

## Club Meeting

Downtown  
Gainesville  
Meets at Hilton UF  
Conference Center  
1714 SW 34th  
Street  
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 May



## Lunch link



Very happy to let you know that for the month of May , we will be meeting in our usual Hilton space, the Shula dining room , which is located to the right of the hotel check in desk, just past the bar. We will have signage out to direct you.  
As the lunches are buffet, it is important for the Hilton kitchen to have an accurate attendance /count in order to prepare the correct amount of food.

*This is why they have requested that we send them the head count by 9 AM on TUESDAYs.*  
So, please click the lunch link below now and let us know whether you'll be attending this week's meeting or not. If you're bringing a guest, please include their name(s).

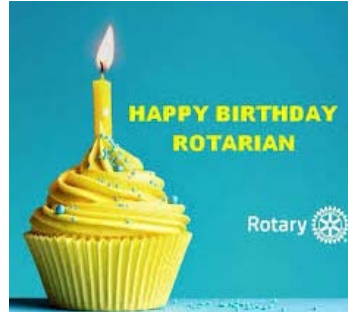
We really need everyone to respond on time so everything runs smoothly—thank you!

And, by the way, please know that you don't have to wait until Tuesday to submit your link... earlier responses are much appreciated!.



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

## Happy Birthday!



*Megan Olson*  
May 9th

*Ray Snook*  
May 11th

*Becky Hunt*  
May 13th

*Shelby Bobbitt*  
May 28th

## MYSTERY MEETING!

By Leslie W. Wooten

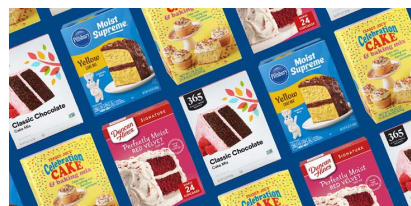
### THIS WEEK!!



Hmmm.... what does Leslie have in store for us at the May 7th meeting?

### ALL SHE WILL SAY IS :

*Bring your favorite flavor of cake mix and...  
Join your fellow Rotarians on May 7th  
for a  
New,  
Different,  
Interesting,  
Project that will  
Touch your heart*





**SEE YOU THERE!**

**HEY ROTARIANS!!**

**Gainesville Harley-Davidson has selected all four Gainesville Rotary Clubs as beneficiaries of their 24th Annual Hog Roast....**

**looks like a great event!**

**See you there!!**



### **Gainesville Harley-Davidson Hog Roast**

- When: Saturday, May 17, 2025, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Location: Gainesville Harley-Davidson 4113 NW 97th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32606
- Cost: FREE

One of our most popular events! Sweet Meat Butcher Shop will be smoking up some BBQ and sides. Music, fun vendors and more!

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

By Stephanie Esposito



**UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR**



additional information for these events may be found in this newsletter

May 17 11 AM - 4 PM	Gainesville Harley-Davidson 24th Annual Hog Roast . Have chosen 4 local Rotary clubs as beneficiaries this year	4113 NW 97th Blvd
May 29th	Club Event Wine Tasting Auction	Details TBA Stephanie, Shelby and Francine
Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th	<b>District Conference</b> Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort	details for conference and hotel registration <a href="https://www.dacdb.com/Register4/index.cfm?EventID=77817641">https://www.dacdb.com/</a> Register4/index.cfm?EventID= 77817641
June 21-25, 2025	ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Calgary	

