

# Rotary

## DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE



### 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

### Welcome



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

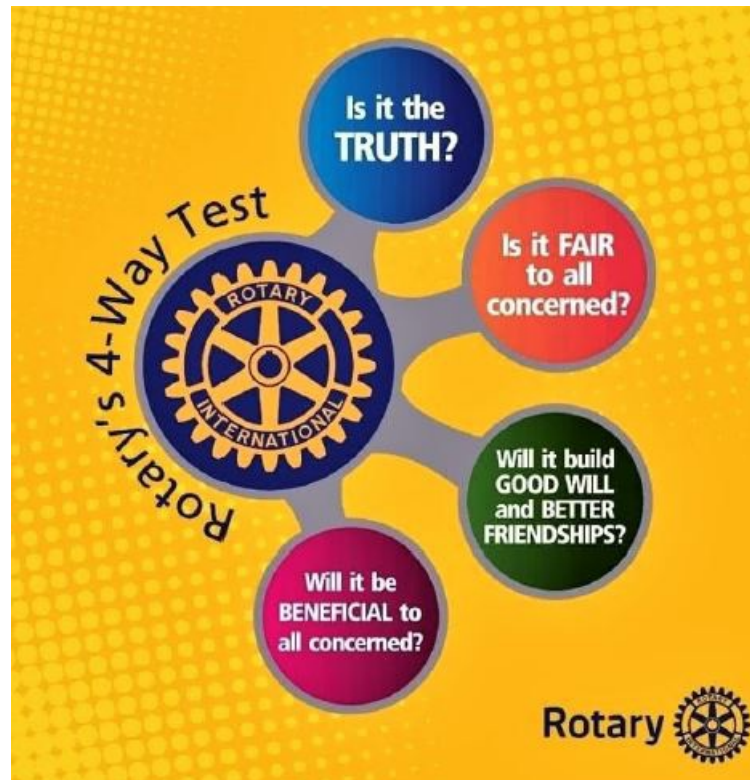
***Welcome to the  
Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville***





Jim  
Skiles III  
Club  
Director  
Speaker  
Chair

## Four Way Test



## May Rotary theme

Rotary

# YOUTH SERVICE

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPOWERING YOUTH AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SUCH AS ROTARACT, INTERACT, ROTARY YOUTH

RJ  
@RCOFSW

MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH



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)**

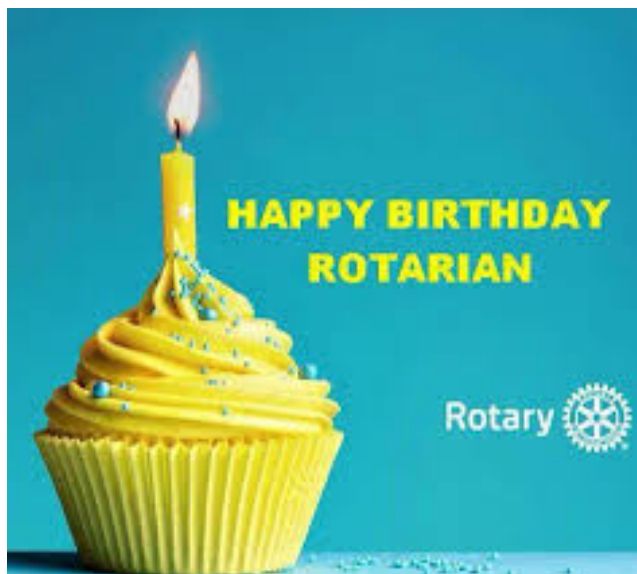
Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time. Students learn a new language, discover another culture, and truly become global citizens. Exchanges for students ages 15-19 are sponsored by Rotary clubs in more than 100 countries.

**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*

## 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



## Speaker, May 29th

By Scott Hansis



**RD Bonnaghan-  
Executive Director  
Rebuilding Gainesville Together**

## AUCTION FUN!

Sorry if you couldn't join us at this year's Connie Rowe Auction!

We had such a great evening... fellowship, fun and some really good Piesanos food!

Club members certainly enjoyed having Cracker back with us to host the Live Auction.

There were lots of interesting auction items...besides a grand array of silent auction items, Cracker live auctioned off a gourmet dinner for 6, wine tasting for 8, a week's vacation, St. Augustine beach condo, water fun on Lake Swan, one of Billy Brame's beautiful handcrafted cutting boards and of course, Al's fabulous limencello!

The proceeds from the evening totaled \$5120, which is one of the most profitable auctions we've had in a while.

