

Rotary

DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE



Club Meeting

Downtown
Gainesville
Meets at Gator
Docksides
3842 Newberry
Road
Gainesville, FL
32607
Time: Wednesday
at 12:00 PM

Club Leaders



Brett
Buell
President



Diane
Marie
Robar
President-
Elect
Vice
President



William S.
Combs
Treasurer



Leslie W.
Wooten
Secretary



Michael
Ekbladh
Sergeant-
at-Arms



Stephanie
Esposito
iPast
President



Shelby
Bobbett
Club
Director



Marta M.
Hartmann
Club
Director



Megan
Olson
Club
Director



Jim
"Jimbo"
E. Skiles
III
Club
Director
Speaker
Chair

Welcome

***Welcome to the
Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville***



Four Way Test

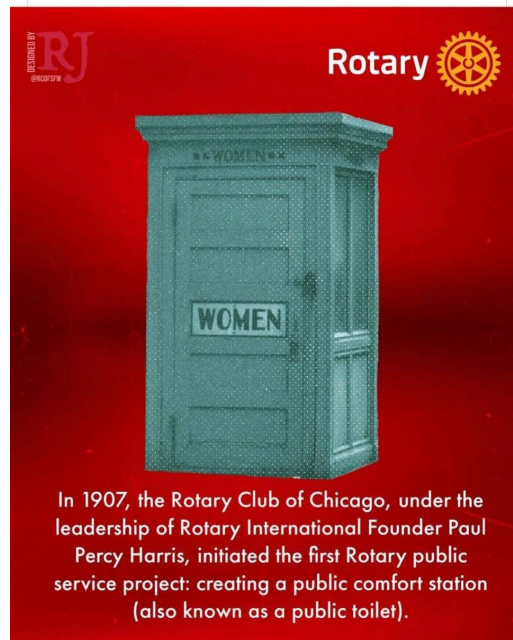


Rotary theme for March



Did you know..

Did you know that Rotary's first service project focused on WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene)? In 1907, the Rotary Club of Chicago conducted its first service project by installing a public lavatory.



Speakers for the month

MARCH SPEAKERS provided by Pradeep Kumar

March 5th Craft talks

March 12th Danaya Wright, Law Professor

March 19th Eric Deumens, Director Research Computing, speaking on AI

March 26th: Harvey Ward, Mayor

This week's lunch

Lunch Link



What's for LUNCH?

We will be meeting at **Gators Dockside, 3842 W. Newberry Road** .

Lunch link below. After reviewing the possible lunch options, use the "choose" drop down menu to make your selection.

Note: Your order will be a number between 1-14

Orders must be submitted by 9 AM Wednesday. Please note: We will not be able modify lunch items at this time.

PLEASE READ:: Mary is our waitress at Dockside. In an effort to deliver the lunches in a more timely way, she is going to set lunches out earlier with your name tag next to the lunch you ordered. You do not have to sit where she happens to place your lunch; you can move to another seat, if you'd like. She would like to see if this system of lunch delivery might enable her to get the lunches out more quickly.

Lunch link <https://forms.gle/F1uYD8GB8ZrAv33k8>

See you Wednesday!

March birthdays



Haydee Britton
March 2nd

Clay Martin
March 3rd

Stephanie Esposito
March 19th

Billy Combs
March 20th

YOU READY FOR OUR WILD GAME FEAST ?

40th Annual Rotary Wild Game Feast 2025

**Thursday, March 6, 2025.
it's here!!**

**Do you have your tickets yet?? LAST CHANCE to buy them for \$85 will be 5
pm Wednesday .
tickets price after that time will be \$100**

CLUB MEMBER BILLY BRAME HAS FEAST AND RAFFLE TICKETS!! CASH, CHECK or CARD accepted. If you don't catch him at a meeting, please contact him at 352 538 7099 or billybrame@aol.com for tickets!

AND don't forget about the **Adventure for Two** Raffle Tickets

Winner will receive two roundtrip airfares and one week's accommodation to a location of your choice in Western Europe, Iceland, Hawaii or Alaska . Raffle tickets are \$25 each! The contest is sponsored by Southeast Car Agency and the winner must take his or her trip within one calendar year of the date of the drawing.?

Thank you to the over 1,450 attendees who made the 2024 Wild Game Feast an amazing success and to the Wild Game Feast sponsors who continue to be very generous in their support of this community event.



