

# Rotary



## Club of Daytona Beach

### Club Leaders

**Roosevelt Harris**

Rotaract Advisor  
Club Young  
Leaders Contact  
iPast President

**Jason A. Murbarger**  
President

**Lori Campbell-Baker**  
President-Elect  
Club Grants  
Chair  
District & Global  
Grants Chair

**Adam Dovi**  
President -  
Nominee  
Service Projects  
Chair

**DJ Lebo**  
Secretary

**Timothy L. Smith**  
Treasurer

**Renny Miles Jr.**  
Sergeant-at-Arms

**Dean P. Kurtz**  
Club Learning  
Facilitator

**Russell George Brancato**  
Club Director  
Membership  
Chair

**Priscilla Chanfrau**  
Club Director  
Membership  
Chair

**Owen Chittenden**  
Club Director  
Community  
Service Projects  
Chair  
Events Chair

**Andrew D. Ethridge**  
Club Director

**Melissa Gabriel**  
Club Director  
Community  
Service Projects  
Chair

**Mica D. Lill**  
Club Director  
Membership  
Chair

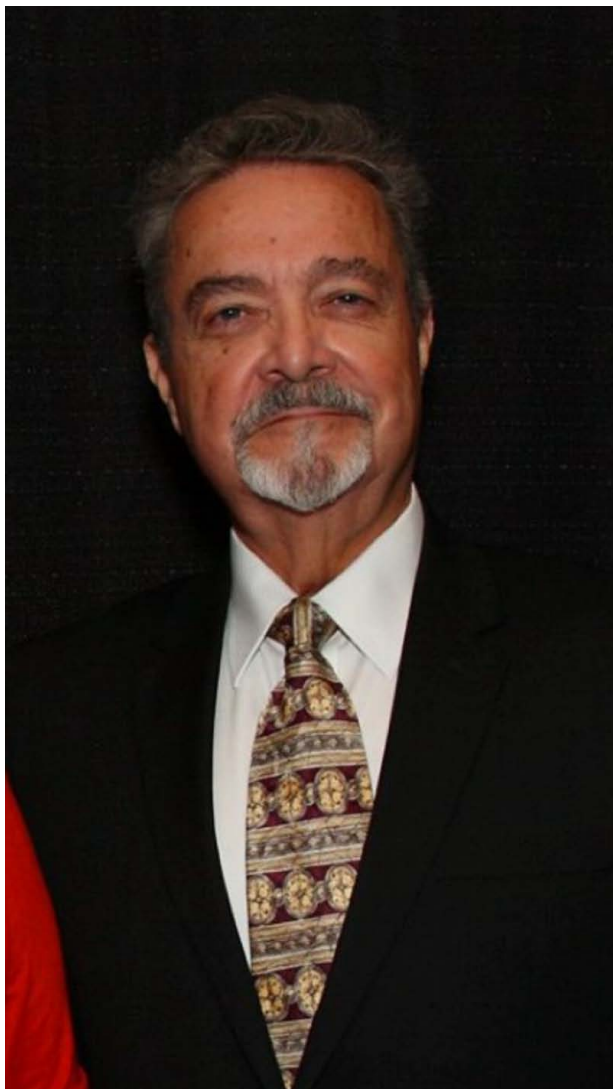
**Jonathan Magill**  
Club Director  
Service Projects  
Chair

**Joanne Magley**  
Programs Chair  
Club Director

### Account Leaders

Serena Fisher

Speaker for Monday, July 21 - Ambassador (Retired) Stanley T. Escudero



A career diplomat for 33 years and a businessman for ten years thereafter, Stan Escudero is a native Floridian, who was born in Daytona in 1942 and spent his childhood in New Smyrna. Upon final retirement in 2010 he and Jaye, his wife of 50 years, returned to the area and currently live in Daytona Beach Shores.

Stan spent his high school years at Carlisle Military School in South Carolina, where he graduated first in his class and absorbed a strong sense of conservatism and love of country. Graduating from what was then Daytona Beach Junior College (where he was student government president) in 1962 Stan went on to the University of Florida where he again served in student government, completed the high honors program and graduated in 1965 with a degree in history and international relations. While at University he applied for entry into the Foreign Service of the United States and returned to New Smyrna to await the outcome of the complex examination process.

