

ROTARY CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH NEWS

JAN. 23, 2025

2024-25 Leadership

RI President Stephanie A. Urchick
District 6960 Governor Kelsey Sola
Club President Lang Woodydy

THIS WEEK

District 6960 Governor **Kelsey Sola** grew up in Naperville, Illinois, and moved to Florida in 2006. She is the loving mother of Audrey and Brooks and the proud owner of The Classic Luxury Network, brokered by Keller Williams Realty. Kelsey is passionate about real estate, marketing, technology and helping her community. Kelsey started her Rotary journey as the vice president of the Rotaract Club of Naples and was its Rotarian of the Year in 2014-15. From there she was the Rotary Club of Fort Myers South's Satellite Club chair, grew the club and eventually became charter president of the Rotary Club of Fort Myers Sunset. She was named as District 6960's Rookie of the Year for 2015-16. Kelsey transferred to the Bonita Beach Sunset club in 2020. She is a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, served as the district's Peacebuilding Exchange chair and Internship chair, and was an Assistant Rotary Public Image Coordinator for three years for Georgia, Southwest Florida, Tampa and Orlando. Kelsey was instrumental in coordinating District Disaster Relief efforts following Hurricane Ian.



Kelsey Sola

PROGRAMS

JAN. 23

AT LAKEWOOD RANCH COUNTRY CLUB
DISTRICT GOVERNOR KELSEY SOLA'S OFFICIAL VISIT

JAN. 30

AT TARA COUNTRY CLUB
TOMMY GREGORY, PRESIDENT, STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

FEB. 6

LOCATION TBD
SUSAN COURTER AND BARB SPANGLER, WALK FOR WATER AND CLEAN WATER PROJECTS

FEB. 13

AT LAKEWOOD RANCH COUNTRY CLUB
CLUB ASSEMBLY

FEB. 20

LOCATION TBD
EVAN BARNISKIS, ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, MOTE AQUARIUM

[Click here to join Zoom meetings at noon Thursdays.](#)
Meeting ID: 289 101 885
Password: 907278

LAST WEEK

We welcomed two dynamic women from the Tidewell Foundation. **Megan Wenger**, senior philanthropy advisor, and **Jenna Lank**, the Blue Butterfly School Bereavement advocate. They talked to us about the Blue Butterfly program, which provides support to children in Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties who are grieving the death of someone. See more [here](#).

CHECK OUT LWR ROTARY!



On Jan. 16, Jennifer Fretz's ticket was selected, but she did not draw the queen of hearts. There are 47 cards in the deck and the pot is \$158. Good luck!

CALENDAR

Jan. 29: Club board meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. at the Law Offices of Najmy-Thompson, 6320 Venture Drive, Lakewood Ranch; meetings are usually the last Wednesday of each month. Attend via Zoom by [clicking here](#). Info: President **Lang Woodydy** at lang66@comcast.net.

Feb. 8: Rotary Leadership Institute Parts 1, 2 and 3 and Master Class: Global Grant Writer Certification at 8:15 a.m. at Woodland Middle School, 2700 Panacea Blvd., Nort Port. Register on DACdb. Upon completion, our club reimburses the \$100 fee to you. (See Page 9 for reasons you should attend.)

Feb. 8: Parrish Under the Stars train ride, hosted by the Manatee River club; see Page 7.

Feb. 11: Club happy hour social; see Page 3 for details.

Feb. 15: Celebrate Your Legacy Gala for The Rotary Foundation from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Plantation Golf & Country Club, Venice. Registration is \$95 a person and closes Feb. 9 on DACdb.

Feb. 15: Comedy Night hosted by the Bradenton club; see Page 8.

March 6: Save the date for our club's Books For Kids volunteer appreciation luncheon.

March 15: Our club hosts a social aboard the Marina Jack II; see details on Page 3 and register on DACdb.

March 27: Save the date for our club's Suncoast Food & Wine Fest grant awards luncheon.

April 12: Save the date for Rotary Leadership Institute Parts 1, 2 and 3 and Graduate Courses in North Port; registration details coming soon on DACdb.



Take just a minute to read about Rotary

If you like to read inspiring short-form content about Rotary, consider visiting The Rotarian Minute Group Facebook page found [here](#). Rotarian **Brocart Jean-Claude** posted the graphic show above on Facebook, but you can read all Rotarian Minutes online by visiting the page [here](#).



