

## Club Meeting

Downtown  
Gainesville  
Meets at Paramount  
Grill  
12 SW First Avenue  
Gainesville, FL  
32601  
Time: Wednesday at  
12:00 PM

## Club Leaders



**Stephanie Esposito**  
President



**Brett Buell**  
President-Elect



**William S. Combs**  
Treasurer



**Megan Olson**  
Secretary



**Steven Jeppson**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Carl Smart**  
iPast President



**Shelby Bobbett**  
Club Director



**Marta M. Hartmann**  
Club Director



**Joseph E. Lowry Jr.**  
Club Director



**Diane Marie Robar**  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



**Jim Skiles III**  
Club Director  
Speaker Chair

## Welcome



**CREATE HOPE**  
in the WORLD

## Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville



## Four Way Test



## May 8 speaker, Mr. Richard Chriszt

By Scott Hansis

Good Afternoon Fellow Downtown Gainesville Rotarians;

I wanted to reach out to you concerning our speaker for this week, May 8th. Mr. Richard Chriszt . Mr. Chriszt is the Vice President and Regional Engagement officer in the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Corporate Engagement Division. I have included his biography below.

I would encourage everyone to attend this meeting as he is a highly sought-after speaker and the timing was fortunate that I could schedule him for our group. I really want to show the strength of our group, as Mr. Chriszt is speaking in Alachua at their Chamber of Commerce Meeting on Tuesday, and Iâ€™m sure it will be a packed house. Let's show up and Pack the Paramount! Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,  
Scott Hansis



## Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

RESEARCH & DATA ECONOMY MATTERS BANKING & PAYMENTS NEWS & EVENTS EDUCATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ABOUT THE FED

ABOUT US DATA & TOOLS ECONOMIC MOBILITY & RESILIENCE INFLATION PROJECT EVENTS PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH CENTERS REGIONAL ECONOMY SURVEYS

### ECONOMISTS



#### Michael Chriszt

Vice President and Regional Engagement Officer

email :: 404-498-8847

For an interview press should contact Public Affairs at 470-249-8348.

#### Biography

**Michael Chriszt** is vice president and regional engagement officer in the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Corporate Engagement Division. In this role, he serves as the Atlanta Fed's lead public engagement officer focusing on smaller cities and towns, as well as rural areas, in the Sixth District, connecting directly with citizens to explain the Federal Reserve and its policy decisions, and he in turn learns how the economy is affecting their lives. He shares this information with the Bank's senior leaders and other policy experts throughout the Atlanta Fed to deepen understanding of the District economy.

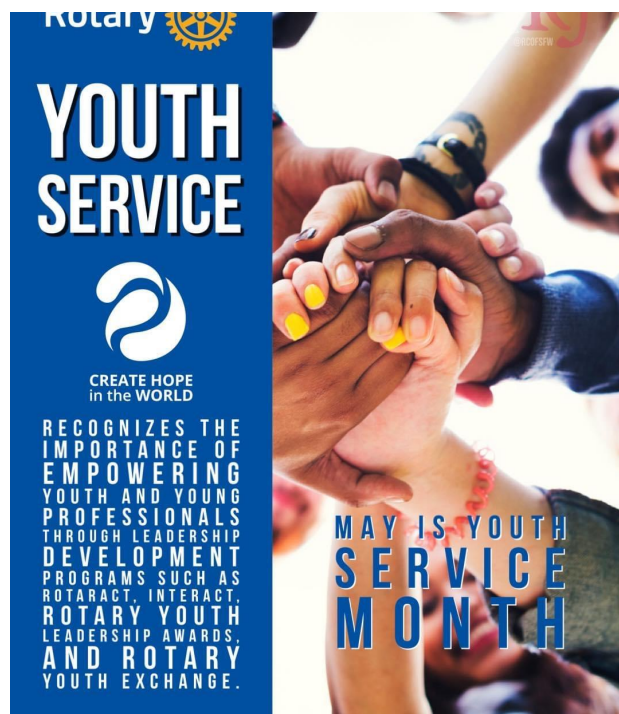
Prior to assuming his current responsibilities, Chriszt was a vice president and public affairs officer, where he led the Bank's outreach and communications efforts. Before joining Public Affairs, he worked in the Atlanta Fed's Research Department, where he held numerous positions, including leadership positions in the Bank's Regional Economic Information Network.