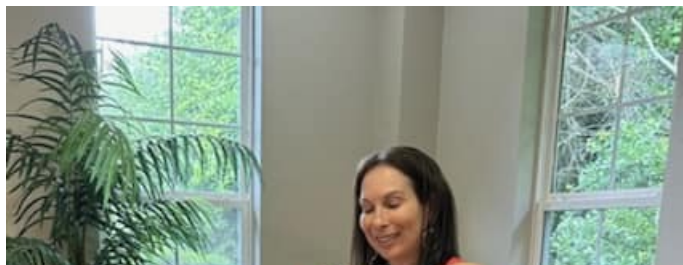
THANKS to all who donated items and to all who bought them!

Stephanie and Diane extend a very special thanks to volunteers Leslie, Michael, Ray, Jimbo, Haydee, Bob, Joe Jr and Al (program) . (And a HUGE thanks to all the folks who stayed to help clean up afterwards!!)

THANKS also to Jimbo for coming up with a new game to play..."Let's WIN a Deal". We will definitely be including it in future auctions!

We were so busy having fun that we didn't take as many pics as we usually do. Here are just a few..



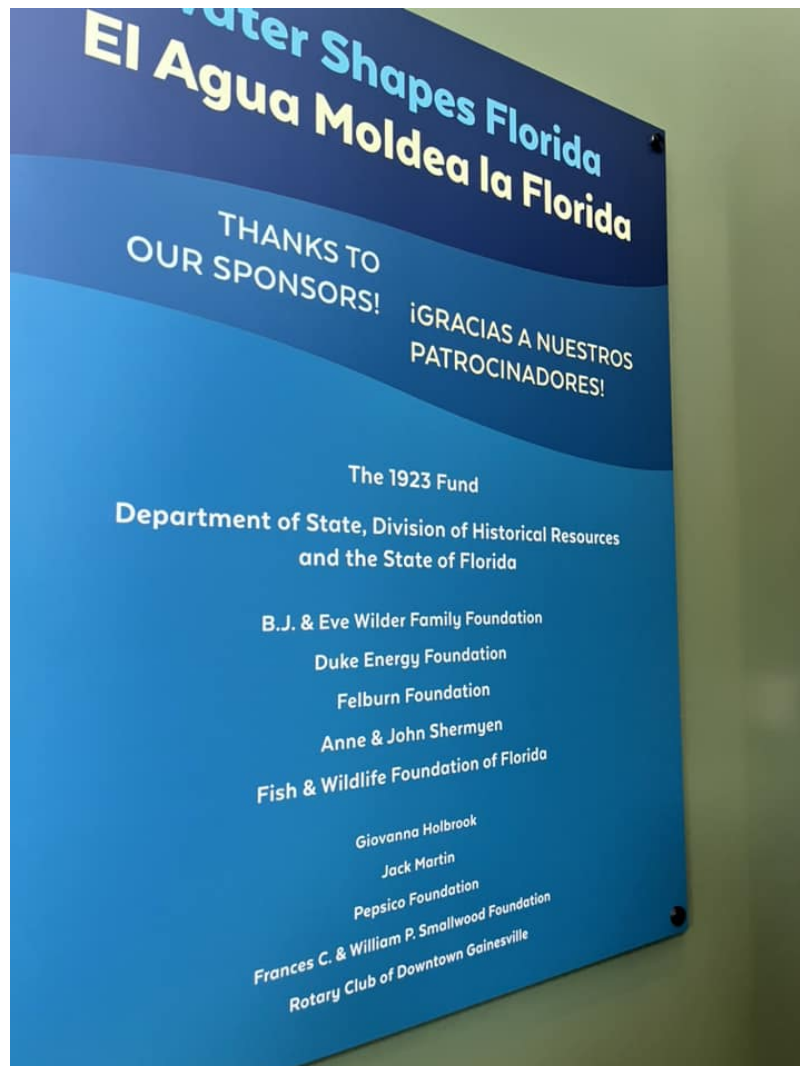




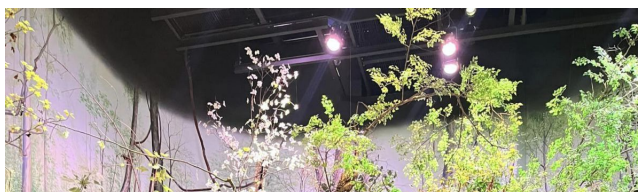


## Museum Field Trip

As we didn't have a regular club meeting on the 22nd, Jimbo organized a field trip to the Florida Museum to check out the new WATER SCAPES exhibit . Darcie MacMahon had spoken to our club earlier about the plans for this extraordinary exhibit and it was quite amazing to see it completed. (THANKS, Jimbo, for arranging this!)