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Kelli Dixon 1/2
Daniel Gibbons 1/7
Barry Sukoneck 1/9
Paul Steberger 1/15
Rob Thomas 1/16
Joe Fabrizio 1/21
Jeff Pick 1/22
Terry Speer 1/22
Pres Olinger 1/23
Jim McFarland 1/28
Joan Frey 1/30

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Brian Berry and Nancy Janus 1/6
Mark and Linda Midyett 1/20

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Carl and Kay Baldwin 1/1/13 (honorary)
Mark Midyett 1/1/17
Steve Schlueter 1/1/17
18 previous years in Rotary
Pam Schlueter 1/1/17
11 previous years in Rotary
Gena Martin 1/1/20
Dan McAllister 1/5/12
11 previous years in Rotary
Barb Spangler 1/5/23
13 previous years in Rotary
Chris Fehr 1/5/23
Nora White 1/6/22
Susan Hubbell 1/26/17
Angelo Tramontelli 1/26/23
John Freeman 1/31/08
Ted Lindenberg 1/31/08

WEEKLY ADMIN VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Please let Ryan Brems know if you need to make any changes.

JAN. 23

Front Desk – Ryan Brems
Queen of Hearts – Helen Spence
Greeters – Ron Myers
and Paul Hoenle

JAN. 30

Front Desk – Marie Thompson
Queen of Hearts – Dan Gibbons
Greeters – Daniel Rosen and
Barbara Jones

FEB. 6

Front Desk – Marie Thompson
Queen of Hearts – Mark Midyett
Greeters – Govind Singh
and Mark Golub

President's Corner



LANG WOODY

Club President 2024-2025

Greetings!

On Monday, we celebrated the birthday, life and legacy of a great American, Martin Luther King Jr. Having grown up during the 1950s and '60s, I have a deep appreciation of the challenges MLK Jr. faced during his brief, meteoric life (he was 39 when he was assassinated). He was truly an agent of change and the impact of his ideas on racial equality and nonviolent protest affect our society even today. The fact that he is the only non-President American to have a national holiday named for them speaks volumes about his importance to who and what we are in this country. Keeping politics, race and religion out of it, here are a few interesting facts about MLK Jr.:

- His birth name was Michael, not Martin Luther. His father changed it after a trip to Europe where he learned about Martin Luther.
- He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 at 35, the youngest recipient to date.
- He started college when he was 15, skipping two years



of high school.

- He was placed behind bars almost 30 times, some on very frivolous charges.

- He survived an assassination attempt a decade before his death; he was stabbed in the chest with a letter opener by a disturbed woman.

- His mother was killed by a gunshot while playing the organ in a Sunday worship service.

- Almost 1,000 streets in the U.S. are named after MLK.

And there is a great deal more to learn. Truly a great statesman and American.

This week's meeting is very special. We are honored to greet **Kelsey Sola**, the governor of District 6960. She will update us on activities in the district and how we are dealing with challenges and opportunities locally and in the world of Rotary. We hope to have her at the Ranch early so you will have a chance to say hello. Please attend if you can so we can give Kelsey a FUN! welcome!

See you Thursday at the Ranch!

Let's Go!
Lang

Don't miss socializing opportunities with fellow Rotarians

Happy hour social gathering at Waterside

Registration is not needed for the Thirsty Tuesday social from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, on the patio at Deep Lagoon, 1540 Lakefront Drive, at Waterside, Lakewood Ranch. Come before 5 to order off the small bites menu, or order off the regular menu at any time.

