeting-** Guest Speaker Mike McGovern from Rotary International
- **May 20, Thur- 11:30 Social 12-1 Zoom Meeting-** Guest Speaker Keith Wohltman, Marco Sport Fishing Club
- **May 21, Friday - Night of 1,000 Paul Harris Fellows**

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### *Contributors this issue:*

- George Abounader
- Pat Rutledge
- Linda Sandlin







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## Rick J. LoCastro

- **Collier County Commissioner, District 1**
- Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired 2012)
- U.S. Air Force Academy Graduate (1988)
- Multiple Military Base Commander
- Worked for two U.S. Presidents
- Air Force One Support Commander
- Leadership Collier Graduate
- Naples Business & Healthcare Leader
- Marco Island Resident



Rick LoCastro was elected County Commissioner of District 1 (East Naples, Marco Island, Goodland, Isles of Capri, Port of the Islands) on November 3, 2020. After serving 24 years in the U.S. Air Force and retiring as a full Colonel in 2012, he was recruited to Naples, and into Hospital Administration serving as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Physicians Regional Medical Center. For 4+ years he was responsible for all day-to-day operations of the hospital and directly supervised 13 different Departments. He also led the design, construction, and oversaw the hospital's opening of a Walk-In Clinic, Rehab Center, and Primary Care offices on Marco Island... as well as the design and construction of a second Walk-in Clinic and Primary Care Center in East Naples.

In January 2017, Rick then joined Avow Hospice as Senior Director of Development. He was a key leader securing major gifts, oversaw donor management, and implemented strategic healthcare plans to improve and expand hospice care, child support services, and bereavement programs. He also served as the Senior Military Veteran Advisor for the Avow "We Honor Veterans" program ensuring benefits and satisfaction for military veterans and their families.

Rick is the Founder & President of RJL Consulting Team based in Naples. A firm specializing in Healthcare, Retail Businesses, Physician Practices, Construction, Security, Energy & Environmental, Non-Profits, Government & Military, and accelerating employee & team performance by providing strategic/operational expertise to maximize revenue, volume, and efficiency. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, political figures, non-profits, and a multitude of private businesses. He stepped down and ceased all company activity after he took office as a full-time County Commissioner in November 2020.

Prior to his election and Naples civilian executive positions, he was a senior Air Force officer commanding in leadership positions worldwide. He held military positions in Germany, Hawaii, the Pentagon, and NATO, and lived and worked in 80+ countries. He served as a senior Commander on Andrews Air Force Base supporting the President of the United States and all Air Force One missions. He then led a multi-national NATO unit at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where he was a Senior Commander responsible for all security, engineering/maintenance, transportation, administration, human resources, supply, logistics, food service, safety, and linguistic translation, supporting the 26-nation command.

Following his Europe assignment, he next served as Base Commander of Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. There he ensured support to the 725 square mile base (Department of Defense's largest installation) and directed all base operations for over 35,000 personnel with \$16 Billion in infrastructure. He led strategic planning and oversaw all housing, healthcare, food service, facilities, security, construction, safety, fire/rescue, human resources, IT, environmental, logistics, 3,000+ houses, and 1,000+ dormitories. He also supervised the Air Force's 4th largest Medical Center encompassing 1,500 medical staff supporting 85,000 beneficiaries and 300,000 annual patient visits.

He then served as Base Commander of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, (where he is also a 1988 graduate) responsible for 4,500 personnel and all support to the 25-square mile installation including the Service Academy. He commanded all Air Force Academy base support, housing, food service, and a Medical Center supporting 4,000+ cadets, a military community of 35,000+, and 500,000+ visitors annually to the military Service Academy. Finally, he was Director of Manpower & Personnel for U.S. Strategic Command, overseeing all human resources (HR) programs for the United States' classified nuclear and space forces. In 2001, he commanded his unit to selections as U.S. Air Force Mission Support Squadron of the Year and was also personally selected as the 2001 U.S. Air Force Senior Personnel Officer of the Year. Rick has worked for two U.S. Presidents, for General Norman Schwarzkopf, and was also the Aide to an Air Force 4-star General for three years. In 2012 he retired from the U.S. Air Force as a full Colonel.

The Commissioner has extensive operations, business, finance, human resources, political, and healthcare experience as well as non-profit leadership expertise working with numerous organizations worldwide. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and has three Master of Science degrees... to include one in Public Administration & Policy from Central Michigan University. Living on Marco Island and working in Naples, Commissioner LoCastro is also very active in the local community having served on the Board of Directors, Marco Island Chamber of Commerce; Board of Trustees, Admiral Farragut Academy (St. Petersburg, FL); is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives; Collier County American Legion, VFW, & Rotary Club member, and a 2013 Naples Chamber of Commerce Leadership Collier grad.