Check out the contributor on the last line!!

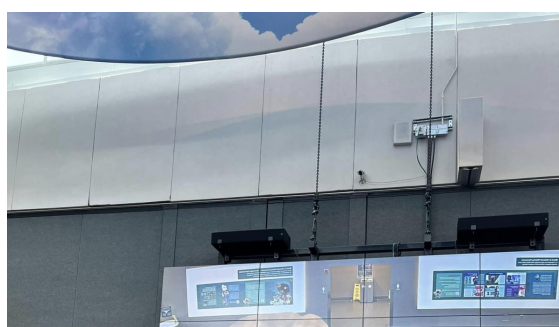




The iconic CAVE has been included into the exhibit. It has been upgraded and is even more interesting to stroll through. Here Darcie is explaining some of the additions to this area of the exhibit.



Speaking of ICONIC! How about one of those glass bottomed boats from Silver Springs! You can take a "ride" right there in the museum.







Interesting addition to the lobby (and we are not referring to Joe)

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MARTA??

Fellow club member Marta has been attending the 2024 Rotary Convention in Singapore!

We look forward to hearing about this wonderful experience when she returns!



New friends and Fellow Rotarians from around the world.



Head of the Community Development Action Group and more new friends



Emerson Conlon, Learning and Development Specialist



WASH consultant from Colorado

## 2025 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



### **Register by 29 May for special savings!**

Dear Rotarians!

We're delighted to announce that the 2025 Rotary International Convention will take place in Calgary, Canada, 21-25 June 2025, and are pleased to offer a special discounted rate for those who register and pay by 29 May 2024.

Calgary, along with breathtaking beauty, is a big city with a small-town feel that warmly welcomes visitors. More than 165 languages are spoken in Calgary, making it a perfect destination to bring together Rotary members from around the world.

The 2025 convention theme is "Magic All Around," and from the moment you arrive, you'll feel it. The one-of-a-kind connections and friendships. The people with different backgrounds, experiences, and points of view. The energy of thousands of members with their spirits, hearts, and passions together in one place, creating lasting impact and changing the world. That's magic!

Our special discounted rate for the 2025 Rotary International Convention is available for just a short time, so register now, and join us in Calgary.

### **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION LINK:**

[https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/?cid=mkt\\_ic25\\_20240525\\_eml\\_ad\\_mem\\_register\\_maypromo\\_na](https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/?cid=mkt_ic25_20240525_eml_ad_mem_register_maypromo_na)



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**Santa Fe College - Charles L Blount Center**

**530 W University Ave  
Gainesville, FL 32601**

This is a GREAT opportunity to attend RLI here in Gainesville! Most often, these classes are held in Jacksonville or St. Augustine ...so to have a session held right here in Gainesville affords area Rotarians a convenient location to attend.

As your Board considers RLI to be such a unique, valuable experience for ALL Rotarians (not just those intending on becoming an officer in the club), your \$100 registration fee will be covered by the club.

Arrive around **7:00 AM** for registration sign-in, material pick-up, and breakfast gathering./fellowship

Classes begin promptly at **8:00 AM** and will be completed by **3:30 PM**  
**Parts 1, 2, & 3** will be offered.

Also, the Graduate classes for **Foundation** and **Facilitation Techniques**  
Breakfast, Lunch and all materials for \$100

Registration link:

<https://dacdb.com/Register4/index.cfm?EventID=77731765>

## GREAT EVENT!



**BIKE DAY**

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

**CONGRATS, Brett! Another great event!**

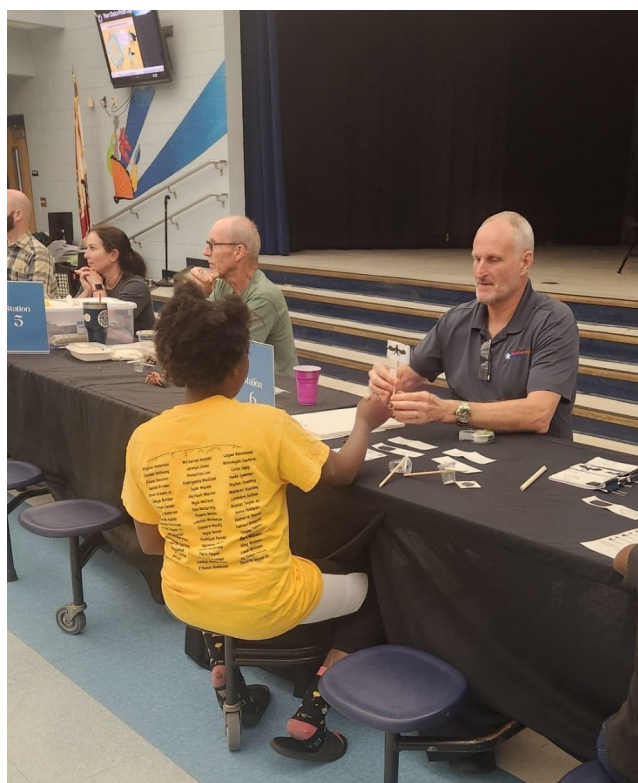
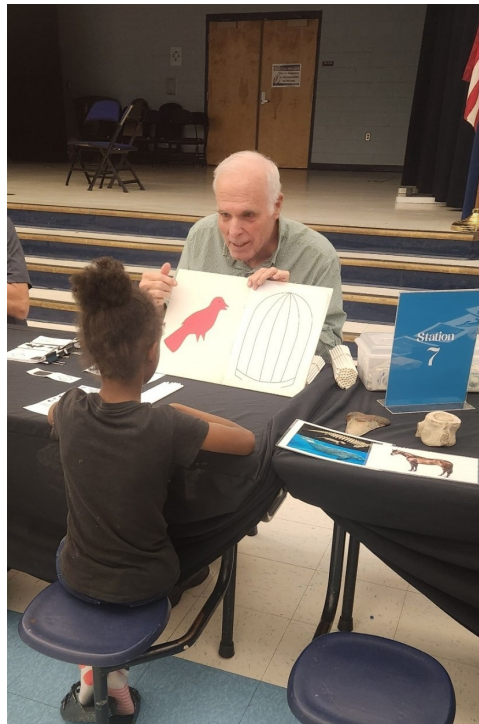




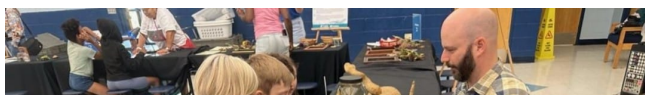
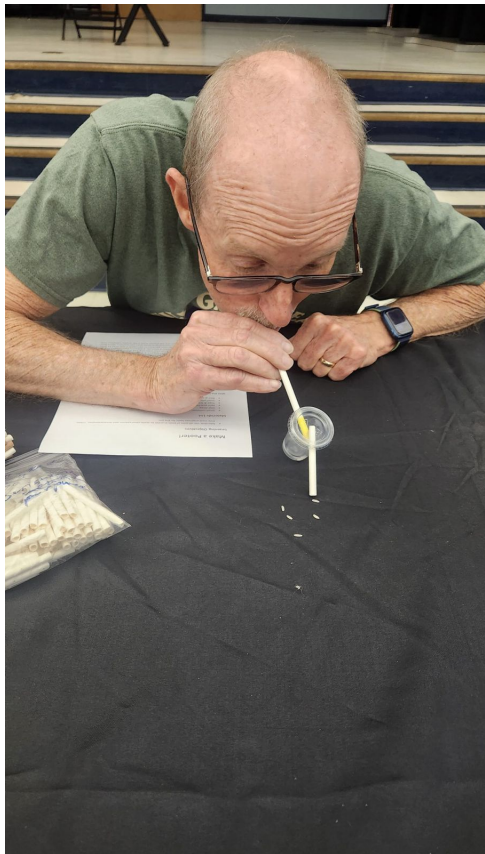


## FUN EVENT!

On Thursday, May 9th, fellow club members assisted team members from The Fla. Museum of Natural History as they brought SCIENCE NIGHT to Rawlings Elementary. Each volunteer manned a "science" station, where the student learned something interesting about a wide variety of topics. HUGE THANKS to LESLIE for bringing this volunteer opportunity to our club! Thanks to club members Stephanie and husband Mike, Jimbo, Scott, Haydee, the Robars and Leslie's husband, Mark for helping to make the evening so fun and informative for the students who participated.









## 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>

## MONTHLY SPEAKERS

By Jim "Jimbo" 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.

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

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



## 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>

<b>JUNE 27</b>	<b>TRANSITION DINNER</b>	
<b>AUGUST 10</b>	<b>Rotary Leadership Institute</b>	Santa Fe College - Charles L Blount Center <b>530 W University Ave</b> Gainesville, FL 32601

## 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	2/22//2023			John Sanchez
Marta Hartmann	05/2021	Director		Marina Jordan
Diane Robar	1/1/2006		* PHF7	Diane Robar

<i>Becky Hunt</i>	1/1/1996		* PHF /	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/>**

