



South Jacksonville
Rotary



Putting Service Above Self since 1955



Club Meeting

South Jacksonville
Meets at Doubletree Hotel
1201 Riverplace Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Time: Tuesday at 12:30 PM

Events

June 4th
[Robert Peek](#)
June 11th
[Debbie Porter](#)
June 18th
[Mayor Donna Deegan](#)
June 27th
[Hail and Farewell](#)

Birthdays



[PP Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger](#)
June 4th



[PP & PDG Mike H. Darragh](#)
June 8th



[PP Jay Plotkin](#)
June 8th



[PP Jason B. Burnett](#)
June 15th



[Michael B. Hotaling](#)
June 25th



[Greg Anderson](#)
June 27th



[PP Charles G. Cofer](#)
June 27th

Years of Service



[William H. Harrell](#)

This Week: Robert Peek, Chief Commercial Officer at JAXPORT



Robert Peek is the Chief Commercial Officer at the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT). He leads all port business development efforts, overseeing marketing, sales and related initiatives to retain and attract business at JAXPORT. Robert also works closely with area economic development offices to attract new transportation, logistics and manufacturing industry to Northeast Florida.

Robert has worked at JAXPORT since 1995, serving in a variety of roles of increasing responsibility, including as Director of Corporate Communications, Director of Marketing and as General Manager of Business Development. He has been the port's Chief Commercial Officer since 2022.

Robert has a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Florida. Robert also holds a Certification in Transportation and Logistics (CTL).

He is a former board member of the North Florida District Export Council; past president of Jacksonville Sister Cities Association; former Chair of the International Business and Marketing Career Academy at Ponte Vedra High School; and a graduate of both Leadership Jacksonville and Leadership St. Johns County. He now participates with numerous public sector Boards and nonprofit organizations throughout Northeast Florida.

Singapore 2024 "Energize Your Club Seminar"



South Jacksonville Rotarians conducted a seminar at the 2024 Singapore Rotary Convention titled "How to Energize Your Club with Young Professionals." It was a very well attended seminar with lots of questions. Our president-elect Lisamarie Winslow stated:

"So proud of our very own club members, Megan Madrid and Mike Darragh as facilitators and presenters at the 2024 Rotary International Convention - Singapore."

District 6070 Greetings from Singapore - DC John Tabor



03-31-1981
44 Years



[PP Bea Fore](#)
03-08-2011
14 Years



[PP Odette Struys](#)
03-26-2019
6 Years

Wedding Anniversaries



[PP Charles G Cofer](#)
June 1st



[PP Hon. Harvey E. Schlesinger](#)
June 2nd



[Christy King](#)
June 6th



[PP Gary L. Wilkinson](#)
June 14th



[PP Harlan S. Bost](#)
June 16th



[Greg Anderson](#)
June 24th

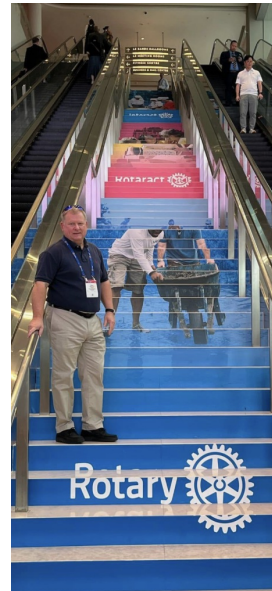


[Robert B. Massey Jr.](#)
June 24th



[PP Daniel K. Robie](#)
June 25th

District 6970 Greetings from Singapore - DG John Tabor



John Tabor

When you receive this newsletter, Ann and I, along with 40 other D6970 Rotarians will be in Singapore for the 2024 International Convention. Locally, it is 5am on Monday and the Opening Ceremonies took place Sunday, 26 May 2024.

Many of you have had the experience of attending an International Convention, but for those that have not, I can only describe it as the "Super Bowl" of the Rotary year.

In recent years, an average of 15,000 Rotarians gather from around the world to celebrate, gather new ideas and information, become inspired by world-renowned speakers and make new friends from around the globe. (Past Conventions have had as many as 40,000 attendees).

I've spoken with many of you that shared my experience of being awestruck by the displays in the House of Friendship, in essence, an expo of Rotary programs, fellowships, action groups and of course Rotary merch and swag. One can't help but be impressed by the size, scope and diversity of the displays and what they represent.

At every Convention I've attended, (this makes 5), I've run into friends and acquaintances from around the world, unplanned and by happy accident.

Like every Convention, the Opening Session began with the traditional Parade of Flags, always an inspiring spectacle and a reminder of the truly global nature of our organization.

The headline address from the first session was given by Graca Machel, Mozambican politician and humanitarian. The widow of former President of Mozambique Samora Machel and former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, Machel advocates for women's and children's rights worldwide.

She was a freedom fighter in Mozambique's FRELIMO movement and the country's first Minister of Education. Machel is a member of the United Nations' Secretary-General's High Level Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy Group.

RI President R. Gordon McNally gave the Welcome Address, and we witnessed some great entertainment.

We are all looking forward to an exciting week ahead and in particular, the District dinner social at Jumbo Seafood, Tuesday evening, arranged by DGN Dale Moe.

You can follow the events on Rotary.org and will soon be able to make plans for attending the 2025 Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

It is my sincere hope that each of you will be able to experience an International Convention at some point. It will be unforgettable.



**Upcoming Rotary
International Conventions**

2025 June 21-25
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

2026 June 12-17
Taipei, Taiwan

2027 June 5-9
Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA

2028 June 3-7
Manila, Philippines

2029 May 26-30
Minneapolis, Minnesota,
USA

2030 May 25-29
Chicago, Illinois, USA
125th Anniversary

Volunteers needed for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), June 21-24

Volunteers are needed for this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), which will be held on June 21, 22, and 23 at Stetson University. As you may know, 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, accommodation will be provided at Stetson University.

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 this link : <https://www.rotarydistrict6970.org/ryla/volunteers/> or send me an email with any questions. We are grateful for any time you can offer.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help nurture the next generation of leaders. Together, we can make a significant impact.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Claudia L. Dencer
cldencer@leonards.com
iPast President | Rotary Club of St. Augustine
District 6970 Youth Services Chair
904-669-9612



The Rotary Club of South Jacksonville is proud to sponsor the annual Rotary Oratory Competition. This program provides a platform for high school seniors in Duval, Clay, Nassau, Baker, and St. Johns counties to showcase their public speaking skills and

compete for college scholarship money. Students research a chosen topic and deliver a persuasive speech, fostering critical thinking, communication, and confidence.

Supporting the Rotary Oratory Competition is a win-win for our community and our Rotary Club. By investing in these young minds, we are helping to shape the future leaders of tomorrow. The competition provides an invaluable opportunity for students to develop their public speaking skills, gain confidence, and earn scholarships to further their education. Your generous support will help us continue to offer this important program and make a lasting impact on the lives of deserving students.

If anyone is interested in being a sponsor for the Rotary Oratory Competition, please contact Tom Ranney.

[Rotary Oratory Competition - rotaryoratory.org](http://rotaryoratory.org)



Club Leaders



[Leslie Miller Redd](#)
President



[Lisamarie Winslow](#)
President-Elect



[John L. Cumbow](#)
Secretary
Treasurer



[Edward Scott Vaughn](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Charles G. Cofer](#)
iPast President