Sunset cruise aboard the Marina Jack II

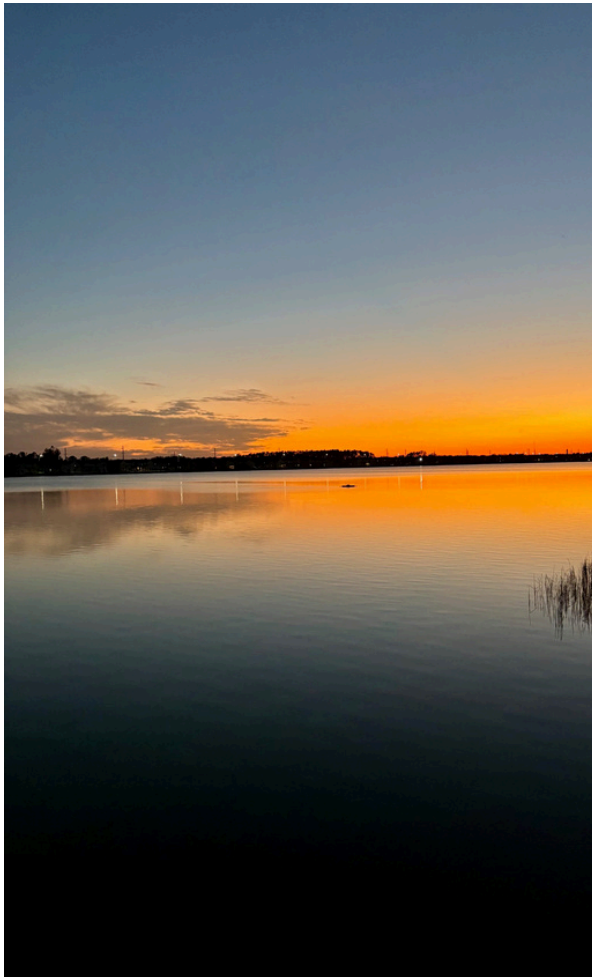
One of the social highlights of the year for our club is the dinner cruise aboard the Marina Jack II. The cruise will be from 7 to 9 p.m. March 15; boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. at the dock, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota, FL 34236. We will have the upper deck exclusively for our club to mingle inside and on the outside deck. The cost is \$70 per person and includes the buffet dinner, tax and tip. There will be a cash bar. [Registration is on DACdb.](#)

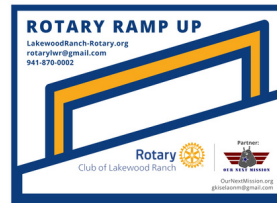


Sunset aboard the Marina Jack II

If you have questions about attending either the happy hour or the sunset cruise, please contact club member **Linda Jaekel Avery** at 941-376-1375. or linda.avery60@gmail.com.

Scenes from Thirsty Tuesday on Jan. 14





Supporting veterans with Our Next Mission

Our Next Mission with the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch's support is rebuilding the carports and utility rooms on several of our mobile homes that were damaged during the fall storms. Photos on this page show the work being done by our volunteers at Pescara Lake in Bradenton on one of our mobile homes that suffered significant damage. We are using a new design with a wooden framework on the carport/utility room. This new framing is significantly stronger, withstanding up to a CAT 2 storm, than the standard aluminum used in the past. This design was developed by one of our great volunteers and will hopefully minimize future repairs!

If you would like to join in on these efforts let me know at terry.byce@verizon.net or 703-627-7765. Our work hours are normally 7:30 to 11:30 am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Any time that you donate is appreciated. Lakewood Ranch Rotarian volunteers on these renovations have been **Russ Sexton**, **Bob Bidwell** (visiting from Denver Rotary Club) and **Ethan Wolfson**.

We didn't quite finish the carport on a recent work day, but we are very close. Metal for the roof was delivered and is ready to be screwed down. This final step is like putting the icing on the cake. The utility room was completed and the veteran, after three months, is finally able to use his washer and dryer. This is a very big deal when you are in your late 80s and have sight issues!

When we finish this unit, we are heading down the street to Unit 63 in Pescara Lake. All of the lessons learned on Unit 74 using the new design will be applied to this unit. FEMA is also back in business and is starting to inspect and fund some of the repairs. This is very good news.

— Submitted by **Terry Byce**, Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch Veterans Issues Committee chair



Cleft lip and Palate Repair and The RI Foundation Endowment SHARE Program: An Opportunity to Support Meaningful Projects Forever – by Al Taricco



Put simply, no child and family should suffer the health consequences, indignities, and social stigma associated with cleft lip and palate when corrective surgery can make such a difference in their lives. There have been many focused trips by dedicated medical professionals to perform surgical repair on children in places like Peru, India, Venezuela, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and many other locations. These trips have changed the lives of thousands of children and their families.

Knowing this, how else can we help? What can we do as Rotarians to bring some focus to the global cleft lip and palate problem and expand the great work already done in this area?

We have many options! Global grants, surgical missions, direct contributions to specific projects and many other ways to have an impact on this important issue.

How else can we help?

