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Ann Krause President 2023-24

## President-Elect-Charles Reith attends Florida P.E.T.S

**P**enny Nurukka Reith and I had a wonderful weekend in Orlando where I received President's elect training and Penny participated in the partners program. I coached myself to embrace the training and associated sociality with an open mind. That I did and my empty cup was richly filled.

I learned a great deal about Rotary, both logistically, intellectually, and intuitively. I learned that one important philosophy is to create meaningful opportunities for the members -- to make membership memorable -- and the club's power as an instrument of service will arise naturally. The President attends with both heart and mind to the interests and needs of the members and thereby elevates the club to its highest standard of performance. I also learned some mechanics, budgeting, and so forth. But, most important, I got to meet or spend time with some of the most wonderful Rotarians who bring such inspirational passion to their job. Of course I spent a great deal of time with Barry Levinson, the foundational person in our club and Area Governor who you can see pinning me with my proudly received graduation pin, as well as with our District Governor Kelsey Mitchell and also our district dog, who's a cutie with a broken foot.

The real treat at the end of the conference was to hear the remarks of past Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. Madam President Emeritus gave a wonderful speech and then, thrillingly the next day, made an intimate appearance in our breakout session. After Penny and I checked out, we were walking to our car when I mentioned to Penny that if I were a little less shy, I would have approached Jennifer to express my admiration for her work, including some phenomenal service in Afghanistan that she showed a video of. Around the corner we went and there she was! We chatted with her for 5 minutes, received her trademark Rotarian hug, and posed for the photo that you see below. So I missed a lot in Sarasota this weekend and I'm grateful to those who carried the load on the Jacaranda Microforest. But I will say that Penny and I had a very rewarding experience with Rotary and I feel primed and privileged to commence my presidency in July, following on the footsteps of an excellent president in her own right, Ann Krause.



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Club #4340

District 6960



# GENERAL SESSION & DISTRICT 6960 BRAKE OUT ROOM





# KEYNOTE SPEAKER RI PAST PRESIDENT – JENNIFER JONES