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## Speaker Highlights April 1st, 2021

### Rick LoCastro

Collier County Commissioner, Rick LoCastro began his presentation describing District 1, in which Marco Island resides:

- a very large district ranging from south and east Collier County to the border of Everglades City, including Isles of Capri and Goodland.

- 90,000 county residents who reside in District 1 and said "I want to hear from my constituents."

- 15,000 county residents subscribe to his newsletter, join him on "Solutions Saturdays," a program he is starting on April 17 at the South Regional Library, where you can meet with him for a short, 15 - 20 minute meeting to let him know your concerns or interests; or attend a town hall meeting (of which he already has held 20 in his first 120 days on the job). The County's budget is \$2 billion dollars.

#### TIGERTAIL BEACH

One of Commissioner LoCastro's primary interests is Tigertail Beach, which is on the west side of Tigertail Lagoon, between the lagoon and the Gulf waters. That environmentally sensitive beach has not received its due attention in the past several years and following Hurricane Irma, visitors and residents see how that lack of attention has led to the beach's diminishment. Without our attention now, the beach's demise is very possible. The Commissioner has selected leaders of various and diverse agencies to convene, on April 8, to devise a plan that is doable, affordable and able to restore Tigertail.

#### CAXAMBAS BOAT LAUNCH

The 3 boat launch sites on or surrounding Marco Island, (Caxambas, 951 at the foot of the Jolly Bridge coming on to the Island, and Goodland) are owned and maintained by the County. The Caxambas boat launch currently is under renovation in to accommodate the heavy use by the many businesses that cater primarily to visitors who want to jetski, kayak, or paddle board and the locals who simply want to launch their personal watercraft (PWC) without waiting in long lines while a trailer filled with 6 - 8 PWCs unloads or loads those water devices. The trailer housing the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be removed and a new building is being erected to house the Auxiliary and community meetings. The footprint of the boat launch will not change, so additional parking for vehicles will be a challenge as more and more users arrive. Some sort of priority may be coming with regards to times to launch, who goes first (a vehicle with 1 PWC or many PWCs), etc.

#### ISLES OF CAPRI

"Septic to Sewer" is an initiative taking place on Isles of Capri. In the past, the County missed some grant opportunities to get financial assistance for this program; so, Commissioner LoCastro is attempting to move this initiative forward.

#### THE ROAD TO GOODLAND

Many of us know that after a rainstorm and especially after a hurricane, the road to Goodland is under water. The project to raise the road is underway to rectify that problem.

#### THE MARCO ISLAND EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

This \$9.5 million dollar project was a year and a half behind schedule. The project is now completed. The County is now in litigation to recover some of the money for being so late in completing the project.

#### CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AT THE NORTH SIDE OF THE FOOT OF THE JOLLY BRIDGE

The presence of large concrete blocks and other materials used to build an artificial reef out in the Gulf has been such an eyesore primarily due to the length of time it took to move them from the site to the Gulf. Now there is a "privacy" screen placed and paid for by the contractor to hide the eyesore and the amount of time from unloading the materials on the site to loading them on a barge and taking it to the reef site has been greatly reduced from months to days.

Commissioner LoCastro concluded his remarks with a Q/A session. We thank the Commissioner for being our speaker today and wish him the best of luck as he represents us as our Collier County Commissioner.



## Hone Your Skills With Toastmasters International

Become a more effective presenter, communicator, and leader by taking a series of courses developed exclusively for Rotary by the experts at Toastmasters International. These courses in Rotary's Learning Center will help you grow professionally and personally. They include:

- [Develop a Speech](#), on developing content based on your topic, audience, and goals
- [Deliver a Speech](#), on the basics of giving a speech
- [Inspirational Speech](#), on how to engage, persuade, or inspire an audience
- [Interpersonal Communication and Networking](#), on building and maintaining professional relationships and networks
- [Leadership Basics](#), on topics like motivating others, integrity, and team inclusiveness
- [Leading a Team](#), on creating a positive environment, setting goals, and delegating
- [Collaboration](#), on understanding and developing leadership and collaboration skills
- [Building Consensus](#), on developing the skills needed for effective and inclusive leadership

Expand your opportunities by building your skills!