In early 1967 he was accepted. Stan and his fiancée, Mary Jaye Cobb, married and drove to Washington to begin their new life together. In a career focused primarily on Central and South Asia, they served in Pakistan (1967-68) Niger (1968-70) Iran (1971-75), (Stan returned to Iran undercover during the Iranian revolution in 1978-79). Stan's career also included service in Washington, marked by a Congressional Fellowship at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and three years as a very successful lobbyist for the State Department in its Bureau of Legislative Affairs. This was followed by assignment as political counselor in India (1984-87) and then as political advisor to successive commanders-in-chief at Central Command (Marine General George Crist and Army General Norman Schwarzkopf – 1987-89) where he helped coordinate the military effort which halted Iranian attacks against oil shipping in the Persian Gulf and destroyed some one-third of the Iranian navy. At CENTCOM Stan also initiated the process which led to the planning of the successful US military campaign in the First Gulf War. He followed that assignment with the political counselorship in Egypt (1990-92) where he helped to orchestrate Egypt's successful diplomatic and military participation on the American side in that same war.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Stan was named the first U.S. Ambassador to the newly independent state of Tajikistan. Within days of his April 1992 arrival there was a bloody coup which turned out to be the opening shot of a brutish civil war during

District Learning Facilitator  
Dale M Moe District Governor  
Mike Selah District Rotaract Chair  
Theresa M. Shuster District Governor's Aide  
Bo C Norton DG-Elect  
Edward Lombard DG-Nominee  
Steven Crump Secretary  
Mickey Ulmer IPDG  
James D. Kocmoud District Communications Officer  
Mary Stutts District Membership Chair  
Richard E. Turnbull District Rotary Foundation Chair  
Kendrick Thomas District Public Image/PR Chair  
Brandon Perry Treasurer  
Claudia Dencer Youth Service Chair  
Patti Chapman District Executive Secretary  
Danielle N Fisher Sgt. At Arms

**Birthdays**

Lorene King July 19th  
Walter (Buddy) Neel Jowers, Jr. July 20th  
George S. Pappas August 3rd  
Elizabeth Kargar August 15th

which the capital city of Dushanbe was overrun and Stan and his embassy earned the distinction of being the only American embassy ever to be evacuated under fire inside Russian armor. While away from post Stan was named Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid to Tajikistan with the rank of ambassador. Upon his return to post, Stan worked with the senior resident UN official to negotiate an end to the fighting and things calmed down enough for Jaye to join him in late 1993. She took on the directorship of an important English language training and scholarship program during which she too travelled throughout Tajikistan's war torn and remote mountains and villages.

In 1995 he was reassigned as Ambassador to the neighboring Central Asian nation of Uzbekistan. There he successfully established a close relationship with that country's powerful post-communist ruler, brought about greater respect for human rights and orchestrated the building of a protective relationship for Uzbekistan's substantial community of Bokharan Jews. This laid the groundwork for Uzbek willingness to permit establishment of American bases in that country in the period immediately following 9/11. The ruler of Uzbekistan in those years, Islam Karimov, only recently died.

The Ambassadorship to the oil and gas rich Caspian Sea nation of Azerbaijan followed in 1997. There Stan helped to negotiate the agreements which made possible the 1200 mile Baku/Ceyhan pipeline which crosses the territory of three countries and brings Azerbaijani oil from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean.

This project solidified Azerbaijan's readiness to develop a close cooperative relationship with the United States, including in military and intelligence fields. His close friendship with the then Azeri President, Haidar Aliyev, and with his successor and son Ilham, encouraged and accelerated extraordinary improvements in human rights, opposition political party activity and press freedoms. Azerbaijan remains in large part authoritarian but remains as well a strong supporter of a forward-leaning America in the Caspian region.

By 2000 Stan was the winner of numerous medals and performance awards and had become, at that time, the senior official of the government of the United States most experienced in Central Asia.

At this point Stan and Jaye elected to retire from government service and returned to Daytona intending to live the quiet life in paradise. But family concerns intervened and Stan opened a consulting firm whose clients soon insisted that he and Jaye return to Azerbaijan in a private capacity. This initiated a ten-year second career in which the couple and their two sons Alexander and Benjamin started several successful companies. As an ambassador Stan had been a strong supporter of American business abroad and served enthusiastically as Honorary President of the American Chamber of Commerce in both Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. As a private businessman, Stan was President or Vice-President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan for virtually all of the decade he spent there.

In February 2010 Stan returned to the Daytona/New Smyrna area for what he devoutly hopes is the final time.

Upon his return Stan became deeply concerned about the direction of the nation and the Marxist philosophy of its newly elected President. Fearing for America's political and economic future, Stan became active in the Republican Party and, by 2012 had been elected Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Volusia County.

Under Stan's leadership the Republican Party in Volusia County morphed from its near-moribund state into a powerful and well organized force which, in the 2012 election, carried the Democrat-majority county for the Republican presidential candidate, delivered a victory for the Republican Congressional Candidate, enabled victories for all five of the state Republican Senatorial or Legislative Candidates contending in all or parts of Volusia County and helped to elect Republicans to three of the seven County Council seats, including the position of Chairman.