While at Miami University in Ohio, Chriszt earned two bachelor's degrees, one in history and one in diplomacy and foreign affairs. He also earned a master's degree there in political science with emphases on international economics and comparative politics.

Chriszt is a member of the National Association of Business Economists and the Atlanta Economics Club, where he served as president from 2015 to 2017. He also serves on the advisory board of the Michael J. Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University and the board of the Georgia Council on Economic Education. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Chriszt is married to Maxine, and they have five children and three grandchildren.

## May Rotary theme





There are four main youth oriented programs.

#### **Interact Clubs-**

Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills and learn about the world through service projects and activities. Clubs are in the middle and high school settings.

#### **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)-**

RYLA is a leadership development program for young people who want to learn new skills, build their confidence, and have fun. Events range from one-day seminars to week-long camps. This opportunity is offered to rising juniors and seniors in high school.

#### **Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)**

Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students ages 15-19 are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.

#### **New Generations Service Exchange -**

New Generations Service Exchange is a short-term, customizable program for university students and professionals up to age 30. Participants design exchanges that combine their professional goals with a humanitarian project.

*We are fortunate to have great youth programs and many dedicated volunteers in our District. A substantial number of new and renewed Interact clubs have been established this year. The District Youth Exchange Program was successfully restarted after the COVID hiatus. And we are looking forward to an outstanding RYLA event at Stetson University in June*

## **UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!**



## **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards**

### **Volunteers Needed**

Volunteer are needed for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), which will be held on June 21, 22, and 23 at Stetson University.

RYLA is a premier leadership conference designed to foster youth development and is a key initiative under the Rotary International banner. This year, we anticipate welcoming 100-125 high school students who have completed their freshman or sophomore years.

These students, selected by Rotary Clubs within District 6970 covering northeast Florida, will participate in a series of leadership workshops, activities, and lectures at no cost, thanks to the support of our clubs. As Rotarians, we have the privilege of shaping these young leaders by sharing our experiences and skills.

We are seeking volunteers for various roles throughout the weekend, from overseeing activities to facilitating sessions. Whether you can spare a few hours or can commit to the entire weekend, your involvement would be invaluable. For those able to stay for the full event, accommodations will be provided at Stetson University. All Rotarians are welcome and Youth Services Committee Chairs, Interact Chairs, or committee members in particular are encouraged to participate.

Volunteering at RYLA not only supports our youth but also strengthens our Rotary community. It's an excellent opportunity to engage with fellow Rotarians and make a positive impact on the lives of young people. Please consider donating your time to this worthy cause.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit: [www.rotarydistrict6970.org/](http://www.rotarydistrict6970.org/)

ryla/volunteers,  
or contact District Youth Services Director, Claudia Dencer at [cdencer@leonards.com](mailto:cdencer@leonards.com).

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help nurture the next generation of leaders.

ogether, we can make a significant impact

## Lunch Link Paramount Grill



**Lets do lunch!!**

As always, please submit your selection before 9 AM on Wednesdays. This is a request from Chef Ty as he needs sufficient time to prepare our 20+ lunches each week by noon.

And just to clarify our club's present policy regarding lunches for visitors: If you are bringing a guest, please be sure to have their lunch orders submitted either with yours or by the 9 AM deadline. *Guests* are expected to pay for their lunch or you may opt to be invoiced for their lunches. *Visiting Rotarians* are expected to pay for their lunch. If you bring a *potential member*, their lunches will be covered for 3 meetings by the club. Speakers and Law Enforcement lunches are covered by the club. Lunch cost is \$20

LINK:

<https://forms.gle/Y5oBC9n6srh6qhDN8>

## IT'S AUCTION TIME!!!



GUEST AUCTIONEER CHAD "CRACKER" JOHNSON

ENTRANCE FEE

\$25 FOR 1

\$40 FOR 2

THURSDAY, MAY

23

6 PM

ENJOY DINNER & BID ON AUCTION ITEMS FOR A GREAT CAUSE. WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ARBOR GREENS CLUBHOUSE.

