

Rotary

Club of Marco Island



Sunday, June 22, 2025



Our Rotary Family fills the Marco Island Princess



Our Rotary Family filled the Princess with love, laughter, and festivities as we celebrated an amazing "Magic of Rotary" year under the leadership of our amazing President, Sue Haviland, and installed the new Board & Officers to kick off another great year under our Legacy Encore President Sue.

Message from Our Fabulous President, Sue Haviland

Club Leaders



Michelle Richards
Treasurer - Assistant



Susan A. Haviland
President
Club CART
Chair
Public
Relations
Chair



Gene M. D'Onofrio
Treasurer



Prem Advani
Club
Director



Diane Opelt
Club
Director
District
Grants Chair



James F. Richards
Club
Director



Linda J. Sandlin
Past
President
Bulletin
Editor
Club
Director
Membership
Chair



Henry Stanley
Public
Relations
Chair



[Philip Penzo](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[George R. Abounader](#)
Club
Director
Past
President
Youth
Services
Project Chair



[Tyler Canady](#)
Club
Director



[Patricia Ann Ettensohn](#)
Club
Foundation
Chair



[Tom Menaker](#)
Club
Director



[Durell Buzzini](#)
Club
Director
Rotary
Foundation
Chair
International
Service
Chair
Past
President
Youth
Services
Project Chair



[Audrina Flowers](#)
Club
Webmaster



[Jennifer M. Tenney](#)
iPast
President

[Jonathan](#)



Our outstanding President, Sue Haviland, holds the American Flag, at our fabulous Installation Party on board the Princess. Sue reports on our banner, "Magic of Rotary" year:

It's hard to believe we are at the end of another Rotary year! Did we create some magic? I'd answer an emphatic "yes".

Our club is full of strong, creative, compassionate members, leaders all, within their businesses and our community, so creating magic was inevitable.

Here are just a few highlights from this Rotary Year...The Magic of Rotary:

Here we grow again- our club continues to attract new dynamic members! This Rotary year we welcomed 10 new members: Alexandra Diaz, Audrina Flowers, Ben Ramsey, Sean Duggan, Joe Nolan, Karyn Brooks, Henry Stanley, Bonnie Knab, Dianne Hamberg, Jonanthan Wright and Pastor Ed Brandt (to be formally inducted in July). All these new members are already making great contributions to the club and community.

Our membership team and our members are second to none and the growth of our club is proof. I think I could practically recite the induction speech from memory by now.

Rotarians just want to have fun- under the direction of our social chair, Jennifer Tenney, we attended a fabulous wine tasting class, regaled the island with Christmas Carols aboard the trolley, and attended an ice hockey game- stay tuned- Jennifer already has some exciting social plans lined up for this coming Rotary Year!

But it wasn't all fun and games- Rotarians like to roll up their sleeves and really get to work. The annual November Meals of Hope Packaging event was a huge success. We participated in a Habitat for Humanity Build in March (thank you for arranging that, Phil Penzo!) and the ever energetic Rene Ford led us in an island wide clean up for Earth Day. Deb Henry brought to our attention the need for a water fountain/bottle filling station at Mackle Park, and our club was happy to provide the funds to help make this a reality. A plaque has recently been installed noting that the fountain is a gift from Marco Island Noontime Rotary.

We provided start up funds to the new Ave Maria Club, and they are off and running! It's wonderful to see new clubs popping up as more and more people move to our area and make Rotary a part of their lives. Our dear friend and former club President, Pat Rutledge, CEO of the MIHS approached us with an opportunity to sponsor a free concert for our older adult population. We enthusiastically supported this endeavor and some of our members acted as ushers the evening of the event. It was a packed house!



Wright
Club
Webmaster

Eyeglasses for Mexico had another productive year as Diane Opelt led the charge in collecting and shipping more pairs of glasses than she could count. We were honored to welcome Dr. Brad Haberhehl to share with us the updates on this important ongoing project.