Having served as the architect of this string of Republican victories and the re-creation of the Republican Party in Volusia, Stan stepped down as Republican Executive Committee Chairman, leaving the official leadership positions to younger men and women. But as Chairman Emeritus he remains a very influential leader of the GOP in Volusia County.

He remains a well-known and very popular public speaker, addressing veterans' groups, political rallies, Republican and other conservative gatherings, college classes and organizations interested in foreign policy and domestic politics throughout the county.

By putting aside his official duties Stan had hoped to find the time to pursue his hobbies: he remains fascinated by American history and political development and collects Persian carpets and Islamic metalwork. He enjoys fishing and has been an avid hunter, taking big game, waterfowl and upland game birds on three continents.

But demand for his services proved too great. The death of the incumbent propelled Stan into the three years of service as the president of the Republican Club of South East Volusia County. The Governor appointed him to the Board of Trustees of Stan's alma mater, now called Daytona State College, where he served for five years and advanced to the Board Chairmanship. He was also appointed to the Charter Review Commission which conducted the decadal review and revision of the charter which governs Volusia County.

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**Proposed New Members for July 2025**



The names below have been recommended for membership in the Club. The Membership Committee and the Board of Directors has approved them.

As specified in our club's by-laws:

"A five (5) day period shall be allowed during which any member objecting to the election of the applicant shall notify the Board in writing stating the reason for their objection; or any member objecting at a meeting of the Board of Directors within the five (5) day period that they will appear before them at the next meeting to state their objection."

If no objections are received within five (5) days, the applicant(s) will be invited to become a member.

**Daniel O'Connor, Brown and Brown**

**What does Rotary mean to you?** To me, Rotary is a community of individuals who are dedicated to making a real difference in our community. It's about service above self, finding ways to meet needs, support others, and build connections that make our communities stronger and more compassionate.

**Where were you born and raised?** I was born and raised in Port Orange, Florida.

Tell us about your family. My mom, dad, and older sister are originally from Philadelphia. I'm actually the first member of my family born outside of Philly or South Jersey, the first true Florida native in the family! My parents were married for many years and had three children together. Sadly, my father passed away in 2020, but his values and work ethic continue to influence me every day. I now have a family of my own. I'm married to an incredible woman who works in real estate and marketing, and together we have three amazing daughters who keep us busy.

**Are you involved in any civic organizations?** Yes, I'm active at Our Lady of Hope through the Knights of Columbus, where we take part in various service initiatives, charitable events, and support for our parish and greater community.

**Fun Fact about you?** I have spent the past 14 years coaching high school baseball and teaching at Spruce Creek High School. It's been a rewarding experience, shaping young minds and athletes.

**Have you been involved with Rotary before?** Not yet, but I'm excited to get involved, learn more, and contribute where I can.

**Samantha Duguay, Council On Aging**

**What does Rotary mean to you?** Rotary offers an opportunity to work with other engaged people who want to make their community a better place.

**Where were you born and raised?** Monument Colorado & Merritt Island, Florida

**Tell us about your family.** I am happily married to my beautiful wife, just celebrating our one-year anniversary this past March.

**Fun Fact about you?** I have a twin brother.

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**Rotary International News - July 21, 2025**



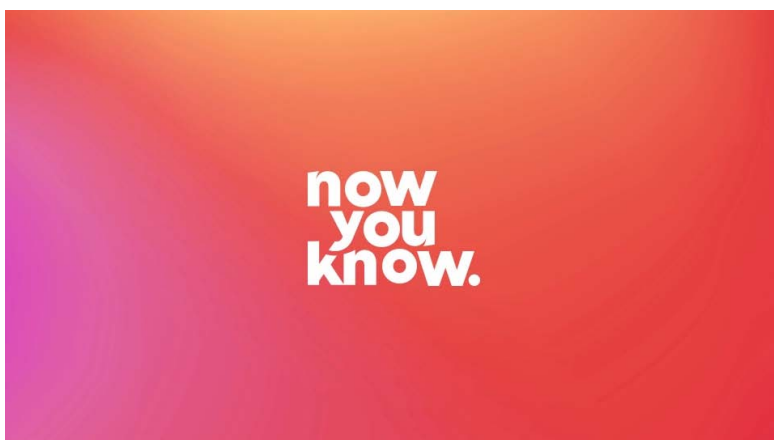


It's not just about giving back – it's about growing forward"

Jyoti Mehta shares how one Rotary meeting turned into a lasting journey of purpose. Through the Rotary Club of Saharanpur Harmony, she found service, leadership, and real connection.