Rotary



The Rotary Clubs of Gainesville invite you to
The 40th Wild Game Feast
6th March 2025 at 5pm
Conservation Area at Hatchet Creek

\$85.00 per ticket**

Proceeds go to 3 great LOCAL projects

Girls Place, Inc. —a new playground

**Catholic Charities, Gainesville—new walk-in cooler &
freezer**

**Alachua County Veterans Memorial Committee —a
new flagpole at Veterans Park**



Don't miss out. Ask about tickets now!

Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation has raised over \$3.275 Million! Each year, the proceeds of the Feast are shared with local projects..

Our mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

DON'T FORGET if you buy 5, you get 1 free. Team up with other club members/friends to get this deal! When you split the total cost of 5 tickets among 6 participants, the individual ticket price is \$71.



JOIN FELLOW ROTARIANS FOR OUR ANNUAL COMBINED CLUB EVENT !

AN EVENING OF FOOD! FUN! MUSIC! FELLOWSHIP!



FLORIDA PETS 2025

Rotary does an exceptional job educating the incoming Club Presidents by hosting a 2 day training event. This event is called PETS - President Elect Training Sessions. These sessions are held all over the world for all incoming club Presidents. During the training, the President Elects spend time with fellow PE's, learning the many facets of holding the role of President of their club. It's an extraordinary experience and everyone walks away with a better understanding of all things Rotary and new ideas. And of course, a lot of new friends!

Our PETS was held in Orlando Feb 28th - Mar 2nd. All 8 Florida Districts attended... There were about 600 people, including the incoming 2025-26 President of Rotary International, Mario Cesar Martins de Carmargo





President Elect Mario with our incoming District Governor, Dale Mo. Notice the big red MARIO hat..



Dinners were times for speakers and fellowship



Pictured here are the 2025-26 President Elects for our local clubs. Lynda Reinhart, incoming Area Governor for our Area 1, Bobbi Robinson/Sunrise , Diane Robar / Downtown Gainesville, Kim Clawson, Greater Gainesville , Jon Thomas/Gainesville Rotary and Santa Fe Rotaractor Annia Rufino .



rewarded with ice cream



President Elect Diane getting pinned by AG Lynda for the 2025-26 Rotary year

volunteer opportunity



At our February 26th meeting, Meg Leitzau presented an informative and interesting talk on the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. (CARD). She has extended an invitation to members of our club to assist CARD with an upcoming event:

CARD annually hosts a boot camp for individuals on the spectrum. We work with our group to learn valuable job skills and often include community members in our learning team. We are looking for around six people who would be willing to interview participants during our mock interviews on Wednesday, June 2nd, from 2-4 pm. Of course, I thought of your amazing organization and your kind members, so I am putting out a call for help in hopes that you may have a few people interested in helping. Bootcamp meets at the downtown Santa Fe campus (where there is great free parking!).

Thank you again for the opportunity to present. You were all so welcoming and wonderful!

I had some questions about the event and here are the responses

What will be the age group of the participants ?

The event is open to individuals 18 and up. They must be registered with our CARD center, which means they all have autism or a related disability.

This is an opportunity for both men and women in my club?

Yes, most definitely. All are welcome.

Will there be any type of training ? We want to make sure that we interact appropriately with the "interviewees"

Great question. We'd love the chance to "prep" you beforehand to tell you a little about the participants. We will also share what they have learned, specifically about tips for interviewing. We will provide you with a list of common interview questions (the participants will have seen these beforehand) but you are welcome to also ask other relevant questions. The participants will have the opportunity to practice with CARD staff and with each other before interviewing with members of the Rotary Club.

How many interviews would each of us do?

The average number of participants each year is about 12, give or take. We usually have the participants pair up so that one person is being interviewed and one is observing. That being said, I would expect that you would each do 4-6 interviews, with each interview lasting about 10 minutes or so.

Can we sign up for part of the event or is it a 2 hour commitment?

Sure. If you wanted you could have a few people sign up for the first hour and a few others sign up for the second hour. We will work with your schedule.

If this is something you may be interested in, please let me know during a club meeting, text 352-318-4917 or email dimarieR13@gmail.com. It is a few months away, but we wanted to get the word out to you early.

thanks!

GOC bike day!

By Brett Buell

GOC Bike Day is coming up! We will be leaving from and returning to [First Magnitude Brewing Company](#). Thank you so much to our friends at [Gainesville Cycling Club](#) for helping us promote this event. After the ride, stick around for [Chasing Rabbits](#) until 1pm. Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/GOCBikeDay> Visit Gainesville, Alachua County



Pups & pints

By Jim "Jimbo " E. Skiles III



THANK YOU!



