

Rotary

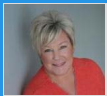
Club of Marco Island



Tuesday, May 6, 2025



Club Leaders



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 E. 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

Mark Your Calendar-May & June Happenings!

Our next in-person meeting is fast approaching! **May 15 at Marco Presbyterian Church**-doors open at 11:30, meeting begins promptly at noon.

As always, a fabulous lunch will be prepared by the one and only Chef Laura.

Please RSVP by noon on May 12:

- <https://www.dacdb.com/Calendar/Event.cfm?EventID=77804587&CalClubID=4327>
- If you prefer, you may email me by replying to this message.

For you over-achievers, you may go to **dacdb, my club**, view the **club calendar**, click on the **May 15 meeting** and register there.

Our speaker is Karna Bodman, (www.karnabodman.com) who will share her experiences as Senior Director of the National Security Council. She is the highest-ranking woman on the Reagan White House staff, which led to her work as an award-winning author.

Be sure to attend to hear the **wrap up** of the incredible Spirit Awards Gala, as well as the latest from **Screenings and Allocations** and the **Scholarship Committee**. Many members have asked for updates on the good we are doing in our local community and around the globe.

June 5th- Note special In-Person Luncheon Meeting at Marco Presbyterian Church. 11:30 social time. Noon- formal meeting begins Super Rotarian, John Smarge, will be the guest speaker and you do not want to miss this. He is awesome!

Don't forget, the **Club Celebration- The Magic of Rotary 2024-25 takes place on June 19** aboard the Marco Island Princess-details **to follow very soon. Sign up with Jennifer Tenney. You don't want to miss this- it will be a blast!**

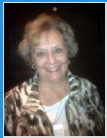
Jonathan Wright- our newest Member



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
Wright
Club
Webmaster



Jonathan Wright was inducted into our Rotary family April 3rd and he has already been one of our super stars for the Spirit Awards running the AV and assisting Audrina with Better Unite website plus every odd job he was needed for!. Thank you Jonathan.

Jonathan grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. His mom taught music in High School and his dad specialized in IT. Thus he developed a love for music at an early age, but was especially interested in what goes into making music and what is behind the scenes, audio engineering to be specific. Pursuing his passion, Jonathan achieved degrees in music production, mass communications and business management.

Wright began his professional career touring over 20 countries as mixing engineer for various musical acts. He has worked for Paramount and a number of large entertainment corporations in the roles of production and general manager. In addition Jonathan started his own production company for non-profits which he later sold. Throughout his career he has always volunteered at the churches he attended and offered live event production free for charitable fundraising events. He said discovering "service above self" was transformational for him in his life.

Other interests for Wright include history and philosophy, concerts, theater, running, biking, good food and sporting events. He just moved to Florida from California this January and is now Technical Director for the Marco Presbyterian Church. Jonathan said that he joined Rotary as a way to connect with and serve the community. He is a perfect match for our Rotary culture and service goals. Welcome aboard Jonathan!

New Member, Henry Stanley, Shines Brightly in Service

Henry Stanley takes over as our New Public Image Chair. Any time you have ideas for a story and/or photos to demonstrate the good that our club does in the community and world please contact Henry.

Email: henrystanley@prodigy.net

He will take our club's image to a new level with his impressive

background in Advertising, Public Relations and Communications. Thank you Henry!



Alexandra Diaz, new member, shines as Spirit Awards Silent Auction Chair !



Alexandra did an amazing job as Spirit Awards Silent Auction Chair soliciting donations and creating beautiful baskets. Thank you also to volunteers Dianne Hamberg, Anabela Fernandes and Myrna Diaz who helped create the baskets as well as the great set up crew.

Audrina Flowers & Gala Floral Arrangements



Audrina Flowers, our Club Webmaster, along with co-chair new member Jonathan Wright, took the Spirit Gala to a new level of technology with the Better Unite website. Reservations and Sponsorships were handled online making Check In and Check Out a much better experience for our guests. In addition, Audrina headed up a team from the Garden Club who provided the most spectacular flower arrangements ever. Thank you Audrina and MI Garden Club!