We were able to virtually "visit" a hospital in India via zoom early one morning to see firsthand the important work done by Touching Little Hearts. Our club participated in a global grant to benefit Touching Little Hearts (you may recall TLH was the beneficiary of our cash call last year at Spirit Awards). I am continually amazed at how the grant process works and how the funds from a grant can have such a profound impact on a project. Thank you, Durell Buzzini for heading up this effort- it was a lot of work.

Our Students of the Month meetings proved enjoyable as always, and our students never cease to amaze me. A huge thank you to George Abounader!

The scholarship committee did their usual stellar job of analyzing the many applications that were submitted and interviewing potential scholarship recipients. I look forward to hearing from the students as they embark on their college journey. This is one of the most impactful initiatives of our club and the committee takes this work very seriously. I offer my personal thanks to Durell Buzzini for her leadership on this committee.

Projects and fundraisers, both existing and new were the name of the game for our club this year- Flags For Heroes, led by a dynamic new team of Sean Duggan, Ben Ramsey, and Joe Nolan (under the watchful eye of the Queen of Flags, Linda Sandlin) once again took center stage over President's weekend. Over 400 flags flew majestically at the corner of San Marco Road and Sandhill Street. We jumped right into a new project along with our friends from the Sunrise Club and Kiwanis. The cornhole event, Tossin' In Paradise, enjoyed a successful first year as the community came together in family friendly competition (our Chief of Police, Tracy Frazanno and her father came in 2nd place!), fun, and fellowship. To top off the year, the 15th Annual Spirit of Marco Island Awards Gala, featuring an "Elegant Garden Gala" theme was the talk of the town. As always, our very own Al Diaz did an outstanding job in the role of emcee and our very own Deb Henry was one of the honorees. The new Lorenzo Walker nursing program was the beneficiary of the cash call and the Island Country Club did its usual exceptional job.

We were both educated and entertained by engaging speakers, we found a new "home" for our meetings in the Marco Presbyterian Church and were introduced to the creative lunch offerings of the fabulous Chef Laura. No matter how many attendees we had, even during the holidays and Students of the Month meeting, the Church and Chef Laura didn't miss a beat, and we are so very grateful. I cannot forget our new member, Jonathan Wright who single handedly tackles all our tech needs- and did so even before becoming an official member- a true Rotarian!

My heartfelt thanks to all - YOU are the heart and soul of our club...The Magic of Rotary...

Sue Haviland
President

\$75,000 Check to Y Presentation



Pictured at the Rotary Princess Party are Pat Ettensohn, Foundation Chair along with John Riley and Cindy Love, representing the YMCA, as Sue Haviland presents a check for \$75,000 from the Rotary Club Noontime in support of the Y's capital campaign for the new Healthy Living Center,. Our club will be recognized for donating the Bicycle Racks and the Library. We are proud as Rotarians to support the great work the Y does. in the Community.

Mark Your Calendar-Upcoming Events!

New Member, Anabela Fernandes smile greets you at our Club Meetings.

July 3rd, Thursday, Club Zoom Meeting at Noon- details to follow from President Sue!

July 17th, Thursday, Club In-Person Luncheon Meeting at the Watermark on Marco Island. Don't miss this exciting Tour as well as inducting new member Pastor Ed Brandt into our Rotary family....

August 7th, Thursday, Club Zoom Meeting at Noon- details to follow from President Sue.

August 21, Thursday, Club Luncheon Meeting- more fun details to follow

August 30th- Marco Island Rotary Golf Classic - Flyer attached above to sign up to play or sponsor

November 8, 2025 , Meals of Hope Packing Event at the Marco Island Middle School - flyer attached above if you would like to donate as a Friend of Meals of Hope. Meals of Hope Marco Island needs to raise at least \$50,000 to purchase the food ingredients to package at least 200,000 meals. Every donation is needed to make this event happen and your contribution as a Friends of Hope member is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Deb Henry and Anabela Fernandes on the MOH Team!



MIR 100- Read all about it!