Curious what kept her coming back? Her story might just spark your own: <https://on.rotary.org/4IKxRdQ>

## Now You Know, July 2025



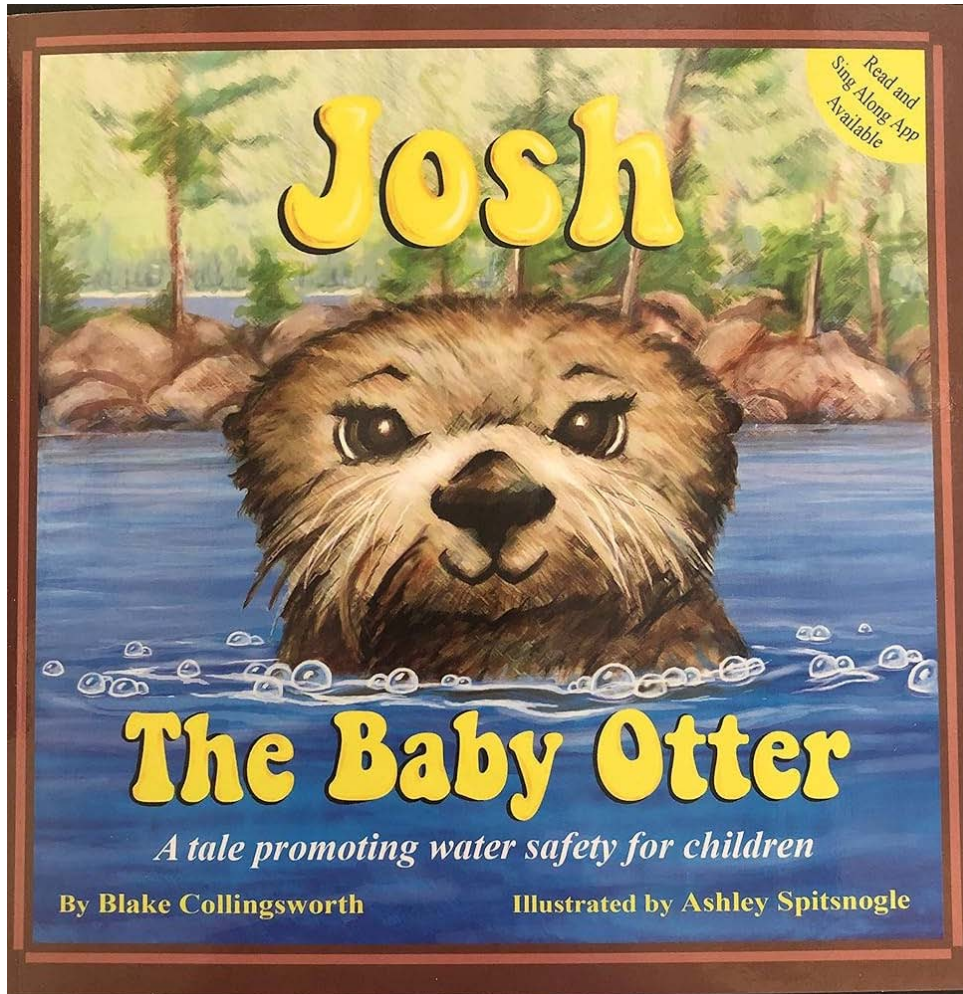
### Rotary in Action

Rotary is far more than just weekly meetings—it's a global engine for good. Rotary clubs around the world roll up their sleeves and get to work on projects that truly make a difference. Whether it's providing clean drinking water to remote villages, building libraries in underserved communities, distributing food to local families, or offering scholarships to students, Rotary's mission is hands-on and heart-led.

In fact, many clubs create signature events that double as fundraisers and community engagement opportunities. Think **rubber duck races**, **golf tournaments**, **art festivals**, **literacy fairs**, or **packing backpacks for schoolchildren**. These efforts not only raise essential funds, but also bring communities together and foster a sense of shared purpose.

Rotarians are people of action—turning compassion into measurable impact, locally and globally.

Sign Up Now to Participate in our Josh the Otter Program



We are looking for volunteers to read the book "Josh the Otter" to local schools in our area.

This project aims to promote literacy and inspire young minds through storytelling. If you are interested in participating, please click the link below and check if your schedule allows for volunteering.

Thank you for being a part of this Rotary project! Your involvement will undoubtedly contribute to developing young readers in our community.

Click here to sign up: [bit.ly/3xINyUI](https://bit.ly/3xINyUI)

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## The Four-Way Test





“

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all  
concerned?

Will it build goodwill  
and better friendships  
Will it be beneficial to  
all concerned?"

”

#### Zoom Meeting Login

Rotary Zoom Login



Meeting ID: 665 859 4040  
Passcode: 349127

#### Club Meeting

Daytona Beach  
Meets at The Palmetto Club