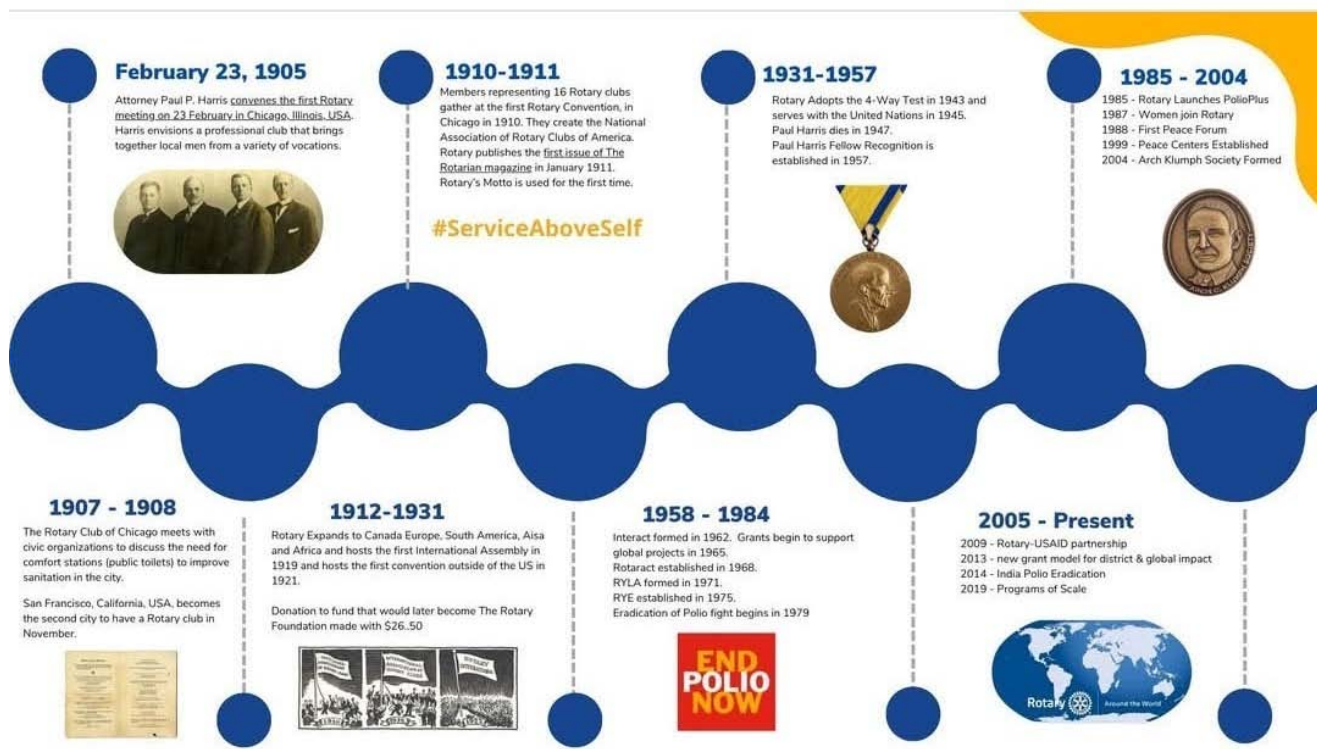
Always an honor to recognize outstanding law enforcement officers with the Officer of the Month awards. On February 19th, we presented the awards to ASO Deputies Carlton Litzkow and Christin DeLuca... thank you both for your continued exemplary service to the citizens of Alachua County. We appreciate you!

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR



March 6	WILD GAME FEAST ((40TH Annual!!!))	4841 NE 118th Drive, Gainesville, FL 32641.
April 5th register 8AM ride 9 AM	GOC Bike Ride 1st magnitude	Brett (352) 872-3232
April 5	DOGS INC (formerly SE Guide Dogs) DAY	Jimbo (352) 538- 0293

In honor of our 120th birthday...



WAG update



At our January 8th meeting, Jacob and Jimbo updated the club on the status of the South Sudan WAG Global Grant. It's a lot of work and there are many, many moving parts to coordinate ... BUT with the support of so many, both in and out of Rotary, we feel confident that his goal will be achieved

PLEASE, if you have not already contributed, it's time to get behind this project and let's make it happen!! Our club is the sponsoring club behind the grant. We hope that every member of the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville will pledge some amount to help us reach our financial goal.

You can make out a check to our club, designating the WAG Grant #GG2460746 in the memo section.