## Upcoming District Events

### 2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th

Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort

Complete details for conference and hotel registration

<https://www.dacdb.com/>

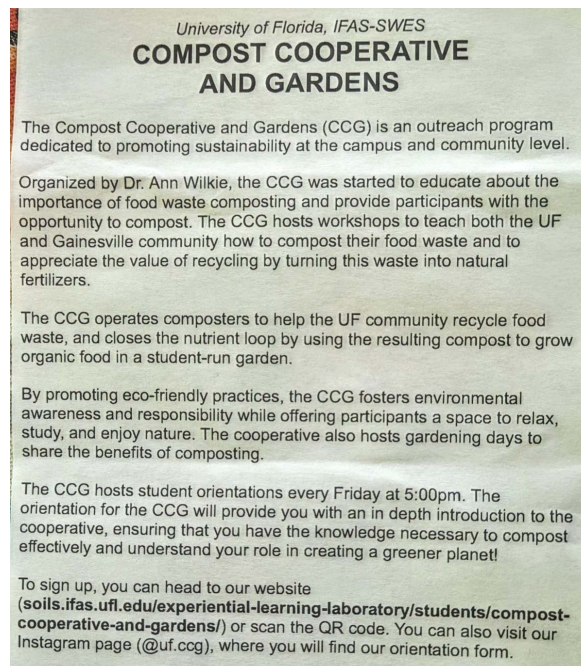
Register4/index.cfm?EventID= 77817641

## Follow up to

Katya Kasprzak, manager of the UF-IFAS Compost Cooperative and Garden, presented a very interesting and information talk on composting on April 23rd. . In case you did not get the pamphlet or want more information, here is the link:.

<https://soils.ifas.ufl.edu/experiential-learning-laboratory/students/compost-cooperative-and-gardens/>

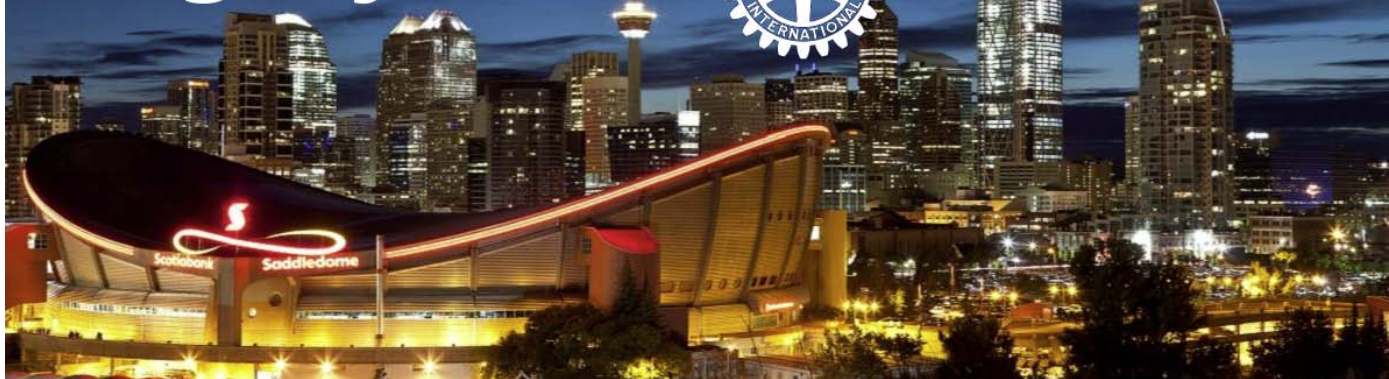
**Compost Cooperative and Gardens - Experiential Learning Lab, Dept of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences, UF IFAS - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS**



## Some Calgary info



# Calgary 2025



Are you going? Have you registered? Made travel arrangements? (if you need some help with airlines, check with Bob) . These annual Rotary International Conventions are held all over the world so when we have one scheduled *relatively* close by, it's a great opportunity to attend...along with at least 25,000+ of your fellow Rotarians!!

## CALGARY 2025: RI CONVENTION CHEAT SHEET

HOC Website: <https://rotarycalgary2025.org/>



### REGISTRATION

- Create or sign into **MY ROTARY** account.
- Follow the **HOW TO REGISTER** guide, includes: how to register, add a guest, register a child, Rotary Convention ticketed events, payment

Non Rotarians: can register themselves by going through registration process and need to create a MyRotary account

Last day for any registration discount : **March 31, 2025**

### SCHEDULE

- General Sessions: Opening Ceremony seating information will be communicated to registrants about 2-3 weeks before the Convention.
- The House of Friendship will be open Saturday-Wednesday, 21-25 June 2025

**SPEAKERS**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** Monday-Wednesday, 23-25 June 2025

### SIGNATURE EVENTS

**Grandstand Spectacular:** June 21. Performances of a marching band, Indigenous hoop dancing, world-class country music, horseback relay races and firework show. Let's fill the stadium with cowboy hats.

