

Rotary

Club of Riverside Jacksonville



Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance/Riverside Five: Drew Story



**Riverside Rotary Meets
at Timuquana C.C.
4028 Timuquana Rd.
7:30 am, Wednesdays**

Club Scales 50-Member Plateau

For the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic, Riverside Rotary's roster has climbed north of the 50-member plateau with the induction of three new Rotarians at last week's breakfast meeting.

By now, it has become well-established that a three-year pandemic can wreak havoc on a civic club's numbers. Riverside Rotary has been no exception, as the club's membership, which several years ago exceeded 70, at one point fell to below 40.

But thanks to dedicated work by the Membership Committee, chaired over several years by Drew Story, Chris Eidson and Casey Bulgin, the club has gradually regrouped, exchanging departures for arrivals of quality new members. Fully 26 current members joined the club after the March 2020 arrival of the COVID scourge.

Joining Riverside March 5, Josh Sale, Ellen Ball and Steven Hughes have all entered the club with the promise of a long and productive Rotary tenure.

Steven, who has compiled a 30-year career with and currently serves as director of operations at CMC Steel of Jacksonville, was attracted to our club by last year's Flags for Heroes Memorial Day display at Memorial Park. He and wife Kathy are parents to two grown offspring. His Rotary classification is Manufacturing, and his club sponsors are Casey Bulgin and Chris Eidson.

Ellen, whose sponsor is Marisol Harrell, joins husband Jack as Riverside's first family members. Essentially, the couple is sharing a Rotary membership, enabling either member to attend club events while the other takes care of their growing young family. Ellen is a family law attorney, who has lived in Jacksonville for 14 years, the past seven as bride to Jack. Their household includes two young kids and a pair of canines. Her classification is Legal-Litigation.

Josh, who was introduced to Rotary by sponsors Matt Worsham and Drew Story, is sales and shopping manager for 3 Rivers Nursery. He has compiled 23 years' experience in the nursery industry and transportation/logistics specialty. He is married to Rebecca and enters the club under the classification of Agriculture, Farming, Fish, and Forestry.



**This Week's Program:
Bill Warner - 'Spina
Bifida'**

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance founder Bill Warner's scheduled return engagement with Riverside Rotary – he hosted the club for an offsite meeting to experience his vintage cars collection in August 2023 – became a victim of Jacksonville's rare winter "storm," Jan. 15. Fortunately, we were able to reschedule the renowned automotive enthusiast and philanthropist and his presentation on spina bifida for this week.

Spina bifida occurs when the spine fails to close properly during early

pregnancy, often leading to lifelong challenges and need for specialized medical care. Bill's passion for raising awareness and supporting individuals with spina bifida is a personal one – his own granddaughter was born with the condition.

As an advocate and supporter of Spina Bifida Jacksonville, Bill is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by this challenging birth defect, which currently impacts an estimated 166,000 individuals across the nation.

Upcoming



March 12

Board meeting

8:30-9:30 am

Timuquana CC

All members welcome!

March 19

No breakfast meeting

Offsite meeting/Social

5:30-7:30 pm

Intuition Ale Works

929 E Bay St.

Bring a guest!

March 26

Weekly meeting

Speakers: Flags for



New Rotarians and sponsors group up for induction photo. From left: Casey Bulgin, Steven Hughes, Matt Worsham, Josh Sale, Ellen Ball and Marisol Harrell.

PETS Weekend Launches Club Planning for 2025-26

From Feb. 28 through March 2, President-elect Marisol Harrell joined other incoming 2025-26 Rotary presidents from throughout the Sunshine State at the annual All Florida President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in Orlando. With the benefit of that weekend full of Rotary leadership guidance, she is now at work assembling her goals, leadership team, budget, and committees for her 12-month tenure commencing July 1.

She writes, "As the club's 2025-26 leadership prepares for the upcoming year, we encourage all members to review our committees and provide their top preferences for participation. While we will do our best to honor requests, please note all Riverside Rotarians will be assigned to at least one committee to ensure our club's continued success. Please reach out to me by May 1 with your choice(s) to serve on one or more of the committees below."

Beerfest – Oversees the planning and execution of our signature fundraiser, the Riverside Craft Beer Festival, ensuring its continued success.

Flags for Heroes – Organizes and carries out the club's Memorial Day weekend flags display fundraiser at Riverside Memorial Park.

Foundation – Supports The Rotary Foundation and club charitable efforts, including grant opportunities.

Membership – Focuses on recruiting, retaining and engaging members to strengthen our club.

Public Image – Manages the club's marketing, social media, and public relations efforts to increase visibility and

Heroes Committee
"Building on a Really Good Start"
Invocator: Walker Taylor

Birthdays

Dale Orr - March 20
Bill Lewis - March 24
John Ball - March 31

Quotable
"For the whole world is Irish on the 17th o' March!" — *Thomas Augustine Daly*

promote our impact.

Service – Plans and executes local and international service projects, supporting our mission of making a difference in the community.

Social – Organizes fun and engaging events to foster fellowship among members and enhance club camaraderie.

In Honor of St. Patrick's Day, March 17...

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish whiskey." Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Again, Paddy looked heavenward and said, "Never mind, I found one."



Marisol with Area 6 Assistant Governor Gerry Kelley at PETS.

Club Leadership



[Eric Sherman](#)
President



[Marisol Harrell](#)
President-Elect
Programs Chair
Beer Festival Chair



[Fields Harris](#)
Treasurer



[Josh Richard](#)
Secretary



[Tim Friedl](#)
Foundation Chair



[Zach Montford](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Drew Story](#)
Parliamentarian



[Tim Gaskin](#)
iPast President



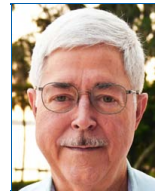
[Nick Pulignano](#)
Jaguars Chair



[Casey Bulgin](#)
Membership Co-Chair



[Chris Eidson](#)
Membership Co-Chair



[Kevin Kuzel](#)
Family of Rotary



[Jack Ball](#)
Social Chair



[Tim Ware](#)
Public Image Chair



[Peyton Wickenden](#)
Service Projects Chair



[Brent Ross](#)
Board Member at Large