TO RESERVE NOW, EMAIL  
DOWNTOWNCNVROTARY@GMAIL.COM

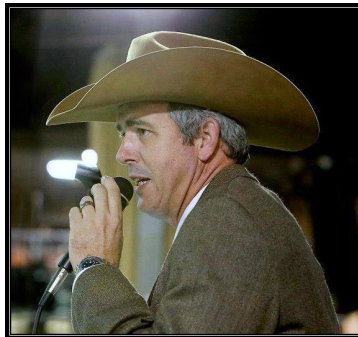
Yep, it's getting to be that time of year!  
Our club's annual auction!  
An evening of fun, food, fellowship to raise funds for the Rotary Foundation

**DATE: MAY 23, 2024**

Never too early to start gathering items, including gift certificates and donations from some of your favorite venues and businesses.

**AND**

this year, we will welcome back our most favorite auctioneer, Cracker Johnson  
(apologies to Joe Jr for demoting you to 2nd most favorite..)



**Tickets are \$25 for 1, \$40 for 2**



**Not sure how or what to contribute?** Here are some ideas! Vacation packages, massages (Do you get monthly massages? Ask them to donate!), fun places you frequent (theaters, parks, social venues), facials, pedicures, wine/food gift baskets, car services, handmade blankets, restaurant gift certificates, home decor, plants, Rotary merchandise, and more!

(Do you go somewhere weekly? Ask for a gift card!),



**It takes more than one person to make this event happen. We will need volunteers to help make our auction a success... and that includes everything from setting up, coordinating food and drinks, helping to gather and store items until the auction and probably a few other things we haven't thought about. More details and volunteer sign up opportunities will be shared soon.**



Gonna be fun!



In conjunction with the Museum of Natural History, Downtown Gainesville Rotary will be partnering with Rawlings Elementary to offer a **SCIENCE NIGHT** on May 9th. from 5:30 - 7 pm.

The Museum provides the materials and guides for 11 different science stations, which the students then visit.



Going to be a GREAT event!!

By Brett Buell



**May 18, 2024 | 8:30 AM**  
**First Magnitude Brewing Co.**

\*Registration at 8:30 AM Ride at 9:30 AM  
Questions? Contact Brett at (352) 872-3232 [brett@goclubhouse.org](mailto:brett@goclubhouse.org)

Join us in promoting awareness and support for people living with chronic mental illness by riding with us on the Hawthorne Trail.

- Option 1) Circle Depot Park (Beginner)
- Option 2) First Magnitude to LaChua Trail (Intermediate)
- Option 3) First Magnitude to Hawthorne, Florida (Advanced)



## Birthday wishes!



Matt Bowman  
May 1st

Megan Olson  
May 9th

Steve Jeppson  
May 10th

Ray Snook  
May 11th

Becky Hunt  
May 13th

Shelby Bobbett  
May 28th

## Event Calendar 2024



~~ DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER ~~

PLEASE ALSO REFER TO ONLINE CLUB CALENDAR AT THE LINK  
FOR  
MOST UPDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS:  
<https://rb.gy/jh7vx>

May 9th	Rawlings Elementary SCIENCE NIGHT 5:30 - 7 pm	
May 18	GOC Bike Day 8:30	Brett Buell 352 872 3232
MAY23	ANNUAL AUCTION Arbor Greens Clubhouse	
JUNE 27	TRANSITION DINNER	

## MONTHLY SPEAKERS

By Jim â€œJimbo â€œ E. Skiles III

**MAY SPEAKERS provided by Scott Hansis**

May 1<sup>st</sup> Brooke Beers- Child Advocacy Center

**May 8<sup>th</sup> Michael Chriszt- Atlanta Federal Reserve**

May 15<sup>th</sup>: Ed Bielarski Jr. -Author of â€œThe City That Lost Controlâ€, a story about GRU.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>: No Meeting / AUCTION on May 23rd