**White Cowboy Hat:** Pickup Saturday in House of Friendship before show.

**Rockin' The Big Four Roadhouse:** June 22. History of Canadian music from the 60's to 2025.

**New Blood with The Calgary Civic Symphony:** June 22. Blackfoot music, dance and drumming with contemporary music. Follows the story, "The Indian in the Child," as told through Peter Gabriel.

**Western Ranch Showcase:** June 24. Western hospitality, live entertainment, and the chance to experience the timeless traditions of the Old West.

**Home/Host Hospitality:** June 23. Memorable evening of local hospitality and international fellowship. Deadline: April 20.

**Pre and Post Tours:** Spectacular tours in and around Alberta and the Rockies, including unique Indigenous tours. Trips are offered in every direction, with spectacular scenery around us

### TRAVEL

**Airline Discounts**

- Westjet: up to 25% off select fares for travel to Calgary, Alberta between 1 June 2025 and 15 July 2025
- Air Canada: Variety of discounts on select roundtrip flights from Friday, June 13, 2025 to Thursday, July 14, 2025 with CODE **R3YT9E41**

**Direct Flights** scroll to bottom of page for direct flight travel info.

**VOLUNTEERING:** Volunteers of all kinds make for a successful convention.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

**Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)** (\$120/2 Bed, \$210/4 Bed)

- Use code **CRIC2025** when booking
- Transit (free with registration) from SAIT to Convention Center 15 minutes. No RI shuttle buses
- Located on Light Rapid Transit (LRT)

**Mount Royal University (MRU):** (\$60/2 or 4 bed, \$119 Hotel Suite)

- Book directly through MRU residence services. Indicate Rotary Conference when booking.
- Parking \$5/night, transit (free with registration) from MRU to Convention Center is a 30 minutes. No RI shuttle buses
- City Transit Bus Connected

**Rotary's Official Hotel Block:** Official Hotel Options within the RI block. Check back often.

**Non-Rotary Hotel Block:** Non-Official Hotel Options

FYI, the upcoming Convention schedule

**2025 21-25 June – Calgary, Canada**

**2026 13-17 June – Taipei, Taiwan**

**2027 5-9 June – Honolulu, Hawaii** (*tentatively selected*)

**2028 27-31 May – Minneapolis, Minnesota** (*tentatively selected*)

**2029 – TBD**

**2030 25-29 May – Chicago, Illinois** (*tentatively selected*)

**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!

## Downtown Gainesville Rotarians

MEMBER	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF
Walt Barry	1/1/2003	PP 09-10	* PHF4
<i>Shelby Bobbitt</i>	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
<i>Brett Buell</i>	9/1/2015	President 2024-25	* PHF+1
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF
<i>Billy Combs</i>	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8
<i>Michael Ekblad</i>	7 26 2023	Sgt At Arms	
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF
<i>Stephanie Esposito</i>	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
<i>Marta Hartmann</i>	05/2021	Director	
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF 8
<b>Jim Islam</b>	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
<i>Megan Olson</i>	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
<i>Diane Robar</i>	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, 2, ,AG, PE	* PHF+1
<b>Ben Rowe (d.)</b>	n/a	Charter President	* MD
<i>Jim Skiles</i>	12/1/1998	PP 03-04;	* MD @ BR PHF8
Carl Smart	3/1/2019	Speakers,director	
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PP 2022-23	*PHF
Francine Vincent	07/24/2024	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3
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 Hilton UF Conference Center 1714 SW 34th Street on Wednesdays at Noon

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

## Our sponsors for W2W

### Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards Sponsors



**Perry C. Pursell**  
Commercial Real Estate Specialist  
Coldwell Banker/  
MM Parrish Realtors



**CHAIN REACTION**  
BIKE SHOP  
SINCE 1993



ITS A ROTARY THING!

**DOGOODERY!**