MIR 100: The Next Big Leap for Marco Island Rotary!
At the heart of our success lies a vibrant and dedicated membership base. It's not just about numbers; it's about the connections we build, the impact we make, and the fun we have along the way. Over the past few years, we've grown from a close-knit group of 30 to a dynamic team of nearly 50 passionate Rotarians.

But now... we're thinking BIG. It's time for the next level!

Introducing Project MIR 100

(MIR = Marco Island Rotary, but you guessed that already.)

Our goal?

Triple digits.

100 awesome members — not overnight, but over time, and with a solid plan.

Here's what's cooking so far:

- Keep our amazing members happy and engaged !
- Boost our presence with better public image marketing and social media
- Showcasing the incredible work we do with captivating videos
- Equipping new members with top-notch onboarding and empowering them to spread the word.
- And more clever ideas we haven't even thought of yet

We Need You!

We're on the lookout for a few energized volunteers to join the MIR 100 team. Got some experience with videos and social media? Played with SurveyMonkey? Know your way around Canva or another easy design tool? Great!

No experience? Also great! Just bring your enthusiasm and sense of humor — we'll figure out the rest together.

This is going to be fun, meaningful, and maybe just a little bit legendary.

Join us in making MIR 100 a Rotary success story for the ages!

Interested? Curious? Mildly intrigued?

Come talk to us — we promise not to make you chair a committee. (Yet.)

Our Kick-Off the New Rotary Year Membership Team Meeting is Tuesday, June 24th, Zoom.
Contact Linda Sandlin for Zoom link. Linda@marcorealtysource.com

Enthusiastically, Detlef Rethage, Membership Co-Chair, detlef.rethage@gmail.com

Our Club Shines at Rotary District Events

President Sue, Public Image Chair, Henry Stanley, and District Grant Co-chair John Riley attended the Rotary District Assembly for specialized training. District offers outstanding training opportunities throughout the year.

President Sue, Sunshine Chair and Spirit Auction Chair, Alexandra Diaz, along with Star Volunteer, Myrna Diaz, attended the Rotary District where our club received both the Governor's Award and Public Image Award. Thank you all for representing our club and reaping the benefits of attending these great events.



Rotary Spirit Team in Hawaii

The unbeatable Rotary Spirit Team of Al, Myrna & Alexandra Diaz enjoy



the Aloha Spirit in Hawaii. A well-deserved vacation after a super successful Spirit Awards. Mahalo!

Earth Day Clean Up



The ever energetic, special Friend of Rotary, Rene Ford, led us in an island wide clean up for Earth Day. A big thank you to Rene and all who participated.

Pastor Ed Brandt to be inducted July 17th



Ed Brandt, Senior Pastor of the United Church of Marco Island, and his wife, Jane dancing up a storm at the Spirit Awards Gala. Ed will be transferring his membership from the Rotary Club of Pelican Bay to our Club on July 1st. Kenneth Goodman from the Pelican Bay Club had this to say, "First and foremost, Marco Club is getting a stellar member with Ed." Ed has served churches in Pennsylvania, Delaware, California, Michigan and Florida as well as Chaplain in the Army National Guard for nearly 32 years. Ed stated, "I enjoy meeting people and making things happen!" Welcome aboard, Ed!

Rotary Means Business

By Linda J. Sandlin

Rotary Means Business

Please support these "Service Above Self" Rotary Members and Businesses that Give Back So Much to the Community. Click below for the Rotary Club of Marco Island Noontime's Official Guide:

[For Rotary's Business Guide](#)
[CLICK HERE](#)

Link: [2025 Rotary Means Business Link](#)

Easy Tip for Keeping Your Rotary Info Handy

In order to always have the latest Rotary info at my fingertips I have created a Rotary folder in my Outlook and I keep all our newsletters and other email announcements there along with the latest rosters and Rotary Means Business. That way I always know where to look for the latest details about meetings, events, or how to look up a member's info. Try it- it works! Hugs, Linda