Did you know that it is also possible to create an Endowment-SHARE fund at the Rotary Foundation? Endowment-SHARE funds can't be designated for a particular purpose like cleft lip and palate repair, but they do have some appealing advantages that continue to yield results into perpetuity.

With an SHARE Endowment Fund, the initial investment and all subsequent contributions generate annual earnings available to our District every year – forever.

These proceeds are in the form of District Designated Funds (DDF) that the District manages and may be applied to global grants that support the endowment donor's preferred area of focus.

Here's an example:

My wife **Maureen** and I established a Rotary Foundation Endowment-SHARE Fund with the hope that proceeds from the fund will be applied by our District to any approved district cleft lip and palate global grant actively seeking funds. This year, there are four global grants where the endowment earnings may be applied by the District.

For any given year, the earnings available for global grants is a function of the size of the endowment. If you'd like to learn more about cleft lip and palate, contact me and if you'd like to contribute to the Endowment-SHARE fund and build the base of the endowment that will generate funds in perpetuity, please contact Lakewood Ranch Rotary Club Foundation Chair **Doug Smoot** for more information.

How to Donate

1. If you have an RMD, use it to qualify for a Charitable Donation. It is tax-deductible and avoids using your checking account needed for daily expenses.
2. Any donation using the Rotary Foundation Contribution Form (found on MyRotary.org) has spaces for specific numbers. The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch club number is 55320. Use this as it credits the club as a leader in cleft donations.
3. The second number is to identify the Fund. The ID number is E 20732.
4. Keep in mind that not only are donations tax-deductible, whether by using your RMD, checkbook or credit card, but they also count for Paul Harris contributions.



PARRISH

*Under
the
Stars*



Saturday, February 8th, 2025

All Aboard 5:30pm

Meet at the Florida Railroad Museum, 12210 83rd St E., Parrish, FL 34219

START THE EVENING WITH A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE AS YOU AWAIT A TRAIN
RIDE AT THE FAMOUS FLORIDA RAILROAD MUSEUM IN PARRISH...

ENJOY THE SITES AND SOUNDS OF A HISTORIC TRAIN WHILE YOU ARE TAKEN
TO THE MAIN EVENT...

HERE WE WILL CELEBRATE IN A BEAUTIFUL OUTDOOR SETTING WITH LIVE
MUSIC, DANCING, WINE AND CRAFT BEER TASTINGS, DELICIOUS AND SAVORY
HORS D'OEUVRES, DELIGHTFULLY DIVINE DESSERTS, ALL INCLUDED!

***IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A RAFFLE WITH AMAZING PRIZES!

Tickets are available to purchase through: Eventbrite at the QR code below,
visit [Facebook.com/ManateeRiverRotary](https://www.facebook.com/ManateeRiverRotary), Rotary Members, or you can
mail a check to: P.O. Box 495, Bradenton, FL 34206

Tickets are \$100 per person
For questions call (941) 962-4686 or
manateeriverrotary@gmail.com



Scan the QR code for
tickets or more info!
<https://parrishtrain2025.eventbrite.com>

BRADENTON ROTARY 16TH ANNUAL

Comedy Night

CELEBRATING 99 YEARS OF
BRADENTON SERVICE

SPONSORSHIPS WITH
TICKETS AVAILABLE
SEE OTHER SIDE

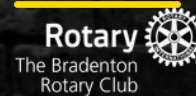
SATURDAY FEB 15TH 7PM
TICKETS \$61.50 + \$5 ARTS CENTER FEE
PURCHASE TICKETS 941-748-7458



GID POOL



**DR. VIEN
PHOMMACHANH**



PROCEEDS SUPPORT
CLUB PROJECTS

**LIVE
AUCTION**

LOCATION: MANATEE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

502 3RD AVE. WEST BRADENTON

BRADENTON ROTARY FOUNDATION IS A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION



The event "Comedy Night" aims to bring funds to support Bradenton Rotary Foundation. Funds raised will support Bradenton Club's projects for local community and non-profit organizations. Sponsorship opportunities:

Personal sponsor - \$500 · You will receive 4 (four) tickets.

Corporate Level I - \$1,000 · Your business logo/name will be visible on our website for three months. · You will receive 4 (four) tickets. · Your business logo/ name will be printed in the event program.

