

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*



ROTARY THEME for May



Four Way Test



Yes... we are..



Happy Birthday!



Megan Olson
May 9th

Ray Snook
May 11th

Becky Hunt
May 13th

Shelby Bobbitt
May 28th

Welcome, Sheriff Scott



Sheriff Chad D. Scott has dedicated over three decades to serving Alachua County through a distinguished law enforcement career. A lifelong resident of the county, Sheriff Scott was born at Alachua General Hospital and raised in Newberry, Florida where he learned the importance of community values and hard work. After graduating from Newberry High School, Sheriff Scott earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bethel College in Kansas.

In 1990, Sheriff Scott began his career at the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, where he served with distinction for over 17 years. Starting as a midnight-shift patrol deputy, he quickly gained a reputation for dedication and integrity. He worked as a School Resource Officer at Newberry High and Oak View Middle School, where he coached football, counseled students, and helped establish a Criminal Justice program that later became a successful magnet program. Sheriff Scott's leadership continued to shine in the Patrol Division, Special Operations, and Criminal Investigations Division. As a SWAT team member and supervisor in Special Operations, Sheriff Scott implemented innovative drug enforcement programs and secured grants that enhanced the department's capacity to combat narcotics. His tireless work ethic earned respect from colleagues, community members, and partner agencies alike.

After serving as Chief of Police in Alachua, from 2014 to 2022, Sheriff Scott returned to the Sheriff's Office as the Major of Operations and was promoted to Colonel, overseeing critical areas like patrol, investigations, and community outreach.

On November 5, 2024, Sheriff Scott was elected as sheriff of Alachua County.

Lunch link



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.
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.

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>

next week!

By Stephanie Esposito



THURSDAY MAY 29TH!!



HEY EVERYBODY!

This is a club event and we need YOUR help to make it a success!!

. Have you bought your tickets? (available at our meetings as well as online, using links above)

Have you contributed a bottle of wine for the mystery wine purchase?

Have you donated an auction item?

Please contact Stephanie @ 352 575 4677 for additional information, questions, and donations

GREAT service project!



Thank you, Leslie, for coordinating this amazing service project.!

The children and families at St. Francis House will certainly be enjoying their birthdays this year as our club members packed up "Birthday boxes" , complete with cake mixes, frosting, birthday hats, candy and party decorations!





Speakers this month

By Leslie W. Wooten

Speakers for the month

MAY SPEAKERS provided by Leslie Wooten

May 7th: CAKE MIX project

May 14th: Getting to know your fellow members!

May 21st: Sheriff Chad Scott, Alachua County

May 28th: Janet Coats, Managing Director/Consortium on Trust in Media and Technology

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR



additional information for these events may be found in this newsletter

May 29th	Club Event Wine Tasting Auction	see info Stephanie, Shelby and Francine
Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th	District Conference Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort	details for conference and hotel registration https://www.dacdb.com/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

What to Expect

It's the Rotary International Convention to be held in Calgary

WHY should you go??

Here are a *regular* Rotary traveler's 10 best reasons why you should get registered now:

1. The opening ceremony is always inspiring!
2. The parade of flags for all the countries of Rotary shows the internationality of our organization!
3. Seeing all the people who are wearing the native dress of their country.
4. Visiting all of the Fellowships in the House of Friendship is a great way to share your interests and hobbies with other Rotarians.
5. The general sessions are an exciting way to catch up on what is happening in our organization.
6. Breakout sessions are learning opportunities to explore new interests and to begin developing new skills or gaining new knowledge.
7. Get new Rotary attire or swap Rotary pins in the market in the House of Friendship.
8. The Alberta Province of Canada is beautiful, you'll be very near Banff National Park, and the pre- and post-Convention tours look phenomenal!
9. Stop by the Peace Park in the House of Friendship and learn about Positive Peace.
10. Sign up for next year's Convention, get official pins, and a substantial discount!


Some Calgary info



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

1. Create or sign into **MY ROTARY** account.

2. 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.

ACCOMODATIONS

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)*

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 25th, 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(Diane) know during a club meeting, text 352-318-4917 or email dimarieR13@gmail.com.

thanks!

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

University of Florida, IFAS-SWES
**COMPOST COOPERATIVE
AND GARDENS**

The Compost Cooperative and Gardens (CCG) is an outreach program dedicated to promoting sustainability at the campus and community level.

Organized by Dr. Ann Wilkie, the CCG was started to educate about the importance of food waste composting and provide participants with the opportunity to compost. The CCG hosts workshops to teach both the UF and Gainesville community how to compost their food waste and to appreciate the value of recycling by turning this waste into natural fertilizers.

The CCG operates composters to help the UF community recycle food waste, and closes the nutrient loop by using the resulting compost to grow organic food in a student-run garden.

By promoting eco-friendly practices, the CCG fosters environmental awareness and responsibility while offering participants a space to relax, study, and enjoy nature. The cooperative also hosts gardening days to share the benefits of composting.

The CCG hosts student orientations every Friday at 5:00pm. The orientation for the CCG will provide you with an in depth introduction to the cooperative, ensuring that you have the knowledge necessary to compost effectively and understand your role in creating a greener planet!

To sign up, you can head to our website (soils.ifas.ufl.edu/experiential-learning-laboratory/students/compost-cooperative-and-gardens/) or scan the QR code. You can also visit our Instagram page (@uf.ccg), where you will find our orientation form.

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
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
<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
Ben Rowe (d.)	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



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FIRST FEDERAL BANK



CHAIN REACTION
BIKE SHOP
SINCE 1993



LAKE AREA
DENTAL



ITS A ROTARY THING!

DOGOODERY!