BEST /# BEST of Ponte Vedra RECORDER

Voted Best Civic Club in the Ponte Vedra area!

EDITOR: BOB WILTFONG

October is Cambodia Water Month

CLUB MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE OR RAISE \$80/PERSON FOR CLEAN WATER IN CAMBODIA



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! OUR ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH IS...



NOCATEE CLEAN UP EVENT ON OCT. 22

HOW YOU CAN HELP US MAKE NOCATEE A BETTER PLACE



NEXT CLUB MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 7:30AM TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN NOCATEE ZOOM: ID - 831 0429 0873; PASSWORD - 252056

THE.32081.ROTARIAN



\$80 per member is all it takes for us to accomplish some pretty phenomenal things for the people of Cambodia. October is our club's Cambodia water month where we raise funds to finance the construction of bio-sand water filters, school latrines and a lot more for some of the poorest people in that southeast Asia country. Do your part and donate or raise \$80 by October 25. We've got this!



Our Rotary club will be hitting the road on January 8 to attend a Jacksonville Jaguars game against the Tennessee Titans! Look at the seat chart below and **let our club's liaison for this event, Luis Monegro, know how many tickets you want.** Our club will receive PolioPlus credit for The Rotary Foundation for all but \$15.00 of each ticket purchased.



UPCOMING CLUB SPEAKERS Club will receive PolioPlus credit for The Rotary Foundation October 11 for all but \$15.00 of each ticket purchased.

Mail completed Reservation Forms along, with club's check payable to District 6970 to: York Foundation, P.O. Box 47195 Jacksonville, FL 32247 October 25 - Dr. Audrey Rachlin, CDC, on the State of Polio

November 1 - Tammy Romanczuk, Founder of Bit of Faith Ranch

Rotarian of the Month: Jim Huster

Jim Huster is an awesome human being. Ever since he joined our club, he has demonstrated service above self and a kind heart. Whether it be leading our Autism Speaks Walk or building our website for the Rubber Duck Race, delivering pizzas for the Feed the Frontlines project or taking the lead on our Early Act program at Valley Ridge Academy, Jim does so much to help our club have the impact it has. Jim is quick to offer a friendly greeting to all around him and always has something helpful to add to our club conversations and decision-making. On top of it all, he's a loving and attentive father and husband to his family. We're lucky to have you, Jim! For these reasons (and many more), we say Jim Huster is our club's Rotarian of the Month!













Applications for Rotary Youth Exchange are Open!



Calling all high school students in St. Johns County! **The application process for the 2023-24 Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program is now open.** You have until November 1st to get your application in. Since 1929, RYE has sent young people around the globe to experience new cultures. Currently, about 9,000 students are sponsored by Rotary Clubs every year. Visit <u>www.rye6970.org</u> for application forms and details.



Join Us as We Clean Up Nocatee on October 22nd!

Join us on Saturday, October 22, 8am-10am, as we clean up the Nocatee Splash Park the day after our community's Halloween Party there. We'll all meet at the Rotary sign at the Splash Park. Bring the family and have some fun while providing a service to our own community. Since there is not an issue with traffic this would be a fun activity for the kids. This is also a great opportunity for High School students to get easy volunteer hours. Please bring gloves. If you have one, wear a Rotary shirt. Hats are a good idea. It might be fun to wear a costume if the spirit moves you too!

Meeting Recap: October 4, 2022

Rotary 🛞



Our speaker was Dr. Adam Rosenblatt, Prof at UNF, who filled us in on the new Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) designed in part to combat climate change. He expressed serious concern about the imminent potential for increased catastrophic flooding, heat indexes and hurricane risk which he argued can only be countered by decreased use of fossil fuels. Enter IRA which encourages reduction of green house

gasses by offering significant economic benefits for businesses and individuals who reduce use of fossil fuels. So what can we do to help? Dr. Rosenblatt was quick to say: vote for candidates who believe in climate change, eat less red meat and join Citizens Climate Lobby. Also, **Ronald McVey won almost \$400 in our Jacks are Wild game!!**

From the President's Desk



President of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, 2022-23, Bob Wiltfong.

This past week, I flew to Vienna, Austria to present a TEDx Talk on business speak (the topic I wrote a book about). One of the greatest gifts of the trip was meeting my fellow speakers which included a woman by the name of Kim Phuc. You may not know Kim, but you probably know her face. That's because, at nine-years-old, Kim was photographed in a Pulitzer Prize winning image where she is seen running (naked and badly burned) from her Vietnamese village after a napalm attack. The horror on her young face is unforgettable and captures the absolute cruelty of war.



Kim Phuc presenting from the TEDx stage in Vienna, Austria.

As Kim spoke of her life that day and since, it was hard not to cry for her. She is reminded about the worst day of her life in that image almost everywhere she goes in this world and has been used as a propaganda tool by multiple governments because of it. She has every right to be an angry person. However, to Kim's great credit, she is not. Matter of fact, she's just the opposite. Kim is now an UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador who raises money on behalf of other children ravaged by war. She's happily married, has two children and lives in Toronto.



Backstage with Kim Phuc's husband, Toan, Kim and Bob Wiltfong.

As I visited with her backstage, I told Kim how much her story touched me and that I would love to have her speak to our Rotary club, if she was able and willing. She beamed when she heard this and said, "I'm a Rotarian too!" It turns out, Kim was made an honorary member of Rotary International awhile back. That makes sense since her life's work mirrors the messages of Rotary: service, love, peace.



A child in Cambodia with a Rotary-supplied bio-sand water filter.

As we officially launch our fundraising for water for Cambodia this month, I ask all of us to be reminded of Kim's message as we drop money into our collection jars. For only \$80/member we can ensure the faces of other 9-yearolds in southeast Asia are filled with smiles instead of screams. We can change lives for the better. We can choose to serve and join Kim's voice in proudly stating, **"I'm a Rotarian too!"**



Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra











MaryBeth Murray's grandson, Will, goes "old school" to FaceTime Grammy and Papa.

Club Members on Social Media



Jim Huster joins "Spin and the Gang" at the Nocatee YMCA.

CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

To realize our club's potential through increased membership and engagement; expanded diversity, equity, inclusion and service; and enhanced fellowship and comfort.

CLUB'S VISION STATEMENT

A vibrant, diverse and inclusive Rotary club that is widely recognized for highly effective programs and projects within a framework of friendship and service.

CLUB'S CORE VALUES

Fellowship • Integrity • Diversity • Service • Leadership

CLUB'S BIG GOALS FOR THIS ROTARY YEAR

Get a District grant for water bottle refill stations at Davis Park
End the Rotary year with 10 net club members
Host an evening social event for the whole community of Nocatee

•Build the endowment for our club's foundation to \$50,000

EDITOR: BOB WILTFONG



President Bob Wiltfong



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Treasurer Sean Smith



Membership MaryBeth Murray



Community Service Denny Baldwin





Rotary Foundation Chair/ International Service Chair Andy Erickson



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Program Chair Karen Everett



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General Counsel Edward Sarnowski

Comments, questions or inquiries about the 32081.Rotarian? Please contact the Editor, Bob Wiltfong, at <u>rotarybob1@gmail.com</u>.

Interested in joining the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra?

Please contact our Membership Chair, MaryBeth Murray, at pontevedrarotary@gmail.com.