Our Deb Henry Honored with Spirit Award at Gala



President Sue Haviland awards our very deserving club member and friend, Deb Henry, with the 2025 Spirit Award at the April 26th Elegant Garden Party Gala. Deb is a member of the Marco Island City Council. She was recognized at the Gala with a Spirit Award for her extensive volunteer work in the community. The person who nominated her commented; "Deb is not someone who delegates and sits back. She is someone who does, someone who sees needs, and rushes to fill them with compassion and good humor. It is impossible to come away from an encounter with her without smiling as she lifts those around her."

You will find Deb everywhere volunteering. Upcoming she will volunteer for Josh the Otter and she wanted to remind us that the [USPS](#) and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) are hosting their annual "[Stamp Out Hunger](#)" food drive on Saturday, May 10th. Letter carriers will be collecting non-perishable food donations from residents' mailboxes during their regular mail delivery. Deb will be helping out with the collections.

Pastor Ed Brandt to join our Club July 1st



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!"

Dianne Hamberg & Truist Support the Spirit Gala



New member, Dianne Hamberg and Truist Bank not only supported the Rotary Spirit Gala with their sponsorship but Dianne also helped create the beautiful Silent Auction baskets. Welcome aboard Dianne.

New Member Bonnie Knab Volunteers for Everything

Bonnie Knab and husband John manned the 50/50 Table at the Spirit Awards Elegant Garden Gala. Along with Myrna Diaz and Prem Advani greeting guests, the 50/50 netted \$640 to the club for "Doing Good in the Community and the World." Bonnie also recently participated in the Rotary/ YMCA Earth Day partnership. If you are looking for a volunteer, Bonnie is your gal!



New Member Karyn Brooks, Club Historian, needs our help!



Calling all long-time Rotarians! If you have any historical information or photos related to our club please contact me. I am working on a special Club History Project and I need your help. If you have a favorite memorable moment in Rotary with our club, please email me at kbrooksie23@gmail.com.

You can stay anonymous, keep the story with our historian's archival material, or allow me to share it in a future newsletter. Please be sure to mention your choice in the email. Thank you, Karyn Brooks

Spirit Gala Chair & MC Par Excellence, Al Diaz

Al, Myrna & Alexandra Diaz- 3 Star Spirit Awards Gala leaders relax and recover in Hawaii!!



Audrina Fernandes Greets Guests at our Luncheon Meetings

We all look forward to Anabela's beautiful smile greeting us and checking us in at our Club Luncheons. Thank you Anabela! Be sure to sign up for the upcoming May 15th luncheon with President Sue.



Scholarship Committee Update from Durell

Scholarship Screening segment of our committee; Pat E, Tyler C, and Tom M, met to review the twenty-five applications we received this year. At the January meeting of our full committee we agreed this year to expand our regional guidelines to include any student attending one of the four schools we support. Those four schools are: Marco Island Academy, Lely High School, St John Neuman High School and Everglade City School. While we certainly give consideration to the student's academic and service achievements our major focus is financial need. By expanding our regional guidelines most of the applications received showed significant financial need.



After much consideration and debate we chose eight students to proceed to the interview phase of our process. Two students are from MIA, five from LHS and 1 from SJN. The final interview team includes Michelle R, Jim R, and George A. More reports on Scholarship recipient to follow in future newsletters.

We received one Vocation School application and awarded that student a \$2,000 One Year Grant.

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](#)

Opportunities to Serve from Diane Opelt

By Diane Opelt

Keep collecting those glasses and sunglasses and bringing them to our in person meetings. It's an easy way to transform the life of a less fortunate Mexican. Thanks to Barry Essig, (Diane Opelt's husband), we have a new donation location for eyeglasses for Mexico; Marsh Cove Dental and Implant Center on Collier Blvd in Naples!! Thank you Marsh Cove Dental!

Email me at: Diane@dianeopelt.com or give me a shout at 508. 397. 6377.



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