Corporate Level II - \$2,000 · Your business logo/name will be visible on our website for six months. · You will receive 8 (eight) tickets. · Your name will be printed in the event program. · We will promote your business on our Facebook page. · Your business logo/ name will be printed in the event program.

Corporate Level III - \$4,000 · Your business logo/name will be visible on our website for twelve months. · You will receive 12 (twelve) tickets. · We will promote your business on our Facebook page. · We will feature a story about your business on our Facebook page. · Your business logo/ name will be printed in the event program. · The poster of your business will be displayed at the venue and a "Thank You" recognition will be announced from the stage.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Cathy Golson at cjgolson@charter.net or call 864-934-5996.



Mission Statement

The Rotary Leadership Institute is a grassroots, multi-district leadership development program whose mission is to strengthen Rotary clubs through quality leadership education.



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela



What are people saying about RLI courses?

- "I found the day very informative and fun."
- "The program was very well planned and presentations (leaders) were excellent."
- "A very effective seminar."
- "Enjoyed the focus on the chosen issues—great interaction."
- "I have learned quite a bit about leadership qualities and the "nuts and bolts" of Rotary."
- "I definitely learned a lot from today's leadership training that will be beneficial to my club—instructors were all great."
- "I loved swapping ideas with Rotarians from other clubs"

Go to the calendar in DACdb to register for our next event

RLI is a recommended program, but not an official program, of Rotary International.



The Rotary Leadership Institute

INTERNATIONAL RLI

Established Spring 1992

www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org

Why we need The Rotary Leadership Institute

The success or failure of a Rotary Club depends on the quality of club leadership. Often, poor club leadership is the primary cause of membership losses. Because of the annual turnover of club officers, Rotary needs a constant influx of knowledgeable Rotarians who have the leadership skills necessary to move a club forward. It is difficult to learn enough about the exciting world of Rotary with its more than 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Furthermore, leadership skills in a voluntary organization are often different from business leadership skills. RLI provides an opportunity for quality Rotary education that is usually not otherwise available.

What is the philosophy of RLI?

RLI believes that having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must ALSO have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now going and a vision of what Rotary can be.

What is the "recommended curriculum"?

The curriculum is divided into three parts, generally taken on 3 separate days. RLI also recommends a program of graduate seminars for those who have completed the three basic Parts. Since the founding of RLI, the curriculum has been continually reviewed, updated and revised as the result of experience and the evaluations of the attendees.

What are the teaching methods?

The Institute believes in course sessions with as much discussion/participation as possible. Course methods include discussion groups, role-playing, problem solving workshops and creating projects. Everyone participates during one of the Institute's sessions. Course materials including session outlines, the daily program, faculty listings and resource materials are provided to all participants.

Who are the faculty?

Faculty members are carefully selected for their teaching abilities. Many are present and past district governors, presidents and those with experience in special areas. Each new faculty member must attend a full day training program and various periodic reorientation programs. The results of course evaluations help to improve the course content and instruction.

Who should attend RLI courses?

Although any Rotarian may attend RLI courses, RLI recommends that Rotary Clubs encourage Rotarians who have the potential for future club leadership, not necessarily as club presidents, to attend. The ideal candidate is early in their Rotary career, has a strong interest, and is prepared to be exposed to the larger world of Rotary outside of the club. Clubs typically pay the fees for their members attending the courses.

What are the costs?

Each course is currently charged at \$100, and includes tea or coffee, lunch, tuition and all course materials.

What is an RLI division?

For administrative purposes, RLI creates "divisions" that may consist of one or more Rotary districts, countries, zones, etc. Each division works with RLI to arrange course schedules, set policies, and handle finances. Each division pays modest dues to RLI. Divisions are formed by written agreements signed by district governors and RLI officers. RLI has divisions/districts in every Continent of the world except Antarctica.

Should our club participate?

This is an outstanding opportunity for each club to improve the Rotary knowledge of its key people, who will also be exposed to new ideas while creating relationships with members of other clubs. The exchange of ideas alone makes the courses worthwhile, and membership retention is improved.



Why attend RLI?

1. Gain **knowledge** about Rotary and The Rotary Foundation.
2. Learn practices that have helped other clubs **succeed** (and those that haven't).
3. Become a better leader and a **better Rotarian**.
4. **Make friends** with Rotarians from around the district.
5. Have **FUN!**