If you would like a charitable receipt, make the check out to the YORK Foundation with the same identifying information so that it is appropriated correctly.

Checks should be sent to
Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

P O Box 358387

Gainesville, FL 32635-8387

THANK YOU for your participation and support!

Emergency Preparedness followup

David Peaton, Asst. Director of Emergency Management for Alachua County Florida, was our speaker at the February 5th meeting. His topic was Emergency Preparedness in Alachua County. In addition to the many useful tips he shared, he also mentioned the following links, which you may find helpful to include on your phone/computer, if you do not already have them:

Alachua County WeatherSTEM units: www.Alachua.Weatherstem.com (8 weather units throughout the county)

Alachua County Ready Emergency Notifications: Text Alachua to 888-777

Alachua County Ready Website: www.alachuacountyready.com

National Weather Service Jacksonville: www.weather.gov/jax

Overall preparedness website: Ready.gov

Downtown Gainesville Rotarians

MEMBER	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF
Walt Barry	1/1/2003	PP 09-10	* PHF4
Shelby Bobbitt	9/21/2022		
Ed Book	2/1/2009	PP 13-14 AG 1,2,AG	* BR PHF2
Billy Brame	7/1/1976	PP (RCGG)	* PHF+6
David Bridges	2/1/2019		*PHF
Haydee Britton	03/8/2023		
Brett Buell	9/1/2015	President 2024-25	* PHF+1
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF
Billy Combs	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8
Pat Craddock	9/1/2006	PP 10-11	* MD @ PHF8
Michael Ekblad	7 26 2023	Sgt At Arms	
Mark Elliott	12/11/2024		
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF
Stephanie Esposito	6/12/2020	PP 2023-24	*PHF
Randi Feliciano	7/24/2024		
Chessie Flanders	4/1/2017	PP 19-20, AG 1, AG2, AG	* PHF
Greg Fleming	3/1/1994	PP 05-06	* PHF3
Megan Forbes	1/1/2001	PP 04-05	* BR @ PHF6
Dan Frowick		PP 94-95	MD/HM
Scott Hansis	2/22/2023		PHF 1
Marta Hartmann	05/2021	Director	
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF 8
Jim Islam	9/1/1990	PP 95-96	* MD PHF8
Marina Jordan	2/1/2019		*PHF
Pradeep Kumar	5/1/2018		*PHF+1
Judy Locascio	3/1/2002		* PHF+6
Al Losch Jr.	4/1/1992	PP 00-01	* MD @ BR PHF8
Joe Lowry Jr.	12/1/2004	PP (08-09) (17-18)	* BR @ PHF6
Joe Lowry Sr.	7/1/2013		* MD PHF8
Clay Martin	11/1/2016		* PHF
Rob Oglesby	5/1/2010	PP 14-15	* MD / BR PHF8
Megan Olson	2/1/2019	Director	*PHF+1
Cheryl T. Poe	1/1/2007	PP 15-16	* BR PHF6
Perry Pursell	6/1/2008	PP 12-13,	* PHF3
Bob Robar	11/1/1991	PP 01-02	* MD @ PHF8
Diane Robar	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, 2,	* PHF+1

Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	,AG, PE Charter President	* MD
Jim Skiles	12/1/1998	PP 03-04; Speakers,director	* MD @ BR PHF8
Carl Smart	3/1/2019	PP 2022-23	*PHF
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3
Francine Vincent	07/24/2024		
Zachary West	11/1/2013		
Leslie Wooten	10/1/2023		PHF3

* Paul Harris Sustaining Member (\$25 per quarter)

PHF Paul Harris Fellow (for every \$1,000 gift to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund, PolioPlus or an approved Foundation grant)@

Foundation Benefactor (provides for TRF at least \$1,000 in estate plan)

Paul Harris Society (Members who agree to contribute \$1,000 or more annually to TRF)

MD Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation (combined giving reaching \$10,000)

Italic Name : Board of Directors

BR Ben Rowe Rotarian of the Year

Bold Name Charter Member 9/18/1990

Club Information

Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, Florida #27544

Chartered September 18, 1990

Charter President J. Ben Rowe

We currently are meeting at Gators Dockside 3842 W. University Ave. on Wednesdays at Noon

Club Website: <https://downtowngainesvillerotary.org/>

Our sponsors for W2W

Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards Sponsors



Florida Blue 
Robbie Carstens 352 4947-1938 robbiecarstens@me.com

**LAKE AREA
DENTAL**



ITS A ROTARY THING!

DOGOODERY!