May 29<sup>th</sup>: RD Bonnaghan- Rebuilding Gainesville Together

## Downtown Gainesville Rotarians

MEMBER	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF	POI
John Anderson	4/1/2017		* PHF	Brett Buell
Walt Barry	1/1/2003	PP 09-10	* PHF4	Pradeep Kumar
Shelby Bobbitt	9/21/2022	Sgt At Arms		Diane Robar
Ed Book	2/1/2009	PP 13-14 AG 1,2,AG	* BR PHF2	Ed Oehmig
Matt Bowman	12/1/2016		* PHF	Walt Barry
Billy Brame	7/1/1976	PP (RCGG)	* PHF+6	Neal Cohen
David Bridges	2/1/2019		*PHF	Matt Bowman
Haydee Britton	03/8/2023			Marta Hartman
Brett Buell	9/1/2015	President Elect	* PHF+1	John Anderson
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF	Megan Olson
Neal Cohen	7/1/1989		* PHF3	Billy Brame
Billy Combs	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8	Greg Fleming
Pat Craddock	9/1/2006	PP 10-11	* MD @ PHF8	Al Losch
Michael Ekbladh	7 26 2023			Al Losch
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF	Ray Snook
Stephanie Esposito	6/12/2020	President 2023- 24	*PHF	Brenda Chamberlain
Chessie Flanders	4/1/2017	PP 19-20, AG 1, AG2, AG	* PHF	Jennifer Reddish
Greg Fleming	3/1/1994	PP 05-06	* PHF3	Billy Combs
Megan Forbes	1/1/2001	PP 04-05	* BR @ PHF6	Joe Lowry Jr.
Dan Frowick		PP 94-95	MD/HM	n/a
April Green	6/21/2023			Jim Skiles
Scott Hansis	2//2023			John Sanchez
Marta Hartmann	05/2021	Director		Marina Jordan
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF7	Diane Robar
Jim Islam	9/1/1990	PP 95-96	* MD PHF8	Joe Lowry Sr.
Steve Jeppson	5/11/2022	Sgt at Arms		Jim Skiles
Marina Jordan	2/1/2019		*PHF	Diane Robar



Pradeep Kumar	5/1/2018		*PHF+1	David Bridges
Judy Locascio	3/1/2002		* PHF+6	Robert Taylor
Al Losch Jr.	4/1/1992	PP 00-01 LEOM	* MD @ BR PHF8	Pat Craddock
<i>Joe Lowry Jr.</i>	12/1/2004	PP (08-09) (17-18)Director	* BR @ PHF6	Megan Forbes
Joe Lowry Sr.	7/1/2013		* MD PHF8	Jim Islam
<i>Clay Martin</i>	11/1/2016		* PHF	John Sanchez
Rob Oglesby	5/1/2010	PP 14-15	* MD / BR PHF8	Bob Robar
<i>Megan Olson</i>	2/1/2019	Secretary	*PHF+1	Brenda Chamberlain
Cheryl T. Poe	1/1/2007	PP 15-16	* BR PHF6	Becky Hunt
Perry Pursell	6/1/2008	PP 12-13,	* PHF3	
Bob Robar	11/1/1991	PP 01-02	* MD @ PHF8	Perry Pursell
<i>Diane Robar</i>	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, 2, ,AG	* PHF+1	Marina Jordan
Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	Charter President	* MD	n/a
Lauri Schiffbauer	8 11 2021			Brenda Chamberlain
Jim Skiles	12/1/1998	PP 03-04; Speakers,director	* MD @ BR PHF8	Tom Sumrall
<i>Carl Smart</i>	3/1/2019	IPP, 2022-23,	*PHF	Zachary West
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3	Cheryl Poe
Zachary West	11/1/2013		* PHF	Carl Smart
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

**POI** The person of interest is the Rotarian each member is charged to keep track of, representing the club to that person.

**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 meet on Wednesdays at Noon at the**  
**Paramount Grill,**  
**12 SW First Avenue**  
**Gainesville, Florida**

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